

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINES THROUGH DURING COVID-19

**A FAMILIAR FACE at the Turangi Turtle Pools became a familiar face at the local supermarket during Alert Level 4 – and then to television viewers around New Zealand.**

Tupara Tupara, a lifeguard at the Turtle Pools, stepped up as soon as we went into lockdown and was on the front line as an essential worker at Turangi New World, helping customers to social distance and making sure trolleys were sanitised after each use.

Despite having two young children and a newborn baby at home, Tupara said he didn't hesitate as soon as he saw there was a need.

"I just wanted to help out the community. I'm a local boy, and it helped that a lot of people know me from the pools. People were a bit anxious and having a familiar face there makes a difference – a lot of locals want to give a hug when they see each other and we had to remind them that the hugs had to wait until After Level 4!

"We were looking after everyone - whether it was handing out umbrellas or looking after the queue - but our older people and expectant mothers were our priority. And it was great to see how the Turangi community responded, I think they were awesome," he said.

A lot of other people thought he was awesome too.



He appeared on The Project current events show and was awarded a Best Foods Supermarket Heroes award after 133 nominations poured in.

"Getting the award was cool, and I'd like to thank Best Foods for that, as well as council for letting me take up the role and New World for giving me the opportunity – they were great to work for. But mostly I want to thank my partner for looking after the family and the community for playing it safe," he said.

And now that we're back at Level 1, you can find Tupara back in his role at the Turtle Pools, helping people play it safe there.



**LAST YEAR SAW the successful introduction of training courses for e-bike owners interested in learning more about how their bikes work and safe practices for riding them around our district.**

We are encouraging e-bikers to attend one of these free courses to upskill, especially people new to e-bike ownership. The course covers how to safely navigate traffic and is only two hours in length.

Local feedback has seen a big rise in e-bike numbers, so please get along if you can and learn a little about your new ride!

We have two mid-year courses available on June 27 in Taupō and July 20 in Kinloch.

You can find more information or sign up for a course at [taupdc.govt.nz/transport-and-water/road-safety](http://taupdc.govt.nz/transport-and-water/road-safety).



**THERE'S JUST OVER two weeks to go before you can get stuck in to the events we are offering as part of Plastic Free July.**

Each year we are involved in Plastic Free July, with several events to help us all learn different ways to cut down the amount of plastic we use across the district.

Environmental ranger Shannon Hanson said the July event is a good reminder to cut down our use of plastic-based products.

"There are a lot of options around for people to do their bit and help look after the environment, she says.

Our events this year highlight plenty of ways to reduce our plastic. A lot of it goes straight to our landfill and sitting there it doesn't break down. We'd like to avoid that!

There are so many cost-effective solutions that can be fun to do with younger ones at home too."

Face-to-face workshops will be offered, as well as some virtual offerings. Some workshops are being held, with making beeswax wraps and plastic free recipes both offered, with a view to cutting down the use of plastic in your home.

### PLASTIC FREE JULY EVENT WORKSHOPS

**8 July 5:30pm-7pm Plastic Free July Workshop:**

Beeswax Wraps, Great Lake Centre

**9 July 10am-11.30am Plastic Free July Workshop:**

Beeswax Wraps, Great Lake Centre

**16 July 5:30pm-7pm Plastic Free Recipes Workshop,**

Great Lake Centre

**17 July 10am-11.30am Plastic Free Recipes Workshop,**

Great Lake Centre

Keep an eye out for other Plastic Free July virtual offerings on social media.

## INDOOR POOL CLOSURE

**A 12-WEEK PROJECT is underway to repair a damaged pipe in the indoor 25-metre pool at the AC Baths, after discovering a pipe break in need of repair.**

For health and safety reasons, swimmers will be relocated to the outdoor 25-metre pool during the duration of the works, with the entire indoor pool area closed off to allow workers to address the breakage.

You are able to check the website to determine lane availability. We apologise for the inconvenience.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

**MONDAY JUNE 22, 10.30AM-NOON**

Taupō Airport Authority Committee meeting (Taupō Airport, ANZAC Memorial Drive)

**MONDAY JUNE 22, 2PM-4PM**

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) and Taupō District Council Co-Governance Committee meeting (Council Chamber)

**TUESDAY JUNE 23, 1PM-2.30PM**

Workshop – kerbside recycling (Council Chamber)

**TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2.30PM-3.30PM**

Workshop – healthy rivers (Council Chamber)

**THURSDAY JUNE 25, 9.30AM-10.15AM**

Enterprise Great Lake Taupo 6 monthly report to Council (Council Chamber)

**THURSDAY JUNE 25, 10.15AM-11AM**

Destination Great Lake Taupō 6 monthly report to Council (Council Chamber)

**THURSDAY JUNE 25, 11AM-12.30PM**

Workshop – Transport Strategy (Council Chamber)

**THURSDAY JUNE 25, 1.15PM-1.45PM**

Workshop – erosion (Council Chamber)

