



## Think smart – it's *hot* out there

It's been hot and dry out there and this means we need to limit the amount of water we're using and refrain from lighting fires.

Long periods without rain have meant people have been using more water, particularly for irrigating lawns and gardens. This is putting additional load on water treatment plants.

Up to the close of Wednesday, we had already used 411,000 cubic metres of water this month.

In September, the Lake Terrace water treatment plant processed just over 180,000 cubic metres of water. By last month that had increased to over 427,000 cubic metres.

Irrigation systems and sprinklers can now only be used between 6am and 8am and 6pm and 8pm. This is the best way to hydrate your lawn or garden because it minimises water evaporation from the sun and potential leaf burn.

Residents whose properties end in 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 can use sprinklers on odd numbered calendar days, while those whose addresses end in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 can use theirs on even numbered calendar days.

We need to use water wisely so no further restrictions are needed. The forecast for the coming days is for more hot, dry weather so it's important we take action now!



The conditions have also prompted a total fire ban across rural areas of the Taupō District.

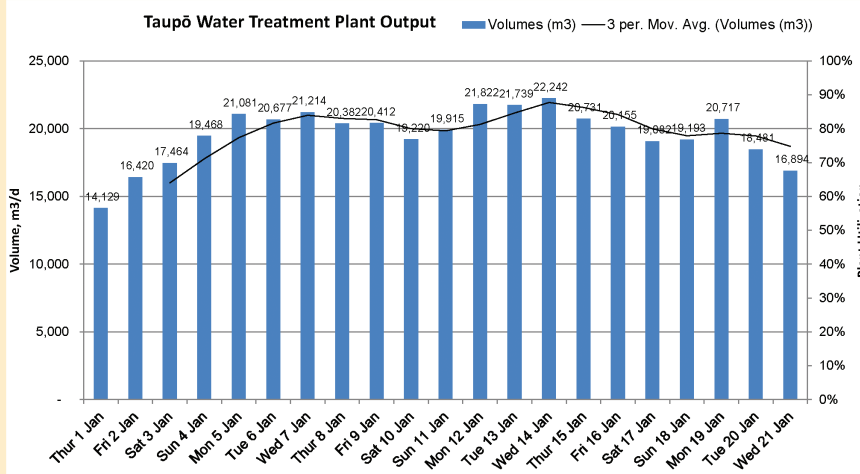
The risk of fire is now extreme and we need people to remain vigilant in case of fire.

Anyone who sees any suspicious smoke should phone 111 immediately.

The ban means permits for open fires in rural areas will not be issued under any circumstance until the ban ends. Take care out there!

For tips on water conservation, visit [www.taupo.govt.nz/watertips](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/watertips).

**# Updated water graphs and fire alerts will be available on our website, Twitter feed @Taupo\_DC and Facebook under Taupō District Council if the situation changes.**



## A great lake summer

What a summer! To those locals who have come back after a holiday away – welcome back. To the visitors and the locals who stayed in our wonderful district over the festive season – we hope you are enjoying yourselves.



The weather has been fabulous and town has been buzzing, which is one of the reasons our community loves living here. Anecdotally I've heard cash registers have been ringing and retailers, accommodation and hospitality providers have had a strong start to 2015. We've even played host to legendary Aussie golfer Greg Norman, the "Great White Shark", All Black Dan Carter and Grammy winner Lorde in the last few weeks – what an honour.

It's no surprise we have had thousands of visitors to the district so far – Taupō was recently rated as the number one location for families to visit and stay on popular hotel booking site wotif.com. What a great accolade for us to receive, and well deserved I think. We certainly have a family-friendly atmosphere and lots of activities that all ages can enjoy.

While most of us were able to take a breather over the holiday period, I want to acknowledge those who kept at it while we were off having fun. Our emergency services staff like the police, firefighters and ambulance officers have been keeping us safe at a time that is incredibly busy for them, and we are so grateful for that.

I also want to thank the wonderful council staff who kept things ticking along nicely. Our gardeners, water treatment and sewerage staff, Superloo attendants, sanitation team, library and museum staff were all working hard over Christmas and into the New Year.

Our compliance team was out and about making sure both locals and visitors were being considerate of others and then we had our rural fire volunteers, customer service staff and countless others chipping in to keep the wheels turning.

I thank every one of these people for the effort they put in over this time.

With such an influx of visitors into the district, services are at high demand and it is a pleasure to see everyone being able to enjoy themselves.

I want to welcome visitors in town for the Taupō Summer Concert tomorrow at the amphitheatre. This venue is fast becoming one of the leading venues for outdoor concerts and I am sure those attending will see why.

The weather has been treating us well for dips in the lake and other outdoor activities, and I hope everyone is having a great time in the district. Let's hope it's a sign of things to come for the rest of 2015.

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz • 07 376 0899

## Waitangi Day festival is coming!

It's back for 2015 – mark it in your calendar – get ready for the Waitangi Taupō Moana festival!

The festival will be on February 6 from noon to 5pm at Riverside Park, and will feature a stellar line up of bands and plenty of fun activities for the family.

New Zealand trio House of Shem will be headlining the event, playing their unique combination of roots reggae, Pacific reggae and traditional Māori music. They will be joined by a great line up of musicians including Chad Chambers, Jah Sito, Native Souz and our district's own Jam Dr and Aaron Moeke. Taupō-nui-ā-Tia College's kapa haka group will also perform.

Free buses are running to bring people to the festival from Mangakino and Turangi but spots are limited so register with your local service centre to come along.

Last year over 4500 people came along to Waitangi Taupō Moana and it would be great to see even more this year!

## Taupō Summer Concert

The 2015 Taupō Summer Concert is nearly here and it's expected to be another huge event for the Taupō District this year.

Legendary artists Heart, Foreigner and Three Dog Night are all playing at the Taupō amphitheatre this Saturday, 24 January.

The concert is an annual event that has attracted up to 14,000 people in the past. At the time of going to print, promoter Greenstone Entertainment expected the concert would sell out with 14,500 tickets sold.

It's a big, iconic event for Taupō and one many look forward to on our events calendar, so make sure you get along and enjoy some classic rock.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by locals from the Taupō i-SITE on Tongariro Street for \$89 plus booking fee or at the standard price of \$99 plus booking fee from [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz).



## What's on

- 24 Jan Taupō Summer Concert, Riverside Park
- 6 Feb Waitangi Taupō Moana 2015, Riverside Park
- 7 Feb Waitangi Tūwharetoa ki Pukawa Festival, Pukawa Lakefront Reserve
- 14 Feb Thunder on the Lake, Taupō lakefront
- 19 Feb Kia Magic vs Fiji Pearls, Taupō Events Centre

For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

Email your elected members at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)

