



Identification help at hand for liquor outlets

Working out the age of customers wanting to buy alcohol just got easier for Taupō District bars, restaurants, grocery stores and liquor stores with the introduction of a new age identification pad.

The new date pads are printed with the current date and the date a person must be born after in order to purchase alcohol. Each day the top layer of the pad is ripped off to keep the dates correct.

We have worked with Taupō Police and Toi Te Ora Public Health Service to produce and distribute the pads to all registered premises that serve alcohol.

Alcohol licensing inspector Grant Singer said the pads were a good way for the council to help those selling alcohol to determine the age of customers.

“During controlled purchase operations we found liquor outlet staff struggled to assess the age of minors, particularly when they were 17 years old. With these pads the required birth date is right there on the counter, so it’s very difficult to get it wrong when they are checking identification,” he says.

Taupō Police alcohol harm reduction officer Sergeant Chris Turnbull says a lot of people struggle to work out the ages of those purchasing alcohol. In the past during controlled purchase operations liquor outlet staff had checked the identification of 17 year olds trying to buy alcohol, and still sold it to them.

“It appears to be quite a big problem, people can’t work out the age from the date of birth,” he says. “These pads basically give staff working in licensed premises another tool to use in identifying those who are under the legal age to buy alcohol.”

In a controlled purchase operation last month, three liquor outlets failed and will face disciplinary action.



Mr Turnbull says in his role he had seen the effects of alcohol on young people and he wanted to prevent it.

“Any step the police, council and community can take to reduce harm being caused to young people by alcohol is a good thing,” he says.

Rainbow Point Store owner Sarah Saunders (pictured above) is a big fan of the pad and has been using it at her store since she received it. “You actually don’t have to calculate any dates, it’s just out there for you, already done,” she says. It was particularly beneficial for her junior staff, she says.

The pads have been funded by the Taupō Safe District Coalition.

Bright future ahead

Being elected for a second term as a councillor, I found myself in the minority. I am one of only three Councillors who have represented our district for more than three years. I mention this because the few of us who were party to the tough decisions made in the last triennium now have the pleasure of starting to see the benefits of making those tough calls come to light.



During my first three years as a councillor the rating base was changed, we became one district and all equals regardless of wards. We changed the direction of the ship in terms of its financial strategy and now we are about to start reaping the rewards.

This triennium it has been a pleasure to be part of a 10-Year Plan process that puts us in such good stead over the next decade. There is a much lower average rate rise compared to the past, and at the end of the plan a fund of money that can be used for community good without burdening ratepayers with further rates to fund these projects.

I personally feel very at ease and confident with the work Council has done, and is doing. We are open for business with a great team endeavouring to maintain if not exceed the current levels of service. As a council, we have backed our business community with securing return flights between Taupo and Wellington, and all of the good we have achieved we have done together without assistance from outside parties including our central government representation. We are backing ourselves and making good progress as a district that we can all be proud of.

A small group of our great district are the recent graduates of the Youth in Emergency Services (YES) programme. As the chair of the emergency management committee, I am delighted to see another group graduate from such a fantastic programme. This is again another great example of us as a community sticking together to build resilience and having each other’s backs.

We have so much to be grateful for in our district and so much to look forward too. One event I am truly looking forward to is celebrating the successes of local businesses at the Business Awards in August. I wish all those businesses involved the very best of luck and know through collaboration, support networks and sticking together we can keep moving in the right direction and achieve nothing but positive outcomes.

Councillor Anna Park • apark@taupo.govt.nz

Museum celebrates Matariki

Taupō Museum has a huge range of activities, performances, talks and workshops on offer to celebrate this year’s Matariki – the Māori New Year.

The theme this year is Te Hau – The Wind, and an exhibition featuring the work of 15 artists of Ngāti Tūwharetoa descent will be on display.

The programme will complement the exhibition and include plenty of activities for both children and adults.

These will include a:

- Kite making workshop
- Talk by Carol Reid about the Reid carvings
- Puppet show
- Māori wind instrument workshop
- Rongoā Māori talk (using native plants to make traditional Māori medicine)
- Storytelling about Māori myths and legends
- Hangi.

Te Hau – The Wind runs from June 20 to August 2 and the programme will run alongside it.

Taupō Museum would like to thank the Creative Communities Scheme for helping to fund the exhibition and programme.

Copies of the programme are available at the museum, Taupō Library and on our website www.taupo.govt.nz/museum.

Intersections closed to traffic next week

Three central Taupō intersections will be closed to traffic next week to allow resurfacing work to be carried out.

The affected intersections and dates for closure are:

- Heuheu and Titiraupenga streets, Monday 22 June
- Kaimanawa and Tamamutu streets, Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 June
- Spa and Tauhara roads, Monday 22 to Tuesday 23 June.

Detours will be in place for the duration of the closures.

The Taupō Connector bus will be affected by the work to the Heuheu/Titiraupenga streets intersection, with the bus stops on Heuheu Street outside the BP service station and Urban Retreat backpackers temporarily closed. Notices in the bus shelters and on the www.busit.co.nz website will advise travellers of the nearest available bus stop.

If the weather is bad, the closures will be delayed and an alternate date will be advised. To find out whether the closures will go ahead, or if you have any questions, call 07 376 0899 or 0800 ASK TDC.

The Council would like to thank Taupō residents and visitors for their patience while this important maintenance work is carried out.

Meanwhile, work is continuing on stabilising a section of Huka Falls Road that was subsiding.

The road is closed to traffic just north of the entrance to the Huka Falls car park up to the Loop Road and is expected to reopen later this month.

What's on

- 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

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

