



## TESTING OUR CIVIL DEFENCE PROCESSES AT GREENWICH GREEN

If you were in the Greenwich Green neighbourhood last week, you may have seen a group of helpful-looking folk in high visibility clothing visiting residents.

It was all part of our Civil Defence team's exercise to test out their processes around evacuations and welfare in an emergency.

The day was originally planned to be a full evacuation of about 20 houses in the Epping Place and Swan Close area, but due to heavy rain the team brought the welfare exercise to the residents. This involved visiting these same houses to have people fill out welfare forms, have a chat about emergency evacuations and enjoy a tea or coffee with Civil Defence staff and volunteers.

Emergency manager Ian Connon said the exercise was well received, with residents commenting on how good it was to do a test run for an emergency and know what would happen should the worst occur.

"The response from those we encountered was they were really grateful we did it and it was a great experience," he said. "It was also fantastic for our welfare staff and volunteers to get some hands-on experience in processing those in need in an emergency."

Exercises like this are carried out from time to time in the Taupō District to keep us up to date on how to respond in an emergency. A similar one in a different neighbourhood is planned for 2018.



## GET INVOLVED WITH OUR SUMMER READING PROGRAMME

Do you want your kids to keep reading these summer holidays? Then Taupō District Libraries have the programme for you!

This year our summer reading programme theme is Wild About Reading, and it encourages kids from five to 13 to keep reading with an incentives-based programme over December and January.

Library and museum manager Luisa Haines said the programme promoted the enjoyment of reading and helped keep children's literacy moving forward at a time when reading could often fall by the wayside.

"The summer holidays can mean a big break in reading for kids who normally read at school, and our libraries are open throughout the year, so it's a great chance to take advantage of all the books we have on offer," she said.

"Kids have to read books and then report back to library staff about them so we can keep track of their progress. We've found it's a great way to encourage reading and the programme has proven very popular the last few years."

All children who report in four times over the duration of the programme are invited to attend the end of programme party, where they will receive a certificate and book.

"The kids love coming to the celebration at the end – it's a great reward for their hard work keeping up with reading over the holidays and a lot of fun," Ms Haines said. "Hopefully by the end of it they'll be wild about reading – if they weren't before!"

To sign up for the programme, collect an application form from Taupō or Turangi libraries or online at [taupo.govt.nz/libraries](http://taupo.govt.nz/libraries).

## LOCAL GRADUATES CELEBRATE SUCCESS

It was celebration time for 38 graduates who attended our Industry Training Organisation graduation ceremony this week.

Mayor David Trewavas welcomed the trainees, apprentices, students, employers and supporters to the graduation, which aimed to recognise the achievements and celebrate the success of trainees and apprentices who had completed their study in a variety of fields.

The event was part of the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs initiative, a nationwide network of mayors who work together to have young people engaged in education, training, work or other positive activities in their communities.

More than 55 local employers were recognised for supporting the trainees and teaching them skills that will equip them well for the future.

Mr Trewavas said he was thrilled to be part of recognising the success of the graduates alongside their friends, family and employers.

"It's fantastic to be able to take a moment to consider how far many of these graduates have come," he said. "Those involved with the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs are working hard to encourage our youth and others in our community to gain qualifications and hopefully stay in our district to use them."

Some of the qualifications received included those in dairy farming, road construction, recreation and retail.

He said the fact the graduates were able to gain these qualifications on the job in the district showed the diverse range of options available to those looking to upskill here.

"We want to build on the opportunities that already exist within our district. The ITO programme is a great way of helping achieve this and I congratulate those involved," he said.



## Get ready for the cycle challenge

Good luck to all participants in the Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge this weekend! Please remember to look out for cyclists on the roads and be aware there are several road closures in place to keep them safe. Visit [taupo.govt.nz](http://taupo.govt.nz) for more information.

## What's on?

- 24 Nov Criterium – Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, Taupō
- 25 Nov Huka MTB – Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, Taupō
- 25 Nov Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, Taupō
- 2 Dec Taupō Christmas Parade, Lake Terrace
- Until 4 Dec Playing in Paradise exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 11 Dec Pre-Loved Art Sale, Taupō Museum

For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)