



PLAYGROUND PROGRESS FOR OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

If you're looking forward to some time out with the kids this summer, we've got some great news!

We're making some improvements to a few playgrounds around Taupō over the coming months.

In Waitahanui we're adding to the playground on Tutemohuta Reserve with a new slide and a footpath to make the park more accessible. We're also giving the basketball court, seating and table an upgrade.

At Pihanga Reserve, plans are underway to develop the next stage of a project to create a community playground area. Coordinated by the Tauhara Community Support

Initiative, the playground is being developed in stages and constructed as funding allows. The first stage was funded by council in 2015 and consisted of some playground equipment, footpaths and foundations to lay a base for the project.

The next stage is around planting and a small adventure play area that a group of children from Mountview School are currently designing a concept plan for.

We are always working to improve our playgrounds and hope these upgrades will be enjoyed by parents and children alike.

All of the work is scheduled to be carried out over summer, and we're looking forward to seeing the finished products!

MAYOR CONGRATULATES ITO GRADUATES



The achievements of our district's industry training graduates were celebrated at a special graduation ceremony recently where 65 students were acknowledged.

The graduation was run by the Mayors' Taskforce For Jobs, a nationwide network of New Zealand's mayors who have the same goal - that all young people under 25 are engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other positive activity within their communities.

But it wasn't just young people who were being recognised. Graduates were of all ages, with varying levels of experience in their industries.

Mayor David Trewavas said the graduation ceremonies are held every year to recognise the achievements of graduates who have completed a National Certificate qualification with an Industry Training Organisation.

"It provides an opportunity for graduates to celebrate their success with their families and friends and is also a chance to thank local employers for their ongoing commitment."

Mr Trewavas said there are many opportunities for people of all ages in the Taupō District to engage in training and upskill while in full employment.

"We've got some great employers within our district who are more than happy to support their employees to gain more skills and experience.

"All those within our community who are upskilling are adding to our knowledge base and making a contribution to our growing local economy, which is great for our whole district."

SAFE DRIVING OVER SUMMER

We all know what summer means here in the Taupō District - warmer weather, lots of visitors, swims in the lake and a buzzing vibe around our district. But it also means more cars on our roads over the coming months.

We're teaming up with the police this summer to raise awareness about the risk of speed and to share the message that not all roads are created equal.

Police will be out and about over the summer period using speed detection equipment including radars and lasers. As well as this, council's speed indication devices will continue to be used around our district's roads in urban areas where speeding is an issue.

Our road safety coordinator Dianna Harrison is urging people to slow down and drive to the conditions during the busy period.

"We often have little control over roads, the weather, or other people. But motorists can drive to the correct speed for the road and the conditions to minimise risks.

"While the roads in our district can be scenic and enjoyable to drive they can also be dangerous and unforgiving. It may be warm and sunny for most of summer but conditions can change quickly with heavy traffic, road works and summer rain all making driving more difficult at times."

Taupō area road policing manager Senior Sergeant Fane Troy also encouraged motorists to take it easy over summer.



"Police are all too often called to serious and fatal crashes caused by drivers travelling too fast for the road or weather conditions. Remember that the speed limit is just that, a limit, and there is no reason to exceed the posted speed."

For more information about road safety and to pick up some helpful driving tips, visit www.taupo.govt.nz/roadsafety.

» What's on?

- From 1 Dec Summer Reading Programme, Taupō District Libraries
- 10 Dec Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN 70.3, Lake Taupō
- Until 12 Dec Re-cycle art exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 12 Dec Celebrating 40 Years of the Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, Taupō Museum
- 15 Dec Christmas Carols in the Library, Taupō Library
- 16-17 Dec Christmas in the Park Turangi, Tongariro Area School

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

