



WATER TREATMENT STAFF RECOGNISED NATIONALLY

Our water teams can rest assured they have a strong leader to look up to after their manager was recognised for his mentoring this month.

Council's water and wastewater manager Kevin Sears was named New Zealand's Mentor of the Year by the Water Industry Operations Group (WIOG).

The organisation is a committed group of water and wastewater operations professionals from around the country which provides members opportunities to enhance their knowledge and experience while offering support.

Kevin was presented the award at the WIOG conference in Queenstown last week, where his outstanding commitment to training and encouragement of those taking part in training was acknowledged. He received a trip to the upcoming Water Industry Operations Association of Australia Victorian conference in Bendigo, which includes a study tour.

The nomination of Kevin for the prestigious award was made by our water treatment supervisor Rich Kruse, who also had reason to celebrate. Rich was officially elected to the WIOG committee, made up of leaders in the industry who influence their peers for continual excellence.

Rich said Kevin was a true mentor and deserved recognition for the way he looked out for those who were learning about water management.

"He's a great guy and an amazing mentor, and I can't think of anyone more deserving."

Kevin said Rich's appointment was a reflection of the commitment of the council to training staff.

"The fact that he now holds a committee members place in a national organisation that influences the industry is a testament to this and to him."

SHARE YOUR VIEWS, HAVE YOUR SAY



You may have heard about the health and safety issues at our Lake Terrace office and the need to address some of these issues quickly. We have a responsibility to keep our staff and visitors safe and our aim is to include a decision on the future of our building as part of the 2017/18 Annual Plan. To help us make a decision, we want to hear the views of the community.

After considering a number of options, the Council decided its preferred option is a new building on the existing Lake Terrace site for a number of reasons. The existing location is

able to accommodate the required building footprint while still providing for car parks and green space, plus it sits in a reasonably central location and is a prominent site. All the necessary infrastructure and services are already in place and the land is flat, capable of handling building loads and limited earthworks would be required.

We did have a think about a number of other council-owned sites we could relocate to in the Taupō Town Centre environment. We actively encourage new office development in the town centre as part of the Taupō District Plan as a way of revitalising the Central Business District. We have included those alternative sites in a consultation document that is available for people to comment on.

We're also asking for your views on a request from Go Tongariro's to amend the amount of funding we provide in the 2017/18 financial year. Go Tongariro is an independent economic development trust based in Turangi that provides business growth and events support, as well as retail and tourism promotion. They were given a grant of \$20,000 in 2015/16 and while it was intended this would gradually reduce over three years they have requested \$13,000 over and above the \$7000 allocated for the 2017/18 financial year.

Everyone is able to have their say on both these issues and we're encouraging everyone to share their views. I encourage you to visit the council website taupo.govt.nz to find out more or come along to one of our open days.

Submissions close at 5pm on Friday, 26 May so make sure you get in touch before then.

Mayor David Trewavas » dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

TALK TO US AT ONE OF OUR OPEN DAYS

- › Taupō District Council Lake Terrace office
4pm to 7pm, Tuesday 16 May
- › Mangakino council office
2pm to 5pm, Thursday 18 May
- › Taupō District Council Lake Terrace office
2pm to 6pm, Tuesday 23 May

GREENING THE WHAREWAKA LAKEFRONT

Over 170 trees and nearly 700 shrubs have been planted around the Wharewaka lakefront to complete the project to redevelop the area.

Work began on the transformation last year and the lakefront now boasts a new path, sealed road and timber barrier along with the native trees and shrubs.

The planting work was scheduled for autumn as it is regarded as the best time for planting due to the amount of rain.

Facilities manager Garreth Robinson said the greenery was selected based on how well it would complement the surrounding natural environment.

"The new trees really top off this stunning area and I think it will grow to become one of the town's most picturesque spots," he said.

Members of the council's parks and reserves team did the planting earlier this week and will continue to care for the plants as they establish themselves on the reserve.



Need to know

Full Council meetings will now start at the earlier time of 1.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month, following the monthly public forum at 1pm.

The next council meeting is on Tuesday, May 30.

What's on?

- 13 May Moto TT Motorcycle Track Days, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 18 May Take Me Home – The Music and Life of John Denver, Great Lake Centre
- 19 May Ryan Orchard – Sing It Loud, Great Lake Centre
- 21 May Play Day On Track – Taupō Cars, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 27 May Banff Mountain Film Festival, Great Lake 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

