



New fitness equipment for Spa Thermal Park

The community now has shiny new fitness equipment to use in Spa Thermal Park after the installation of three new pieces of equipment earlier this month.

The equipment includes a stationary bicycle, an overhead press and an abdominal work out and stretch bench, all of which can be used for free at any time of day.

Over the last few years we have had a number of requests for this type of equipment in our reserves through Long Term Plan and Annual Plan consultation processes.

We have put the new equipment in this month ahead of the removal of parts of an old wooden fitness trail that are no longer safe. This trail was installed 36 years ago by the Taupō Jaycees and much of it is in a state of disrepair. It is scheduled to be removed later this month.

Policy and operations group manager Gareth Green says the new equipment will be a great asset to Spa Thermal Park. It is located close to the children's playground where it can be easily seen and accessed from the car park. Future path upgrades are included in the Long Term Plan to improve access further.

"We hope the new equipment will benefit everyone who wants

to add something new to their fitness routine," he says.

"It's great we are able to have fitness equipment like this outdoors so it can be used in the sunshine and in a beautiful, natural space."



On the road to the future

One of my roles on Council is to represent the Taupō District on the Regional Land Transport Committee for Waikato. For the last 18 months this committee has worked on the region's land transport plan for 2015-18. This plan provides a firm foundation to drive transport development and investment over the next 10 years and beyond.



I see the work of this committee as incredibly important and wasn't slow in putting my hand up to advocate on behalf of our district.

The main role of NZTA is to prioritise projects to ensure an efficient and safe transport network. In the next three years, the New Zealand Transport Agency will be spending \$1.8 billion in the Waikato Region, including \$543 million on maintenance, \$53 million on public transport and \$7 million on cycling and walking initiatives.

While most of this investment will be spent in the northern part of the region in and around Hamilton, there will be benefits for the Taupō District too. From 2015 to 2018 the total investment in maintenance and renewals in the 10 Waikato council areas will total \$320 million.

A share of that comes to us to ensure our network is maintained and operated to deliver the right level of service. That includes funding for the Taupō District in the 2015/16 year toward a number of projects including seal extensions, the widening of Poihipi Road and a number of footpath and safety projects.

The work on some of the major routes such as the Waikato Expressway also means for some of us heading north, our journey time will be a lot less!

Being a councillor is a busy job and you get to carry out a wide variety of roles. As a fourth term councillor, not only have I been privileged to chair the Audit and Risk and Reserves, Roading, Fences and Dogs committees, I was also appointed to the role of Deputy Mayor and stand in for Mayor David when needed.

Being out and about in the community is one of my favourite aspects of the job. We live in a great community with a number of passionate people. Serving on the Upper Waikato Catchment Council, Creative Taupō, the Sports Advisory Council as the council's representative, I get to meet some great people who are doing great things. It certainly makes me feel proud to call this place home.

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Lane closure for Tongariro Bridge

There has been plenty of action going on around Tongariro Bridge and next week one lane will close for three nights to allow work to progress.

Our contractors have been busy laying new water and wastewater pipes alongside the bridge since the start of the month. The pipes run under the footpath on the northern side of the bridge on State Highway 1 just north of Turangi.

The north-bound lane will be shut from about 8pm to 6am overnight on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

When the north-bound lane is shut, contractors will be controlling the flow of traffic in alternate directions. We hope there will be only minor delays for motorists.

Speed restrictions will be in place during the work at all times, but contractors are mainly working on the bridge at night to minimise disruption.

During the day contractors are working at either end of the bridge away from the road.

The pipes are being replaced as they are old and starting to fail. The water pipe has burst several times recently and the wastewater pipe is nearing the end of its life. Fulton Hogan will be starting the work on Monday.

Pedestrians will be able to cross the bridge using a temporary footpath.

Taupō District recognised for safety efforts



The Taupō District has been recognised as a Safe Community for the second time.

Safe Community accreditation recognises that a city or district's organisations, council and social agencies are working together to build a safer place to live.

We were first accredited in 2010, and since then have been working with agencies in the Taupō District coalition to reduce harm and crime in our district.

We spent the day with the Taupō Safe District Coalition reviewing our application at Hirangi Marae in Turangi as part of the accreditation process. Coalition members included police, the fire service, ACC, the council, Lakes District Health Board, Toi Te Ora, Public Health Services, Taupō Violence Intervention Network, Tūhāretoa Māori Trust Board, Safe Turangi, Taupō Neighbourhood Support and other groups.

We then held a ceremony involving representatives from participating organisations and agencies in the Council Chamber for the signing of the agreement.

What now?

The next step for us is to talk to you about what you want to see change or improve around safety for the next five years.

- How do you feel about crime and injury prevention in our community?
- Is enough being done to minimise alcohol-related harm?
- How do you feel about our road safety?
- What are your safety concerns?
- Do you want to be part of Safe Communities projects or initiatives in your neighbourhood?

If we keep working together and collaborating to make the most of our strengths, we will be a safer community now and in the future.

To give your feedback, contact community projects officer Hellmuth Hartung on hhartung@taupo.govt.nz or phone 07 376 0606.

What's on

- Until 14 Sep Never a Week Goes By (WWI exhibition), Taupō Museum
- 25 Aug Council meeting, Council Chamber, Taupō
- 4 Sep Fink About It – The Laughing Samoans, Great Lake Centre
- 7 Sep Trustpower Community Awards, Great Lake Centre
- 21 Sep Royal New Zealand Navy Band – Inspiration, Great Lake Centre

For more information on Taupō District events visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com



Mayor David Trewavas, Dep Mayor Barry Hickling, Cr John Boddy, Cr Bernhard Chrustowski, Cr Rosie Harvey, Cr Rosanne Jollands, Cr Anna Park, Cr John Williamson, Cr Zane Cozens, Cr Maggie Stewart, Cr Kirsty Trueman