



## Prioritising safety for cyclists and pedestrians

It's a busy time of year for cyclists, pedestrians and other users of our paths and roads, so we need to remember to be kind to each other!

Some of our paths, such as the Lions' Walk and the path that stretches around the lakefront to Wharewaka, are designated shared paths. This means everyone can use them – buggies and strollers, bikes, scooters and feet!

Cyclists need to make pedestrians aware they are approaching, whether it's with a friendly ring of a bell or by calling out in advance.

Similarly, pedestrians need to be considerate – if you see or hear a cyclist coming, give them space to get past – there is room for everyone.

We need to be patient during this busy season, particularly with IRONMAN New Zealand coming up early next month. There are already hundreds of athletes out pounding the pavement and cycling our roads in the lead up to the big event and we need to support them by giving them the space and encouragement to do so!

It's also just as important to remember where you are – cyclists riding on the road are road users, so need to keep left and be safe and seen.

It's great to see so many locals and visitors using all the great pathways we have in our district. If we are considerate of each other it'll make it all the more enjoyable!



## Capacity for growth

You may have heard me on the radio recently trying to entice new businesses to come here. Why? You may ask.



Ensuring our district retains the vibrancy that helps make it such a great place to live means we can't afford to rest on our laurels when it comes to retaining and attracting business.

Quite often, as a council, we are perceived as not being business-friendly because there are too many rules and regulations to follow. Some of the time, we don't have a choice. We have to adhere to the rules and regulations set down by Central Government, as do all other councils around New Zealand. Most of the time, the council team does everything it can to encourage a friendly and supportive environment for businesses to thrive.

We have already made it easier for people to do business by rolling out online services for things like resource consents, land information memorandums and building consents.

We have freed up commercial/industrial land where we can to encourage businesses to set up and/or grow.

We have a Commercial Industrial Structure Plan to help make sure another retail centre doesn't start outside the Taupō town centre. We have provided capacity for growth when developing our core services infrastructure like the East Taupō Arterial, the Taupō water and wastewater plants and the wastewater disposal fields.

And that's before we even consider the on-the-ground support we contract Enterprise Great Lake Taupō to deliver. The Enterprise Great Lake Taupō team offers a number of programmes and initiatives to help existing businesses as well as attract new ones. These include a Business Mentors programme, the Growth Acceleration programme, the Engine Room and Angel Investors for start-up businesses and more.

The current Great Opportunities campaign is being delivered by Enterprise Great Lake Taupō to promote new businesses to move to the district. To grow our local economy we need our existing businesses to flourish, but we also need new businesses to create jobs, boost the residential housing market, and provide new goods or services to our people.

Taupō District has a lot to offer and I've been doing my bit to encourage business owners to consider here as a viable option for people wanting to escape the rat race of the city. The businesses already here are just as important. Everyone has a part to play.

Mayor Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

## Learn about our cultural diversity

Ever wondered what different ethnicities make up the rich tapestry of our community? The Multi Cultural Festival is a great way to learn about them!

The festival is being held at the Great Lake Centre from 10am to 3pm tomorrow, Saturday, 14 February.

This is a great opportunity to see different cultures in action performing cultural dances and acts. There will also be a selection of delicious ethnic food on offer, demonstrations, arts and crafts and information stalls on different cultures.

Entry is \$2 and there will be spot prizes for some lucky winners.

Cultural diversity is one of the Taupō District's greatest assets, so come down and see what all the fuss is about!



## Kia Magic versus Fiji in Taupō

Fancy watching some top level international sport? The Kia Waikato Bay of Plenty Magic are taking on the Fijian national netball team at our own Taupō Events Centre next week! The Magic are gearing up for the busy ANZ Championship season ahead and will be warming up against the Fijian team on Thursday, 19 February at 6.30pm.

District events manager Steve Giles said it was a privilege to be able to host two teams of such high calibre in our district. "We love supporting big events like this and hope the community will get down to the events centre and show its support," he said.

The Magic has three Silver Ferns within its ranks: captain Casey Kopua, Ellen Halpenny and Leana de Bruin, so it should be a great match.

Netball Waikato Bay of Plenty Magic chief executive Tim Hamilton said he was thrilled to be able to bring matches to the wider Waikato region.

"The clashes against Fiji are critical for us as we build up to the ANZ Championship and we look forward to the support of the public in what should be entertaining netball of the highest quality," he said.

Tickets are available from [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz) and cost \$15 for adults and \$7 for children plus booking fee.

## Rates due – do it online!

Did you know you can pay for your rates, dog registrations and a number of other council services online?

Your latest rates instalment is due Friday, 20 February. You can make receiving invoices hassle-free by opting in to have them emailed to you by visiting [www.taupo.govt.nz/optin](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/optin) and signing up. You can even choose which types of invoices you want emailed including rates, water, building consents, resource consents and dog registrations.

Doing things online with us is easy. There is a link from our homepage to all our online tools and services, so you can save time and do it all from the comfort of your own home.

## What's on

- 14 Feb Thunder on the Lake, Taupō lakefront
- 14 Feb Multi Cultural Festival, Great Lake Centre
- 19 Feb Kia Magic vs Fiji Pearls, Taupō Events Centre
- 19 Feb Quiz Night, Taupō Library
- 21 Feb New Balance Great Lake Relay, Tongariro North Domain

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)

