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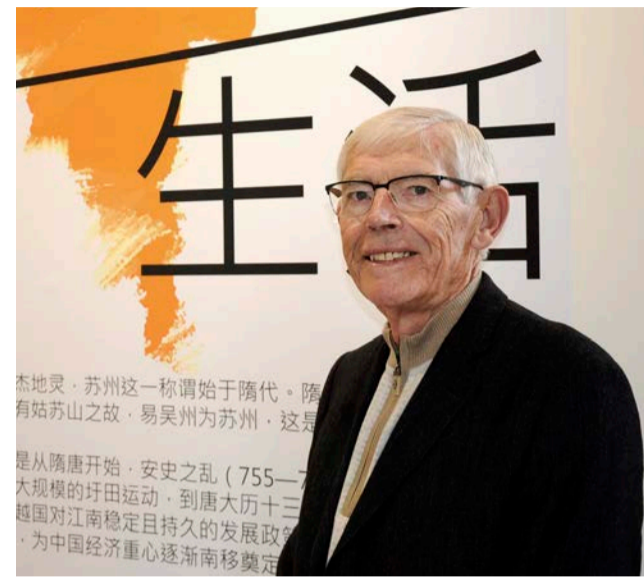
COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL 6 SEPTEMBER 2019



## TAUPŌ HOSTING JOCK HOBBS MEMORIAL RUGBY TOURNAMENT

**OWEN DELANY PARK** and the wider Taupō District again play host to the Jock Hobbs Memorial Under-19 rugby tournament from September 8 – 14. The tournament is a showcase of up and coming rugby stars and for some, is an opportunity to get drafted into the under 20 national team. Many players from previous years have gained provincial and super rugby contracts, with some going on to become All Blacks. More than

400 players from the 16 teams will compete across two divisions. These are the Premiership division, where the winner receives the Graham Mourie cup and the championship teams who compete for the Sir Michael Jones Trophy. Matches are being played over three days again this year, taking place on September 8, 11 and 13 and are all welcome to come and watch these future rugby stars.



## RETIREMENT BECKONS FOR **LONG-SERVING** COUNCILLOR

**AFTER 46 YEARS** working for his community, Councillor Barry Hickling is bidding farewell to local government. The one-time deputy mayor and five-term councillor will not be competing in the October elections and says he is looking forward to a bit of a break.

Barry first joined what was then the Taupō Borough Council back in 1973, when he was appointed to oversee the newly formed reserves department. Thirty years later he retired as parks and reserves manager, but it soon became apparent he had more to give to the Taupo District.

“Like many people I looked forward to retirement but when it arrived, I found myself wondering what to do next! I’d gained a lot of experience in parks and reserves and I thought I still had something to offer the community, so I retired in March and when elections came up in October, I decided to put my name forward and see what happened,” he said.

What happened was 15 years as a Taupō District Councillor, including serving on the regional transport committee, the upper Waikato catchment committee, and the liquor licensing trust.

“I’ve always loved being involved in such a diverse organisation. There are so many aspects to council, and I was fortunate enough to be a councillor at a time when some really exciting things were going on. Projects like the East Taupō Arterial (ETA) route and the water treatment plant were milestones for the district, and though they were contentious at the time I think everyone agrees now on the benefits they’ve brought. It’s been a great honour to have had the support of the community for my five terms as a councillor, and it has been incredible to see development of the district over that time.”

Fifteen years after first retiring, what does Barry Hickling’s second retirement hold in store? “I’m planning on having a bit of a break. I want to play a bit more golf and get out in the garden a lot more. But who knows – I may yet resurface!”



## CHANGES FOR **TAUPŌ DISTRICT LIBRARIES**

**OUR TAUPŌ AND** Turangi libraries are set to get new radio frequency identification tag technology to streamline the process of adding books to the shelves and issuing them. Staff at the libraries are currently barcoding books to enter them into the system, which isn’t the best use of our resources. The new industry-standard technology means library users will be able to issue, return and

renew books themselves via ‘checkout’ kiosks. If you’re not comfortable with the change, our friendly staff will be on hand to help and will be easy to identify, wearing new staff t-shirts. Having the staff more mobile means they’ll be on hand to assist with this, or any other enquiries. The new technology will be installed over the coming weeks and will go online on September 13.

### » WHAT'S ON?

- Sep 7 Hoka One One Kinloch Off-road Challenge, Kinloch
- Sep 8 – 14 Jock Hobbs Memorial U19 Rugby Tournament, Owen Delany Park
- Until Sep 23 Small Worlds, Taupō Museum

For more information visit [www.lovetapu.com](http://www.lovetapu.com)