



HIPAPATUA CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE

Hipapatua Reserve is closed for camping due to maintenance and tree work beginning this week. Signage will direct campers to the smaller, upper camping area, which will remain open. Day use of the lower reserve, as well as river access, will not be affected by the work. Parks manager of community and open spaces Julie Gordon said the popular camping spot was generally quieter as the cooler weather sets in at this time of year, making it an ideal time to get the work done. She said the area would reopen for camping from October 1.

“The key reason we reopen in October is that it allows the grass to recover from all the vehicles that have been on the reserve. Coupled with the warmer weather burning off a lot of the grass cover, we need a decent amount of time to get some coverage back,” she says. “Once it’s back open, the area will be looking great again for the next camping season.” The closure is an annual event to keep the lower camping area tidy, with any work required carried out between the usual mowing and other maintenance done throughout the year.

EVENT CENTRE DECK UPGRADE

The deck at the Taupō events Centre is leaking, so work to remedy the issue is being carried out next week. The deck is the outdoor area that stretches out from the Fitness Studio on the second floor of the complex. The project will begin on May 6 with scaffolding and tents being erected to minimise weather delays on the work. The work includes removing floor tiles, making repairs to the concrete slab, the installation of a new waterproof membrane and retiling with more hardwearing tiles. The function room below will be closed from May 20-27 due to noise during the project, with the upgrade expected to be completed by the end of June.



Above: Fitness and activities supervisor Doireann Meade and fitness instructor Kaitlyn Maxwell examine the tile damage at AC Baths

» HAVE YOUR SAY

Have something to say about erosion, plant and animal pests or biodiversity? Do you have ideas for improving the health of the local environment? Join us at the **Lake Taupō Catchment Committee** meeting being held on May 10 in the Motutaiko Room, Suncourt Hotel & Conference Centre, 14 Northcroft Street, Taupō. The catchment committee is now starting these meetings with a 30-minute public forum, so people living in the Lake Taupō catchment area can share their ideas and concerns. Every year Waikato Regional Council spends about \$34 million on work in the Waikato region to protect people and property from flooding and soil erosion, and to combat plant and animal pests. Catchment committees comprising of Waikato regional councillors, staff from key agencies with an interest in the zone, community representatives, iwi and property owners help to ensure money is spent well. It is also optional to stay on after the public forum to observe your committee in action.

- Public forum: 10am-10.30am
- Committee agenda: 10.30am-12pm

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Ribbons will adorn the lake front next week as a sign of remembrance of all those who lost their lives on New Zealand roads last year. The display is one part of the annual Road Safety Week New Zealand, which takes place each year at this time. This year the week carries a ‘leadership for road safety’ theme. The road safety charity ‘Brake’, promotes the week, working with communities with the aim of avoiding road deaths and injuries, and helping those who are bereaved or seriously injured. Here in the Taupō District, we are supporting this with not just the ribbons along the lakefront, but also with our customer services and library teams raising awareness by wearing road safety t-shirts, along with a display on road safety at Taupō Library. Road safety coordinator Dianna Harrison (left) said the week was a reminder to all road users to take care as we head into slippery and cold winter driving conditions. “So far this year we have had 14 fatalities in our district, one fewer than the whole of last year,” she said. “We need to continually drive to the conditions and keep an eye out for other people on the road.” For more information on road safety, including upcoming training, go to taupo.govt.nz/roadsafety or drop into one of our offices in Taupō, Turangi or Mangakino.



» WHAT'S ON?

- May 4-5 Annual Pig Hunting Competition, Mangakino
- Until May 13 Colour my Autumn, Taupō Museum
- Until May 20 Our Garden of Earthly Delights, Taupō Museum

For more information visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com