

## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Events season kicked off in earnest, with Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge and Ironman 70.3 held in November and December.
- The first round of consultation on the review of the Motutere Reserve Management Plan was held.
- The Christmas and New Year summer holiday period and warm, settled weather brought large numbers of holidaymakers to Tūrangi, Taupō and all settlements around the district.
- The ever-popular Mini Bang and Big Bang Fireworks displays were held on the Taupō lakefront on New Year's Eve.
- The teams at council's Customer and Visitor Information Centres in Taupō, Tūrangi and Mangakino won an award for Project of the Year at the Association of Local Government Information Management awards.
- At the same awards, Council was also recognised as one of the top 10 councils across Aotearoa for both Best Customer Experience and Supreme Website.
- Council ran a series of successful Tradie Breakfasts with 3R Group and local experts to highlight changes that builders, plumbers and other tradies can make to reduce commercial construction and demolition waste.
- Fun new equipment and shade sails are key features of new playgrounds in Lakewood Drive Reserve and Mere Road Reserve, Taupō.
- A report by the Ombudsman into council meeting and workshop practices commended Council for its culture around conducting its business with openness and transparency.
- The final stage of the Taupō Town Centre Transformation project was completed when the new overhead lighting feature at the entrance to Roberts Street, Taupō, was switched on.
- A group of committed volunteers collected 250kg of rubbish at our New Year's Day litter pick-up around the lakefront and Taupō town centre.
- Live music, lawn games and relaxed vibes came to Te Ātea in Taupō in January, with the inaugural Sunday Sessions, two afternoons of live local music.

To read more news from Council, head to [www.taupo.govt.nz/news](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/news)



The lakefront Te Ātea space

## IT'S OFFICIAL - WE'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL!

**If you're a local or visitor to the Taupō District, it will come as no surprise to know that our beautiful district won two awards at Keep New Zealand Beautiful's annual awards, the Beautiful Awards 2023.**

Not only did Taupō town take away the Supreme Towns & Cities Award, our new lakefront space, Te Ātea, also won the Kiwis' Choice Award in the Places category. Southern Lake Taupō gem Tūrangi was named runner-up in the Most Beautiful Small Town category at the Beautiful Awards.

The awards were announced in November and the judges commended Taupō for its many environmental initiatives.

Mayor David Trewavas said it was great to see that all the effort that Council and the community put into reducing waste and cleaning up litter had really paid off.

"I'd particularly like to acknowledge the efforts of Tidy Taupō, led by Carol Lamb, who put countless volunteer hours into picking up rubbish, Greening Taupō who have done so much work to plant native trees in our gullies and open spaces, and our council waste minimisation team who actively look for opportunities to reduce waste, provide recycling opportunities and recover as much waste as they can.

"Of course none of this would work without our amazing locals who also buy into the reduce, reuse, recycle ethos."

Mr Trewavas said he also wanted to particularly acknowledge the efforts of the Tūrangi community. This year was the first year the town had made the finals of the Beautiful Awards in the Most Beautiful Small Town category and Tūrangi locals should be proud of that achievement, he said.

"It was amazing the pride that this brought out in so many people. We really saw the Tūrangi community coming together to celebrate their place."

Keep New Zealand Beautiful CEO Heather Saunderson said while all the submissions were of a very high standard and it was a hard award to judge, Taupō was the standout winner.

"Out of all the towns and cities I visited, Taupō ranked amongst the highest for the many climate conscious initiatives it undertakes, excelling across every other criteria, making it the clear winner of the Supreme Award," said Ms Saunderson.

## MAJOR REFURBISHMENT BRINGS A NEW LEASE OF LIFE TO TAUPŌ SKATEPARK

**The Taupō Skatepark redevelopment was completed just before Christmas, ready for skaters to grind, ollie, and kickflip to their heart's content.**

The skatepark is now a safer and more skateable facility thanks to some important upgrades, and the bright new range of colours on the surfaces makes it a real eye-catcher.

Contractors Rich Landscapes and Angus McMillan Concrete did a great job of the redevelopment, which includes the addition of several exciting new skate features, including a bank-to-kerb setup, a standard round rail, and a manual pad accompanied by a standard kerb featuring stylish wollie ends.

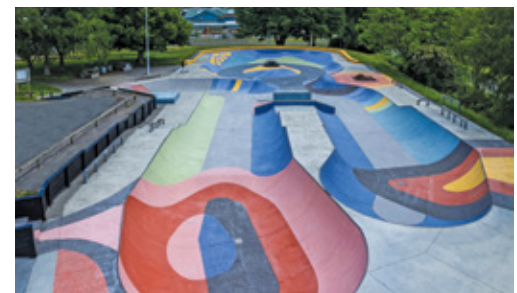


Photo credit: Rich Landscapes and Val Burns Photography

These additions complement the park's existing layout, providing skaters with fresh challenges and opportunities for creativity.

To further enhance the skatepark's atmosphere, renowned New Zealand skater and artist Adam Wharekawa has created captivating artwork for the park surfaces, with his abstract landscape illustrations creating an inspiring backdrop.





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## LOVING OUR STORMWATER GULLIES

**The many gullies in the Taupō District, particularly those in urban areas, play an important role in stormwater management.**

Good stormwater management is important as it can help prevent homes from being flooded during heavy rainfall events. Thanks to climate change, the frequency of these weather events is increasing. That's why looking after and loving the district's gullies has never been more important.

Gullies are also valued as recreation areas. Many people enjoy walking, biking, and exploring them.

However, some people value them much less. They are often used as dumping grounds for rubbish, lawn clippings, and green waste, which cause huge problems with weeds leading to the gullies becoming populated by undesirable species such as cherry trees, pine, and silver birches.

***"We get a lot of requests for the gullies to be mown, and for plants on the edges of the banks to be trimmed or removed for people's views. But actually, their job is preventing stormwater flooding."***

While native species planted on gully sides and banks help hold the banks together, some of the weed species can do more damage than good.

As well as acting as stormwater soakage areas, gullies are important for helping filter stormwater and prevent lakeshore erosion by slowing runoff into the lake. However, it's always good to remember that they do lead directly to the lake, and not everything drains away.

Taupō District Council parks and reserves manager Greg Hadley says people often misunderstand the role of stormwater gullies.

"Gullies are created by nature to deal with water, and that's what we need to let them do.

"We get a lot of requests for the gullies to be mown, and for plants on the edges of the banks to be trimmed or removed for people's views. But actually, their job is preventing stormwater flooding and for that reason, long, rank grass is better than short grass. For the same reason, plants on the gully sides should be allowed to flourish, not manicured, because they are doing a job of protecting the bank's soil by slowing down the water and allowing soakage. The root systems of plants can also slow soil migration."

Greg says most cases of gully bank erosion, where the edge of the gully creeps closer to the surrounding houses, are caused by human activity.

"Gully slips are often of the residents' own making. Be careful about what you do about vegetation removal or vegetation trimming because that tree you're trying to kill or trim may be providing some soil stability."

Soil conservators describe Taupō soils as overly free-draining, highly mobile, and low in fertility, so be careful about water management on your property as it can lead to surface erosion or it can track underground, creating tunnels or tomos (holes)."

Greg says there's an increasing awareness of the importance of planting natives in the gullies and allowing them to flourish in their natural state.

"At the end of the day, our gullies play an important role in soaking up stormwater and we need to leave them as unmodified as possible to let them get on with their job."



## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR NEW LAKEFRONT SPACE TE ĀTEA RECENTLY?

*We'd love to hear your thoughts!*

Take our short six question survey at [lovetapu.com/teatea](http://lovetapu.com/teatea) or scan the QR code.



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT

### 10 & 11 FEBRUARY

Seven Oaks Kinloch Triathlon  
Kinloch, Taupō

### 13 FEBRUARY

Waste-free Lunches Workshop  
Great Lake Centre

### 24 FEBRUARY

Rotary Lake Taupō Across Lake Swim

Whakaipo Lodge Summer Concert,  
Whakaipo Lodge Taupō

### 25 FEBRUARY

Wairakei Estate Ironkidz,  
Taupō lakefront

### 2 MARCH

2024 ANZCO Foods Ironman New Zealand and Ironman 70.3

### 12 MARCH

Royal New Zealand Ballet Tutus on Tour, Great Lake Centre

### 12-14 APRIL

Taupō Home & Garden Show

### 19, 20 & 21 APRIL

2024 Repco Supercars Championship, ITM Taupō Super400  
Taupō International Motorsport Park

To find out more about upcoming events in the Taupō District, visit:

[www.lovetapu.com/events](http://www.lovetapu.com/events).



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