



## GREAT RESULT FOR DOG REGISTRATIONS

The number of dog registrations for the Taupō District is at over 99 per cent for the year – the best we've ever achieved!

Of the 6992 dogs in the district, 6945 have been registered – leaving only 47 for our staff to follow up on.

Compliance team supervisor Ross McDonald said the registration programme had been a phenomenal success this year, and it wasn't over yet.

"We are still following up on those dogs that haven't been registered and hope to have even more done in the next few weeks," he said. "Some of the dogs we have on record may have left the district and we may need to remind a final few owners of their responsibilities."

This year our target was to have over 99 per cent of dogs registered for the 2016/2017 year, and we are currently sitting at 99.3 per cent.

We've had a lot more people take up our offer of registering their dogs online through our website and have been out visiting properties believed to house dogs.

"In some cases we've organised payment plans for those who haven't been able to afford the full amount in one go and it's great to be able to work with the community to create a positive outcome," Ross said. "It's an excellent result and we're so pleased our dog owners have helped us out by doing the right thing."

Dog registrations pay for our team to attend barking complaints and animal control incidents, our pound operations, dog safety education work, rehoming of dogs through our adoption service and more.

## TRUE LOCAL ICONS

It was with a heavy heart we said goodbye to two local icons this week with the passing of Walter de Bont and one of Huka Jet's founders Phil Ball. Both these men played key roles in developing two of our district's major tourism drawcards and leave behind legacies that will keep visitors returning to our district for years to come.



Phil was New Zealand's most experienced jet boat driver, setting up Huka Jet and becoming a pioneer of our adventure tourism industry. Phil arrived in Taupō in 1990 and played a major part in the development of Wairakei Tourist Park. A keen cyclist, Walter was a legend of his time and a stalwart of the Taupō District community.

Among Walter's many achievements was the launch of what we now know as the Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge – our iconic event that sees thousands of riders tackling the journey around the lake each year.

Walter started the event to fundraise for the local IHC association with just 26 cyclists signed up to ride 160km on the newly sealed road around the lake. As we know, it has grown into a huge occasion every November. What an amazing contribution.

Walter has left an indelible mark on our district – he will certainly be remembered fondly by all who knew him and the wider community.

This year the Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, in conjunction with the 40 year celebrations, is holding an exhibition at Taupō Museum curated by long-time event organiser Kay Brake and local Rotarian and supporter Dave Wakelin. The exhibition will tell the story of the event's 40 year history, its highlights, contributions and the community involvement it has entailed. It'll be a great opportunity to learn about one of our greatest and longest running events, which these days features everything from off-road mountain biking events to elite, group and novice categories. The exhibition is also a nice way to celebrate Walter and how his desire to help the community resulted in this annual fundraiser. More than 178,000 people have competed in the challenge and almost \$3.4 million has been distributed to community groups since it began.

This year there we are expecting another large crowd with 7000 cyclists taking part, and I encourage you all to get along and support this fantastic event when it returns on November 26.

Let's keep the wheels turning for another 40 years.

Mayor David Trewavas » dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

## DEVELOPMENT SOARING IN TAUPŌ DISTRICT

Have you noticed how many houses are being built at the moment? We sure have here at the council – resource consents and development inquiries are at the highest rate since the Global Financial Crisis!

Consents and regulatory manager Scott Devonport said it had been a busy year for building and resource consents, and it wasn't showing any signs of letting up.

"We've had strong interest from developers for subdivisions and land development in the district," he said. "Our general requests have almost doubled compared to last year, and in September we had almost triple the volume of planning queries as September 2015."

The trend is a reflection of a busy real estate market and the number of people undertaking developments on their sites, he said.

In the year to September, there have been 240 building consents for new dwellings, up 53 per cent on last year and up 142 per cent for the same period in 2014. The average processing time for

these consents is seven working days.

"At this rate we should see over 300 consents for new dwellings by the end of the year," Scott said.

And it's not just Taupō that's bringing in the queries – Kinloch is buzzing too! Kinloch currently makes up 23 per cent of new dwelling consents. Vacant land is in demand and a number of subdivisions

have recently been lodged including the expansion of the Locheagles development and a block of land on Lisland Drive (formally known as Te Kowhai Downs).

Scott said resource consents were up 41 per cent on the same period last year, and it was keeping staff very busy leading up to Christmas. The average processing time for these consents is 16 working days.



## LATE OPENING FOR LAKE TERRACE OFFICE

This Tuesday, November 15 our Lake Terrace office will open at 9.15am instead of 8am, to allow for staff training. We apologise for any inconvenience.

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

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