



## CHANGES TO PLASTIC RECYCLING

Recycling in the Taupō District has been embraced by many, with a large number of us recycling not just plastics, but paper, glass and tin cans regularly. Unfortunately, due to China no longer accepting plastic waste, plastics with the code 3-7 can no longer be recycled and our contractor can no longer accept them.

As of October 1, Council will therefore need your help to ensure we only get plastics with the code 1-2 in your bins for collection, while 3-7 plastics will go in your rubbish bags.

While this is an issue faced by all councils nationally, this is also an opportunity following on from the successful Plastic Free July initiative, to continue to reduce our purchasing of plastic and take on other sustainable options. We will be giving you more information in the coming weeks, including where to find the code on your containers, and what our options are.

**Above:** Stormwater and solid waste manager Brent Aitken points out the location of the plastic code.



## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR YOUTH AWARDS

Do you know of a budding young sportsperson? Perhaps a student who is making every post a winner? Someone who is ahead of their time in art or innovation?

The Taupō District Youth Awards recognise youth achievement and submissions are now open. This is your opportunity to nominate someone living and attending school within the Taupō District.

Young people from years seven to 13 are eligible for nomination in five categories:

- » Arts
- » Academic
- » Sports
- » Innovation
- » Resilience

The five categories are split into three age groups: years 7-8, years 9-11 and years 12-13. A panel of judges selects a winner and runner-up for each of these age groups.

There is an award for leadership for each age group and an award for overall all-rounder, with the winners of these chosen from the other five categories.

Parents, friends, teachers, coaches and club or organisation leaders can nominate young people who excel in any of these areas.

Submit your nomination at [taupo.govt.nz/youthawards](http://taupo.govt.nz/youthawards)

### COUNCILLOR PROFILE

This week in our profiles of your elected representatives is Taupō-Kaingaroa Ward Councillor, John Williamson.



Councillor John Williamson comes from a family that is firmly committed to the Taupō district – his mother, Joan, was Mayor from 1986 to 2001 – so it is no surprise that he has also chosen to serve the community.

“Included in my original election pledge was protection of the Lake and its waterways, kaitiakitanga,” he says. “Without maintaining and improving our most valuable natural resource, everything else is compromised, including our environment, cultural, social and economic values.”

Councillor Williamson is a firm believer that we are all

custodians of the environment, and with a degree in water and soil resource management he is a perfect fit for his role on Council’s environment portfolio. “This role entails involvement with many organisations including the Lake Taupō Protection Project, Waikato Regional Council, Department of Conservation, the Waipahihi C75 Trust, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust, Waipahihi Botanical Society Board of Management, Greening Taupō, Lake Taupō Catchment Committee and Lakes and Waterways Action Group. My other areas of environmental involvement include working groups for the Flood Hazard Plan Change, Freedom Camping and I’m currently co-chair of the steering group for the Turangi Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge consent. Maybe not exciting responsibilities but essential and interesting none the less!”

Councillor Williamson continues his commitment to the community outside of Council, acting as a Sports Advisory Council member, a Taupō School of Music trustee, a Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge trustee, and overseeing the Youth Portfolio of Lake Taupō Rotary.

Somewhere in all of this he has managed to find time to raise three daughters. “My family has been involved in our community for over six decades, and I share the aim of providing balanced growth and progress for our future generations. And that is why I value and welcome the input I receive from the many people who are prepared to discuss issues regarding community wellbeing. Taupō is the place my family and I call home, so I want the best for it.”

## » WHAT'S ON?

- Sep 14-15 Lake Taupō Indoor Bowls Bonanza, Taupō Events Centre
- Sep 15-23 Conservation Week, various events and locations
- Until Sep 16 Jock Hobbs Memorial rugby tournament, Owen Delany Park
- Sep 18-20 Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga Festival, Taupō Events Centre
- Until Nov 11 Suzhou: Faith and Life, Taupō Museum

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



Mayor David Trewavas



Deputy Mayor Rosie Harvey



John Boddy



Barry Hickling



Rosanne Jollands



Tangonui Kingi



Anna Park



Christine Rankin



Maggie Stewart



Kirsty Trueman



John Williamson