

quarterly

connect

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL AUG – OCT 2013

ADDING TO YEARS

Life

Initiatives are in place to enhance enjoyment and participation in our community for all ages



GLOBAL "AGE-FRIENDLY" CONCEPT UNDERWAY

At Council, we look out for everybody and that means providing services for our seniors and our youth, to make living in our district great for all ages. To find out how we can make Taupō District more age-friendly, Council helped establish a steering committee to represent the older generation.

The committee involves various community groups, service providers and individuals from Taupō, Mangakino and Turangi which work with seniors. Its purpose is to look at areas that can be improved for the elderly and find out what can be done to enhance our district's age-friendliness.

The concept of age-friendliness was initiated by the World Health Organisation. It encourages active ageing by utilising opportunities for community participation. It also looks at security to improve the quality of life for mature residents.

In practical terms, an age-friendly town adapts structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities. The first area of focus for the committee has been transport and mobility.

Although the group is still in its infancy, it is hoped the committee will have a positive influence on the lifestyles of our seniors to help our district become more age-friendly.

BUILDING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN DEMOCRACY

Young people are the future of our district and, with this in mind, Council is working toward engaging youth in the democratic process. Council wants to provide young people with development opportunities to encourage them to represent youth perspectives.

Informally called Youth Voice, a new initiative is allowing young people to engage with councillors and provide feedback on issues relevant to them. The initiative was launched during Youth Week in May this year.

During Youth Week, Council held a "speed dating" workshop where young people and councillors chatted about their respective roles for two minutes each, before moving on to the next person. Council will continue to develop the initiative to further engage youth in other aspects of local government.

During Youth Week, Council also joined forces with the Taupō Youth Network, which includes organisations such as Youthtown, Youth Arts Trust, Raw Youth, Sport Waikato, Café for Youth, Pouakani Marae and Freedom Youth to provide activities throughout the district.

Visit www.taupo.govt.nz for more on our age-friendly and youth initiatives



Hi folks

This quarter has been pretty full on for us, with the Annual Plan 2013-14 adopted in June and plenty of exciting projects and services evolving during the past several months.

One part of our business that is really growing and ever-changing is the adoption of new technology. It's something we are using increasingly throughout the district and at multiple levels within every department.

This winter, we launched an Australasian first – an online express Land Information Memorandum (LIM) service that processes LIMs in less than four hours. We are the only council in South Pacific to do this and the programme will hopefully vie for some national awards later this year.

Council's new mapping service, Mapi, went live in December 2012, making our online maps much easier to navigate. The service provides 24/7 access to Council's geospatial information, which is proving particularly popular with local businesses. A lot of people have commented on how easy it is to use, which is what we like to hear!

We have also launched new technology at Taupō District Libraries with the addition of eBooks. An entire eBook catalogue has been created through collaboration with Rotorua, Whakatane and Western Bay libraries. For those who are technologically-inclined this is an easy way to access books on e-reader devices. The introduction of eBooks shows Council is committed to moving with the times and also that there are exciting times ahead. We want our young people to grow, flourish and remain in our district – this is one small way of encouraging that.

We are also always trying to make it easier for you to get in touch with us. We want to know what's going on in your community and what your neighbourhood needs. We recently upgraded our website to be more user-friendly. It holds a wealth of information about everything from dog registrations to media releases.

Facebook is another way for people to connect with us and keep up-to-date with what's going on. You can find us by searching for Taupo District Council.

We strive to embrace all communication tools on offer, which are steadily growing in these fast-moving times! I hope you will use one of these ways to connect with us – we're always happy to hear from you.

Rob Williams
Chief Executive

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

EXPRESS LIMs ONLINE

Council has broken new ground this winter with the introduction of an express Land Information Memorandum (LIM) service that processes LIMs in less than four hours.

A LIM is a report containing all the information Council must provide about a property or section at the time the application is made. The express service is the first to be introduced in Australasia and processes LIMs 24/7 online. It's a super fast service that can only be accessed online.

A more economical urgent service was also introduced in June where LIMs are processed between three and five days. The service has been developed over the past year and has been made possible by Council's proactive approach to property information.



OUR LIBRARIES GO DIGITAL

Times are changing for book-lovers and now library users have the opportunity to borrow eBooks from an extensive online catalogue at Taupō District Libraries.

Owners of electronic reading devices can hire library eBooks at any time of the day or night from the catalogue shared between Rotorua, Western Bay of Plenty and Whakatane libraries, giving users access to a wider range of reading material.

Staff are offering library users monthly public eBook tutorials to help them get acquainted with the system. The sessions will allow people to ask questions and include a demonstration on how to borrow eBooks from the library. Sessions will be held the first Wednesday and Thursday each month, with the next sessions on 7-8 August.

You do not need to have an eReader or device to come along to these sessions. However, if you have one, bring it with you. Please note, Kindles are not compatible. For more details contact your local branch of the Taupō District Libraries.

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Council's new mapping service is proving a hit with Taupō District residents and ratepayers. The service, Mapi, went live in December 2012, making online maps of the district easier to use.

Use of the service peaked in May with 3500 page visits during the month, a pleasing increase on 1000 visits per month when the service first launched.

Feedback has been positive, with users commenting on the ease of use. The upgraded site provides 24/7 access to a wider variety of Council's geospatial information.

The mapping service can be used to search for property information with the aid of extra tools and data. There are different kinds of maps of property, reserves, services and the District Plan.

Users can access the latest aerial photography, see Council-owned infrastructure such as water, wastewater and stormwater pipes, and see the contours of properties. They can learn about rubbish collection days, where the closest Council reserve is located and find out what District Plan zoning applies to a particular area.

You can find the Council's mapping service by searching for 'Maps Online' at www.taupo.govt.nz.

OPT IN FOR ONLINE

More and more people are signing up to receive Council correspondence online and Council thinks it's an easy way to save paper and time.

When you "opt in" online, you can choose to receive various invoices by email. When you sign up you can tick the boxes of the services you'd like emailed to you, such as dog registrations, rates, building consents and resource consents.

If you would prefer to receive an email rather than a letter in your letterbox, go to www.taupo.govt.nz then click "Do it online" then "Opt in".



SPOTLIGHT ON AC BATHS

The AC Baths has remained firmly in the spotlight in the past few months, winning two awards and celebrating 130 years while undergoing an important refurbishment.

The AC Baths received the Outstanding Swim School of the Year award for under 1000 people in its learn-to-swim programme awarded by the New Zealand Swim Coaches and Teachers Association in May. The award was given to recognise outstanding achievement and contribution to achieve excellence in swim school operations.

It is the second award for the AC Baths this year. In March, the AC Baths' Swim School won the Swimming New Zealand State Insurance Quality Swim School of the Year award. The AC Baths also celebrated 130 years of operation in March.

Some of the pools at the AC Baths are currently closed for refurbishment; this includes the indoor and outdoor leisure pools, learn-to-swim pool and toddler pools. The roof and ceiling of the indoor leisure pool has been removed and the new roof and ceiling on the learn-to-swim pool is complete. The installation of the framing and internal wall linings of the changing room



area is ongoing, as is the construction of the new single-storey building that will be used to shelter people moving between the learn-to-swim pool and changing rooms.

The outdoor 25m pool is temporarily being used as a leisure pool with the temperature increased to between 33°C and 35°C. New mobility and disability access steps and a handrail have been added to make it easier for pool users to get in and out of the pool. The indoor 25m pool has also had new steps installed to improve mobility access.

SOUTHERN SETTLEMENTS UPDATE

TURANGI REVITALISATION

The revitalisation of the entrance into Turangi is complete and now has a fresh new look.

The entrance work was the first stage of the project and focussed on the Pihanga Road entrance into town and State Highway 1, which leads into it. There has been extensive landscaping and the installation of pedestrian crossings and paving.

The second stage of the project, due to begin in September, involves a new skate park, play equipment and a spruce up of the front and back areas of the Turangi mall. This is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

NEW WASTEWATER SYSTEM

A new wastewater reticulation system installed in Turangi to prevent sewerage overflows has changed the lives of a group of residents on Hirangi and Te Awamate roads.

Sixteen households on the two roads were connected with a sewerage system to improve health and safety. Before this, most properties used septic tanks, many of which overflowed in winter. Some households did not have functioning septic tanks. The area was particularly susceptible to overflowing tanks because of the high ground water level during winter months.

Council and the Turangi Tongariro Community Board worked together, listened to residents' requests and improved wastewater reticulation for the residents of the area quickly. Contractor Innoflow Technologies NZ used local company Laser Plumbing Taupō to carry out the installation work.

Composting GROWS IN POPULARITY

A new Council composting programme is proving so popular there are plans to complement the initiative with composting workshops to teach residents how to recycle green and food waste.

As an incentive to start composting, Council offers a subsidy toward compost units or worm farms. At last count, Council's subsidy had enabled 140 households to get involved in composting which equates to about 28 tonnes of food waste being diverted away from Taupō's landfills per year.

Four subsidised composting options are available, including worm farms and home composting units. They come in different sizes and cater for indoor or outdoor use, so you can choose one that fits your family's needs. Vouchers are available at Council offices now.



SAFE Driving THIS SPRING

Spring is on its way, but our District's country roads still require plenty of care and caution from motorists in the coming months.

Work has been completed on Poihipi Road to make it safer for cyclists and motorists, with the widening of three sections of road. The sections were identified as causing safety concerns after Council consulted with Taupō Cycle Club.

The sections of road were selected for widening because they were most likely to provide the biggest safety benefit to the community using the road. However, it's still important to drive to the conditions on Poihipi Road and all of our other local roads.

It is also important to remember that we can still get cold snaps when you need to be extra careful on the road. Black ice, poor visibility and rain all contribute to more difficult driving conditions. Don't forget if you need to drive in snow conditions, take warm clothing and food in case of an emergency. If your vehicle becomes trapped in snow, make sure the exhaust pipe remains clear for safety. Keep safe on our roads this spring!



the events capital

A SELECTION OF EVENTS IN TAUPŌ DISTRICT

For more information visit www.taupo.govt.nz or www.GreatLakeTaupo.com

3 Aug	Dynatron Taupō 2WD Tarmac Rally, Taupō Motorsport Park
4 Aug	Mizuno Half Marathon, Taupō Lakefront
4 Aug	Roman Rudnytsky Piano Recital, Great Lake Centre
Until 6 Aug	Unlimited Expressions exhibition, Taupō Museum
13 Aug	Kids for Kids, Great Lake Centre
Until 14 Aug	37 Sketches exhibition, Taupō Museum
17 Aug	Winter Series Dual Sprints Taupō Motorsport Park
18 Aug	Winter Series Clubmans, Taupō Motorsport Park
23 Aug	Best of the NZ Mountain Film Festival, Starlight Cinema
23 Aug	Moto TT, Taupō Motorsport Park
23-25 Aug	Towncentre Taupō Winterfest, Taupō town centre
25 Aug	The Living Legends Great Muck In, Whakaipo Bay Recreation Reserve
25 Aug	Taupō Winter Series motocross, Digger McEwen Park
Until 1 Sept	Great Lake Tales, Hilton Lake Taupō
31 Aug-1 Sept	BNT V8 Supertourers, Taupō Motorsport Park
4-7 Sept	AA Premiership Basketball Tournament, Taupō Events Centre
7 Sept	Mizuno Kinloch Offroad Challenge, Kinloch
7 Sept	Jamis Day Night Thriller, Spa Thermal Park
9 Sept	Spring Marquee Raceday, Centennial Park Racecourse
13 - 15 Sept	Taupō 1000 International Offroad Race, Napier-Taupō Highway
16 Sept	Taupō District Youth Awards, Great Lake Centre
19-20 Sept	Ngāti Tūwharetoa Kapa Haka Festival, Taupō Events Centre
21-22 Sept	NZ Junior Rugby Festival, Owen Delany Park
28 Sept	Taupō Classic Rally, Taupō Motorsport Park
28-29 Sept	Sika Show, Taupō Events Centre
2 Oct	Stan Walker Live, Great Lake Centre
6 Oct	The Great Lake Volleyball Tournament, Taupō Events Centre
12 - 13 Oct	McCartney Soccer Tournament, Crown Park
17 Oct	Magnificent Mozart – NZ Symphony Orchestra, Great Lake Centre
18 Oct	The Ten Tenors, Great Lake Centre
19-20 Oct	Taupō Hat Ultimate Frisbee, Owen Delany Park
26-28 Oct	Bay of Plenty Dressage Championship, National Equestrian Centre
26-28 Oct	Graffiato: NZ's Street Art Festival, Taupō and Mangakino
26-27 Oct	Huka Honda Labour Weekend Extravaganza, Digger McEwen Park
30 Oct-1 Nov	Lake Taupō Masters Golf, Kinloch, Wairakei and Centennial golf courses

■ Sports and outdoors
 ■ Art and culture
 ■ Community



STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

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 Taupō District Council