



Community ambassadors ready to hit the streets

If you're wandering around Taupō looking a bit lost these holidays, help will be on hand.

Our community ambassadors will be out and about all summer making people feel welcome and showing them around.

The ambassador programme was introduced seven years ago when we realised a lot of our visitors – and locals – could benefit from us giving them directions, suggesting attractions and answering questions. We didn't want them wandering around lost or unable to find what they were looking for!

We always get great feedback about our ambassadors so we're pleased and proud to have them back again this year.

This year we have 13 community ambassadors confirmed, with a few more expected to sign up. It's a volunteer role that gives them a chance to get out and meet people in the community, lend a hand and enjoy the sunshine.

New ambassador Karen Cole used to volunteer for Riding for the Disabled Association but after she broke her leg earlier this year, she's been unable to return to it. The community ambassador role will allow her to keep volunteering, she says.

"Breaking the leg has slowed me down a lot," she said. "I hate sitting around and not doing things."

Needless to say, she didn't take too much convincing. She's

looking forward to getting out and meeting people, exercising and teaching people about the place she's lived in for over 30 years.

The ambassadors will be out in their bright blue shirts and straw hats from early January until early March next year.



The 2016 Community Ambassador team

Tongariro Domain jewel in crown

With another New Year fast approaching it's always nice to sit back and reflect on what it is that makes our district such a great place to live.

One of my favourite places is Tongariro Domain. It is the jewel at the heart of Taupō's central business district, and the Garden of Significance in the south domain is a treasure to behold. The north domain with the Great Lake Centre and large open green, and Riverside Park with the Amphitheatre and riverside walks, all connect the CBD to the boat harbour and is the perfect place to take a leisurely stroll.

Last weekend this area was transformed into an events village when our district hosted the Contact Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge. There were marquees, tents, bike carriers and bridges and all the infrastructure needed to make this event happen and it was a hive of activity.

I was so pleased that Council, a few years ago, listened to the calls from our community to protect the north domain as a green open space for the future of our town. Most weekends we see this area used for a variety of events, and it is seemingly able to accommodate anything and then quickly revert to the green open space enabling the town to breathe again until the next time.

I must take this opportunity to thank all the community groups and individuals who volunteered at the weekend, as well as for other events, for giving of their time in so many different ways to help events in our district run smoothly. I congratulate the Towncentre Taupō committee for the lights on the trees in the roundabouts, the recent Graffiato festival and the red bikes installed in town. It all helps make the town a vibrant and positive place.

As we hurtle down the road to Christmas and the silly season, I urge you to stay calm and try to relax! Above all else, have a wonderful time and stay safe.



Barry

Barry Hickling • bhickling@taupo.govt.nz

Intersection work nearly done



The upgrade of three intersections in Taupō's town centre is progressing well, with work expected to be finished by mid-December.

Work at the intersections of Gascoigne and Tamamutu streets and Ruapehu and Tamamutu streets is complete and work at the intersection of Tongariro and Tamamutu streets should be done by the end of next week.

The scheduled realigning of the medians to the crossing points at the Tongariro and Tamamutu streets intersection has begun. This will be followed by the other two later this month.

Tactile pavers for the visually impaired will be laid at all three intersections once the rest of the work has been finished.

It is hoped the project will improve visibility and safety and make the intersections more attractive and user-friendly.

The Council will consider approving the proposed location of a snowboarder sculpture commissioned and paid for by Towncentre Taupō at the December meeting on Tuesday.

Keeping the kids reading

Want to keep the young minds of our district active and learning throughout the holidays? Join them up to Taupō or Turangi libraries' summer reading programme, where they will be rewarded for their reading efforts and keep their brains going!

The free programme is for kids aged five to 13 and involves them reading library books and reporting back to receive incentives.

All children who have reported in at least four times during the programme can attend an awesome finale party at the end of the programme, where they will receive a certificate and book.

Kids can sign up for the programme between now and December 20, with the programme running from December 22 to January 22.

Grab an application form from Taupō Library or www.taupo.govt.nz/libraries, borrow some library books and get those kids reading!

Or for more information, contact Claire on 07 376 0413 or cgriffiths@taupo.govt.nz.



What's on

- Until 1 Feb Taupō Framed exhibition, Taupō Museum (opens tonight)
- 5 Dec Taupō Christmas Parade, Taupō lakefront
- 6 Dec Mangakino Christmas Parade, Mangakino town centre
- 6 Dec Kinloch Neighbourhood Christmas Party, 3.30pm-6.30pm, Kinloch Domain
- 6 Dec Acacia Bay Family Get Together, 4pm-6.30pm, Acacia Bay Community Hall
- 11 Dec Carols in the Park, 6.30pm-8pm, Tongariro North Domain
- 11 Dec Richmond Heights Healthy Living, 3pm-6pm, Waipahihi Sportsground

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

