



Five years of decisions made live on camera

Do you remember when we first started live streaming our Council meetings? That was five years ago this week – time flies!

This week we changed our streaming service to a YouTube channel to make it even easier to watch all the action. This means you can watch the Council meeting from a tablet, laptop, smartphone or PC in real time.

We are also still providing all of our clips on-demand, and they can also be found on our YouTube channel.

The streaming service from the Council Chamber was first provided at the August Council meeting 2010. We were the first council to start live streaming council meetings and since then New Plymouth, Hamilton, Auckland and many more councils have followed suit.

Since we started live streaming we have had 19,000 views of our stream webpage, with the most popular video having been viewed over 500 times.

If you haven't checked it out already, visit our YouTube channel by searching Taupo District Council or visit www.taupo.govt.nz.



A spirit of cooperation

Since joining Council last year, I have enjoyed meeting many of you, as my duties have taken me from Mangakino to Turangi and to many other local communities. What has struck me most is the willingness and commitment of communities to take ownership of local issues and work together with Council in order to achieve a mutually beneficial and sustainable outcome.



Earlier this year, I had the fortune and privilege of accompanying our mayor and two Ngāti Tūwharetoa representatives on a trade and cultural mission to China. As one would expect, it is a country of vast complexities, history, traditions and endless opportunities for those willing to put in the time and effort in order to foster a meaningful working relationship.

To this end, I was delighted to be included in planning Taupō's first shipment of locally produced goods to China. The goal is to establish a boutique shop trading specifically in Taupō products in the city of Shaoxing.

Additionally, we were able to encourage a large contingent of Chinese business people to visit Taupō sometime next year with the view of further growing our trade export to China.

Furthermore, we should now take and explore the opportunity to trade on our environmental achievements, such as our lakes and waterways, which is a topic very dear to the Chinese people with their current pollution challenges.

It is my sincerest belief that in order to provide sustainable quality services to our communities we must have economic growth, which will not only provide job opportunities for young people but will ultimately contribute to our district's health and wellbeing.

I am proud of Council's recent upgrade by Standard and Poor's to AA, the highest rating any council can achieve. It reaffirms that our current financial strategy appears to be working and on track, which in turn should give us greater fiscal flexibility and breathing space.

Finally, tonight sees the celebratory gala dinner for the BNZ Great Lake Taupō Business Awards. To all who have participated, best of luck and please continue to provide the best possible service in order to ensure ongoing success. As we all know, a smile and helpful attitude incurs no cost but it can enhance your reputation.

Bernhard

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Get ready to SHAKE OUT



Sign up to shake out and learn skills that could save your life! The annual Civil Defence drill – Shake Out – is happening again at 9.15am on October 15 and it's a great way to prepare yourself and your business or workplace for a real life emergency.

Civil Defence emergency manager Ian Connon says everyone in the district – young and old – should know the right action to take before, during and after an earthquake.

"Shake Out is all about teaching people what to do so they have the best chance possible in an emergency," he says.

"We live on the shaky isles so this is a really appropriate exercise for us. The Taupō District has had plenty of minor shakes in recent months and the drill is something we can all learn from."

Shake Out is an international exercise that sees people around the world carrying out an earthquake drill. This year organisers are hoping to have 1.5 million Kiwis to sign up to take part, which would make it the biggest Shake Out per capita in the world.

When you sign yourself or your workplace up, organisers will send you information to help you take part in the drill, which will see people 'Drop, Cover and Hold'.

Visit www.shakeout.govt.nz for more information or to sign up.



Grants open for community projects

Applications are now open for community funding in the Mangakino/Pouakani and Turangi/Tongariro wards.

The grants are available for groups or organisations that provide one off events, projects or capital projects.

Applicants need to show how the proposed project or event will benefit the residents of the area and show how it aligns with the direction of our Long Term Plan.

The Mangakino Pouakani Representative Group distributes funding biannually and for this round it has \$18,500 of funding on offer.

A variety of groups and organisations have benefited from the grants in the past, including the Mangakino and Districts Senior Citizens, Waikato River Trails, Lakeland Powerboat Club, Pouakani Marae, Whakamaru School and more.

There is \$90,000 available in the Turangi/Tongariro community grant round. These funds are distributed annually so if you have a project or event planned for any time in the next 12 months, this is the time to apply.

Turangi organisations to benefit from funding in the past include Turangi Rangatahi Network, SeniorNet Turangi, Omori-Kuratau Charitable Trust, Bluelight and Whanganui Bay Marae.

To apply visit www.taupo.govt.nz or pick up an application form from any council office.

Applications close Monday, September 28 at 4pm.

More property data available online

Want to know the sales history or building condition of a property in the Taupō District or just check we have all the right information about your property?

You can now do it on our website thanks to some improvements we've made to our online rating information database.

The information we have included is all public information that was previously not readily available. We wanted to make the process simpler and give residents and ratepayers an easy way to check we have all the facts right about properties in our district.

This is a free, online service that we hope will provide a better customer experience and save time.

Visit eservices.taupo.govt.nz to use the new and improved database.

What's on

- Until 14 Sep Never a Week Goes By – WWI exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 14 Sep Welcome to my World – Dean Stebbing exhibition, Taupō Museum
- 29 Aug Harcourts Hound Day, Owen Delany Park
- 4 Sep Fink About It – The Laughing Samoans, Great Lake Centre

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

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to www.taupo.govt.nz

