



## SPA PARK KIDS' EVENT A SUCCESS



PHOTO CREDIT: ABBY DANCE

A unique activity programme for kids to learn about nature has hit Taupō, namely Spa Park.

Taupō District Council has partnered with Greening Taupō and Department of Conservation as part of the Toyota Kiwi Guardians programme. It offers children the chance to follow maps and learn about the environment and encourages them to take action in their own backyard. This could be to create a 'lizard lounge' to encourage the protection of our lizard population, waging war on weeds or, in a way relevant to our unique area, to become a 'water champion' by caring for our waterways.

A launch event held last Sunday was an opportunity for all who attended to enjoy the finer points of Spa Park and to learn more about the area and the best ways to ensure the cultural and environmental significance remains for future generations to enjoy. The day included a walk taking in everything from the birds and streams to the flying fox!

Thea Depetris of Greening Taupō was very happy with the launch. "The KiwiGuardian Launch was an absolute success! Great collaborative effort amongst our Kids Greening Taupō community partners, schools and local businesses, primo weather and a fabulous turnout from families! It was fantastic to see so many young people outdoors, experiencing Spa Park, and learning a bit about the environmental and cultural significance of the area."

Environmental ranger, Shannon Hansen of Taupō District Council was running one station during the launch.

"It was exciting for us to be involved in the launch of the trail, which lets families explore the area, learn about insects and make pest tracking tunnels and bird feeders. We had a kowhai seed planting station where kids learned about germination and got to take home a handmade pot to watch their very own kowhai tree grow."

If you didn't get to the launch day event, the trail, excluding the stations, can be experienced at any time, along with parks, reserves and other locations New Zealand-wide. A unique medal is available if a keyword from each park is written down and then redeemed online at the Kiwi Guardians website: [www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/toyota-kiwi-guardians/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/toyota-kiwi-guardians/)



## SUZHOU ARCHWAY OPENS CELEBRATIONS

Friday last week saw the first glimpse of the archway being gifted to Taupō from our sister city of Suzhou, China.

The installation of the archway is just one part of the Suzhou sister city celebrations, as we lead up to our ten-year anniversary. Many events will showcase the unique relationship we have, including performances during the Taupō Winter Festival. In addition, Chinese artefacts will be part of an exhibition at Taupō Museum, amongst other things.

Taupō district mayor, David Trewavas is delighted to receive the special gift from our sister city family:

"This archway is a significant gift to celebrate our tenth Sister City Anniversary with Suzhou. It will add a great international dimension to our Taupō landscape."

The archway is being safely stored in the short-term while we decide on a final location.

**Above:** Taupō District Council's Sue Shaw (left) and Darren Penketh (right), along with Shreerang Padhye from Cheal, get a sneak peek at the arrival of the archway.

## TAUPŌ MUSEUM WINS AWARD

In the recent ServiceIQ New Zealand Museum awards, Taupō Museum won the award for Most Innovative Public Programme for the recent 'Dog Show' and 'Gallery for Dogs' exhibits.

The awards are described as promoting excellence by recognising outstanding exhibitions, programmes, products or projects that exemplify the highest standards and innovative practice.

A large amount of credit goes to exhibitions officer, Kerence Stephen for her work putting the unique offering together, which included all types of dog sculptures all made from recycled material, amongst other dog-themed works from a large number of local artists. In addition to the static display, another key feature was an area where owners could bring their dog into the gallery with interactive displays for them to visit and even have a photo opportunity through a car window to remember the day!

This innovation coupled with a can-do attitude meant



Kerence and the team were recognised for producing these award-winning exhibits we all got to enjoy here in Taupō. Great job, Kerence!

## WHAT'S ON?

- May 26 Banff Film Festival, Great Lake Centre
- May 26 Drift Antics #7, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- May 27 10 Tenors, Great Lake Centre

For more information visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)



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