



Rockwall opening hours change

The Edge Rockwall at Taupō Events Centre is getting new hours to make it more accessible and increase its use.

The rockwall was earmarked for closure before consultation for the Long-term Plan earlier this year, but overwhelming support for its continuation prompted the Council to retain it.

The decision was met with plenty of celebration from our local rock climbing community and we are happy to keep it!

We have, however, recognised the need to change the hours to better suit those who use it. This will help us maximise patronage and minimise costs, so it's a win-win situation! See the new hours in the box to the side.

We are also extending the hours every school holidays to include the weekends,

when our hours of operation will be 1pm-9pm on Mondays and Thursdays, and 10am-5pm on all other days.

The new hours start on Monday and are subject to change depending on whether the stadium is booked for an event. You can check the latest timetable at www.taupo.govt.nz/rockwall.

Come down and enjoy this fantastic facility at a time that suits you!

New hours at The Edge Rockwall

Mon: 3.30pm-9pm

Tue/Wed: CLOSED

Thur: 3.30pm-9pm

Fri: 1pm-7pm

Sat/Sun: 10am-5pm



Looking to a bright future

Well here we are in October! It's hard to believe we are already two thirds through my first term as Mayor of our fabulous district. Time flies when there is plenty happening!



This week we adopted the 2014/15 Annual Report and for me it was a great time to reflect on how far we have come over the past two years.

When I stood for election I had a few key goals. One was to reduce debt, as that seemed to be a main focus for many. I also wanted to make sure we had a Council focussed on making decisions in the best interests of the district as well as encouraging economic development – more businesses, more jobs and more people. We certainly have succeeded even though we were faced with some tough calls. We knew we had to draw a line in the sand if we were to limit future rates. The Council before us had already done the ground work for creating a strong financial foundation and our goal was to complete the third year of the financial strategy so we were heading towards a balanced budget and no longer 'putting part of our loan interest on the credit card'. We came in just one percent short of balancing the budget which was four percent higher than what we expected to be with our underlying financial result \$3.5 million better than planned. Therefore to see a reduction from \$168 million gross debt to \$150 million was a fantastic achievement, especially given rates increases for this financial year were the lowest in a decade.

Looking forward, our focus will be on implementing the 2015-2025 Long-Term Plan in which we have seen our hard work pay off. Limiting rates increases to between two and three per cent, which is below the level of projected local government inflation we are required to budget for, has become a reality and one that we are incredibly proud of. The future looks incredibly bright.

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

Charter Parade in Taupō next weekend

Cadets and officers from the New Zealand Army will march down the streets of central Taupō next weekend for the 17th annual Charter Parade. The parade is on at 11am on Saturday, October 10, and reaffirms the army's historical links with the district.

The group will be in full dress uniform for the parade, which is always a colourful display.

The parade will travel along Heuheu, Ruapehu and Horomatangi streets and finish at the Great Lake Centre. It will be followed by a concert by the New Zealand Army Band outside the centre at about 1pm.

This is a great opportunity to see the army in their finest. Head into town and experience some military fanfare!



Restricted fire season kicks in

If you want to light an open fire in a rural area in the coming months, you now need to get a permit from us first.

The restricted fire season started in the Taupō District yesterday and will continue until further notice.

Our rural fire team uses the permits to monitor rural fires, which include outdoor pizza ovens and braziers.

Fire permits must be applied for at least 48 hours prior to the fire. Application forms are available from council offices on Lake Terrace, in Turangi and Mangakino or by contacting the council on 07 376 0899.

All applicants must sign the permit before it is issued. Be safe out there this summer!

Countdown to SHAKE OUT

There are 13 days to go until the nationwide Shake Out on Thursday, October 15 at 9.15am. A total of 75,000 people have registered in the Waikato to take part and of those, 3700 people have registered in the Taupō District. Are you one of them?

Go to www.shakeout.govt.nz to register.



What's on

- 3 Oct Jock Hobbs Memorial National Under 19 Tournament – finals, Owen Delany Park
- 10 Oct New Zealand Army Charter Parade, Taupō
- 15 Oct New Zealand Shakeout!
- Until 19 Oct Class Effort – schools exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 2 Nov Don Hill 2015 – oil painting exhibition, Taupō Museum

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

