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COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL 20 SEPTEMBER 2019



NEXT CHAPTER FOR MAGGIE STEWART

AFTER FOUR TERMS as a Turangi Tongariro Community Board member and almost two as a Taupō District Councillor, Maggie Stewart is ready for the next chapter. Well known in Turangi for her long involvement in the community, Maggie says that, while she will not be standing for council in October, she will continue to work for the place she loves.

Her work outside of council has included the local foodbank, Maggie's Storecupboard – which helps those in need with home appliances and furnishing – and the community Christmas dinners she has organised for 10 years.

"My commitment to working for my community hasn't changed, and it never will, but I feel it's time for a change in the way I work for it.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my time on the board and in council, and it's been great to work with so many council colleagues and staff that are genuinely passionate about doing the best for the district," she says.

Maggie first became involved in the Turangi Tongariro Community Board in 2001, inspired by a desire to give Turangi young people something to do and focus on.

During her time on the board, she has been instrumental in the creation of the local skate park as well as the

establishment of the Turangi Youth Council and Rangitahi Day, which won the Trustpower cultural and district awards.

In 2014, Maggie stood for council and served almost two terms after being re-elected in a by-election for the Turangi-Tongariro ward in 2017, during which time she worked on developing the joint Turangitukua Reserves Management Plan, the Lake Taupō Protection Trust and promoted the sister city relationship that Turangi has with Kitashiobara in Japan.

In addition to this, as well as being council's main contact for the western bay communities, and taking an active interest in council's policy work and the functions of the audit and risk committee.

"I've always enjoyed the debates around the council table, as well as working with council colleagues and staff.

"There are some big decisions to be made, one being the new council administration building. Having listened to the submissions, I really feel the right decision has been made in opting to build. Renting is a never-ending story, while building means we have an asset at the end of the day, which won't be at the mercy of the rental market.

"This is a fantastic place to live and it's been a real honour to have the support of the community during my time on the board and in council."

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

WITH PLENTY HAPPENING in the Taupō District, voting gives us all the chance to have our say on who is elected to council for the next three years.

Voting in the local elections starts today and ends at noon on Saturday October 12. Voting documents will be sent to all enrolled voters over the next few days. If you do not receive these documents, please contact council from Thursday September 26.

If you are wanting to post your vote back, it is recommended they be in the post by Monday October 7 to make sure they reach the elector in time to be counted.

Anyone needing to cast their vote early, if travelling overseas for example, should contact council to have a special vote issued.

Visit taupo.govt.nz/elections for more information.



TURANGI-TONGARIRO FINANCIAL REPORT RELEASED

A PUBLIC MEETING was held in Turangi this week to inform the community about the results of an independent financial and rating analysis for the ward.

An external report was commissioned after Turangi residents requested an assessment of the council's finances and rates, with a specific focus on Turangi-Tongariro.

The meeting was hosted by Taupō District Council with presentations from PriceWaterhouseCoopers, who undertook the work, and the independent chair of the council's audit and risk committee, Anthony Byett.

Mr Byett said the report provides clarification of revenue and expenditure over the last seven financial years.

"Over that time, we have seen a slightly higher spend for Turangi-Tongariro when compared with the rates revenue collected in the ward each year.

"This includes costs directly attributed to Turangi-Tongariro, for example the library and pools, as well as a 20 per cent share of the total expenditure for the district which covers centralised expenses like customer service and dog control that are not only used in Turangi-Tongariro, but district-wide," he said.

"The independent report also confirmed that council's approach to allocating district wide overheads by a percentage share is appropriate," Mr Byett said.

The report can be found at taupo.govt.nz/PWCReport2019.

» WHAT'S ON?

- Sep 20 Get Set Event Hire Race Day, Taupō Racing Club
- Sep 20 – 23 New Zealand Junior Rugby Festival, Owen Delany Park
- Sep 21 Wai-o-taka River Community Planting, Turangi
- Sep 21 International Peace Day Walk, Taupō lakefront
- Sep 21 – Oct 28 Spring has Sprung, Taupō Museum
- Until Sep 23 Small Worlds, Taupō Museum
- Sep 24 Mental Skills through Powerful Conversations, AC Baths
- Sep 27 Landslide – Fleetwood Mac tribute show, Turangi Tavern

For more information visit www.lovetaup.com



YOUTH AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

DO YOU KNOW a special young person who deserves recognition for their achievements? Now is the time to nominate them for the annual Taupō District Youth Awards.

There are five award categories: arts, academic, sports, leadership/innovation, and resilience, with nominations split across years 7-8, years 9-11 and years 12-13.

A panel of judges will select a winner and runner-up in each of the age groups. In addition, there is an award for the Overall Outstanding Achiever. This award is chosen from

the winners of the five categories across all age groups.

Parents, friends, school teachers, coaches and club or organisation leaders can nominate young people they think excel in any of the categories. Nominations are open to any student living in the Taupō District, even if they attend school outside the district.

Nomination forms are now available at taupo.govt.nz/youthawards and close on November 1, with the awards to be held on November 20 at 7pm at the Great Lake Centre.