



## RESPONDING TO THE THREAT OF ALGAE



Just over a week ago, potentially toxic algae was discovered in Lake Taupō, prompting a district-wide response from us at the council.

We have been working alongside Waikato Regional Council, Toi te Ora Public Health and Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board to inform the community about the algae, which was found at several sites around Lake Taupō.

The discovery prompted a warning for people to avoid swimming in affected areas and any contact with algae blooms that may be on shore, and meant we had to ensure everyone affected was notified.

First we had a team erecting signage to alert beach users of the threat, to ensure nobody risked their health by entering the water in affected areas.

Alongside this, we had our water team taking drones up to assess the extent of the algae, and they have continued to monitor it since then.

Another team went door-to-door in Motuoapa and Hatepe to update the residents there about their drinking water. The water supply for both settlements was shut down as a precautionary measure, but both are now reconnected after being assessed as safe.

Because of those shut downs, we had to get water tankers in to replenish the reservoirs used to store water in emergencies like this, so another team was assigned to do this.

We also had staff driving to Auckland to deliver samples to the experts for testing at the weekend, while others rang those with a private water supply drawn from the lake to inform them of the situation.

Unfortunately, it was also the weekend of IRONMAN 70.3 Taupō, which meant our events team had to liaise with the organisers to ensure a safe solution for participants. The swim leg was cancelled and changed to a 3km run.

While all this was going on, our customer service staff were kept busy with inquiries about the algae – quite a busy day at the office!

» DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ALGAE AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU?  
Visit [taupo.govt.nz](http://taupo.govt.nz) or our Facebook page (search Taupo District Council) or call our customer services team on **07 376 0899**.

## TAUPŌ IN PHOTOGRAPHS: THE LAUNCH OF THE 2ND EDITION

A new book celebrating Taupō's beautiful landscapes, activities and uniqueness is being launched this week: the second edition of Taupō – Images of a Nation.

Photojournalist Rob Tucker (pictured below with Mayor David Trewavas) has been snapping pictures for 50 years, and took the images for the book over the course of about a year.

"You've got to immerse yourself in the project and find out and interpret what is Taupō," he said.

While the first edition focussed largely on the amazing landscapes of the Taupō District, the second edition incorporates both this as well as tourism, youth and adventure activities.

"I think even the locals would notice that certain demographics in tourism are changing in the Taupō District – there's a lot more interest in rafting, fishing, skydiving and skiing," he said. "This is an outdoors place, both in summer and winter."

He said this edition was more about people in the environment around us.

"There's a bit of everything for everybody," he said.

The book was launched this week with Mayor David Trewavas's endorsement. Mr Trewavas said the book was a great reflection of the district and a beautiful keepsake for both locals and visitors.

"We're all proud to call this wonderful district home and Taupō – Images of a Nation certainly captures the essence of our district well," he said.

"I can't wait to get my hands on one to show our patch off wherever I go!"

There will be 2000 available which may sell out fast – the first edition, which had a print run of 4000, sold out.

"A lot of comments about the first one was that it filled a void. It's the locals who buy it a lot of the time, because it's their place," Mr Tucker said.

The hard cover book is available now from retail book sellers including Paper Plus and Whitcoulls for \$34.99.



## KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR NEW APP: ANTENNO

Do you want to be alerted to all that's going on in your neighbourhood and beyond?

We're launching Antenno, a free mobile app that sends you notifications and alerts about places you care about.

These include things like water information, algae updates, road works, changes to rubbish collections, community events and more.

You can choose the places you want to be alerted about, so we're not bothering you with things that don't affect you. This might include your home, workplace or where your kids go to school. It's customised by you!

Antenno is free to download and use, and you can opt out of topics that aren't of interest to you. It doesn't ask for any personal information or login details, so it's a nice easy way to stay informed.

Download the app from the App Store or Google Play and save places you care about, such as home, work, your holiday home or school. What are you waiting for?



## » What's on?

- 16 Dec Playday on Track, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 22 Dec Elemeno P & Jordan Luck Band, Great Lake Centre
- 30 Dec Interislander Summer Festival Taupō Races, Taupō Racecourse
- 31 Dec Great Lake Taupō Big Bang, Taupō lakefront

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