



## National award for water treatment operator

Our water treatment supervisor has been named the top operator in the country by the national Water Industry Operations Group.

Richard Kruse was recognised at the group's conference this month in Blenheim. He is the water treatment supervisor of the district's 20 water treatment schemes and has been working at the council for nine years.

Richard played an important part in the changeover from the old treatment plant on Lake Terrace to the new one and deserved the win.

"I am very grateful for the nomination and to receive this award is quite surreal for me as I didn't expect it at all," he says. "I'm proud to be able to lead a team that is effective and efficient and hope we can keep providing a fantastic service in the future."

The Operator of the Year Award is an acknowledgement of

an individual who has stood out in their field. It is open to all members of the Water Industry Operations Group in the water and wastewater treatment and reticulation fields.

Council's manager of water and wastewater Kevin Sears said Richard was committed and passionate about fostering a high performing team.

"He was part of the original design review team for the new water treatment plant and has been the lead person for commissioning, ongoing operation and maintenance of the plant," Mr Sears says.

He is currently finishing a Diploma in Water Management and is keen to expand his knowledge in his chosen field. As part of the award, Mr Kruse now has the chance to attend a water industry conference in Australia.



## Failing water main replaced

A water main that has burst four times in Taupō in recent weeks is being replaced ahead of schedule to ensure a steady water supply for residents and businesses.

The main runs along Lake Terrace and supplies properties from Rifle Range Road to Mere Road.

Frequent bursts in April saw some properties without water for a few hours while contractors worked to repair the damage.

We understand how important it is to our residents and businesses to have a constant, uninterrupted water supply as many rely on this service to go about their days and carry out their services.

Work has begun and is expected to take two months to complete. We hope to keep any disruption to a minimum.

## Wing your way to Wellington

Need to travel to Wellington and don't want to battle traffic for five hours? From June 2, you can fly with Sounds Air, which is now taking bookings on the Taupō to Wellington route.

Last month we entered into a six-year agreement with the Marlborough-based air operator to provide at least three return flights on each week day and two return flights on Saturdays and Sundays. This followed an announcement by Air New Zealand in November last year that it would stop offering the service from the end of April.

In return, we will guarantee an average of three seats for each flight. Given the passenger numbers supplied to us by Air New Zealand we are not expecting this will be called upon very often and there should be minimal risk. We will be reviewing passenger numbers regularly to make sure the arrangements are working for both us and Sounds Air.

Anyone wanting to book a flight can do so online at [www.soundsair.com](http://www.soundsair.com) or phone 0800 505 005.



## Survey on rural broadband

We are doing a survey on rural broadband and cell phone black spots in our district and we want you to take part! We are looking to register the district's interest in a Government-funded programme aimed at improving the country's connectivity. The Government has set aside funding to assist with expansions from the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI), Ultra Fast Broadband (UFB) and Mobile Black Spots Funds.

The Government wants us and other local authorities to help them work out where the funding is needed most. It will be split across three areas with \$100m to extend rural broadband, between \$152m and \$210m to extend ultra-fast broadband, and \$50m to address black spots in the mobile network.

We want you to complete a survey on broadband and cellular phone coverage across our district to help determine where our issues lie.

Access to improved broadband and mobile infrastructure can encourage business productivity across a range of local sectors and industries, improve health and education outcomes, enhance service delivery, and increase social connectivity.

Access the survey online at [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz) or grab a hard copy from any council office. The survey closes at 5pm on Wednesday, May 27.



Youth Week is back for 2015 with an exciting line up of events for our young people to enjoy around the district.

In Taupō, the band Raw Youth will perform at Advance Church on Sunday, May 31 from 6.30pm to 8pm and Youthtown is running 'Capture the Flag' competitions at Tauhara and Taupō-nui-ā-Tia colleges. Inspirational youth speaker Darrell Sabin is also giving talks at both colleges and at a community event at Waiora House at 6.30pm on Tuesday.

In Turangi, we're holding an X-box games night at 3.30pm on Thursday 28 May at Turangi Citizens Advice Bureau.

For our Mangakino youth, we're running a three-on-three basketball competition. It starts at 3.30pm on Thursday 28 May and will be in the town centre.

We are coordinating competitions at the Taupō, Turangi and Mangakino skate parks with spot prizes on Saturday 30 May.

All of the events are free and all our young people are welcome to come along! Get all the details from our website, [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz), or like Taupo District Council on Facebook to find out more.

## What's on

- Until 23 May Zirka Circus, Tongariro North Domain
- 23-31 May Youth Week
- 28 May Moscow Ballet la Classique - Sleeping Beauty, Great Lake Centre
- 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](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)

