



LOOKING AFTER THE PLACE
we love

SWIM TEACHER HONOURED WITH TOP AWARD

Ask AC Baths head swim instructor Robyn Schwass what she loves about teaching swimming and her answer is simple – “Where do I start?”

It's this love of the job that has helped the coordinator of the Contact Swimwell programme and teacher of 25 years gain the highest accolade a swim teacher can aspire to in New Zealand – the Nan Nevin Award for an outstanding contribution to teaching swimming and water safety.

She was named the winner at the annual New Zealand Swim Teachers and Coaches Conference in Rotorua this month alongside her peers and a contingent of supporters from the AC Baths. She said it was an experience she would not forget in a hurry.

“It was the most surreal feeling I've ever had,” she said. “I couldn't even tell you what I said in my speech. It was pretty awesome. And it didn't stop on the night – the next day people were coming up and congratulating me.”

Ms Schwass started out teaching swimming as a volunteer after moving from Hawera to Taupō and finding she could not enrol her children in the swim school because there were not enough teachers. For the last six years, she has run the Contact Swimwell programme and teaches everyone from babies to children, adults and special needs students.

She said her love for the job means it doesn't feel like a job at all.

“It's the thrill of seeing someone achieve – whether it's a tiny wee thing, or a big thing,” she said. “It's that love of water, to get in the water and have fun.”

She said it is a joy to work at an amazing facility like the AC Baths and plans to continue teaching the Taupō District community for years to come.

Pools and activities operations manager Nigel Newbery said Ms Schwass is a credit to the team at the AC Baths.

“We're incredibly proud of all Robyn has achieved,” he said. “She has an amazing knack for developing lessons to accommodate all styles of learning, and then evolving those lessons as her students grow. She has a wealth of knowledge that she shares with all the swim teachers and that's invaluable.”

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE POLICIES

Our policy team is always looking toward the future – how the district will grow and developing the best plan to make it happen. For our policy advisors, it's all about looking after the place we love.

Policy manager Nick Carroll says the team provides specialist advice to the Mayor and councillors so they can make informed decisions on behalf of the community. But they don't do it alone – they work with other teams to ensure they're presenting quality information and outlining all the different options.

“Our key role is as facilitators – we work really closely with experts from other departments around the council and any policy adopted reflects that expertise,” Nick says.

Outside of our own council, the policy team also works with regional and national organisations such as Waikato Regional Council, city and district councils, Local Government New Zealand and the Crown.

“Collaborating with other agencies is about achieving mutual benefits and learning from each other,” he says.

They also consult with the community on all the big issues. “Consultation is a massive part of our role – we don't develop policy without first talking to the people who might be affected,” he says.

They also help set the Long-term Plan for the district, help plan the ongoing development and use of reserves and coordinate the development of bylaws and maintain the Taupō District Plan, which



Policy Manager Nick Carroll (left) and Policy Advisor Hadley Tattle

describes how people can use their land.

“Policy development sits at the heart of local democracy,” Nick says. “One of the core functions of local government is to reflect the values and desires of the community in every decision made.”

Nick says along with freedom camping, the team is currently working on changes to the District Plan to incorporate new flood information for the lake and its major tributaries. They are also reviewing Taupō District 2050, our district-wide growth management strategy, and advocating on a wide range of changes being proposed at a regional and national level.

WINTER MAINTENANCE WORK AT POPULAR REID'S FARM

Reid's Farm will close to campers for the winter season from June 20, to allow some remedial works.

Councillors this week decided to close the site for camping until September 30 to be consistent with its current management plan.

There have been no closures over recent years but as the site was under increased pressure from freedom campers over summer, some maintenance work is now required.

People will still be able to access the reserve during the day but no overnight camping will be allowed.

A comprehensive review of the Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan will be undertaken to reflect changing uses of the area. Initial feedback will be sought from the community at the start of the process with another opportunity for people to give feedback once a draft has been prepared.

AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY



Being a district councillor over the last three years has helped me develop a much better awareness of policies, plans and processes pertaining to Local Government and how they impact on our communities. On a personal level, it has been very rewarding engaging with people, listening to and appreciating constructive feedback.

The council encourages the community to engage in dialogue on issues, whether through individual councillors or by submitting on the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan. I look forward to deliberating on the current plan on Tuesday with fellow councillors.

Last week I attended Taupō-nui-a-tia College's musical production, High School Musical 2, an extremely entertaining and polished show. It was a real credit to the producers, teachers and talented students with about 120 people involved. Not forgetting the orchestra consisting of members of the Great Lake Big Band, a very professional group of musicians who generously contribute.

Another community organisation doing great things is Lake Taupō Rotary. For many years it has held a Pride of Workmanship and Community Services Awards evening, which acknowledges members of our community giving extraordinary customer service and to those who give voluntary contributions to groups in our town. On Monday night they awarded a Paul Harris Fellow to Megan George for her tireless service to the foodbank. This is the Rotary's highest award for community service and a huge achievement. Gordon Loague, Glen Corney and Kieran Englebretsen were recognised with the Pride of Workmanship Award and Neil and Marnie Ladbrook were also recognised for their service to the community.

Another great example of community is the Waitahanui Rangatahi Council, which is doing great things with a wide range of activities and initiatives under the stewardship of Janice Wall and her team. On Friday night they celebrated Youth Week at the Waitahanui Community Hall with a fantastic hip hop dance off. I encourage people to go along to Taupō Museum in June, as two great exhibitions are on display. Ka U Ki Matanuku is artwork by students and professional artists of Tūwharetoa descent reflecting our local people and environment. The second one, Tamariki Toi, is an exhibition by Taupō District children.

I'm also looking forward to the Taupō Winter Festival next month, with plenty of family entertainment, shows and exhibitions. This would not be happening if not for One Taupō Charitable Trust and astonishing support from sponsors and partners. Make sure you get out there and support the event.

Have a safe and enjoyable Queen's Birthday Weekend.

John
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What's on?

- 3-6 June** Taupō Art Trail, Taupō
- 4 June** Greening Taupō Community Planting Day, Huka Falls
- 10 June** Avalanche City: The Little Fire Tour, Great Lake Centre
- Until 7 June** Enclose, Enfold, Envelop, exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until June 13** Mua Ki Muri – Looking Back to the Future 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



Mayor David Trewavas, Dep Mayor Barry Hickling, Cr John Boddy, Cr Bernhard Chrustowski, Cr Rosie Harvey, Cr Rosanne Jollands, Cr Anna Park, Cr John Williamson, Cr Zane Cozens, Cr Maggie Stewart, Cr Kirsty Trueman