

quarterly

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COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

MAY – JUL 2013

Communities come together to celebrate in summer

What a summer – what a series! A long, hot summer provided the perfect setting for a range of community events over the past several months.

Council's Our Neighbourhood team visited neighbourhoods from Turangi to Taupō to Mangakino and in between over summer, encouraging thousands of neighbours and friends to mix and mingle.

The Our Neighbourhood series is a regular event for Taupō District. Council partners with agencies from around the District to organise educational and family-friendly events. This season, the Our Neighbourhood team took a new approach and worked with community groups to help support existing events led by the community. This community-led approach was a successful part of the programme as neighbours took ownership and pride in leading summer events to celebrate what is special about where they live.

First Expo and wrapped up with a community lunch in Waitahanui on 17 March.

In between, there was a fun run, community picnics and festivals stretching from Omori and Kuratau to Mangakino.

This season was the fourth year of the series. Some of the highlights were the opportunity to showcase and enjoy local neighbourhood talent and encourage an increased awareness of the types of services available in each community.

The series is also a chance for each community to participate in wholesome family activities and forum for voicing ideas or concerns in a positive environment.

The Our Neighbourhood series was followed by the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, a travelling party that visited streets around our District to let people know about Neighbours' Day. The concept was to encourage people to get together and hold an event on Neighbours' Day (23-24 March).

The Our Neighbourhood series will return next year so keep an eye out later in the year for next season's plans. Thanks to our community partners and this season's sponsors, Whānau Ora ki Tūwharetoa, Hire Pool Taupō, Experience Taupō and More FM.

The series kicked off in Turangi on 15 December with the Turangi Santa Parade and Prevention





Hi folks

It's been a busy few months for Council with a lot of hard work especially going into the Draft Annual Plan.

The plan outlines the programme of work coming up for our District this year and is largely taken from the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2012-22, with a few adjustments.

The Draft Annual Plan was made available to the public at the end of March and was the product of a lot of hard work to reduce the rate rise for Taupō District ratepayers. Originally forecast at 7.38 per cent in the Long Term Plan (LTP), Councillors and staff were able to get it down to 4.4 per cent after trimming \$3.6 million from the budget. If finally approved in June with no additions through consultation, this will be the lowest average increase in a decade (2003-2013).

What it means for our residents is that for 70 per cent of the ratepayers of Taupō town, 100 per cent of Turangi ratepayers and 97 per cent of Mangakino ratepayers, there will be an increase of \$200 or less.

Times are still financially tight for the community and Council, and we have kept that in mind as we have moved through this process.

In order to cut \$3.6 million, we have significantly reduced our operations budget – effectively running the business – and will continue to use prudent financial management and cost cutting measures to save money without reducing the level of service we provide our ratepayers.

Submissions for the Draft Annual Plan have now closed and we are looking forward to making any adjustments and adopting it in June.

We're also beginning to see the effects of our new organisational structure, which appears to be going well. It has meant better collaboration between different departments, which is great to see. We are always looking to make improvements wherever we can and are keen to hear anyone's points of view. Please feel free to email me directly at rwilliams@taupo.govt.nz.

Rob Williams
Chief Executive

THE NEW FACE OF Turangi

Over the past few months, the entrance to Turangi town centre has been transformed with the first stage of a revitalisation in the township.

The changes to the entrance, including Pihanga Road, are part of a project to positively enhance Turangi and encourage people to come into the town and explore all it has to offer. Part of the purpose of the redevelopment is to create the feel of a roundabout at the town's entrance; it is hoped the changes will slow traffic entering Turangi from State Highway 1 onto Pihanga Road.

The first stage of the revitalisation focused on the gateway into the town as it is the first glimpse people get of Turangi. Residents, businesses and Council were all keen to see this improved to strengthen the town's first impression. It has included:

- Relocating the three red signs at the turn off, and creating and installing a fourth sign
- Landscaping and planting new trees
- Creating new footpaths
- Building paved pedestrian crossings on Pihanga and Ohuanga roads
- Creating new car parking areas on Pihanga Road

Council staff were in frequent contact with businesses affected by the works. More information on the project is available from the Turangi Service Centre.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS

Local Government reforms adopted in December 2012 have changed the way we do things at Council. The changes were instigated by central government to build a more productive and competitive economy with better public services locally.

The old purpose of local government was "to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future" – the four well-beings. The new purpose is "to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses."

In the past, Councillors have deliberated whether their decision would impact on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of our community. Now, Councillors must consider whether a decision will meet the current and future needs of our community regarding local infrastructure and public services or the performance of regulatory functions. Councillors will also consider that services need to be delivered in a way that is efficient, effective and appropriate to present and future communities, in a cost-effective manner.

CHANGES TO THE WAY WE DEAL WITH ALCOHOL

The initial phase of the new Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 took effect in December 2012 and some of it affects local governments and the way we do things at Council.

One of the changes will allow the police to issue fines on the spot for breaching a liquor ban. Taupō has a year-round liquor ban in the central business district and a number of other liquor bans around the District over the Christmas and New Year festive season. In addition, Council will now be able to develop alcohol policies that apply in Taupō District that will have legal standing when deciding on liquor licences.

Councils will also establish District Licensing Committees to replace District Licensing Agencies from December 2013. These committees will make decisions on licences and managers' certificates.

TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING IN A CHILLY WINTER

Winter is fast approaching and that means we need to start thinking about how to keep ourselves and others safe in harsh conditions. **Ice scrapers** for clearing your car windscreen will be available from Council offices and we will have tips on our website on how to navigate unfavourable conditions on the road. Visit www.taupo.govt.nz for more information.

Mayor Rick Cooper



Deputy Mayor Michael Downard



Cr Keith Crate



Cr Rob Henderson



Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

AC BATHS REFURBISHMENT

Great progress is being made on the refurbishment of Taupō's AC Baths – an extensive project required because of errors made in a past revamp in 2002/03.

The first pool to be completed was the 25m indoor pool. The pool closed in June 2012 because of safety concerns after tiles fell from the internal roof over the pool. Before the tile fell, work had already been planned to refurbish the building starting in August last year.

It was completed in March with new external roofing and acoustic ceiling, wall panels, structural steel rods, windows, a reconfigured ventilation system, new lighting, PA/sound system and CCTV cameras. The toilets and changing rooms were also refurbished.

The pool was officially reopened on Saturday 16 March by Councillors Keith Crate and Nicola Williams, with the Swim Club children and Taupō Masters Swimmers first to break the water.

Councillors Crate and Williams, along with Councillor Barry Hickling, formed the Council working party to oversee the project's progress.

Stage two of the refurbishment of the AC Baths will focus on the indoor leisure pool and learn-to-swim-pool.

The roof over the pool is in poor condition and will be completely removed and replaced by a partial roof to protect caregivers and spectators from the elements.

Originally, the indoor leisure pool was to be left without a roof, but after consulting with the community the decision was made to reinstate a partial roof.

The changing room design is also set to change, providing improved facilities for families. They will also cater for pool users with mobility and disabled access challenges with three rooms dedicated to accommodating these users.

The AC Baths' Swim Academy won Quality Swim School of the Year at the 2013 Swimming New Zealand Awards



TURANGI'S NEW

STREET NAMES

New street and reserve names have been going up to recognise the town's whakapapa. The names were changed after Council reached an agreement with Ngāti Turangitukua. The decision came after discussions with local hapu who asked for street names to incorporate Ngāti Turangitukua whakapapa as part of a board agreement following the 1998 Treaty of Waitangi settlement. The changes correct spelling errors made in the past.

Seventeen new street names went up in March alongside the old street names and, in April, three reserve names were changed. The old names will be left up until October to help create a smooth transition.

Plans for a way to recognise the engineers previously named in some of the street names are underway. The engineers contributed to the township when it was being built.

Water TREATMENT PLANT ON TRACK

The new Taupō Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is beginning to take shape on Taupō's Lakefront, as contractors work on stage two of the project.

The Tamatea Reservoir is now being supplied water by new pumps and work on the rising main to Titoki Reservoir is nearing completion.

What remained of the old WTP building was demolished in late March. Following this, ground improvement works were carried out to ensure the ground was stable. Contractors are now busy preparing the steel reinforcing and concrete foundation.

The upgrade of the WTP is a multi-year project with an overall budget of \$27.4 million. The WTP means Taupō will meet the updated New Zealand Drinking Water Standards. The project is due to be completed by August 2013.

Composting JUST GOT CHEAPER

Council wants to encourage Taupō District families to recycle green waste through composting. We are subsidising selected products to help you become greener and save space in your rubbish bags. This means you could save up to \$100 on composting and waste solutions.

There are a range of options available to suit your composting needs from worm farms to home composting units and different sizes so you can choose one that fits with your family's demands.

Visit www.taupo.govt.nz for more information or ask for a voucher at any Council office.

NEXT STEPS FOR Draft Annual Plan

Taupō District ratepayers were able to make submissions on the Draft Annual Plan over a month that finished up on 24 April.

Those who submitted to Council will be notified that their submissions were received and will be advised about hearings. Councillors are scheduled to hear public submissions from 13 to 17 May and then deliberate the following week. The finalised Annual Plan is scheduled to be adopted on 25 June.

The draft plan proposes an average rates increase of 4.4 per cent (from the forecast 7.38 per cent) which has resulted from cutting about \$3.6 million from Council's operational budget. Final changes to the plan may alter this figure.

The 4.4 per cent rate increase in the Draft Annual Plan is comprised of the need to rate-fund interest previously borrowed for the purchase of land and the construction of the East Taupō Arterial and the infrastructure to meet government water and wastewater obligations.

There are also targeted rates for Taupō town ratepayers because of the upgrade to Taupō Water Treatment Plant required by Central Government to bring our water quality in line with New Zealand Drinking Water Standards.

Cr Barry Hickling



Cr Chris Johnston



Cr Gary Keepa



Cr Anna Kirk



Cr Kirsty Trueman



Cr Nicola Williams



the events capital

A SELECTION OF EVENTS IN TAUPŌ DISTRICT

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

Until May 14	Class Effort exhibition, Taupō Museum
Until May 19	One Hundred exhibition, Taupō Museum
28 April-3 May	NZ Secondary Schools Team Racing National Championships Regatta, Lake Taupō
1 May	Kids' Fishout Day, Tongariro National Trout Centre
3-5 May	Pacific Motorcycle Racing Club, Taupō Motorsport Park
4 May	T42 Central Plateau, Central Plateau
4 May	The Laughing Samoans present <i>Fobulous</i> , Great Lake Centre
4-5 May	Diesel, Demons & Daredevils Truck Racing, Taupō Motorsport Park
4-12 May	Youth Week 2013, events across Taupō, Turangi and Mangakino
11 May	Trout Centre Open Day, Tongariro National Trout Centre
11 May	Mini Club Car Racing, Taupō Motorsport Park
15 May	The 2013 Chateau Tongariro Gay Ball, Chateau Tongariro
16 May	Moscow Ballet – The Nutcracker, Great Lake Centre
17-19 May	NRM National 3 Day Event, National Equestrian Centre
18 May	Moto TT, Taupō Motorsport Park
24 May	Royal New Zealand Navy Band, Great Lake Centre
25 May-9 July	Annual Matariki exhibition, Taupō Museum
26 May	Taupō Winter Series Round 2, Digger McEwen Park
31 May-1 June	Queen's Birthday Weekend Taupo Society of Ballet and Dance, Great Lake Centre
1-3 June	NZ Drag Racing, Taupō Motorsport Park
6 June	The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Great Lake Centre
8 June	Suzuki Trailblazer, Tahorakuri Pine Forest
8 June	Winter Series Dual Sprints – Round 1, Taupō Motorsport Park
9 June	TCC Enduro, Taupō Motorsport Park
22 June	Mid Winter Ball 2013, Chateau Tongariro
22-23 June	Kuratau Community Trail Ride, Kuratau
29 June	Battle of the Clubs, Digger McEwen Park
29 June	Winter Series Dual Sprints – Round 2, Taupō Motorsport Park
30 June	Taupō Winter Series Round 3, Digger McEwen Park
30 June	Winter Series Clubmans – Round 1, Taupō Motorsport Park
1-7 July	Māori Language Week 2013, New Zealand-wide
6 July-6 Aug	Unlimited Expressions exhibition, Taupō Museum
7 July	Tauhara Off Road Half Marathon, Mount Tauhara
13 July-14 Aug	31 Sketches exhibition, Taupō Museum
18-23 July	Taupō Symposium 2013 Fabric Art Festival, Taupō-nui-a-Tia College

Sports and outdoors
Art and culture
Community

Ironman champion Bevan Docherty promotes the 'place names' theme of Maori Language Week 2013



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