

connect

quarterly

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL NOV 2013 – JAN 2014

BE *prepared* FOR AN EMERGENCY



Photo: Mark JS Esslemont ©

Christchurch residents relied on emergency water provisions

DOMESTIC WATER TANK A LIFESAVER

The 6.3 magnitude earthquake that severely damaged Christchurch in February 2011 left many households without access to fresh water for a week and a further 30 per cent of residents without water for more than three weeks.

While contractors worked to restore the mains supply, milk tankers brought in water from outside the city, the army provided desalination plants and bottled supplies were donated. Residents were urged to collect rainwater but many were unable to store the water.

A 200-litre emergency water tank will help ensure your household is in the best position possible for loss of water supply – and, in this district, volcanic activity, earthquakes and landslides all pose a degree of risk to our welfare.



The tanks are connected directly to the house downpipe, so completely separate from the main water connection. They can be easily installed with a few household tools. They cost \$125 and are available from Council on 07 376 0899.

For more information visit www.taupo.govt.nz/civildefence.

EXTRA PREPARED

Get an emergency kit with items like blankets, food, a first aid kit and water. These are available from Office Products Depot and hardware stores such as Mitre 10. Council has emergency torches and 10-litre water containers for sale.

Get a free emergency planning guide from council. The guide contains everything you need to know about being prepared in our district and has information on how to create a household emergency plan and establish evacuation procedures.

WELL DESERVED WIN FOR EMERGENCY HEROES

Taupō Volunteer Rural Fire Force won the health and wellbeing category at the regional TrustPower Community Awards in September.

Last summer's extremely dry conditions contributed to a number of big bush fires in the Taupō district, resulting in a particularly busy year for the rural fire force. Eighteen volunteers spent 1100 hours attending 18 call-outs. Sixteen of those occurred between November and March and one fire took an entire week to control.



The team also assisted during the Te Maari crater eruption on Mount Tongariro last year, removing ash from roofs and refilling water tanks contaminated with ash.

Principal Rural Fire Officer Phil Parker is thrilled to see the team recognised with the award. "They're a highly trained group of volunteers who are committed to the job."



Hi folks

Looking back over the past triennium, I know council has plenty to be proud of. As our new team of councillors settles in, I think it's important to reflect on the work that has been done over the last few years.

Council closed the financial year with \$17 million less debt than was forecast in 2012/13 Long Term Plan. This financial year alone, we are up \$4.5m more than we had budgeted. That's great for our ratepayers and it's excellent to know we are reducing our debt.

We managed to achieve this by collecting better than expected revenue from forestry and property sales and through significant savings in operating expenditure.

This included a reduction in the number of staff here at council. While it was a difficult process, staff have not only held it together, but also flourished in this new environment.

Recently staff completed a survey to give us an indication of how the organisation was working for them and I'm happy to report our morale is improving. I'm really proud that we are delivering the same great level of service but at less of an expense and with happier staff.

The organisation has been through dramatic change but is succeeding despite these challenges and I feel really proud of our organisation for this reason.

In other news, we have another exciting summer coming up with the return of the 'Our Neighbourhood' series and a litany of national and international events.

Thousands of visitors will pour into our district for things like the Contact Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, the Taniwha multi-sport event and the Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Taupō Half and Ironman New Zealand events.

There's something for everyone to look forward to this summer – here's hoping for a sunny one!

Rob Williams
Chief Executive

Local Elections 2013

YOUR VOTE YOUR COMMUNITY

Taupō district has a new leader with David Trewavas elected as mayor at this year's local government elections. Mayor Trewavas replaces the former mayor, Rick Cooper, who decided not to run again after six years at the helm of council. Mayor Trewavas joins a new group of councillors with some new and old faces in the mix.

At the time of printing, these results were still to be confirmed. For final results, visit www.taupo.govt.nz/elections.

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

David Trewavas (Mayor)
John Boddy
Zane Cozens
Keith Crate
Rosie Harvey
Barry Hickling
Rosanne Jollands
Anna Kirk
Maggie Stewart
Kirsty Trueman
John Williamson

TURANGI-TONGARIRO COMMUNITY BOARD

Tangonui Kingi
Te Takinga New
Neale Saunders
Mary Jane Smallman
Chris Te Whare
Wally van der Aa

More information

For a full list of results, including the final number of votes received by each candidate, visit www.taupo.govt.nz



FINAL STRETCH FOR AC BATHS

Refurbishment of AC Baths is in its final phase with the complex set to fully reopen in December. While the last stages of work are being completed, the indoor and outdoor leisure pools, learn-to-swim pool and toddler pools are closed.

The outdoor 25m pool is open and has been converted into a leisure pool with the temperature increased to between 33 and 35 degrees. New mobility and disability access steps have access easier for all swimmers (see image at left).

The indoor 25m pool is also open and has also had new steps installed to make it easier for those with mobility issues to access the pool. The sauna and the newly refurbished toilet block are also open.

THE PUREST WATER FOR TAUPŌ TOWN

The new water treatment plant on Lake Terrace is officially open and pumping clean water to the residents of Taupō. Commissioning of the plant, which was the final testing stage of the upgrade, was carried out in September and October.

The rooftop has been landscaped with timber decking, pavers, planter boxes and a balustrade around the perimeter so it can be used as a lakefront viewing platform.

The water treatment plant has been upgraded to guarantee supply and bring the Taupō town water supply to a modern level that meets the recently updated New Zealand Drinking-Water Standards set by central government.

A COMMUNITY PAVILION

The pavilion on Kaimanawa Reserve is being upgraded for all to enjoy. In 2010, the Sportsground Management Plan was adopted by Council and included investigating options for improving the pavilion. Contractors have now largely completed the exterior of the building and are now working on the interior with the improvements expected to be completed by December.

The council-owned pavilion, which includes changing rooms, toilets and a meeting room, is able to be hired out by the community. The primary users of the pavilion will be Taupō district's cricket community, which was provided input during the design process.



YOU LIVE HERE, YOU WORK HERE, YOU PLAY HERE!

Enterprise Great Lake Taupō is telling the world about the great business, industry and lifestyle opportunities available in the Taupō district. Due for release in early November, *Great Opportunities* is a new annual magazine that profiles and promotes all that is great in Great Lake Taupō. As a Taupō District Council ratepayer, you are welcome to collect a complimentary copy from the Taupō i-SITE, the Turangi i-SITE or the Mangakino Service Centre (please present proof of Taupō address). Or check it out online at www.greatopportunities.co.nz.



THE FINER POINTS OF PARKING

We provide more than 1700 parks in Taupō town centre, about half of which have no time restriction and all are free to use. Now a new range of online tools makes it easier for you to find the right spot.

▼ Use the interactive parking map to choose your spot

Our new, interactive online parking map shows you the location and time limits of all vehicle parks in Taupō's town centre. By clicking on different icons on the map, you will be able to find out all you need about the parking spot.

It also features the current locations of mobility carparks, motorcycle parks, bus stops, taxi stands and public toilets.

The map is a work in progress and council welcomes any feedback, which can be given through our website.

Whether you drive a motorcycle, a car, a mobility scooter, a large vehicle, or are towing a trailer or riding a bike – there's a parking spot for you in Taupō town centre. The interactive map means you can find out where to park before you even leave home.



▼ Metereye statistics show busy and quiet times

The new statistics are available in graph form on our website's parking page. They will be regularly updated so you can follow any changes in busy and quiet times for parking.

Since we began recording statistics in August, the graphs show the quietest time – and best time to find a park – tends to be between 8am and 10am, when there were over 600 out of 875 Metereye-monitored town centre car parks available. Later in the day, after 4pm, the numbers are similar.

The good news is, even during the busiest time, there are generally 20 per cent of Metereye-monitored town centre car parks available. There are also 800 unmonitored car parks in Taupō that have no time limit.

Find all our parking information and tools online at www.taupo.govt.nz.

HELPING OUR Canine COMPANIONS

We're committed to looking after the dogs in our district the best we can. While the SPCA does a great job rehoming animals, our animal management team is also on the case. Dogs up for adoption feature weekly on our Facebook page and our website also has a page dedicated to them.

Facts about Taupō district animal management

- In the past 12 months, the team has rehomed 50 dogs and provided 70 to the SPCA which have also been rehomed.
- The majority of dogs (over 600 in the last 12 months) are returned to their owners within a couple of days.
- Where possible, staff contact owners to let them know their dogs have been found.
- Highly trained staff look after the dogs 24/7.
- Food, accommodation and medical care is provided for the dogs thanks to the support of local veterinarians, SPCA and suppliers.

Want a dog?

Go to www.taupo.govt.nz/adoptadog or visit Animal Management, Centennial Drive, Taupō, from Tuesday to Saturday, 11am–1.30pm.



GET INVOLVED WITH 'OUR Neighbourhood'



The 'Our Neighbourhood' series is back for another summer with planning already underway.

Council staff will be out and about helping with community gatherings planned in your neighbourhood. The team is looking forward to supporting locals as they deliver their own 'Our Neighbourhood' events.

We'll keep you posted on what's happening so stay tuned for events, dates and locations. If you're interested in planning an event in your neighbourhood, please let us know so we can see how we can help. Call Cornelia Dempsey on 07 376 0899.



the events capital

A SELECTION OF EVENTS IN TAUPŌ DISTRICT

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

2 Nov	River Wild Raft & Run Team Challenge, Turangi
2 Nov	NZ Cadillacs Display, Tongariro Domain
2 Nov (until 10 Dec)	Essential Plateau – Faces and Places of the Taupō region, Taupō Museum
8 Nov	Starlight Cinema Fireworks Extravaganza, Owen Delany Park
8 Nov	Taupō District Sports Awards, Great Lake Centre
9 Nov	The Taniwha, Mangakino/Waikato River Trails
10 Nov	Royal New Zealand Ballet – Tutus on Tour, Great Lake Centre
12 Nov	A Festival of Russian Ballet, Great Lake Centre
15 Nov	Strassman's 'Careful What You Wish For', Great Lake Centre
15 Nov	Morgan 3-Wheeler Sports Car Display, Tongariro Domain
16-17 Nov	Powercruise, Taupō Motorsport Park
23-24 Nov	Wooden Boat Regatta, Lake Taupō
30 Nov	Contact Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge and Huka Mountain Bike Challenge
5 Dec	Jo Seager High Tea, Great Lake Centre
7 Dec	Taupō Christmas Parade, Taupō town centre
7 Dec	Zero Risk King of the Ring, Taupō Events Centre
11 Dec	Rose Show, Great Lake Centre
14 Dec	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Taupō Half, Tongariro Domain
14 Dec (until 14 Jan)	Comfort Zone, Michelle Edlin exhibition, Taupō Museum
19-22 Dec	Taupō Christmas Classic Show Jumping, National Equestrian Centre
27 Dec (until 2 Jan)	Wet 'n Wild Slides, Riverside Park, Taupō
27 Dec (until 26 Jan)	Mahi Aroha – DOC Summer Programme 2013-2014, Tongariro/Taupō
29 Dec	5th Annual Taupō Rodeo, Broadlands Road
30 Dec	Interislander Summer Festival of Horse Racing, Taupō Racing Club
31 Dec	New Year's Eve Fireworks, Taupō town centre lakefront
4-5 Jan	Independent Race Classes Round 4, Taupō Motorsport Park
5 Jan	Reggae by the River with Herbs and Julian Marley, Riverside Park
7 Jan	Ruapehu International Summer School Orchestra Concert, Great Lake Centre
8-12 Jan	NZ Mounted Games, National Equestrian Centre
11-12 Jan	State Epic Swim, Lake Taupō
18-19 Jan	New Zealand Powerboat Association Nationals, Lake Maraetai
18-19 Jan	Antiques Fair, Great Lake Centre
25 Jan	Lake Taupō Food and Beer Festival, Great Lake Centre & Tongariro Domain
1-2 Feb	NZ Classic Motorcycle Racing, Taupō Motorsport Park
6 Feb	Waitangi Day Festival, Tongariro North Domain, Taupō
8 Feb	Taupō Summer Concert, Taupō amphitheatre
8 Feb	Huka Xstream River Swim, Cherry Island, Waikato River
22 Feb	Dame Malvina Major Diamond Jubilee Celebration Tour 2014, Taupō amphitheatre
1 Mar	Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Ironman New Zealand, Taupō
8 Mar	Big Day Art, Great Lake Centre
22 Mar	2014 ANZ Young Farmers' Contest Waikato/BOP Regional Final, Taupō
28-30 Mar	Home and Garden Show, Great Lake Centre

Sports and outdoors
Art and culture
Community



NZ Powerboat Nationals



Waitangi Day Festival



Summer concert, Taupō



Ironman New Zealand

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Mail Taupō District Council, Private Bag 2005, Taupō 3352
 Email info@taupo.govt.nz
 Ph +64 7 376 0899 or 0800 ASK TDC Fax +64 7 378 0118
 Web www.taupo.govt.nz

Taupō Main Office, 72 Lake Terrace, Taupō
 Ph +64 7 376 0899 Fax +64 7 378 0118

Turangi Office, Town Centre, Turangi
 Ph +64 7 386 7017 Fax +64 7 386 8449

Mangakino Office, Civic Centre, Rangatira Drive
 Ph +64 7 882 8700 Fax +64 7 882 8330



Search for Taupō District Council on Facebook
 If you're a Twitter fan, follow @Taupo_DC



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
 Taupō District Council