



GET ON-BOARD THE FREEDOM CAMPING ROADY

Want to have your say on freedom camping in our district but don't know how? We're taking a caravan and going on a road trip around the district to help people share their views on freedom camping.

We've recently prepared a draft freedom camping bylaw that recommends moving freedom camping sites away from the shores of Lake Taupō and proposes 15 sites around the Taupō District where freedom camping could be allowed.

People can have their say on the draft bylaw until April 18 by visiting taupo.govt.nz. You'll be able to find out more about the consultation process, or get answers to any questions you may have by visiting our caravan.

We'll be camped up around the district in the coming weeks, so come and say hello and find out more!

» WHERE CAN YOU VISIT THE CARAVAN?

- 23 March > 4.30pm to 6pm
Kinloch lakefront, near the marina
- 27 March > 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Turangi Mall
- > 5pm to 6pm
Omori Store
- 30 March > 4pm to 5.30pm
Mangakino Service Centre
- 8 April > 9am to 1pm
Taupo Market

ROAD SURFACE WORK TAKING PLACE

You might have noticed some roadworks taking place around the district over the past few weeks. That's because we're doing some work to ensure our road surfaces are in a safe condition for us to drive on.

When roads require resealing, we try and complete work when the weather is warm and dry so we get the best finished product.

Contractors will often need to treat the road surface before returning to reseal it a few weeks later, so you may see our team working on the same section of the road a couple of weeks apart.

Please take care around our contractors, slow down and adhere to lower speed limits so we can get the resealing work done quickly and safely.



FIRST IRONMĀORI EVENT FOR TAUPŌ

Organisers of New Zealand's IRONMĀORI triathlon series have brought their successful event to Taupō, with the first ever IRONMĀORI Taupō-nui-a-Tia taking place tomorrow.

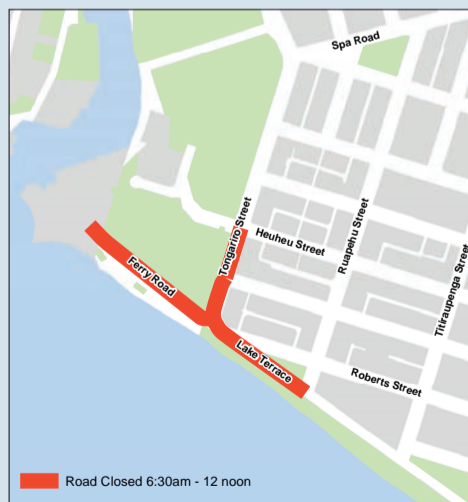
IRONMĀORI is open to everyone of any age with three event categories – tamariki for children, rangatahi for young people and matua for people 18 and over.

Tomorrow's event is one of five that have taken place around New Zealand. IRONMAORI Taupo-nui-a-Tia principal sponsor Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board gave local whanau an extra incentive to enter with discounted entry fees. In total 646 people will take to the start line over the three divisions.

To keep everyone safe during the event, a number of roads will be temporarily closed. Ferry Road, Tongariro Street between the traffic lights and Lake Terrace, and Lake Terrace to Ruapehu Street will be closed from 6.30am until noon tomorrow.

The lower Ferry Road carpark will also be closed from mid-afternoon today.

IRONMĀORI Taupō-nui-a-Tia kicks off with the swim leg at 8.30am tomorrow in front of the Taupō Yacht Club.



GETTING VALUE FOR YOUR RATES



It is that time of year again when we start working on our plans for the next financial year, including what activities we plan to carry out, how much they will cost and how they will be funded. It is that that then informs what level of rates we need to help us look after this place we love.

I'm often asked by ratepayers what their rates contribute to. While a portion of our rates go towards things like governance, public health and safety, community support, economic development and the beautification of our towns so our visitors keep coming back, much of what we pay goes towards infrastructure to ensure we get services we all rely on every day.

Fresh water is important for all of us to have access to – for drinking, cooking and bathing – and each person in the Taupō District uses an average of 250 litres of water each day. To get water treated and transported to our homes we have 582km of freshwater pipes, 62 water reservoirs and 19 water treatment plants. It's a big job to ensure a consistent water supply around our district, but it only costs an average of \$1.30 per property connected to the Taupō water supply each day for the water we consume.

We've also got 350km of wastewater pipes in our district and 12 wastewater treatment plants to ensure wastewater is safely taken away from our homes. On average it costs less than \$2 per rateable property per day to run our wastewater network, and our staff and contractors are on call 24/7 to ensure everything is working as it should.

Like most of New Zealand, we've recently had a lot of rain in our district. Over 250km of stormwater drains being fed by 3062 manholes and 4213 catchpits collect this water and transport it through 312 stormwater outlets into our waterways. Our stormwater assets are worth approximately \$74.8 million and help to reduce surface flooding in times of inclement weather.

Rates also go toward our roading infrastructure. Our district's roads, footpaths, bridges, culverts, street lights and signs are worth around \$389 million and we spend around \$400,000 sealing approximately 2.5km of unsealed rural roads each year. We're also one of the few places in New Zealand where you can park for free with 1982 carparks in the Taupō CBD.

When you think about it, there really are a lot of benefits we get every day that are funded by rates. We get the services we need, our district is kept looking beautiful and we can easily get to where we be.

Keep an eye out for more information about our annual plan, in the coming weeks.

Mayor David Trewavas > dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

» What's on?

- Until March 20 If You Go Down To The Woods Today... exhibition by Michael Angelo, Taupō Museum
- 17 March Austin-Healey Volcanic Plateau National Rally, Tongariro Domain
- 17-19 March Taupō Wellbeing Festival, Taupō
- 18 March IRONMĀORI Taupō-nui-a-Tia, Lake Taupō
- 19 March Triumph Motorcycle Show and Shine, Tongairro Domain
- 26 March Greenlea Rescue Helicopter Open Day, Taupō Airport

For more information on Taupō District events visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com