



Accessing e-books online in Waitahanui



Te Kura o Waitahanui principal Maria Rahui knows getting to the library can be difficult for Waitahanui residents and school children – and that’s why she is so thrilled about the new e-book initiative Taupō Library has launched this month.

The initiative will see all students receive free e-book membership at the library, which means they can access books anytime from anywhere.

They are able to use the school’s iPads to use an app to find Taupō Library books and rent them out for three weeks at a time. There are no charges or late fees because when the three weeks has elapsed the books just disappear off the device.

For Ms Rahui’s students, this is a great new way to read and learn, and it fits with the school’s progressive technology focus.

“It’s much easier, it’s all there and it’s quicker to access,” she says. “We have to keep up with the digital technology and it’s easy because we’re small.”

The school roll currently sits at 16, with children from years one to six.

“They’re pretty savvy these kids, they’re really quick – they’re quicker than we are!” she says.

She says the e-book initiative is “absolutely fantastic” and she would love to see it expand beyond her school into other parts of the community.

Support your town – shop locally

As a business owner I have found myself being asked several times recently “why are there so many empty shops around town?”



There could be many responses to this query. Some may wonder if the landlords in our central business district are in tune with our retailers’ needs. In most cases I would say yes, I think they are. I know of many instances where building owners have gone above and beyond what is necessary to keep their tenants happy as they are astute enough to know there is a competitive market in Taupō.

The other answer lies with us as local shoppers. I speak regularly to retailers about sales and when I ask them how business is going many of them say “the weekends are great when the visitors hit town but during the week sales can be patchy as our locals don’t seem to support us as much as they used to”.

In my daily conversations with people around town I often hear shoppers proudly say how they bought an item on the internet and saved a bit of money. I think to myself, what does that mean to a retailer who can’t compete with that? They have to pay overheads and staff costs so the less we buy locally the more it impacts on our district’s economy. I believe the “empty building syndrome” answer lies partly with us really. The more we support our own retailers and buy what we can in the Taupō District the better off we will all be.

So before you place your next internet order I encourage you to stop and think about what that means to YOUR town. Please shop locally where you can and be proud of the wonderful shops we have, our visitors think they really are world class and they often come back for more!

Rosie

Cr Rosie Harvey • councillorharvey@taupo.govt.nz



Keeping Taupō District beautiful

Are you ready to clean up our district? It’s Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week from September 14-20 and we want to see as much litter taken off our streets as possible.

Our litter team is going to be focussing on Spa Park and the lakefront this year. The area will include Spa Thermal Park and the lakefront from the yacht club to Five Mile Bay.

You’re welcome to join us – we need all the help we can get. Meet us at front car park at Spa Thermal Park or the Two Mile Bay car park beside the toilets at 9am on Friday, September 18.

We are one of many organisations and groups taking part in a clean-up effort during Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week this year.

Others are holding events to clean up the Lions’ Walk, around Hilltop School, the Taupō lakefront area, the reserve area around Control Gates Hill and more.

District parks and reserves manager John Ridd hoped the community would get involved to improve our environment.

“Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week only happens once a year and is a great opportunity to make our towns sparkle,” he said. “Hopefully the community will get involved and make us proud of our district.”

Visit www.knzb.org.nz to find an event near you or create your own. If we all do our bit, the Taupō District will be looking fantastic in no time!

If your group or organisation has registered for a clean-up, we will provide you with free rubbish bags and gloves, and will dispose of the rubbish once you’re done. For more information contact us on 07 376 0899.



Come and say
hia ora!

Get to know your neighbours and come along to the Kia Ora Community Day at Pihanga Reserve.

The community-led family day is on Sunday from 10am to 3pm and there will be plenty going on including a bouncy castle, food stalls, Zumba, music and games for the kids.

The day is being led by the Tauhara Paetiki Neighbourhood Policing Team and supported by us as our first Our Neighbourhood event for the summer season. The theme of the day will be safety and emergency services will be on site to teach our kids a few things about how to keep safe.

This is also an opportunity to come and see the new and improved Pihanga Reserve. Earlier this year we installed a new children’s playground in the reserve which is proving to be very popular with the local community.

Kite wawe ia koe! See you soon!



What's on

- 13 Sep Kia Ora Community Day, Pihanga Reserve
- Until 14 Sep Never a Week Goes By – WWI exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 14 Sep Welcome to my World – Dean Stebbing exhibition, Taupō Museum
- 14-20 Sep Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week
- 17-18 Sep Tūwharetoa Taiopenga – Tūwharetoa kapa haka festival, Taupō Events 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



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