

# connect

quarterly

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

MAY – JUL 2016

## LOOKING AFTER THE PLACE we lōve

Whether you call the Taupō District home or it's your home-away-from-home, one thing we can all agree on is that it is a great place to be.

Ensuring our district remains a great place to live is a key thread of the council's long-term strategy.

We have an outstanding natural environment that makes us who we are. At the heart of our district is the lake, surrounded by mountains, forests, rivers and national parks, providing places for us to spend quality time with our friends and family. These natural assets also underpin much of our economy, drawing visitors and supporting businesses.

At Taupō District Council we take great pride in looking after the place we love. Each and every one of our teams – whether they be tending to our parks and reserves, getting quality drinking water to your tap or supporting one of the hundreds of events held in the district – is geared towards ensuring this is a great place to be.

But we can't do it all! Everyone has a part to play in ensuring our district is the best it can be. To help spread the word we have started an



education campaign to give you some ideas on what you can do to help us look after the place we love.

We are also hoping by sharing information our services and activities it might encourage people to stand for a position on council at this year's

local body elections, or at least exercise their democratic right and vote.

You can find more information on the 'Looking After the Place We Love' campaign at [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz). For more information on this year's local body elections see page 2.





## Hi FOLKS

There's an old adage that says all things must come to an end and it seems a fitting way to open what will be the last column I will pen as Taupō District Council's chief executive.

For the past nine years it has been an honour and a privilege to have served the Taupō District and while the job hasn't always been easy, the positives have certainly outweighed the negatives and I will leave with many fond memories.

As an organisation we have undergone major transformational change in my time here and I am incredibly proud of the work we have done to get the 'ship' on to its present track.

The 2016/17 Annual Plan is the one of the results of that nine-year journey. The consolidation of gains over the years has allowed us to propose one of the lowest rates increases this council has seen, which is also testament to the hard work the entire team puts in to deliver the best result for you as a ratepayer.

We were also in a position to reduce our debt by \$10 million more than originally planned, allowing us to make further savings due to the subsequent reduction in interest costs.

If economic conditions remain the same then this outlook could be with us for many more years to come too; now that is something for everyone to feel positive about.

This year there was a new way of doing things with the changes to the Local Government Act now only requiring us to consult with our community on any significant changes we were proposing.

We undertook a really robust consultation process when we prepared our Long-term Plan 2015-25 last year so, apart from some of our fees and charges we are required to consult on each year, the only significant change we needed to seek further feedback on was a proposed change to the funding of a project to extend the Taupō water supply to Waitahanui to help us meet our drinking water standard obligations.

One thing this project proposal has certainly highlighted is that in the near future the community is going to have to have a robust debate on the funding of water services in the district. The Taupō District is somewhat unique in that there are 19 different water supplies. Balancing our legislative requirements with the needs and wants of our communities is going to be challenging. You can expect to hear more about this in the lead up to the next Long-term Plan.

In the meantime, thanks to those of you who provided feedback this time around. I will watch with interest as the chief executive of Thames-Coromandel District Council as although I will be gone, my affinity for the Taupō District will remain strong. I wish the district, the council, and the community every success for the future.

**Rob Williams, Chief Executive**

### Local Elections 2016

# YOUR VOTE YOUR COMMUNITY

## GET READY TO VOTE: ENROL NOW

Your vote is important! The local body elections are coming up later this year so it's time to get organised and enrol to vote.

The election will be held in October and conducted by postal ballot. If you're enrolled, your voting papers will be sent out and all you will need to do is make your selections from a list of candidates, this will include candidates for Taupō District Council, a regional council and Lakes District Health Board.

**If you live in the Taupō District** and are already enrolled on the parliamentary electoral roll for the general election, you are automatically enrolled to vote in the local body elections as a residential elector. If you're not on the parliamentary electoral roll in the Taupō District area, you can enrol or change your contact details at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz).

**If you are an out-of-town ratepayer** but live elsewhere, you may be eligible to enrol on the non-resident ratepayer electoral roll.

A company or society paying property rates can also qualify as a ratepayer elector. Those eligible need to complete an Enrolment Form for Ratepayer Electors by August 12 – you can or download one from our website or request one to be sent to you by calling our customer service team on 07 376 0899. You can also call the freephone number set up by the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) on 0508 08 10 16 if you have any questions about whether you qualify for the ratepayer roll.

**For more information on the upcoming elections, visit [www.taupo.govt.nz/elections](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/elections)**



### TIMELINE

**15 July** Nominations for candidates open.

**12 August** Nominations for candidates close at noon.

**From 16 September** Voting papers are posted.

**8 October** Election day: voting closes at noon – preliminary results available that evening or early 9 October.

# COME AND PLAY in ACACIA BAY

Have you seen the new pirate ship playground in Acacia Bay yet? The community has been taking full advantage of the playground at Besley Park on Wakeman Road.

The new playground was chosen after we sought feedback from the community on five options shortlisted by the Acacia Bay Residents' Association. We wanted the community's help choosing the new equipment to ensure the playground reflected the unique identity of the Acacia Bay community.

District parks and recreation manager John Ridd says nearly 70 per cent of people who gave feedback on the playground chose the pirate ship playground as their preferred option.

"A lot of people told us the pirate ship looked like an exciting space for kids to play, had a wide range of activities and was something that would appeal to children of all ages," he said.



We think the pirate ship really captured people's imagination – it certainly captured ours! So to celebrate its opening we held a pirate party in April in honour of the theme.

The new playground replaces much of the old equipment behind the tennis courts but is in a new location, across the road from the Acacia Bay Community Hall.

It is now easily accessible, highly visible and nestled among the trees, which has created the perfect environment for children to explore!



## MANGAKINO TOWN CENTRE BEING UPGRADED

Have you seen all the activity in the Mangakino town centre?

The team has been busy working on its redevelopment for the past few months, with a new playground, seating and shaded areas.

The development was designed to complement the new skate park that was built in late 2014.

Contractor TR Construction carried out the work, which also included new timber decking, the planting of trees and the installation of a drinking fountain.

The town centre redevelopment was designed in consultation with the community and was due to be completed about the time this newsletter went to print.

If you're in Mangakino's town centre, be sure to check out the fresh new look!



## BUSY FEW MONTHS FOR SOUTHERN FIRE FORCE

The new Southern Lake Taupō Volunteer Rural Fire Force is going from strength-to-strength and members have already put their newly acquired skills to the test.

A fire in a swamp off State Highway 41 in March saw the volunteers respond alongside members of the Taupō Volunteer Rural Fire Force and it was the first call-out for the team.

Rural fire manager Roger Nelson said the volunteers were rapt to put their skills to use in an emergency situation. "They came out of it with massive smiles on their faces.

They were glad to finally get their hands dirty," he said.

The volunteers were paired with more experienced firefighters from the Taupō Volunteer Rural Fire Force. They were also given a full briefing before they went out, armed with hand tools and backpack water pumps.

The restricted fire season finished at the end of April and reverted to an open season. During the period from September to the end of the season, there were about 30 call-outs across the district.

# the events capital

A SELECTION OF EVENTS IN THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT

## MAY

Until May 30	Mua Ki Muri, print exhibition, Taupō Museum
7 May	Taupō Cosmopolitan Marching, Taupō Events Centre
7 May-7 June	Enclose, Enfold, Envelop, fibre exhibition, Taupō Museum
18 May	Beatlemania on Tour, Great Lake Centre
16 May	The Ten Tenors, Great Lake Centre
21 May	Turangi Open Pig Hunting Competition, Turangi
26 May	2degrees Comedy Convoy, Great Lake Centre
28 May	Banff Film Festival, Great Lake Centre
28-29 May	New Zealand Table Tennis Country Clubs Tournament, Taupō Events Centre

## JUNE

3-5 June	Gypsy Travellers, Tongariro North Domain
3-5 June	Taupō Dance Festival, Great Lake Centre
3-5 June	Aotearoa Poitara-whiti A Iwi Netball National Championships, Taupō Events Centre
10 June	Avalanche City: The Little Fire Tour, Great Lake Centre
12 June	Kelvin Cruickshank – Soul Food, Great Lake Centre
12 June	Craters Classic, Craters of the Moon
18 June-25 July	Matariki 2016, Māori art exhibition, Taupō Museum

## JULY

1 July	Shu's Song (theatre for children), Great Lake Centre
3 July	Hoka One One Tauhara Trail Run/Walk, Mount Tauhara
3 July	Opus Orchestra Concert, Great Lake Centre
10 July	Under 57s & U49s Football Tournament, Crown Park
15-17 July	Taupō Winter Festival, Taupō town centre
16-17 July	Starlight Cinema Hobby Expo, Taupō Events Centre
30 July	Active Tastic To Be A Healthy You 6km Fun Run/Walk, Spa Thermal Park
30 July	Taupō Choral Society 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, Great Lake Centre



## TAUPŌ WINTER FESTIVAL

The coolest way to celebrate winter is coming to Taupō this July with the inaugural

Taupō Winter Festival. The three-day festival is on July 15-17 and features everything from an ice slide to a winter lights trail, theatre, lantern-making, comedy, a concert and a community mural. Tickets go on sale May 18. For more information visit [www.taupowinterfestival.co.nz](http://www.taupowinterfestival.co.nz).

## HOKA ONE ONE TAUHARA TRAIL RUN/WALK

Take on Mount Tauhara with the first of Taupō's three half marathons this July. This will be the seventh time the event has been held. It includes 5km, 10km and 21km options that take in the north and east side of Mount Tauhara. It is the first of the Run Taupō series and is on July 3. Read more at [www.runtaupo.co.nz](http://www.runtaupo.co.nz).



## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

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 Taupō District Council

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**GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ**  
Taupō District Council