

# connect *quarterly*

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL NOV 2015 – JAN 2016

## STREETSCAPE *makeover*



Planting is indicative only



Wondering what all the activity is at certain intersections around Taupō town centre? It's the refurbishment of three major intersections, which has been happening over the last few months.

The first of the intersections at Ruapehu and Tamamutu streets is now complete and work is progressing well at the intersection of Gascoigne and Tamamutu streets. This will be followed by the intersection of Tongariro and Tamamutu streets. Only one intersection is being worked on at a time so disruption is minimised.



Once complete, they will feature new, modern gardens made out of timber, stone and concrete, with lower planted areas. This will mean improved visibility for motorists and pedestrians. The old gardens were about 20 years old and due for an upgrade.

Our staff are demolishing the old gardens ahead of our main contractor, TR Construction, creating the new gardens and doing the landscaping.

We are working closely with the retailers affected and keeping them updated on how the project is progressing. All shops are still accessible, but footpaths are reduced in some areas to make way for the work to be carried out.



Cones and signposts are around the sites to direct foot traffic and ensure the community is aware.

We are hoping to have all the work completed by Christmas in time for the summer crowds to enjoy.

Timber and stone are key features of the new and improved Tamamutu Street intersections.



# Hi FOLKS

Summer is almost upon us. It's the time of year when we roll out the red carpet for our out-of-town home owners and visitors hoping everyone can see how well we've looked after the district over the cooler months. By all accounts, we're going to be

severely tested this summer with potentially dramatic drought conditions so balancing maintenance of our green spaces against careful management of our precious water resources will be a test.

The 10-year plan was signed off by our elected members in late June and I thought it would be appropriate to highlight what I believe are key points of interest. The main thrust in our planning revolves around maintaining what we have, keeping rates affordable whilst continuing to invest in building our economy.

Over the last few years, our finances – particularly our debt – has been a focus for some. I'm pleased to say our projections for debt are looking very positive compared to projections in previous long-term planning documents. As of 30 June 2015, our debt was \$150 million and is projected to reduce to \$100 million by 2025. In the same timeframe, our current investment funds of \$80 million (of which the TEL fund is \$54 million) are set to increase to \$140 million (\$90 million in TEL, \$50 million in other reserve funds for infrastructure replacements) meaning that the outlook for net debt is that we move from \$70 million to net \$40 million (positive).

In terms of our rates projections, we are required to budget for inflation but, despite allowing the vagaries of the price indices, I still believe we have a positive outlook to describe. Over the next 10 years, the Local Government Cost Index (which we are required by law to use and budget for) suggests costs will increase by 29 per cent overall. The normal Consumer Price Index is projected to increase by 22 per cent in the same time. During that period, our costs are budgeted to increase by 25 per cent so we are working on the fact that our costs are below the rate of Government inflation whilst slightly higher than the CPI.

Another component important to understand is the removal of the TEL fund subsidy on rates so we can build the TEL fund to a predicted \$90 million by the tenth year. Our Councillors, on the back of community feedback, want to future proof the fund. By removing the subsidy, which is presently \$3 million per year (or equivalent to six per cent of rates), we can see our cost increases sit around 19 per cent over the next 10 years, that is three per cent less than CPI inflation over that period.

The final element of very positive news I'd like to share is that future proofing the TEL fund will eventually provide our elected members with \$4-\$5 million per year to be put into community projects without the need to affect our rates bills. Criteria around the funding have not yet been discussed but it's envisaged it will be put towards infrastructural projects that can really make a difference to our community feel, our economy and our visitor industry.

In summary, if we maintain our course for the duration of this plan, by 2025 we will have no net debt, all rates increases between now and then will be below inflation and we will have a fund of \$4-\$5 million per year to invest in community projects of significant worth.

**Rob Williams, Chief Executive**

## BIGGER, BETTER Great Lake Walkway

The section of Great Lake Walkway between the Lake Terrace water treatment plant and the yacht club on Ferry Road is being widened and concreted to make it easier to use.

We are hoping to make the path wheelchair- and buggy-friendly by widening it from its current 1.4 metres to between 2.5 metres and three metres, depending on the availability of space in different sections. The new path will be concrete, which will make for a smoother journey than the old paving stones provided.

The old path had been deteriorating and was not wide enough to accommodate the growing number of people using it to walk along the lakefront.

The work is expected to be completed before Christmas.



## NEW PLANE for TAUPO-WELLINGTON

The flight down to Wellington is now on a new Sounds Air plane brandishing the Great Lake Taupō logo on its side. The plane began operating between Taupō and Wellington in September and was sourced from Australia.

Sounds Air managing director Andrew Crawford said the plane's layout would mean a more enjoyable journey for passengers. "This plane is the perfect commuter aircraft for this route, with great speed and passenger comfort," he said. "It's set up differently to the plane we had been using, which means there is space for more seats and more passengers. We hope the Taupō community enjoys travelling in this plane as much as we enjoy flying it."

Sounds Air has been operating on the Taupō to Wellington route since June. Earlier this year, the council entered into a six-year agreement with the Marlborough-based air operator to provide at least three return flights each week day and two return flights on Saturdays and Sundays. This was in response to an announcement by Air New Zealand late last year that it would stop offering the service from the end of April.

Flights to Wellington on the Sounds Air service take about 50 minutes and are on a nine-seater Pilatus PC12 – a single-engine, turboprop plane widely used in Australia and the United States and manufactured in Switzerland.

Seats are a fixed price of \$219 per flight regardless of when booked. Concessions for 10 flights are \$209 per seat.





## BEFORE LIGHTING A FIRE



If you are planning on lighting an open fire in a rural area in the Taupō District, you now need a fire permit.

The restricted fire season began on October 1. Weather conditions are likely to be drier over the next few months, as the district could have long periods without rain. These conditions can cause open fires to quickly escalate and get out of control.

By telling us when you are planning on an open fire in a rural area, we are able to easily monitor it and ensure it does not become a hazard. This includes the use of pizza ovens and braziers – both are considered an open fire.

Those who want to light a fire in rural areas need to submit their application for a permit to us at least 48 hours prior to the fire. Application forms are available from council offices on Lake Terrace, in Turangi and Mangakino or by calling 07 376 0899.

The restricted fire season is expected to continue through summer until at least April 30. This may be extended if conditions remain dry.

## BE WATER-WISE THIS SUMMER



Did you know that even though we have the great lake on our doorstep, we still need to be careful when it comes to our water use? Lake Taupō supplies water to a number of districts downstream, including Auckland.

The amount we are allowed to supply properties connected to our treatment plants is limited by a resource consent we have been granted by Waikato Regional Council. That means once the lake reaches a certain level we have to introduce water restrictions to help manage the amount of water we take.

While there is no need to put restrictions in place at the moment, here are some handy tips that might help you reduce the amount of water you use:

- Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth.
- Water your garden when it's cooler, rather than in the heat of the day, to reduce evaporation loss.
- Spray plant roots rather than watering the leaves.
- Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator so you don't waste water running the tap to cool the water down.

They're all small things but together we can make a difference. Every drop counts!

## CHRISTMAS HOURS



The holiday season is just around the corner and council offices will have limited hours during this time.

All offices will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve and will reopen on Monday, December 28. From this day to December 31, offices will be open fewer hours than normal from 9am to 3pm.

Normal hours resume from Tuesday, January 5.

For information on rubbish and recycling collection over the festive season visit our website [www.taupo.govt.nz/holidayinfo](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/holidayinfo).

## Get ready for

# SUMMER

Summer is nearly here and with it thousands of people will stream into the district for the fantastic events we have happening this year.

Over the next few months we'll be hosting some of our biggest national and international events, including the Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge; the Taupō Summer Concert featuring Huey Lewis and the News, Melissa Etheridge and REO Speedwagon; the Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand; and IRONMAN 70.3.

**IRONMAN New Zealand** takes place March 5 and features top level international endurance athletes, bringing thousands of competitors into the district and even more supporters. We are also hosting the **IRONMAN 70.3**, an impressive precursor to the full event, on December 12.

The **Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge** on November 28 is the country's biggest cycling event and will be in its 39<sup>th</sup> year. Thousands of competitive and recreational cyclists take part in different events during this challenge and it should bring a fantastic buzz to town.

The **Taupō Summer Concert** is something many music enthusiasts look forward to in summer and this year will be another cracker. It will be held on January 30 in the Taupō amphitheatre.

For a full list of events happening in our district over summer, check the back page of this newsletter or check [www.greatlaketaupo.com/events](http://www.greatlaketaupo.com/events).



## COMPOSTING

### tips and tricks

Do you want to minimise your green waste and save money but don't know where to start? We are holding a series of free workshops in conjunction with the Taupō Community Gardens to show you how it's done.

Vouchers for discounts on selected composting equipment have been available to the community since mid-2013 and the workshops are running in conjunction with this initiative. They are on the first Saturday of every month until May next year.

We think this is a great way to show those new to composting, or interested in it, how simple it is. We are enthusiastic about minimising our district's waste, and this is an easy way for the community to do their bit. We will be covering traditional composting equipment as well as worm farms.

Workshops will be held at Taupō Community Gardens near the Waipahihi sportsground on Richmond Ave. Spaces are limited, so people can register and find the full schedule of workshops at [www.taupo.govt.nz/composting](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/composting).

**WIN!**  
Register and attend the workshops for a chance to win a composter.

# the events capital

A SELECTION OF EVENTS IN THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT

6 November	Starlight Cinema Fireworks & Laser Extravaganza, Owen Delany Park
7 November	River Wild Raft & Run Team Challenge 2015, Tongariro River
7 November	The Taniwha, Arapuni to Whakamaru
7-8 November	Act 2 Presents The Wiz, Great Lake Centre
7-8 November	Turangi Garden Club Ramble, Turangi and Motuoapa
7 Nov – 14 Dec	Unhinged exhibition by Susan Mabin, Taupō
13 November	Taupō District Sports Awards, Great Lake Centre
14-15 November	Water Ski Race, Lake Maraetai
20-21 November	Garden Flowers & All That Jazz, St Andrews Church
20-22 November	Taupō Motorhome & Leisure Show, Taupō Motorsport Park
26 November	ASB Premiership National League pre-season football, WAIBOP vs Hawke's Bay, Owen Delany Park
28 November	Contact Huka MTB Challenges, Taupō
28 November	Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, Lake Taupō
5 December	The Original Tongariro Goat, Tongariro National Park
5 December	Taupō Christmas Parade, Taupō lakefront
5 December	Zero Risk King of the Ring 2015, Taupō Events Centre
5 Dec-1 Feb	Taupō Framed, Taupō Museum
12 December	IRONMAN 70.3 Taupō, Tongariro North Domain
12 December	Turangi Christmas in the Park & 50th Jubilee Finale featuring Stan Walker, Turangi
18-19 December	Fiber Fresh Christmas Classic, National Equestrian Centre
19 Dec-25 Jan	The Magic of the Invisible exhibition by Helmut Hirlar, Taupō Museum
29 December	Taupō Rodeo, corner of Centennial Drive and Broadlands Road
30 December	Reggae By The River, Riverside Park
30 December	Interislander Summer Festival, Taupō Racing Club
31 December	Omori New Year's Eve Concert, Omori Estate
31 December	New Year's Eve Celebration & Fireworks, Taupō lakefront
5-31 January	Through Artists' Eyes exhibition by Val Raymond and Eleazar Bramley, Taupō Library
9 January	Epic Swim, Taupō Lakefront Reserve
15-17 January	Iron Maori Tuwharetoa/Iron Iwi, Taupō Lakefront Reserve
16-17 January	Lakeland Powerboats Annual Event, Lake Maraetai
30 January	Taupō Summer Concert, Taupō Amphitheatre
30 January	Tussock Traverse, Tongariro National Park
30 Jan-7 Mar	The Hollings Show, exhibition by Russell Hollings, Taupō Museum
31 January	Thunder on the Great Lake, Lake Taupō
4-7 February	Wanderlust Great Lake Taupō, Wairakei Resort
6 February	Waitangi Taupō Moana Festival 2015, Riverside Park
6 Feb-14 Mar	Lyrical Waxing exhibition by Ann Hay, Taupō Museum
13 February	The Lead Central Kustom Car Show and Swap Meet, Te Kapua Park, Turangi
14 February	Soverign Tri Series – Tri Kinloch, Kinloch Domain
19-20 February	21st Taupō Traffic Management NZ Great Lake Relay, Tongariro North Domain
27 February	Lake Taupō Across the Lake Swim, Taupō Lakefront Reserve
28 February	Wairakei Estate Ironkidz, Taupō Lakefront Reserve
5 March	Kellogg's Nutri-grain IRONMAN New Zealand, Taupō
9-10 March	The Nappy Lady workshop, Great Lake Centre
12-13 March	Taupō Wellbeing Fair, Great Lake Centre
12 Mar-18 Apr	Playing with Fire exhibition, Taupō Museum
19 Mar-2 May	Taupō! Taupō! Taupō! exhibition by Aaron Potaka, Taupō Museum
25-27 March	Turangi Easter Festival, Turangi town centre
1-3 April	Home and Garden Show, Great Lake Centre
9 April	100k Flyer, Rotorua-Taupō, AC Baths Ave

Sports and outdoors
Art and culture
Community

## Christmas IN THE PARK Turangi

International recording artist **Stan Walker** will perform in Turangi this December as part of the town's 50th Jubilee finale and Christmas in the Park celebrations.

The event at Te Kapua Park, organised by Safe Turangi, is expected to attract more than 3000 people. There will also be games, prizes, bouncy castles and other entertainment for the kids. The day will finish with a spectacular fireworks display.

Don't miss Stan Walker – X Factor NZ judge and Australian Idol winner – performing live in our backyard!

**Saturday, December 12, Te Kapua Park, Turangi**



The **Taupō Summer Concert** is nearly here for 2016. Legendary artists Huey Lewis and the News, REO Speedwagon and Melissa Etheridge will entertain a crowd of up to 15,000 people.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by Taupō District locals from the Taupō i-SITE on Tongariro Street for \$89 plus booking fee or at the standard price of \$99 plus booking fee from [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz).

**Saturday, January 30, Taupō Amphitheatre**

### STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

**Mail** Taupō District Council  
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Taupō District Council

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This information was correct at time of printing. Visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com/events](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com/events) for a complete list of events.