



CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY MEANS LESS MESS



New solar compacting rubbish bins in prime positions around the Lake Taupō waterfront are making a huge impact on managing litter in the district.

The innovative BigBelly bins are considered leading edge technology and have an increased capacity of 10 times our regular bins. They compact rubbish under the power of solar energy. When they are full, they wirelessly send a message to our rubbish contractors to let them know.

We have installed them at key locations from Waitahanui to Acacia Bay in places where lack of bin capacity caused problems during busy periods.

They were put in at the start of December to cope with the holiday rush and have made a significant impact during this time.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said the holiday period was an ideal time to test the bins. "Despite the huge volume of people in town, they've really reduced the amount of litter in town."

He said it had also taken pressure off the contractors at a time when traditionally there was an increase in work load.

There are just under 30 BigBelly bins in the Taupō District. Of these, 18 are being leased by the contractor at no cost to the council.

"The idea is to have fewer bins with better capacity," Mr Lewis said. "They're easy to fill up, they close which keeps the smell in, and they are cutting edge in terms of technology."

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



What an incredible summer we're enjoying! Tourists continue flocking to our district in record numbers and now spend more money here than our locals.

What I am most enthused about are the successes of our smaller communities. Just to name a few, Turangi now has its own Christmas in the Park and its Tūwharetoa Marae Sports Challenge, and Mangakino has its power boat regatta. All enjoyed a glorious season and are punching well above their weight, especially in terms of social investments.

As our district's economy is presently buoyant and continues to grow, we must ensure the policies and strategies that have brought us here are able to sustain continual managed growth for the future.

From a holistic perspective, it is now we must plan and continue to market ourselves for any possible eventual downturn in our economy, which as we all know is cyclic. By proactively seeking and working toward long-term initiatives now and preparing sustainable strategies, we should be able to minimise any potential economic slowdown.

It would also appear that we, like many other provincial districts, during times of growth suffer from a shortage of qualified tradespeople and professionals. We are seemingly unable to attract tradespeople and professionals from outside our district in sufficient numbers to sustain a prolonged growth period and more work is needed on that.

However, what is particularly pleasing to see are the plans and strategies we implemented after the Long-term Plan process last year are starting to show some positive outcomes. Of interest to the ratepayers will be the fact our draft projected average annual general rate increase for the 2016/2017 year is going to be significantly lower than the forecasted 2.4 per cent.

Additionally, our net debt position is also steadily improving.

On a different note, I would like to wish all our Ironkidz participants a fantastic time this weekend, and hope for calm waters for the Across the Lake swimmers and Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand competitors next week. I hope all of them attain their personal goals and make it safely across the finish line.

Lastly, if you have any issues that you wish to discuss or need assistance with, please feel free to contact me on councillorchrustowski@taupo.govt.nz or 027 836 4497.

Bernhard

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HEAVY MACHINERY MOVES IN FOR POIHIPI ROAD WIDENING

Diggers are out in force on Poihipi Road as contractors work to cut away rock to reconstruct and widen two sections of the road.

Work is taking place on a one kilometre stretch about 1.5km from the Taupō end of the road, and 500m about four kilometres up from Taupō and is expected to be finished by the end of April.

We are trying to keep delays to a minimum during the work but at times traffic is being reduced to one lane.

Council decided last year, as part of its Long-term Plan, to improve safety on a number of key cycle and heavy traffic routes, and this work is part of that.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said the work would make a positive difference.

"At the moment vehicles using this part of the road don't get a very smooth ride and there's not quite enough room for everyone," he said. "This work will improve the journey for not only motorists and trucks, but also the huge numbers of cyclists who travel this route."

When the work is finished, the sealed width of the road will be 10 metres wide instead of seven, creating a lot more room for all road users.

The contract has been let to roading company Inframax Limited for \$845,000.



TURTLE POOLS CLOSING TEMPORARILY FOR IMPROVEMENTS

The main pool at Turangi's Turtle Pools is getting a makeover, requiring the complex to close for 12 days.

The 25-metre pool is being repainted as part of its regular maintenance and work will begin tomorrow, with the draining of the water. The whole complex will be closed from Monday due to

noise, dust and work site hazards. The learners' pool, toddlers' pool and the deep pool will reopen on Saturday, March 12, but the main pool will remain closed until just before Easter.

The closure was planned for during the school term to minimise any disruption for pool users over the holidays.

What's on?

- Feb 26-28** New Zealand Open Kite Foil Championships, Two Mile Bay
- Feb 27** Across the Lake Swim, Acacia Bay South
- Feb 28** Wairakei Estate Ironkidz, Taupō Lakefront
- Mar 5** Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN, Taupō
- March 9** Waste-free parenting workshop with the Nappy Lady, Great Lake Centre
- Until Mar 7** The Hollings Show, art exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until Mar 14** Lyrical Waxing, batik 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



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