



## MORE FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

Taupō District children will continue to benefit from free swimming and water safety lessons after Contact extended its support of the Contact Swim Well Taupō programme until the end of 2018.

The programme works with schools and aims to help children become confident around water so they can get out and enjoy our lakes and rivers safely. Over 17,000 children from years one to eight have enjoyed more than 123,000 free swimming lessons at the AC Baths in the past seven years.

AC Baths pools and activities operations manager Nigel

Newbery said the programme helped raise awareness of water safety with young people.

“Thanks to Contact, we’re the only programme in New Zealand able to deliver free swimming and water safety lessons to schools. The programme provides some great outcomes for children and is helping to reduce drownings in the district.”

Nigel said the AC Baths team was over the moon about the partnership with Contact and was looking forward to teaching even more children about water safety over the coming years.

## NEW PLANTING FOR TONGARIRO STREET

Have you seen the new plants and trees going in the gardens on Tongariro Street? Our team is removing and replacing vegetation along the busy stretch of road to make it safer and give it a vibrant new look. It’s all part of looking after the place we love!

The road is the main route into town for many of our visitors and we want to make sure it looks good for summer. We also know some of the plants have been encroaching on to the road recently and want to improve visibility for motorists and pedestrians.

Parks operations manager Andrew Moor said the old garden in the median strip of the street consisted of tired or deteriorating plants.

“We want to freshen the street up with some new trees and plants to create a beautiful garden strip on one of our main roads,” he said. “We’re going to leave the kowhai trees and a few other key plants that look good, but will be adding to these.”

A mixture of manuka, coprosma, grasses and other small shrubs will be planted over the coming weeks.

The work began at the southern end of Tongariro Street late last month and will move up towards Spa Road over the next few weeks. It is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

“The new gardens will be easier to maintain, more aesthetically pleasing and less intrusive,” Andrew said.

The work is being funded out of the parks and reserves maintenance budget.

## SPEAKING A NEW LANGUAGE

Visitors to Taupō District Libraries will be able to learn simple Chinese phrases as part of New Zealand Chinese Language Week next week.

This year’s celebration aims to boost the relationship between China and New Zealand, bridge the cultural and language knowledge gap and will coincide with the Chinese Moon Festival on Thursday, September 15.

Special displays at the libraries will feature books from our sister city Suzhou, as well as an assortment of gifts, maps and information with details on the 2500-year-old city on the Yangtze River. The books were gifted by the people of Suzhou, and have been catalogued, meaning they’ll be available for all library members to borrow in the future.

Taupō’s sister city relationship with Suzhou has been developing over the past five years in the form of exchanges and trips. We also have a friendship city relationship with Shaoxing, China which was signed to foster economic ties in 2014.

Business and technology acting group manager Chloe Walker said with China being New Zealand’s second largest trading partner and our largest market for overseas students it was great to learn more about the country and its people.

“China is our second largest tourism market and we welcome a large number of Chinese visitors to Taupō each year, so it’s great to be able to learn more about our visitors’ culture and language.”

Head down to one of our libraries next week to check out the display for yourself. Xixie!



## What's on?

- 9 Sept Menopause the Musical – On Fire, Great Lake Centre
- 9-11 Sept Zirka Circus, Te Kapua Park, Turangi
- 11 Sept Whakaipo Bay Community Planting Day, Whakaipo Bay Recreational Reserve
- Until 12 Sept People, Pots and Places exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 12 Sept Print Still Works exhibition, Taupō Museum
- 15-21 Sept Jock Hobbs Memorial National Under 19 Tournament, Owen Delany Park
- 18 Sept Wairakei Drive Community Planting Day, Wairakei Tourist Park

\* For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Taupō District Council, Private Bag 2005, Taupō 3352  
[info@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:info@taupo.govt.nz)  
Ph +64 7 376 0899 or 0800 ASK TDC  
Fax +64 7 378 0118  
[www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)

Taupō Main Office, 72 Lake Terrace, Taupō  
Ph +64 7 376 0899 Fax +64 7 378 0118

Turangi Office, Town Centre, Turangi  
Ph +64 7 386 7017 Fax +64 7 386 8449

Mangakino Office, Civic Centre, Rangātira Drive  
Ph +64 7 882 8700 Fax +64 7 882 8330

Taupō District Council

@Taupo\_DC on Twitter