



## WHAT A SUMMER!



She says the events and activities on offer had been a big drawcard to the town centre. The Biggest Little Circus made its debut in Taupō in January and was a huge hit.

"It was very well received – they're likely to come back next year," she says.

In Mangakino, families have been enjoying the lake with swimming, boating, kayaking and barbecues.

Mangakino Pouakani ward Councillor Kirsty Trueman said there was a huge turnout for the powerboating event earlier this month, and there were still plenty of crowds well into January.

"The lakes and Waikato River Trails keep drawing a lot of people to our area," she says. She said the two hour trail from Mangakino to Whakamaru was a great one for the kids to enjoy, and there were

plenty of great places to eat at each end.

"Avid skateboarders will be keen to check out our skate park," she says. "It's hugely popular among our local youth year-round."

In Turangi, retailers are reporting sales are up at the same heights as the booming years of 2005 and 2006. Turangi Tongariro Community Board chairman Tangonui Kingi said it had been a fantastic summer so far. "I have spoken to some of the retailers in town and most purchases are by visitors," he said. "There is definitely more foot traffic around town, which is great."

He said confidence was up for the positive economy to continue into this year. People were coming for the great outdoors, he said, including mountain biking, rafting, hiking and boating. "It's our little slice of paradise," Mr Kingi said.

There's still plenty of events to come this summer with the Taupō Summer Concert and Thunder on the Lake on this weekend, followed by Wanderlust and the Waitangi Day festival in February and the Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand in March. Check out [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com) for all the info.

## ALL SYSTEMS GO



What a start to the year we've had in the Taupō District – and it's only the beginning!

We are currently enjoying yet another fantastic summer and I've seen thousands out and about making the most of our beautiful corner of the world.

We're in for a busy year, with local body elections, plenty of projects on the go and of course, business as usual!

We have our first council meeting on Tuesday, and I'm sure my fellow councillors are as excited to get back in the swing of things as I am.

There are some fantastic projects in the pipeline this year, including a new playground at Acacia Bay's Besley Park.

We sought feedback on the playground late last year, and the overwhelming majority wanted a pirate ship theme, so that's what they are getting! Keep an eye out for construction work, which is due to start in March.

Mangakino's town centre upgrade is also likely to start in the next few months. The tender has closed and a working group out there is considering options. A new playground will be the central focus of the project and I know the people of Mangakino are looking forward to it!

Meanwhile, we hope to start the extension of the Great Lake Walkway at Wharewaka Point in the next few months.

This will involve creating a connection between where the Lions' Walk currently ends and the footpath starts in Department of Conservation reserve land at Five Mile Bay. The finer details of the project are still being worked out, but no doubt it will make a positive impact on those who use the path out that way.

There are also a number of other transport, stormwater and wastewater projects coming up, as well as consultation on our Annual Plan which starts in April. Phew! It's going to be quite a year.

For those still on holiday – enjoy your time off. For those heading to the summer concert, have fun and be safe!

Mayor David Trewavas • [dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz) • 07 376 0899

## Are you ready to ROCK, Taupō?



The Taupō Summer Concert is back for 2016 this weekend, and a group of legendary rockstars are here to blow away the crowds!

Huey Lewis and the News, REO Speedwagon and Melissa Etheridge are performing live at the Taupō Amphitheatre and up to 15,000 people are expected to attend.

The concert will be held tomorrow and a small number of tickets were still available from Ticketek or from Taupō i-SITE when this article went to print.



## Get along to our WAITANGI DAY CELEBRATIONS

Have you marked the date in your calendar yet?

Our Waitangi Day festival is back for 2016 and we want you to come along!

If you're in Turangi or Mangakino and want to come along on one of our free buses, don't forget to sign up as numbers are limited! Talk to the Customer Service team at Mangakino or Turangi's council offices for more information.

Waitangi – Taupō Moana 2016 will be held from noon to 5pm on Saturday, February 6 at Tongariro Domain.

For more information on the festival, see next week's edition!

## What's on?

- 29-31 Jan Demon Energy D1NZ Drifting Championship, Taupō Motorsport Park
- 30 Jan Taupō Summer Concert, Taupō Amphitheatre
- 31 Jan Taupō Thunder on the Lake, Lake Taupō
- 4-7 Feb Wanderlust, Wairakei Resort
- 6 Feb Waitangi Taupō Moana, Tongariro Domain
- 14 Feb Sovereign Tri Series Kinloch, Kinloch Domain
- 19 Feb Taupō Great Lake Relay, Lake Taupō

For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

Email your elected members at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)

