

Quarterly

connect

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUGUST 2017

WE'RE ON THE MOVE TO THE TAUPŌ CBD

From August 28, our customer service centre will be based in the former Pumpkin Patch building, next to the PostShop, at 46 Horomatangi Street.



SIGNIFICANT HEALTH AND SAFETY issues with our Lake Terrace office means the staff who work from there will soon be on the move.

From August 28, our customer service centre will be based in the former Pumpkin Patch building at 46 Horomatangi Street. Our postal address and contact phone numbers will stay the same, it's just the location that will change.

The new location has been designed to optimise our customers' experience and we are looking forward to being more accessible to those who work in and visit the CBD.

We appreciate it will be more difficult to find parking however, and we will be encouraging people to transact with us online where possible. That way you also get to avoid any queues!

There will be key staff from specialist areas available at the customer service centre from time-to-time to answer any technical questions you may have. Our friendly call centre team will still be available 24/7 to answer any questions as well and we are hoping to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Because of the number of staff to be relocated, there are five other locations our teams will be based at, including the prefab on our existing site. The temporary council chamber will be at 107 Heuheu Street, above Jetts Fitness.

For more information, visit taupo.govt.nz or like us on Facebook.



PLEASE NOTE

We will still be in the Lake Terrace office when the first rates instalment is due on August 20.

TURANGI-TONGARIRO WARD **BY-ELECTION**

THE RESIGNATION OF Turangi-Tongariro Ward councillor Zane Cozens and community board member Sally Nelson last month has resulted in a by-election for the two vacant seats.

Nominations for the two positions opened on July 13. Residents have until August 10 to confirm their place on the electoral roll before it closes.

Voting papers will be sent out mid-September with the preliminary results announced soon after voting closes at noon on Friday, October 6.





COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLANS TAKING SHAPE

OUR CIVIL DEFENCE team has been working hard with some of our rural communities to create community response plans over the last several months.

Two cyclones this year – including one that devastated nearby Edgecumbe – were a timely reminder to many communities that we all need to be prepared for an emergency.

Emergency manager Ian Connon has been working with volunteers in Wairakei, Omori-Kuratau, Kinloch, Rangitaiki and Oruanui Road.

“These are small communities that could potentially be isolated in an emergency, and each face their own unique threats due to their location,” he said.

Ian said the plans were created with groups of volunteers to ascertain what the issues were within each community, decide on an emergency meeting point, identify vulnerable residents and inform people where to go for information.

“It’s about educating communities on how to help themselves, be prepared and know what to do should the worst happen,” he said.

If you want to volunteer to help create a community response plan for your community, contact Ian Connon at iconnon@taupo.govt.nz.

IT’S A BRAND NEW FINANCIAL YEAR

OUR ANNUAL PLAN for the 2017/18 financial year came into effect on July 1. This year, prior to the adoption of the plan, we consulted with the community on two issues: a proposal for a new council building to replace the Lake Terrace office; and an increase in funding for Turangi-based economic development agency Go Tongariro.

The health and safety issues with the Lake Terrace are significant. Friable asbestos is present, earthquake strengthening is required, there is obsolete cabling in the roof which is identified as a fire risk and the roof needs replacing.

Combining these factors meant the Council had to give serious consideration to replacing the building in its entirety to provide a safe working environment for the 130 staff who work within those four walls.

Following the consideration of 249 submissions, in which 74 per cent of submitters supported our preferred option of a new building, the Mayor and Councillors unanimously agreed it was the best option for the future. We will need to do some more work on where that should be built, and how it will be funded. Watch this space!

INVESTIGATING MANGAKINO’S PIPES

A PLAN OF action to ensure Mangakino’s sewerage system continues to function as required is being formulated after sewer pipe inspections showed many are nearing the end of their life and need repair or replacement.

Mangakino was originally established around 70 years ago as a temporary town to house workers building hydroelectric power stations. The pipe network constructed at that time has well exceeded their original design life.

Over the past few months we have had a contractor cleaning and inspecting the entire waste water network in Mangakino to help us understand the condition of the network. From the information collected we can determine which pipes need renewing and when. A report is currently being compiled prioritising the network based on the information collected. A renewal plan will then be developed for Council consideration in the coming months.





NEW BYLAW TO MANAGE FREEDOM CAMPING

THE VIEWS OF the community have helped us work toward creating a draft freedom camping bylaw that manages freedom camping in our district.

Freedom camping is permitted in any local authority area under the Freedom Camping Act and a bylaw can be made to restrict or prohibit freedom camping from any area within a district.

After a draft bylaw was put out for consultation earlier this year, policy manager Nick Carroll said public feedback suggested changes to be made before it was finalised and adopted.

"We had some feedback that the draft bylaw was too restrictive," Mr Carroll said. "Council have instructed staff to make amendments that reflect the public's feedback.

"These amendments include prohibiting freedom camping within 100 metres of the shore of Lake Taupō and the upper section of Waikato River, along with all urban areas in the district apart from Taupō. All other areas of the district are restricted to certified self-contained vehicles with the exception of Hipapatua (previously known as Reid's Farm) Recreation Reserve and a few select sites in Mangakino and Whakamaru."

The amended draft bylaw was to be brought to the Council after the printing of Connect, but was set to be adopted on August 1.



SPA THERMAL PARK'S Otumuheke Stream is a very special place, and that's why it's set to be upgraded to make the area safer for visitors, while encouraging greater respect and care of the culturally important site.

The stream is of significant importance to local hapu as it was historically a mooring, bathing, healing and meeting place.

The area now sees up to 1500 people visit each day over summer to bath in the stream's warm water, and tourist numbers are projected to grow rapidly.

Operational services group manager Kevin Strongman said council staff had worked collaboratively with Patuiwi Reserve Trust, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, Waikato Regional Council, police and Department of Conservation to create a concept design for Otumuheke Stream that would enhance and better protect the unique site.

"The existing bridge will be moved two metres upstream to reduce erosion, landscaping will be completed, walkways will be installed, and a new toilet and changing room facility will be built near the

stream," he said.

"By locating toilets close to the stream, people will be encouraged to use them instead of toileting in bushes and destroying special ecosystems in the area. We've also designed the roof so it doubles as a viewing platform to allow people to take in the view of the area while increasing passive surveillance of the site."

With the help of Patuiwi Reserve Trust, we'll install signage to let people know the historic and ecological features of the stream and surrounding area.

GREENING THE LAKEFRONT AT WHAREWAKA

IF YOU HAVEN'T been down to see the newly redeveloped lakefront at Wharewaka – now is the time to visit!

All work has been completed, including the finishing addition of over 170 trees and 700 shrubs, which were planted in autumn.

The trees complement the new path that connects the route between Wharewaka and Five Mile Bay. Previously there was a gap in the shared path between the two locations. The new shared path is 2.5 metres wide and caters to both pedestrians and cyclists. A sealed road and car parking area have also been created and a low timber barrier installed to separate vehicles and pedestrians.

The area looks great – be sure to check it out.



EVENTS

AUGUST

29 Jul-4 Sep	MINKISI - Art and Belief in West and Central Africa, Taupō Museum	■
3 Aug	Royal New Zealand Navy Band in Concert, Great Lake Centre	■
3-30 Aug	Reararticulation of the museum's moa skeleton, Taupō Museum	■
5 Aug	Hoka One One Taupō Marathon and Half Marathon, Tongariro North Domain	■
13 Aug	Charter Parade, Tongariro North Domain	■
16 Aug	The Merchant Food and Wine Expo, Great Lake Centre	■
22-26 Aug	Weber Bros Circus, Tongariro North Domain	■
26 Aug	INBA Body Building Championships, Great Lake Centre	■

SEPTEMBER

2 Sep	Hastings Civic Choir Concert, Great Lake Centre	■
2 Sep	Hoka One One Kinloch Off Road Challenge, Kinloch Domain	■
8 Sep	Stars in their Thighs, Great Lake Centre	■
9-17 Sep	Jock Hobbs Memorial U19s Rugby Tournament, Owen Delany Park	■
9 Sep-30 Oct	Taupō People of the '60s and '70s, Taupō Museum	■
12 Sep	The Going Bananas Show, Great Lake Centre	■
14 Sep	Taupō School of Music – Big Music Day, Great Lake Centre	■
20-24 Sep	Ngati Tūwharetoa Taiopenga Kapa Haka Festival, Taupō Events Centre	■
22-24 Sep	Global Games - Junior Rugby Festival, Owen Delany Park	■
29 Sep-1 Oct	Sika Show, Tongariro North Domain	■

OCTOBER

1-7 Oct	Roller Mills National Junior Rugby Tournament, Owen Delany Park	■
10-12 Oct	Ricki Herbert Football Academy, Crown Park	■
14-15 Oct	John McCartney Invitational Football Tournament, Crown Park	■
14 Oct	Taupō Ultramarathon, Taupō	■
18 Oct	Food Lovers Masterclass with Kate Meads, Great Lake Centre	■
19 Oct	Waste-free Living Workshop with Kate Meads, Great Lake Centre	■
19-24 Oct	Latin American and Spain Film Festival, Taupō Museum	■
21-23 Oct	The Original Gypsy Fair, Tongariro North Domain	■
22 Oct	Kinloch Market, Kinloch Domain	■
26 Oct	Seniors Expo, Great Lake Centre	■
28 Oct	Laid Out By The Lake, Tongariro North Domain	■
28 Oct	Taupō Fashion Show, Great Lake Centre	■

■ Community ■ Sport ■ Arts

This information was correct at time of printing. For a complete list of up-to-date events, visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com/events



2018 TAUPŌ SUMMER CONCERT

- » Saturday 27 January 2018, 11am-6.30pm
- » Taupo Amphitheatre and Riverside Park

Locals tickets will be available from Taupō i-SITE and My Music and start from \$89 plus booking fee. Tickets will be on sale following the artist announcement from Taupō i-SITE.

For more information visit www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz.

DO IT ONLINE!



Did you know you can pay for your rates, dog registrations and a number of other council services online?

You can make receiving invoices hassle-free by having them emailed to you. To opt in for this service, visit taupo.govt.nz/optin. You can also choose which other invoices you want emailed including rates, water, building consents, resource consents and dog registrations.

You can also sign up for direct debit, which means rates payments will come out of your account without you having to lift a finger. Simple!

Doing things online with us is easy. There is a link from our homepage to all our online tools and services, so you can save time and do it all from the comfort of your own home.



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council



Taupō District Council



@Taupo_DC on Twitter