



Taupō twist for new lakeside picnic tables

Fancy a nice spot for a bite to eat along the lakefront? Soon you'll be able to sit at Taupō-themed picnic tables, with the replacement of the old tables over the next few months.

The new tables are replacing the green steel tables, many of which are battered, bent and in a state of disrepair.

District parks and recreation manager John Ridd said the new tables were made of hard-wearing eucalyptus timber on a robust steel frame. The timber in the centre of the table was wrapped in stainless steel which has been etched with artwork that represents the district's landscape.

"We wanted something that will look great, require little maintenance, and that is cost-effective," Mr Ridd said.

Reputable Auckland-based business Street Furniture offered to come up with the design for us, having previously designed and produced our Taupō-specific rubbish bins.

We have been working with them to develop options for the last few months and they have now produced the first batch of 10 for us to install.

The tables will be put in along the lakefront and at Tongariro Domain where the old stage used to be. They will complement the new Great Lake Walkway, which contractors are currently working on.

Later this year new picnic tables will go in at Whareroa, Waitetoko and Five Mile Bay.



Great Lake Walkway work starts

Work on the concreting and widening of the Great Lake Walkway is progressing well, with contractors Fulton Hogan starting work last week.

The walkway stretches from the Lake Terrace water treatment plant to the yacht club on Ferry Road and is being refurbished to make it wheelchair- and buggy-friendly. The path will be widened from its current 1.4 metres to 2.5 metres.

The old path is not wide enough to accommodate the growing number of people using it and is starting to deteriorate.

Contractors have begun the work at the Ferry Road end. They will focus on the stretch that runs up to Reid's Carving then move to the water treatment plant end in late October. Work will pause to allow the Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge to take place in late November, and then resume for the project to be completed by the end of the year.



Two pools to close temporarily for maintenance

Two pools at our swimming complexes are closing temporarily to allow maintenance work to be carried out during the next few weeks.

The outdoor 25 metre lane pool at AC Baths will close on November 1 to be painted and is expected to be completed for reopening on November 16, weather permitting.

It is part of the pool's regular maintenance and usually

happens every four years or so, depending on the condition of the paint.

In Turangi, the aquatic centre is closing its 25 metre pool on Thursday next week for pump replacement work. The deep pool, toddlers' pool and learners' pool will all remain open.

We apologise to any regular users for the inconvenience.

ShakeOut drill a success

What were you doing yesterday at 9.15am? We were taking cover under our desks as part of ShakeOut!

The national annual Civil Defence drill saw over 5200 Taupō District residents taking part this year.

It was a chance to practise for a real emergency and an amazing 1.34 million people from around New Zealand registered to take part in the exercise.

Our district had more than 3200 school children and

teachers, 600 pre-schoolers, more than 500 from businesses and 100 from youth organisations.

Congratulations to everyone who took part – we hope you learned a thing or two!



Graffiato returns to paint the town

New Zealand's greatest street art festival is hitting Taupō again this Labour Weekend, so get into town and watch artists at work!

Alleyways and buildings around Taupō town centre will be painted by some of New Zealand's top street artists for the occasion.

Towncentre Taupō is managing the event and we are supporting it this year. We join Creative Communities, Destination Great Lake Taupō, local businesses, town centre retailers and landlords in helping out with the festival.

Mayor David Trewavas said Graffiato was something the community looked forward to each year and it always left a lasting impact.

"It's not just about watching these fantastic artists ply their trade on the

walls around town – it's about what's left behind," he said. "We end up with amazing murals and colourful artworks that last well beyond the weekend."

Mr Trewavas said the event always brought plenty of visitors into town to admire the artists at work, and they made the most of our cafes, retailers and hospitality.

"It's a great boost for our town on a weekend that we are always historically busy," he said.

There will also be an exhibition and sale of artists' work at the Storehouse Café on Runanga Street throughout the weekend.

Graffiato started in Taupō in 2011 and has since turned into an annual fixture, creating 90 artworks in the process.



What's on

- Until 19 Oct Class Effort – schools exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 2 Nov Don Hill 2015 – oil painting exhibition, Taupō Museum
- 17 Oct Football – WaiBoP v Hawkes Bay United, Crown Park
- 17 Oct Dave Upfold – comedy stage hypnotist, Great Lake Centre
- 24-26 Oct Graffiato, Taupō town centre

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

