



GET READY, GET THRU IN THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT

It's Get Ready Week and this year's theme is Stay Safe, Stay Informed.

We are huge supporters of this Civil Defence-focussed week in the Taupō District, particularly due to the potential hazards we face given our geography and climate.

This year's theme encourages people to stay safe by staying informed, and emergency manager Ian Connon said there were many ways to do this.

"It's important to be aware of all the ways to stay up to date with the latest information to keep safe," he said. "We can stay informed by listening to the radio, checking online on our website, Civil Defence Taupō's Facebook page and Twitter, talking to neighbours and signing up for alerts."

Mr Connon said developing relationships with neighbours and keeping in touch with them was a great way to protect each other.

"It can also pay to become part of Neighbourhood Support so you've got your finger on the pulse in the event of an emergency," he said.

Radio was a great way to stay up to date too, he said, as many were battery-operated or could be accessed in cars.

"We encourage people to familiarise themselves with all of these channels so they can pick the ones that suit them most in the case of an emergency."

Learn more about the theme of Stay Safe, Stay Informed, by visiting www.civildefence.govt.nz.

TRAINING TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE



If you think Civil Defence is just about managing natural disasters, think again. The other part of what the team does is helping at rescue operations, and it's just as important.

Civil Defence's New Zealand Rescue Team 6 (NZRT6) – the men and women who helped out in the aftermath of the Edgcombe flooding event – train weekly in Taupō for all kinds of scenarios.

It is made up of 11 Taupō District people including council employees and a lawyer, draftsman, electrician and podiatrist among others. Each has different skills and expertise, all of which are useful in an emergency.

To recognise Get Ready Week this week NZRT6 headed up to a quarry in Acacia Bay to simulate an emergency that would involve clambering over rocks in a collapsed building search.

The quarry's surface of rocks and shale are similar to rubble, so it provided a great training ground.

Emergency manager Ian Connon said the team headed up in daylight and navigated around the unstable quarry surface into darkness.

"NZRT6 is a multi-faceted group that can be called up to respond to many diverse emergencies," he said.

"In Edgcombe the team did missions into town with members of the community there to help them recover their belongings in pretty dire circumstances. In an earthquake they could be helping with a search and rescue."

The group trains weekly in Taupō in everything from First Aid to knot skills and search and rescue.

FREE HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

If you're looking for a way to minimise your green waste and save money at the same time, we have a great free workshop for you to learn how.

We are holding our annual series of free workshops to show you how to compost effectively starting this month, in conjunction with Taupō Community Gardens.

The gardens grow fresh produce for the local food bank and support sustainable living and waste minimisation.

Vouchers for discounts on selected composting equipment have been available to the community since mid-2013 and the workshops are running in conjunction with this initiative.

Group manager of operational services Kevin Strongman said the workshops were a great way to show those new to composting, or interested in it, how simple it was.

"We want to minimise waste as much as possible in our district and this initiative has proven itself very popular since the workshops began a few years ago," he said. "We know our residents are as passionate about recycling as we are so hope plenty of people will go along."

The community gardens have a large composting operation that incorporates traditional composting equipment as well as worm farms. The team has ample experience and knowledge and will be able to answer any questions about composting.



WIN!
All those who register and attend the workshops go into the draw to win a composter. Go along to be in to win!

The first of the workshops will be held at **2pm on Saturday, October 28** at Taupō Community Gardens near the Waipahihi sportsground on Richmond Ave. Spaces are limited, so people can register by contacting the council on 07 376 0899 or visiting taupo.govt.nz/composting.

Workshops are being held on the last Saturday of every month until May next year. The full schedule of workshops is on the council's website.

» What's on?

- 14-15 Oct Taupō Ultra Marathon, Whakaipo Bay Recreation Reserve
- 18 Oct Foodlovers Masterclass with Kate Meads, Great Lake Centre
- 19 Oct Waste Free Parenting Workshop with Kate Meads, Great Lake Centre
- 20-21 Oct The Topp Twins – Heading for the Hills, Great Lake Centre
- 20-23 Oct Graffiato, Taupō town centre
- 20-24 Oct The Latin America and Spain Film Festival 2017, Taupō Museum
- 21-23 Oct The Original Gypsy Fair, Tongariro North Domain
- 22 Oct Kinloch Market, Kinloch Domain

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



Mayor David Trewavas



Deputy Mayor Rosie Harvey



John Boddy



Barry Hickling



Rosanne Jollands



Tangonui Kingi



Anna Park



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