



KEEP OUR PLAYGROUNDS SMOKEFREE

There's nothing like getting outdoors with the kids and going on an adventure at some of our district's playgrounds – the fresh air is magic! So we think it's pretty important to keep the fresh air just that – fresh!



We support smokefree playgrounds in our district to make sure the air our kids are breathing is top quality! We all need to breathe and our kids don't have a choice what goes into their lungs so we need to do the right thing.

Recently we've been installing some new signs at our playgrounds to remind people to keep it clean.

The signs are up at playgrounds around the district in both Te Reo and English.

They were put up in response to submissions received during the Long-term Plan 2015-25 process.

Taupō mum Phillippa Higgins said she was really pleased to see the signs up and believed they sent the right message.

"They definitely need to be smokefree – it's setting the example for kids," she said.

"I think if they want to do it, they can do it away from everybody else – away from kids and away from non-smokers as well."

Her boys Eli and Nathaniel have a great time on the play equipment at Spa Thermal Park in the smokefree environment.

Another Taupō mum, Vanessa White, said smokefree playgrounds also helped keep them clean as it stopped littering with cigarette butts. "Plus it's fresh air for the kids," she said.

We want to make sure our playgrounds are great environments for kids, so we encourage the community to help out and keep it fresh!

Pictured: Taupō brothers Nathaniel (L) and Eli Higgins (R) enjoy the smokefree Spa Thermal Park playground.

KEEPING CONNECTED



We at Council have been busy preparing the Annual Plan and I'm looking forward to reading all of the submissions we have received. If you haven't put yours in yet get in quick as they close at 5pm tonight.

It was great to see so many tourists have been visiting our district over the past few months and retail spending has been high. It all helps to keep our local economy ticking over. On going for a drive around the district, I was very impressed with how we are looking thanks to the hard work of our staff and their dedication to keeping our district looking superb.

Crime is always something we need to keep on top of and I am pleased we have our boys in blue looking after us. However they do need our help as citizens to keep our district a safe place to live and play so if you see anything strange or out of the ordinary please speak out and let them know, by being proactive we can all be part of the solution.

I am proud to be part of a new partnership that has been formed between Ngati Turangitukua and the Council to oversee the creation of a Turangi reserve management plan. I will be joined by Deputy Mayor Barry Hickling and Turangi Community Board member Wally van der Aa as well as three hapu representatives to move development of the plan forward. By working together we can create a plan that combines everyone's best interest so it is an exciting development.

Election time is nearly upon us and I have enjoyed my first three years representing my community on Council. If you are thinking of standing for Council or the community board and you would like to have a chat about what you could expect please give me or one of the other councillors or board members a call, we would be happy to answer your questions.

Finally, I would like to say farewell to Rob Williams who left us last week and thank him for the way he fulfilled the role of chief executive. I have had a good working relationship with Rob and Mayor David building a stronger relationship between council and the southern end of the lake. Good luck for the future, Rob. I wish you well.

Maggie

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DOGS ONLINE MAKES REGISTRATION EASY

If you would rather spend time with your dog than fill out forms about them – we have the solution for you!

You can register, pay and manage your dog registration online through our website.

All you have to do is visit www.taupo.govt.nz and set up your account. With this, you can register online when the time comes, because we will already have all your details. Simple!

To set up your account, you just need your customer number and dog owner number. If you don't have them, give our Customer Service team a call and we can give them to you.

We introduced these changes last year and already hundreds of people have signed up to make registering their dog easier.

All dogs need to be registered by July 1. Dogs that are not registered may earn their owner an infringement fee of \$300, so it's a good idea to get organised now. Then when you receive your applications you'll be ready to go!

If you are having trouble paying the registration fee, give us a call and we may be able to help with a payment plan.



BEWARE OF DISTRACTIONS ON THE ROAD

Does your mobile phone beep at you while you're driving? Do you forget to sort out the music before you set off?

These are some of the things we need to avoid when we're driving – they're major distractions!

This month our road safety focus is on distractions because we want drivers to be aware of how they can affect concentration.

Distracted drivers were involved in 10 fatal crashes in the Taupō District from 2011 to 2015.

Along with mobile phones and car stereos, drivers are easily distracted by conversations, reaching for objects, fiddling with GPS systems, eating and drinking, smoking, applying make up and shaving. Who knew we let ourselves get so distracted in the car!

It's important to focus on the road and keep ourselves, and other motorists, safe.



Eyes and mind on the road.



What's on?

- May 6-7** North Island Masters' Swimming Championships, AC Baths
- May 7 – June 7** Enclose, Enfold, Envelop Fibres Unlimited exhibition, Taupō Museum
- 14 May** Regional climbing competition, Edge Rockwall, Taupō Events Centre

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

