

connect weekly



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL 27 MARCH 2015

Tauhara initiative at Trustpower Community Awards

One of Taupō's greatest community success stories will be flying the flag for the district at this year's Trustpower Community Awards tomorrow.

The Tauhara Community Support Initiative (TCSI) is up for the supreme national award. It has made great things happen in the area, including whanau fun days, curtain and tool banks, youth art projects, summer twilight markets and the Pihanga community playground and park project, to name a few.

TCSI was created to combat many community issues in Tauhara that were eroding its sense of community. The area had a high crime rate and unemployment, stalled economic development and growth and a lack of positive community identity.

TCSI formed to empower the community, build pride and a sense of belonging. It works alongside other social, government,

cultural, charity, church and voluntary organisations to help create positive growth.

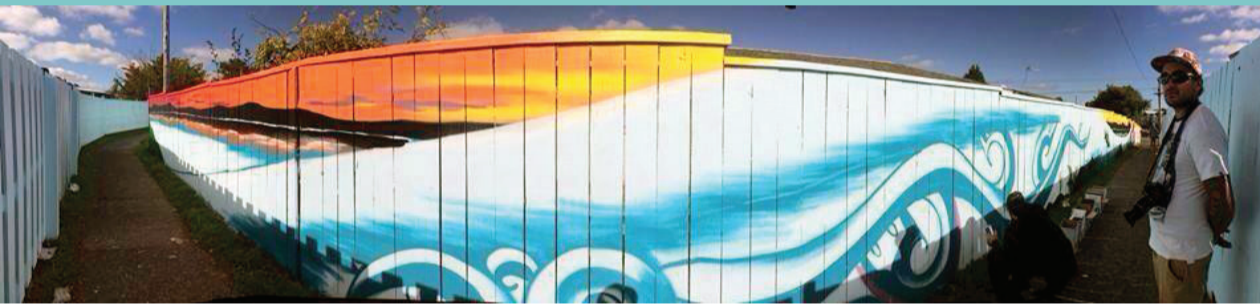
It is supported by the police, a variety of social and community organisations and us at the council.

Crime is falling and attitudes and relationships are changing – the area is looking vibrant and alive.

The Trustpower Community Awards are run to recognise and reward the work of voluntary organisations behind New Zealand communities. TCSI Initiative took out the top spot at the regional Taupō District awards and advanced to the national awards.

The national awards are being held tomorrow in Wellington and TCSI representatives are attending with Mayor David Trewavas.

We wish them all the best of luck and thank them for all the hard work they do for our community!



Rubbish and recycling over the Easter break

Public holidays at Easter mean there will be some changes to rubbish and recycling collections and opening hours at our transfer stations and landfills.

There will be no collections on Good Friday, 3 April. Residents whose rubbish is normally collected on this day will have it collected a day early on Thursday, 2 April. Normal collections resume on Monday, 6 April.

Remember to put your rubbish and recycling out before 7.30am to make sure it is collected.

All transfer stations and landfills in the Taupō District will also be closed on Good Friday. Opening hours on all other days remain as normal.

Our offices will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

*Don't know your normal collection day or opening hours for landfill and transfer stations? Go online to www.taupo.govt.nz/refuseandrecycling or phone 0800 ASK TDC or 0800 275 832.

Lots on offer these school holidays

Do your kids want to try karate, Zumba or gymnastics? How about dance – hip hop style? All of these and more are on offer over the school holidays next month, so get in quick to secure a spot for these cool activities.

Taupō Events Centre has its regular school holidays programme running from Tuesday, 7 April to Friday, 17 April. Our programme coordinators have put together an awesome programme that includes plenty of adventure, culture, action and baking. Something for everyone!

Taupō Museum and Taupō Library are running a free joint programme over the holidays that include a hands-on interactive children's space designed to promote creative play and encourage kids to actively engage with our cultural heritage.

At the library there will be activities based on the hugely popular Geronimo Stilton book series, with fun educational workshops. Kids can explore secret codes and make coconut mice!

A small number of the library and museum activities require bookings – talk to their staff to find out more.

Turangi Library also has a holiday programme with zombie crafts, paper models, card making and movies for five to 12 year olds.

A full programme for Taupō Events Centre is available at www.taupo.govt.nz/holidayprogramme and for the library and museum programme visit www.taupo.govt.nz/libraries.



Education into the future

For a relatively small district, we produce a wealth of talent. This week I was fortunate enough to meet a Turangi-born woman who was named the American 2014 National Middle Level Principal of the Year.

Sheena Alaiasa is the principal of Samuel Wilder King Intermediate School in Kaneohe, Hawaii. She was honoured at a special reception by President Barack Obama for turning the school around.



King Intermediate had a reputation for disorder and poor academics before Alaiasa helped to make significant gains by closing the achievement gap.

Her story got me thinking about the importance of education and how it plays a major role in shaping a community.

Last week we as a council were invited to have a say on future education opportunities for the Bay of Plenty Region. Bay of Plenty Polytechnic and Waiariki Institute of Technology are exploring options for further collaboration to increase tertiary education and training opportunities and it is only right we assess what part we can play in that.

There are a number of dynamics that affect education in our community. At preschool and primary levels children are largely educated in the community they live in. At secondary level, there are a number of options, both home and away, children and their parents are able to explore. At a tertiary level, a large percentage of our youth move away to study and don't return. What can we offer to keep them here?

We also need to look at how we engage those who don't pursue tertiary education and stay in the district through either training or work. We are seeing some different dynamics in the workforce too where people no longer stay in one job for years but can have a number of careers in their lifetime, some of which need further education. What do people need to bridge the gap?

Education is an important industry in itself and a critical enabler for our economy. There are a number of things to consider. As always, my door is always open to chat about any ideas you may have.

Before I sign off, it would be remiss of me not to mention the Cricket World Cup final on Sunday.

I am sure you will join me in wishing the Black Caps all the best. Whether they win or lose they have done the country proud.

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

What's on

- 28-29 Mar Neighbours' Day weekend
- 4 Apr Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story, Great Lake Centre
- 4-5 Apr Turangi Colours Art and Food Festival
- 11 Apr Taupō Te Wheke Challenge, Taupō Yacht Club
- 11-12 Apr Taupō Wellbeing Fair, Great Lake Centre

For more information on Taupō District events visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to www.taupo.govt.nz

