



AC BATHS SWIM COACH WINS TOP AWARD

Ask Taupō Swimming Club head coach Peter McCallum what he likes about coaching and he hardly knows where to start.

"I love my job, I go to work every morning with a smile," he said. "It's such a varied role – there are emotions, nutrition, the physical aspect. It's a good place to work, and I work with good people."

The head coach at the AC Baths has just been announced coach of the year at the Taupō Sports Awards and received the award last week.

He has worked at the AC Baths for the past 16 years after previously working as an alpine ski coach and a school teacher.

"I do like the competitive aspect," he said. "It's about helping kids grow to fulfil their potential."

However he is quick to forward praise to the others in his team and beyond.

"It's a whole team effort at the pool – I'm not the only coach, I'm just the head coach. You've also got the AC Baths Swim School raising our young swimmers, staff, parents, the kids themselves and the whole swimming community."



The team has had regional and national success and there were several young swimmers on the New Zealand team this year, he said.

"We start at 6am and then go again after school, and are away a lot of weekends for swim meets, but it's all worth it."

The Taupō Sports Awards were held last Friday at the Great Lake Centre and recognised the district's top athletes, coaches, support staff and teams for 2016.

A TIMELY REMINDER



It has certainly been a sobering week.

It seems like only yesterday we saw Christchurch devastated by two major earthquakes and now we have seen it happen again, this time in Kaikoura.

Many of us in the Taupō District felt the effects of the 7.5 magnitude quake when it struck North Canterbury shortly after midnight on Monday. In fact, it was felt almost the length and breadth of the country with varying degrees of severity.

Amid the chaos, Wellington's central business district ground to a halt following concerns buildings had been structurally compromised. While life has returned to normal for the majority of Wellingtonians, it will certainly be some time before the same can be said about Kaikoura and its surrounding districts. Our heartfelt sympathies must go to the families of the two people who lost their lives and the many families whose lives have been disrupted at the hand of nature.

Dozens of aftershocks have continued to be felt and, in a cruel twist of fate, the same regions have now been hit with flooding and heavy winds. The focus has now moved into recovery mode to help the affected districts back on their feet. The call has gone out to councils around New Zealand to offer assistance in some specialist areas and we will certainly be putting our hand up to help out where we can.

Meanwhile, back here at home the quakes and subsequent floods have been a stark reminder that we too need to be prepared. An emergency can happen at any time. Our Civil Defence emergency manager has been working with a number of communities developing resilience plans so, if the worst is to happen, we will be ready to get through.

Having a household emergency plan and a survival kit ready to go are two of the easiest ways of being prepared. If you haven't already, download the Red Cross Hazards app if you have a mobile device. This is being promoted nationally by Civil Defence and will give you lots of tips for preparedness as well as alert you to events and emerging risks.

Even the simplest of things like knowing your neighbours can play a big part in us becoming more resilient as community. It is, after all, family, friends and neighbours that we all rely on for support in tough times.

We can always hope a major disaster never hits here but let's make sure we're all prepared for if one does.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Mayor David Trewavas » dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

What's on?

- 25 Nov Criterium – Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, Taupō
- 26 Nov Playday on Track, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 26 Nov Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, Taupō
- 26 Nov Huka MTB – Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, Taupō
- 27 Nov Taupō Croquet Club 40th Anniversary, Colonel Roberts Reserve and Taupō Croquet Club
- Until Dec 12 Re-cycle art exhibition, Taupō Museum

For more information on Taupō District events visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com

LEARN HOW TO RECYCLE YOUR FOOD AND GREEN WASTE



Do you want to minimise green waste and save money? We are holding a series of free composting workshops in partnership with Taupō Community Gardens to show you how.

The workshops show people the simple process that helps out the environment by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and has the added bonus of producing fertiliser for the garden.

The next workshop is at **2pm on Saturday, November 26**, at the Taupō Community Gardens near the Waipahihi sportsground on Richmond Avenue.

The team at the gardens grow fresh

produce for the local food bank and also support sustainable living and waste minimisation. Their large composting operation incorporates traditional composters and worm farms.

Spaces for all workshops are limited, so register at www.taupo.govt.nz/composting or by phoning us on 07 376 0899.

Workshops will be held on the last Saturday of every month except in December, and a full schedule of workshops is on our website. All those who register and go along to the workshops go into the draw to win a composter.

NEED A HOME COMPOSTER?
Discount vouchers for a range of composters are available at our offices. Check out our website for details.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON FREEDOM CAMPING

Do you want to have your say on areas in our district where freedom camping may take place in the future?

We're asking for feedback on a number of proposed areas before we draft a freedom camping bylaw for our district.

Freedom camping is allowed in all parts of New Zealand, but a bylaw works to dictate where people can camp, and

how long they're allowed to stay in each area for.

Policy manager Nick Carroll said feedback on the proposed areas is the first stage in the bylaw consultation process.

"We're seeking feedback on these and any other areas people might like to see used for freedom camping," he said.

"Once the draft is prepared, the community will be able to make formal submissions between 16 January and 17 March 2017."

To have your say on the proposed sites, visit taupo.govt.nz and fill out the short survey or email your thoughts to freedomcamping@taupo.govt.nz by 5pm on Friday, 25 November.