



(L-R) Council's John Ridd with Dave Staite and Mark Gibson of Kinloch Residents' Association.

LOOKING AFTER THE PLACE  
we love

## KINLOCH ON TRACK TO REDUCE PESTS

A programme to help eradicate pests in Kinloch is gaining traction, with 18 rats and three mice caught since it was introduced last month.

The programme is the result of a new partnership between Taupō District Council, Kinloch Residents' Association, Bike Taupō and other community agencies.

Council and Bike Taupō collectively donated 70 traps to the residents' association in August to help catch rats and stoats in the Whangamata Stream Reserve and on Department of Conservation land at the western edge of the township. A group of volunteers from the residents' association is facilitating the programme and with support

from the community they have since purchased a further 30 traps.

Acting group manager of operational services John Ridd said it was a great collaborative approach to reducing pests and improving the environment in Kinloch.

"It's amazing to hear how many pests have already been caught – it's a sure sign the programme is working," he said. "It has been a fantastic commitment from those involved and I know they'll be happy to see positive outcomes so quickly."

Programme organisers are working closely with the Department of Conservation and Ngati Tūwharetoa and hope to fundraise for more traps in the future.



## HEADING INTO THE FINAL STRETCH

It's the final month of Turangi's ultimate swimming challenge at the Turtle Pools, with over 50 committed locals aiming to hit the 50km goal.

The Margaret Sweeney Challenge encourages Turangi residents to swim 50km in three months.

Named after the first woman to swim the 50km from Stump Bay, Turangi to Taupō in the 1950s, it aims to inspire budding athletes to get swimming in an effort to get fit and feel good. The challenge began on July 25 and this is the second year it has been held.

Elite swimmers are aiming to complete 50km by October 10, and novice swimmers are aiming to complete the task individually or in a group by a combination of running, jogging or swimming the distance by October 24.

Turangi pool supervisor Suzanne Watson said eight of the 54 people taking part had already finished.

"It has definitely made our afternoons a lot busier, and people have been commenting on how great it is to see all our keen swimmers ticking up the kilometres," Suzanne said.

"This year we've noticed a lot of people doing it in pairs or groups, so it's become a fantastic social activity for our community."

A tally board is available at reception for participants to cross off their kilometres as they progress.

A finale celebration will be held in October for all those participating.

## RESTRICTED FIRE SEASON BEGINS

If you're planning to light an open fire in a rural area in the coming months, make sure you get a permit before you strike any matches.

The restricted fire season starts in the Taupō District on October 1 tomorrow and will continue until further notice.

Our rural fire team uses the permits to monitor rural fires, which include outdoor pizza ovens and braziers.

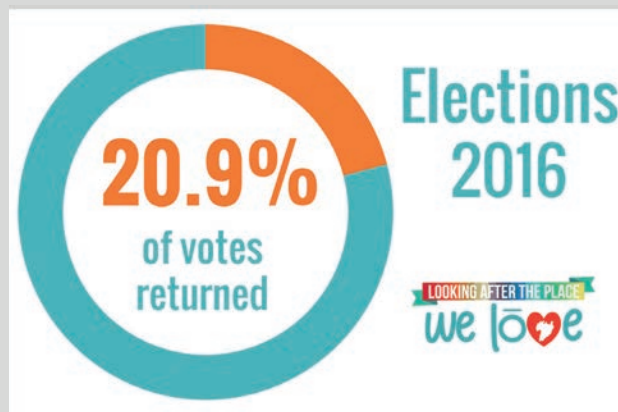
### HOW TO GET A FIRE PERMIT

Fire permits must be applied for at least 48 hours prior to the fire. You can apply online at [www.pumicelands.co.nz](http://www.pumicelands.co.nz). Application forms are also available from council offices on Lake Terrace, in Turangi and Mangakino or by calling the council on 07 376 0899.

## MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

At the last local elections, 48.4 per cent of eligible voters in the Taupō District cast a vote to have their say. We believe we can beat that to get over 50 per cent of voters involved this year, so we need your help. You can encourage your friends, family and workmates to return their voting forms, or visit one of our offices to arrange a special vote. It's easy!

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for daily updates on how many voting papers have been returned. Remember, you only have a week left to get your papers back to the electoral officer. You can do this by post, or simply drop your papers in to our council offices in Taupō, Mangakino or Turangi to ensure they are here in time to be counted.



## What's on?

- 30 Sept Waste-free parenting workshop with the Nappy Lady, Great Lake Centre
- 30 Sept-2 Oct Taupō Quiltmakers Exhibition, Taupō-nui-a-tia College
- 1 Oct Trash and Treasure Fair, Riverside Park
- 9 Oct Hamilton Motorcycle Club Winter Series, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 15 Oct Taupō Ultramarathon, Taupō

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

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