



BEING PREPARED AT EVERY AGE

We should all know how important it is to be ready for a Civil Defence emergency – but do our young people?

Sophie Fisher certainly does. The 17-year-old Taupō-nui-a-Tia College student is one of a growing number of young people ready to get through, with a grab-and-go emergency bag sorted, containers of water and plenty of canned food at home.

“We are getting to that stage where we’re becoming independent and we’re not always going to have our parents with us so we need to know what to do,” she said.

She said it was important to be prepared in the Taupō District because of the many potential hazards it faced.

“Taupō gets such crazy weather, and we’re surrounded by so many natural features that could cause problems,” she said.

Emergency manager Ian Connon said a national campaign to reach young people and educate them about the importance of Civil Defence was recently launched.

“It’s really about teaching the youth of today to be aware of the need to be prepared,” he said. “We’re asking them to look at what’s happened recently in New Zealand with flooding, earthquakes and weather events, and consider that it could easily happen to them.”

Ian said a lot of young people tended to think of emergency events as things that happened to other people.

“If our young people are prepared, it encourages their families to be prepared, and that helps everyone,” he said.

Find out more information at taupo.govt.nz/civildefence.

FINDING A BALANCE AROUND FREEDOM CAMPING



Freedom camping is an issue our council, along with many councils around the country, is working on to strike a balance between keeping locals happy and ensuring visitors have a good time while in our district.

Over the past 18 months we have worked with the community and stakeholders to shape a freedom camping bylaw that aims to find this balance.

We have consulted widely during the process, and a large number of people got in touch with us to let us know they believe freedom camping shouldn’t be allowed anywhere in our district.

However, the law states, through the Freedom Camping Act, that we must allow freedom camping throughout the district. We are allowed to prohibit freedom camping in certain areas, but to do this we need to create a bylaw that states where these areas are. These areas can only be where actual environmental issues have occurred – simply having camping occurring is not adequate to disallow any freedom camping from taking place there.

We also received an overwhelming amount of feedback from people who wanted freedom camping away from the shores of Lake Taupō and wanted non-self-contained camping restricted.

We have taken that on board, and our bylaw will prohibit freedom camping within 100 metres of the shore of Lake Taupō and the upper section of Waikato River, along with all urban areas in the district apart from Taupō. It also proposes all other areas of the district are restricted to certified self-contained vehicles with the exception of Hipapatua (previously known as Reid’s Farm) Recreation Reserve and a few select sites in Mangakino and Whakamaru.

The final bylaw is yet to be signed off by Council, but will be on the agenda for our next meeting on August 1.

With an issue like freedom camping, it’s always going to be difficult to write a perfect rulebook that everyone agrees with, but we are confident we have found the best compromise possible that works for both locals and freedom campers and also keeps in line with the law.

Thank you to everyone who shared their views and had their say during this very important process.

David

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» What's on?

- 13 to 16 July **Taupō Winter Festival**, Taupō
Visit taupowinterfestival.co.nz for the fun-filled programme of activities taking place next week
- 13 July **Miss Jean Batten**, Great Lake Centre
- 10 to 21 July **Free school holiday programme**, Taupō District Libraries

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

DISTRICT PLAN GOES DIGITAL!

Are you house hunting and want to find out information on a potential new home like which rooms get the morning sun or where the wastewater pipes are on the property? The good news is you can now do all of this online from anywhere!

The plan sets out the policies and rules we use to manage the use of land in the district. It has gone from being a huge folder full of information, to being accessible online with new mapping capabilities and user-friendly features.

The e-District Plan allows anyone to look up information such as sun angles for properties, specific rules that apply to particular properties and details about infrastructure services to properties.

Chief executive Gareth Green said he was really excited people could now easily find out information about their properties, or properties they might be looking to purchase.

“Having the new e-District Plan will be beneficial to not only regular users such as real estate agents, architects, designers, lawyers and tradespeople, but also the general public who are interested to find out more,” he said.

“The e-District Plan is always live and updated with the latest information and people can find the answers they need without having to pick up the phone and call our team.”



» To access the e-District Plan, head to taupo.govt.nz



Mayor David Trewavas



Deputy Mayor Rosie Harvey



John Boddy



Barry Hickling



Rosanne Jollands



Tangonui Kingi



Anna Park



Christine Rankin



Kirsty Trueman



John Williamson