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weekly



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL 24 JULY 2015

New rural fire force recruits learning the ropes

You won't find too many 16-year-old boys wanting to volunteer their time to help the community, but Leon Berry and Joe Morris are no ordinary teenagers.

The Tauhara College students are the Taupō Rural Fire Force's newest recruits and have spent the past four weeks learning about the volunteer organisation.

After passing three basic unit standards they will be able to join the Rural Fire Force team on call outs and start fighting fires.

Joe heard about the force when taking part in the Youth in Emergency Services programme earlier this year. He spoke to his friend Leon about it and the pair signed up together.

"We're looking forward to the experience, and the adrenaline," Joe says.

"We want to help protect the environment."

So far they have taken a few rides in the trucks and familiarised themselves with where various equipment is located. They are working hard on their first unit standard to progress quickly with training so they can soon be an official part of the team.

"I'm really interested to learn about fires and how to control them if they get out of hand," Leon says.

The pair are training with the rest of the Rural Fire Force fortnightly, and say they are not fazed that the average age of the volunteer firefighters is 44.

"They teach us what to do," Leon says.

They are also juggling their school studies but say finding time



Joe Morris (left) and Leon Berry are the Taupō Rural Fire Force's newest recruits.

for both will be a worthy challenge.

"This will give us a lot of skills and will be a great stepping stone for our future careers," Joe said.

"And it means we'll stay out of trouble!"

If you're interested in joining the Rural Fire Force, phone Rural Fire Manager Roger Nelson on 07 376 0690.

Moving forward together

Earlier this week a few councillors and I attended this year's annual Local Government New Zealand conference in Rotorua. This is the one time each year where all the Mayors, councillors and senior management staff get together all in one room to talk, listen and learn about where the sector is heading over the next 12 months.



The conference focused on leading the charge for our communities and incentivising economic growth. There were some great key speakers and I for one certainly support the direction in which local government is collectively heading in terms of adding value to our local districts, cities and regions.

One of the important things highlighted was the need to ensure a shared national approach to regional development and growth across New Zealand and the critical role transport infrastructure plays in that. Our Prime Minister John Key stood by the side of Local Government New Zealand President, Lawrence Yule to support the joined up thinking on "building our local economies" and the importance of councils' involvement.

When you consider nearly 40 per cent of New Zealand's total GDP is located in our regions, it makes sense to ensure they are looked after.

Another key area is around giving councils greater funding flexibility. We often come under fire about rates, so part of the future direction is looking at alternative ways things can be funded not just to reduce the pressure on rates bills but also to ensure that user pays criteria can be applied in the appropriate circumstances.

Local Government New Zealand has put forward 10 proposals to start a discussion with the Government about how to implement the best solutions. These are aimed at responding to the change we are seeing both economically and demographically as well as managing increased expectations from our communities and central Government. You can find out more at www.lgnz.govt.nz.

Enjoy the weekend. Don't forget to pop down to see the Emirates Melbourne Cup at Colonel Roberts Reserve on Roberts Street on Sunday. I'll see you there!

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

Learn some te Reo next week!

Cafés are signing up in their droves for Taupō District Café Wero (Café Challenge), and Friends café owner Chrissy Juno is wasting no time in getting her café into theme.

The challenge is a joint initiative between Taupō District Council and Towncentre Taupō designed to bring the district's cafés alive with colourful and creative designs around te Reo.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori or Māori Language Week runs from July 27 to August 2.

Ms Juno already has te Reo phrases dotted around the café, a big welcoming sign painted on her front window and Māori-themed serviettes at the ready. She said her staff were equally enthusiastic to share te Reo love.

"I believe it's a part of who we are and I like the idea of bringing it into our workplace. It is part of our ancestry, our heritage."

There are prizes for the café that uses the best and most creative te Reo in three categories: best consumer greeting, best blackboard work and best signature dish or drink. There is also a supreme award for the most outstanding effort.

Cafés can sign up for the challenge with Towncentre Taupō by emailing julie@towncentretaupo.co.nz.

See what you can do to get involved with Māori Language Week – there will be plenty to learn in our cafés this year!

Friends café owner Chrissy Juno and council's strategic relationships manager Dominic Bowden check out the new te Reo artwork at the café.



Emirates Melbourne Cup on show

The day has nearly arrived – the prestigious Emirates Melbourne Cup is coming to Taupō this weekend!

The trophy arrives on Sunday and will be on display for the public at Colonel Roberts Reserve on Roberts Street. You can get your photo with the 18 carat gold cup between 9am and 11am.

It will then head to the Hilton Lake Taupō for a ticketed event. Tickets are available from Annah Stretton and the Lake Taupō Hospice store, and all proceeds from this event will be donated to the hospice.

The arrival of the Emirates Melbourne Cup coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Taupo Racing Club this year.

Mayor David Trewavas hopes plenty of locals will turn out to see the trophy and enjoy it while it was here.

"We're very lucky to be one of only four Kiwi destinations on the cup's tour of New Zealand, Australia and Malaysia," he said.

"This is our chance to see the prestigious cup up close and I am sure it will not disappoint."

The other New Zealand towns and cities included on the tour are Cambridge, Auckland and Wellington.

What's on

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| Until 2 Aug | Te Hau - The Wind exhibition, Taupō Museum |
| 26 Jul | Emirates Melbourne Cup in Taupō, Colonel Roberts Reserve |
| 27 Jul-2 Aug | Te Wiki o te Maori (Māori Language Week) |
| 28 Jul | Council meeting, Council Chamber, Taupō |
| 1 Aug | Hoka One One Taupō Marathon, Taupō |
| 8 Aug | The Global Run – Team Taupō, Taupō Events Centre |
| 9 Aug | Greening Taupō Community Planting Day, Oruanui Road |

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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