



Our youth learning emergency skills

Taupō's next generation of community-minded superstars is learning life-saving skills through the Youth in Emergency Service (YES) programme over the next few weeks.

The programme is run by council and is a national initiative designed to strengthen and encourage the connection of teens with their communities through emergency services.

Participants meet with and learn from different emergency services each week for eight weeks. St John, the New Zealand Fire Service, Coastguard, Land Search and Rescue, Red Cross and our Civil Defence and Rural Fire teams are all involved.

We applied for the funding for the programme from

central government and coordinate YES with local emergency services.

It is the second year we have run the programme, with last year's focussing on participants from Turangi and Mangakino. This year we have 16 Taupō-based young people aged between 16 and 19 involved.

YES allows young people to gain invaluable knowledge and skills with Taupō District's emergency services. This helps to build strong, resilient communities by equipping the next generation with emergency skills and knowledge.

YES – bring it on!

Lake Taupō Coastguard one week – the fire service the next. This is life for the 16 young people taking part in this year's YES programme.

Lake Taupō Christian School student and participant Javan Rose, 16, wants to be a commercial pilot when he finishes school and says the programme is teaching him important skills he could use in that field. "I just thought it'd be a great opportunity to experience all the emergency services, and I'll hopefully be able to give that back to the community in the future," he says. "I think they're really valuable life skills to learn."

He said the first two weeks of the programme had been "awesome" and he was learning a lot.

Daniel Isherwood, 19, said he could see himself becoming a firefighter and it was great to get a hands-on taste of what it could be like.

"All the different information they give us is pretty interesting," he says.

Tauhara College student Marissa Davidson says she signed up because the programme sounded exciting.

"It's been awesome just talking to the people who do the job, it takes some of the mystery away," she says. "All of the First Aid stuff is useful it's something you can apply."

The programme concludes with a combined exercise between all emergency services over two days at the end of the month.



Marissa Davidson and Javan Rose head in after an exciting day on the lake.

Taupō to host Panama U20 football team

Panama's best young footballers will be staying in Taupō this month in the lead up to the FIFA Under 20 Football World Cup.

The team will stay in Taupō from May 14-20 and will be training at Owen Delany Park.

We are excited to be hosting them and will welcome them with a mayoral morning tea.

This year's tournament will mark Panama's fifth FIFA Under 20 World Cup appearance, all of which have come in the space of 12 years.

The FIFA Under 20 World Cup is being held in New Zealand from May 30 to June 20.



Road Safety Week - Look out for kids!



Here are some handy tips for road safety in our district:

- **Keep roads clear** to increase visibility – park away from yellow lines, pedestrian crossings and intersections. It'll also help you avoid a fine!
- **Check driveways and look behind** your car before driving off.
- **Double check intersections** and crossings – a child may dart across it when you least expect it.
- **If a school bus** is stopped, slow down to the legal speed limit of 20kmh, no matter which direction you are travelling.
- **Slow down to 40kmh** outside schools.

Do you watch out for kids when you're out driving around our district?

This week is Road Safety Week so we are giving tips about road safety around kids so our community is aware of our most vulnerable road users.

Many of our schools take a great proactive approach to child safety around roads with Kiss and Drive zones, walking school buses and other great initiatives.

Remember, winter is on its way so we are likely to be dealing with icy roads and foggy, wet and difficult conditions in the next few months.

Take extra special care over the winter months and stay safe!

What's on

- 13 May 2degrees Comedy Convoy, 8pm-10pm, Great Lake Centre
- 14-23 May Zirka Circus, Tongariro North Domain
- 16 May International Museum Day – Old Fashioned Gala, 10am-3pm, Taupō Museum
- Until 8 Jun Taupō Ink – Drawings by DiDi Chapman, Taupō Museum
- Until 15 Jun Active Arts Taupo, Celebrating 50 Years! Taupō Museum

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



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