



## GO-BUILD APP HELPS SPEED UP BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Our building inspectors are a busy bunch! The team carried out 6325 building inspections last year; that's over 1000 more than 2015.

To assist in completing the growing number of inspections on time, the team recently introduced the Go-Build app.

Go-Build is helping reduce the time to get an inspection done by allowing owners, builders and sub-contractors to book one at any time without needing to contact the council directly, or having to wait to call us during office hours.

Consents and regulatory manager Scott Devonport said anyone could use the app, and it was free to download.

"Go-Build is a simple tool that allows people to book an inspection at any time – even while they're at home watching television or cooking dinner. Feedback from builders has been really positive with many saying it is a useful project management tool that saves them a lot of time and money.

"The app also allows people to see if an inspection has passed or failed."

Scott said while the past year was a busy one processing a high number of applications, staff had continued to process 100 per cent of building consent applications within the legislative timeframe of 20 working days.

"We want to ensure building consents aren't halting the building process and have worked to complete applications in an average of six days due to many small business improvements. Go-Build is another tool helping us do this. We are also working directly with the developers of Go-Build to further enhance the app and provide even more benefits in the future."

➔ To download Go-Build for free, check out your app store or Google Play.

## LENDING A HELPING HAND



One of the great things about living in a community such as ours is that it always seems we have only one degree of separation between us. We're always bumping into people we know on the street, even if they have moved away from Taupō and have popped back for a visit.

Many people will have had the pleasure of knowing former Taupō man Derek Stretton during his life, which was celebrated last week after he passed away aged 90.

Derek was one of the pioneers of Taupō, and was instrumental in shaping our town into the place it is today.

At one stage he must have been the treasurer of almost every sports club in town, contributing countless hours of his time to help others. Derek also spent time as a district councillor and helped make many important decisions for the future of our district.

He put his name to the accountancy firm he launched in the 1950s when Taupō still had pumice roads and helped grow it to what it is today – the largest business advisory and chartered accountancy firm in the Central Plateau.

There are many members of our community who, like Derek, dedicate many hours each year to helping others. Whether it's to coach a sports team, to help those less fortunate, or to volunteer as part of the many events we run in our district each year, our community is stronger for the time these people contribute for free.

In the Taupō District we have a large number of high-profile events that depend on the help of volunteers. Locals give thousands of hours to make visitors and competitors feel welcome and a huge chunk of our population – around 15,000 people – volunteer their time to support events such as IRONMAN and Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge each year.

Supporting community organisations is a great way to meet new people, and is one of the reasons our community has that feeling of only a degree of separation. If you've got some spare time, why not think about lending a hand just like people such as Derek did. It'll bring you loads of satisfaction, and the whole community will thank you for it.

*David*  
Mayor David Trewavas > dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

## ➔ What's on?

- 25 Feb Lake Taupō Across the Lake Swim, Acacia Bay lakefront and Three Mile Bay
- 26 Feb Wairakei Estate Ironkidz, Taupō lakefront
- 25-26 Feb Superbike and Road Race Champs, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 4 Mar Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand, Taupō
- 11 Mar Lake Taupō Vintage Car Rally, Taupō Events Centre

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



## TURTLE POOLS GET A SPRUCE UP

The Turangi Turtle Pools will close for three weeks next month to allow us to do some essential maintenance work.

Pools and activities operations manager Nigel Newbery said maintenance of the pool was always done at this time of year, after IRONMAN competitors had finished their training.

"It tends to quieten down after this event so it's a great time to carry out the work," he said.

The closure was decided on in consultation with the community and the pools will close on March 6 and reopen March 25, just in time for a triathlon to be held.

While the pools are closed, why not check out some of the other cool facilities available in Turangi: the library is open six days a week and the skate park at Te Kapua Park is always a popular option.

It's also one of the hottest months in our district, and our lakes and rivers are a great way to cool off. Just remember to swim safe!

➔ Turangi Turtle Pools: Temporarily closed from March 6 – March 25.

## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR IRONKIDZ

The annual IRONKIDZ triathlon is taking place this Sunday, which means we need to close part of Lake Terrace and Tongariro Street for some of the day to keep all the kids safe.

Between 6.30am and 1pm on Sunday Tongariro Street will be closed from the traffic lights to Lake Terrace, and Lake Terrace will be closed along to Mere Road. Detours will be in place, so just follow the signs.

Good luck to everyone taking part in IRONKIDZ!

➔ Sunday February 26, 6.30am – 1pm: Temporary closure of a section of Lake Terrace and Tongariro Street.



➔ Road Closed 6:30am - 1pm