



HILDE AND TEAM CELEBRATE FIVE MILLIONTH SUPERLOO VISITOR



Superloo staff Hilde Davis and Patricia Cabiling

It's no surprise that team leader Hilde Davis feels a lot of pride in her job at the Superloo – she has worked there for nearly 20 years.

"I'm very protective of this place. It's like my baby and the team here are like a close knit family looking after it."

With 24,000 visitors in January, 2000 of these using the shower facilities, you would think the team would be a due break but according to Hilde that's not the case.

"It doesn't stop being busy. There is always something going on in Taupō with all the events, activities and concerts. There are always people passing through."

As well as sparklingly clean toilets, the facility includes showers, hairdryers, towel and locker hire and a baby changing and feeding area with a kitchenette. They also sell soap, shampoo and children's nappies. With attendants on at all times to clean up any messes, it's no surprise that it is so popular with camper van users, backpackers, locals and people passing through Taupō on long journeys.

"We work hard to make sure it is always clean for visitors. People don't mind paying because they know it is going to be clean. People always thank us for keeping the facilities so well.

That makes you go that extra mile."

Hilde's job isn't just about cleaning though – the team also act as tourist guides, plumbers and sometimes even medical professionals. "Children call in after having falls or accidents in the park on Tongariro Domain, so we have to act as nurses too."

The award-winning Superloo has had some famous visitors over the years too. Visitors have included Jonah Lomu, Peter Williams, the Topp Twins and one half of the Olsen twins, Mary-Kate Olsen. "I nearly keeled over. She looks so tiny on television. In real life she's even smaller. She was really nice and quite happy to pay her entry fee."

The best part of the job for Hilde is the people. "I love working with people. With this job, I get to meet so many interesting people from all over the world. That's the biggest reward for me."



FIVE MILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

At Taupō District Council we take pride in looking after the place we love. So naturally when we heard that our Superloo had its five millionth visitor this summer, we figured it was time to celebrate. Go on to our Facebook page, like us, guess the day it happened and tell us what you love about the Taupō District. If your day matches ours, you will go in the draw to win a night for two at The Hilton Lake Taupo, a \$100 dinner voucher and a bunch of flowers. Some things are worth celebrating!

FULL STEAM INTO 2016

Well, here we are full steam ahead into another year and if the beginning of 2016 is any indication, it is going to be one to remember!



This year we have had an outstanding summer. It has been amazing watching the thousands of visitors flow in and out of the district, enjoying everything we have to offer. Accommodating so many visitors is no easy feat, and I must acknowledge the council and emergency services staff who worked hard to keep things ticking over while the rest of us were enjoying some well-earned rest and relaxation. Your efforts truly are appreciated.

All good things must come to an end however and now the majority of us are back into business as usual. For us councillors, the year starts with preparing the Annual Plan. Things will be a little different this year, as it is the first year we are not legally required to consult on our intentions for the next 12 months unless we are proposing significant change from what we outlined in year two of the Long-term Plan. From what we have considered to date, it doesn't seem like there will be too much change on the project front but we are hoping to deliver an even lower rates increase than what was first signalled, and I know that will be welcomed! We plan to share the outcomes of our deliberations with you in March so watch this space.

It won't be long after finalising the Annual Plan that we will be heading into local body elections. While October seems a long way off I am sure it will be here before we know it! Before then though there is still lots on the event front to enjoy. This Sunday is the Kinloch Tri Series, next weekend is the Great Lake Relay, and then the following weekend is the Across the Lake swim. The first weekend in March is Ironman, back again for its 18th year in Taupō. To everyone competing in these events, the very best of luck. I know our community will be cheering you on!

Barry

Barry Hickling • bhickling@taupo.govt.nz

TAUPŌ COMMUNITY GETS BIKE WISE



More than 140 keen cyclists got into the spirit of Bike Wise month with a bike ride on the lakefront on Wednesday.

The group converged on the Lake Terrace water treatment plant platform at 7am for a free breakfast and group ride down the Lions' Walk.

Mayor David Trewavas and chief executive Rob Williams led the charge, and were impressed with the large number of enthusiastic cyclists in the community.

"It's fantastic to see everyone come out to give cycling some visibility and celebrate one of the things that our district is known for," Mr Trewavas said.

"We have an amazing backdrop here and riding a bike is a great way to really take in the scenery and appreciate what

we have here."

Bike Taupō helped out with the event, with an obstacle course set up in the car park opposite Kaimanawa Reserve. Many taking part tackled the course and attracted plenty of attention from passers-by.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said it was important for cyclists to be seen using the roads and cycleways to increase awareness in the district.

"If motorists don't see cyclists, they won't know to look out for them," he said. "It's an important element of road safety for our cyclists to get out there and fly the flag."

February is Bike Wise month and this week's ride was one of hundreds of events taking place nationwide.

What's on?

- 13 Feb** Huka Xtreme River Swim, Waikato River, Taupō
- 14 Feb** Sovereign Tri Series Kinloch, Kinloch Domain
- 20 Feb** Taupō Great Lake Relay, Lake Taupō
- 21 Feb** Nature's Fresh Simple Sunday Fun Day, Riverside Park, 11am-3pm
- 24 Feb** Council Catch Up – coffee with the mayor, Splashes Cafe, AC Baths, 9.30-10.30am
- 24 Feb** Blues vs Hurricanes Under 20s, Owen Delany Park, 1.30pm
- Until 14 Mar** Lyrical Waxing – batik exhibition by Ann Hay, 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