



DESIGNING OUR DISTRICT: FRASER'S GOT IT COVERED



Have you ever wondered how we come up with the landscaping we have around the district? A lot of it is probably attributable to our landscape architect, Fraser Scott.

Fraser has been with the council for 12 years and, in that time, designed the Taupō water treatment plant platform, the new and improved Heuheu Street, the town centre intersections currently receiving makeovers, and the recently finished Wharewaka lakefront redevelopment.

Of course he hasn't acted alone – they have been created in conjunction with a whole host of experts, from engineers and town planners to external agencies and the community. But he's the man behind the visual look and feel.

"It's a great challenge coming together with people with different world views and working with the community who are going to see the outcome of the project every day," he said. Fraser got into landscape architecture because he saw it as

a creative way to earn a living.

"I like to be involved with the change that's created and have a positive influence on it," he said. "Development is always going to happen and to be a part of that is amazing. We want to do it the best we can and make sure our patch looks spectacular."

Fraser's input begins in the concept planning stages, where options are put forward to councillors and staff for consideration of projects. From there he creates detailed graphic designs that show how to build, create and manage the site.

He said it can be quite surreal seeing his designs coming to life around the district, and found the water treatment plant platform a particularly rewarding project.

"There was a time there when that was going to be a simple tin roof," he said. "Now hundreds of people stop there every day to admire the view and take a break. It's so cool to see that area come to life."

WINTER EXCITEMENT



Winter is here, and we have a nice long weekend upon us to get used to the new, slightly cooler season.

For the first time in recent memory, Queen's Birthday weekend is also the start of the ski season on Mt Ruapehu. When Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) announced their early season opening date earlier this year I must admit to wondering how they were going to find the snow to cover Happy Valley by June. But with the help of their new snow

factory, and a couple of timely cold snaps, RAL is all set to open the gates to snow seekers tomorrow.

We're so fortunate in our district to live so close to the country's largest ski area, and with all the investment RAL has put into the mountain, why wouldn't we strap on our skis or boards and get up there? We locals make the most of the lake in summer, so it makes sense to make the most of the world-class winter facility we've got right on our doorstep.

Winter is also a great time to invite your friends from out of town to make the most of everything we have to offer here. Sure, it's pretty cold, but a good frost always means a sunny blue sky day. And there are so many ways to warm up! From a bike ride along the lakefront, to a run along one of the many bush tracks we have around our district. If you're feeling spritely, perhaps a walk up one of our local peaks. There's more to winter than just sitting inside in front of the heater.

I hope you all have a great Queen's Birthday weekend and get to spend time with friends and family. Make the most of the long weekend – it's the last one until October!

Mayor David Trewavas » dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

» Need to know

- **Offices and libraries closed Monday for Queen's Birthday**
Our offices and libraries in Taupō, Mangakino and Turangi will be closed on Queen's Birthday, Monday June 5. They will reopen with normal office hours on Tuesday, June 6.
- **Rubbish collections will run as normal**

» What's on?

- 2-4 June Two Rooks Cola New Zealand 2017 Winter Drift Matsuri, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 2-5 June Taupō Art Trail 2017, Active Arts Centre
- 11 June Craters Classic MTB, Wairakei Resort
- Until 12 June Heirlooms – Taupō Embroiderers' Guild exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 12 June The Crescent Moon – The Asian Face of Islam exhibition, Taupō Museum

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

DOG REGISTRATIONS ON THEIR WAY

It's nearly time to register your dog for the year!

Dog registrations will be arriving in your mailbox soon, or in your inbox if you're signed up to receive them online.

Signing up online is easy, and it's a great way to help us save paper – and for you to avoid queues! All you have to do is go to taupo.govt.nz and set up an account, and once you're done you can register, pay and manage all your details online.

To set up your account, you will need your customer number and dog owner number. If you don't have these, give us a call and we can provide you with the details you'll need. Otherwise, they should be on your most recent dog registration form.

Remember, dogs need to be registered by July 1, so you have a few weeks to get it sorted. Your registration tag will be sent to you in the post, so make sure we have your correct address details.

All dogs over three months of age need to be registered for the 2017/18 year as soon as they reach this age.



Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz » For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to www.taupo.govt.nz

