

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Anime, cats and colourful polka dots featured in some of the winning designs in Taupō District Council's design your own helmet competition.
- Mayor David Trewavas planted a tree in Tongariro South Domain to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.
- Tūrangi's new sports facility Te Mataapuna at Tūrangitukua Park was blessed and opened.
- The Crown Park Cycle Skills and Pump Track was officially opened.
- Speed limits around schools throughout the Taupō District and within the Tūrangi and Taupō CBDs were reduced from 50km/h to 30km/h.
- After receiving 138 submissions during a consultation period, Taupō District Council adopted the Annual Plan 2023-24.
- Julie Gardyne, who had been Council's deputy chief executive since 2021, was appointed chief executive.
- The Taupō District's most popular dog names were revealed - the top two are Bella and Max.
- Local company Shelter Architects won a prestigious New Zealand Architecture Award for the impressive job it did on the new Taupō Airport terminal.
- Matariki was celebrated throughout the district, including events at Taupō District Libraries, Taupō Museum, and the new heart of town, Te Ātea.
- Taupō District Council became the sole trustee of the Lake Taupō Protection Trust.
- Repairs and improvements began at Taupō Skatepark.

To read these news stories and more head to: www.taupo.govt.nz/news

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL ADOPTS ANNUAL PLAN 2023-24

The Taupō District Council has adopted its Annual Plan 2023-24 and struck the rates for the year beginning 1 July.

The Annual Plan sets out the projects that council will carry out, the services that will be delivered and how they will be delivered over the next 12 months.

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas said preparing this year's Annual Plan was challenging.

"We have prepared this plan amid an adverse and unsettled environment overshadowed by unprecedented weather events together with rising costs for households and businesses.

"Council has worked hard to balance affordability with the continued delivery of services and projects required for the district to grow and prosper."

The average rates increase for 2023-24 is now 9.1

percent. This is a result of changes to the draft Annual Plan following decisions made following public submissions, the increase in the contract price for solid waste services, the one-off Waiora Community Trust grant, and final budget adjustments.

Rates pay for many things throughout the district - parks and green spaces, libraries, recreation centres and pools, along with the core infrastructure such as roading, water, wastewater, and solid waste services.

The Annual Plan 2023-24 is available to view at taupo.govt.nz/annualplan.

You can view the rates for your property for 2023-24 at taupo.govt.nz/rates.



REDUCE WASTE: SORT IT OUT AND SAVE MONEY

At the start of July, rising Government charges meant the charges at landfill and transfer stations throughout the district had to increase.

Council operates a landfill and resource recovery centre and five transfer stations and the refuse charges at these sites are directly influenced by the Government's waste disposal levy and the requirement to purchase carbon credits under the Emissions Trading Scheme. The cost of carbon credits has risen drastically and payment of these is mandatory for Council.

"These changes have directly impacted on our landfill user charges, making it more expensive to dispose of waste at landfill and transfer stations around the district," Taupō District Council environmental impacts manager Brent Aitken says.

The good news is, there are several ways to reduce the amount of waste you have to get rid of and therefore save money. Through small efforts to recycle and compost, you can make a massive difference to the amount of waste you have to deal with.

One sure fire way to reduce your waste is to make the most of Council's weekly kerbside recycling service. Green bins and black bins for recycling can be picked up from Council's Customer and Visitor Information centres in Mangakino, Taupō and Tūrangi.

Green bins should be used for plastics, cans, paper and cardboard (where possible we recommend separating out your paper and cardboard into a separate bin or box). Black bins should be used for glass only.

Much of what ends up in the landfill is green waste, such as food scraps or lawn clippings, which could be composted. Home composting not only saves you money on waste disposal, it is also great for the environment and your garden.

Want to learn how to compost? Come along to one of the free 90-minute workshops Council holds in partnership with Taupō Community Gardens in Taupō or Awhi Farm in Tūrangi.

For information on composting and upcoming workshops, head to www.taupo.govt.nz/composting.



FEEDBACK WANTED: LONG-TERM PLAN 2023-24 ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



In consultation with our communities, Taupō District Council is starting to prepare its next Long-term Plan for the 2024-34 period, and we want to hear from you!

What is the Long-term Plan, you ask? It's a 10-year budgeted plan that Council puts together once every three years. It sets out its work programme and what it will provide for the community.

The Long-term Plan process supports the community and council to make decisions about where best to put Council's time and the community's money. It requires a long-term focus, so that we are still in good financial shape in 10 years, and our assets are in kept in good condition for future generations.

We need your input...

We will be out and about in the community delivering a series of district-wide Long-term Plan engagement events, from mid-August to early September. While the formal consultation process for the Long-term Plan 2024-34 won't begin until early 2024 (when you will have the chance to make a formal submission), the earlier we can begin to understand what matters to you for the district and what Council should be focused on to achieve this, the better.

Help us begin to build this picture by joining the conversation at one of our Long-term Plan engagement events. Details for an event near you can be found at www.taupo.govt.nz/LTP. We hope to see you there!

THE STORY BEHIND OUR NEW ĀTEA

Taupō's new lakefront Te Ātea (space) is complete and thanks to Tūwharetoa artists Kingi Pitiroi and Delani Brown we have some amazing stories to tell about the area.

"Ngā Wai Puna Ariki, the 13 steel columns around Te Ātea, represent the rivers and streams that feed into Lake Taupō." Mr Pitiroi says.

"Each one contributes to the rich waterscapes of the Taupō District. Flowing from geothermal and freshwater origins, they have their own individual identities and are likened to the strands of a fine, traditional mat. Collectively, these waterways weave together the threads of the rich and dynamic tapestry of Lake Taupō."

Master carver Delani Brown says the carved pou are an acknowledgement to Te Ao Tūroa (the enduring world), Ngā Kaitiaki (the spiritual guardians that are caretakers over the land, lake and ocean), the ancient peoples of the land, and the many hapū including all living people.

"The four carved pou bordering the ātea represent Ngā Hau e Wha (the four winds, directions, elements and seasons). They stand as guardians acknowledging all peoples from all cultures to the ātea, to the area called Tapuaeharuru, 'The Place of Echoing Footsteps'."

The large central pou is carved from

ancient totara sourced from the Waipohutu forest at the base of both Tītiraupenga and Pureora mountains.

"Embedded within this pou are numerous representations," Delani says. "Facing the lake at the top can be seen Hine-Parawhenuamea, the ancestress who represents water that springs from the earth, featured below her is a hokioi (native eagle) perched upon a vine representing the lasting relationship that tangata whenua have with heaven and earth, and all things beyond and in between."

"At the base facing the lake is a five-meter figure with the body of a fish representing Horomātangi, a guardian of Lake Taupō, who can appear in different forms, including as a native eel, a shimmer on the water, a dolphin, a flash of light or a current."

"In reference to where we come from, on the north side of the pou facing the town is the father and mother of Hine-Parawhenuamea. Tane the father is placed at the top and the mother Hine-Tuparimaunga who represents mountains and cliffs can be seen below. Many water and sea guardians are carved on the pou, including a turtle and octopus, acknowledging that all water that flows from our region via the Waikato River is our koha (gift) to Te Moananui-a-Kiwa the original name of what foreign explorers called the Pacific Ocean."



Artist Kingi Pitiroi (left) and master carver Delani Brown with the central pou at Taupō's Te Ātea on the lakefront.

WARM UP THIS WINTER IN OUR PRIVATE HOT POOLS

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Taupō District Council

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