



## Marlin goes home with help from microchip

*Thought about microchipping your dog but haven't got around to it yet? Here's a great story about how one chip helped reunite an owner with his companion, a whole two years after they were separated.*

In March 2013, Philip Read was out in the Pureora Forest with his two dogs when they went missing. One turned up a few days later, but apart from a sighting on Kakaho Road a day or so later 18-month-old Marlin had seemingly disappeared.

Mr Read searched for his "very missed family member and companion" for months, advertising a reward in pig hunting magazines and handing out flyers to no avail.

"We were looking for him for ages. We rang every pig hunting club in the North Island," Mr Read said.

In May this year, Mr Read got a phone call from our pound keeper Amanda Parish – Marlin had been found in Turangi. The microchip had allowed us to identify the owner as Mr Read.

"I just had to get [Amanda] to repeat it a couple of times so it sunk in," he said.

The pair were reunited and Marlin settled back into his old home in no time.

"He just ran straight around the back and hopped into his kennel, just like he'd never left," Mr Read said.

"He still comes to his name, it's like he's never been away."

Marlin still had "all his manners" so must have been taken care of while he was missing, Mr Read said.



The dog had already been out on a hunting trip, but was in need of a bit of practise.

"He's not as fit as he used to be, but he'll get there," Mr Read said.

By law all dogs, with the exception of working dogs, in New Zealand must be microchipped and it is a great way to ensure we know your pet belongs to you. If it turns up at the pound, we are able to immediately identify the owner. You can get your dog microchipped at Taupō pound for \$20 or by visiting your local vet. For more information on microchipping visit [www.taupo.govt.nz/microchipping](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/microchipping).

## Youth in Emergency Services graduate with flying colours

A group of 14 Taupō youth graduated from the Youth in Emergency Services (YES) programme last week with a whole host of new skills to take to the community.

YES is coordinated by the council and is a national initiative designed to teach young people about the services and strengthen their ties with the community. It is funded through the Ministry of Youth Development.

Over the last eight weeks the 14 teenagers aged between 16 and 19 were coached by St John, the New Zealand Fire Service, Coastguard, Land Search and Rescue, Red Cross and our Civil Defence and Rural Fire teams.

This year was the second year we had run the programme, with last year's pool of students chosen from Turangi and Mangakino.

Lake Taupō Christian School student Javan Rose said having completed the programme he felt he had gained skills he could use in real life.

Staff from the emergency services had helped him appreciate the work they do.

"It's really encouraging because they love what they're doing, they're passionate about it," he said.

Claudia Edhouse from Taupō-nui-ā-tia College said she appreciated that the emergency services opened their organisations up to youth.

"They showed us possible future choice we could make, career-wise and volunteer work," she said.

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.



## Free course for young drivers

Do you know a young driver aged between 16 and 19 years old who would benefit from learning some essential driving skills from qualified instructors?

Council is offering young drivers a chance to sharpen their driving skills and learn some new ones with the Driver Directions course next month.

Participants learn about parallel parking, reversing, traction management, braking and vehicle maintenance and other practical skills.

The course is held at Ricoh Taupō Motorsport Park from 9.30am to 3pm. This one day course will be held on July 7 and 8, so you can pick the day that suits you.

We are coordinating the programme collaboratively with Rotorua Lakes Council and police.

Participants attend with a parent or caregiver and learn skills that could save lives – and it's all free! For more information and to register visit [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz).



## More alfresco dining on the way for Tūwharetoa Street eatery

The vibe on Tūwharetoa Street will be picking up with an extension of dining area at Vine Eatery and Bar to include more of the outdoors.

At last month's council meeting, the restaurant and bar requested we allow it to expand its operation so it can have alfresco dining in the space immediately outside it. The area is currently two car parks which will be converted with a platform paid for and constructed by Vine Eatery. It would also pay the council an annual fee for the outdoor dining licence fee.

District parks and recreation manager John Ridd said the removal of two car parks on the street would have little impact on the amount of car parking but greatly benefit the look and feel of the street.

"This will help add vibrancy to a major dining street in our town centre and allow more patrons to eat outside to take advantage of our beautiful summer months," he said.

Councillors agreed to grant a three year term licence to occupy the site and construct a paved area over the two car parks for outdoor dining.

It is hoped the work on the platform will begin in the next six to eight weeks.

## Rates rebate – apply now

Are you eligible for a rates rebate for the 2014/15 year? If so, you have until the end of the month to get your application in.

Anyone on a low income is able to apply for a rates rebate, which is a subsidy to help with the cost of paying rates. The deadline for applications to be lodged with Taupō District Council is June 30, 2015.

Those earning under a certain threshold can qualify for a rate rebate of up to \$605 if they were living on the property as of July 1 2014. The amount of the rebate depends on the annual rates you pay and how many dependants you have – if any. A quick way for ratepayers to check their eligibility is to go to [www.ratesrebates.govt.nz](http://www.ratesrebates.govt.nz) and use the online rebate calculator.

For further information about the scheme, including a link to the application form, visit [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz) or one of our offices.



## What's on

- Until 15 Jun Active Arts Taupo, Celebrating 50 Years! Taupō Museum
- 20 Jun-2 Aug Te Hau - The Wind, Matariki exhibition and activities, Taupō Museum
- 20 Jun The Edge Indoor Rockwall Taupō climbing competition, 8.30am, Taupō Events Centre
- 21 Jun Go Tongariro River Shiver, Tongariro River
- 23 Jun Council meeting, 1pm, Council Chamber
- 7 or 8 Jul Driver Directions, Ricoh Taupō Motorsport Park
- 16 Jul Family Quiz Night - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Taupo Library

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)

