



## Taupō District's face of Civil Defence retires

One of the district's most recognisable personalities has stepped down from the role of Taupō District's emergency manager after nearly 30 years in Civil Defence-related roles.

Phil Parker left Taupō District Council last week and will be missed by many of his colleagues and people in the community.

His voice was a permanent fixture on local radio, imploring the community to be prepared for an emergency and inspiring action.

At 67, Phil says it is time to engage in more leisurely pursuits and he is retiring to coastal Bay of Plenty.

For his work in Civil Defence and the huge contribution he has made to the Taupō District, Phil received a ministerial award from Civil Defence and Emergency Management Minister Nikki Kaye and an award from the Waikato Civil Defence

and Emergency Management Group. He was also presented a mayoral award for service to the community from Mayor David Trewavas.

Phil played an integral part in two statutory civil defence declarations and other events including the rescue of stranded motorists when Napier-Taupō Road was hit by heavy snow in 2009. He was also part of the emergency response team when the Te Maari crater erupted on Mount Tongariro in 2012.

Community risk, relations and support strategic manager Brian Fox said Phil had left a legacy and his shoes would be hard to fill.

"Phil worked tirelessly for our district to build a stronger, more resilient community and I think we have come an incredibly long way during his time in Civil Defence here," he said.

"His expertise will be greatly missed but we wish him all the best."



## Encouraging growth

As some of you may know Enterprise Great Lake Taupō have been making a concerted effort to encourage new business to our district.

This is something I have been lending a hand with because as a council we want to encourage as much economic development in our district as possible. It is a key component of encouraging growth, creating jobs and ensuring our place is a great place to live.

There are some great bonuses to living here. Housing is affordable, the cost of living is much less than in the other areas of the country, we have access to the great outdoors, we are central to everywhere, and there is only one set of traffic lights!

It is also a great place to do business. We can move goods around the country from here easily and it can be cheaper to operate. You can buy a commercial premise for the same price as leasing one in big cities.

There has been a great response to the campaign so far with more than 15 businesses currently considering making a move here and at least five already who have come to the district since late last year creating plenty of new jobs.

We are encouraging business owners from around New Zealand to seriously consider what it would take to relocate their business to Taupō. In true Taupō style, we are throwing down the welcome mat and inviting people to 'come over to our place'. Enterprise Great Lake Taupō are offering a 'Taupō Tiki Tour' to give people who are interested in moving here a chance to come for a day or two and check us out. We are taking them around and showing them all they need to see and answer any questions they have. It is an opportunity to introduce them to potential clients and suppliers, take them to schools, show them buildings and houses, and address any issues or queries they have.

If they then decide to commit to moving here, Enterprise Great Lake Taupō gives them a 'Welcome Home to Taupō Pack' that contains over \$25,000 of goods and services provided by local businesses. The pack helps them set up shop and connects them with all the critical suppliers they need to get started. It has also been an opportunity to turn some of our business owners, who are passionate about living here, into celebrities. Visit [www.greatopportunities.co.nz](http://www.greatopportunities.co.nz) - to see what they have to say and help us spread the word . . . The Taupō District is open for business!

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

## What's on

- 11 Apr Taupō Te Wheke Challenge, Taupō Yacht Club
- 11-12 Apr Taupō Wellbeing Fair, Great Lake Centre
- 14 Apr Turangi Tongariro Community Board meeting, 1pm, Turangi Boardroom
- 15 Apr Zoo Boogie Kid's Show, Great Lake Centre

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

## Shards of glass in recycling bin

A contractor needed five stitches in his leg after he was badly cut by broken glass left in a recycling bin last week.

We are using this as an opportunity to remind residents of their responsibilities when it comes to recycling. Glass and other sharp objects need to be wrapped in newspaper and put in a rubbish bag, not your recycling bin. This minimises the chance of our contractors getting hurt while doing their job each day.

The glass was sticking out of a recycling bin in Taupō and was not seen by the collector until it was too late. He was taken to hospital for treatment. The incident is the latest in a long line of similar incidents that had concerned our contractors, Envirowaste.

Stormwater and solid waste asset manager Brent Aitken said it was important the community took all the necessary steps to allow contractors to clear our waste and recycling safely.

"These guys work hard to clear our waste and recycling every day," he said. "If there are sharp objects lying around they are bound to get injured and we need to keep them safe."

## One week left to visit Mangakino pool

Make the most of the Mangakino pool while you still can! The pool is closing at the end of the April school holidays. Until then, the pool is open for everyone to use on weekdays from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and weekends from 12.30pm to 4.30pm.

Remember, kids under eight years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over 16 years old and remain within arm's reach.

The Mangakino pool closes for the winter at 4.30pm on April 19.



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)



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