

# connect <sup>weekly</sup>



**GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ**  
Taupō District Council

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL 28 DECEMBER 2018



## NEW YEAR SET TO BE A CRACKER

If fireworks, family fun, music and entertainment sound like a great way to usher in the New Year – you're in luck!

We will be having two rounds of fireworks on the evening of December 31 on the Taupō lakefront, so join us to welcome the arrival of 2019!

The fireworks and activities mean there will be a few road closures around town – from 9.30pm on December 31 to 12.30am on January 1, parts of Tūwharetoa Street, Lake Terrace, Ferry Road and Tongariro Street will be closed. Please keep an eye out for them and take a different route.

Wherever you are, stay safe and have fun this New Year's Eve!

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – *lock it in to your calendar!*

- 8.00pm** Lolly scramble and glow stick giveaway at Tongariro South Domain.
- 8.30pm** Outdoor movie at Tongariro South Domain.
- 10.00pm** End of movie – walk to the lakefront!
- 10.15pm** The Twilight Mini Bang. This is one for our young families and those who want to get to sleep at a reasonable hour.
- 10.30pm** Music at Taupō lakefront.
- Midnight** The Big Bang: a spectacular display of fireworks, lighting up the sky above Taupō!

» WINNER «  
**MOST BEAUTIFUL LARGE TOWN**



## LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD



Here we are at the end of another year – amazing! Time certainly flies when you're busy, and it sure has been a busy one for us at the council.

This year we have been looking at the way forward for us as an organisation, with the potential formation of a cultural precinct in Taupō. This could see the redevelopment of an important part of our town centre and give the whole area a new look, feel and function. The development around Story Place will be one of three considered by the community mid-next year when the council decides where its administration functions should be based. Watch this space – we want your feedback!

Another big project for us this year was the redevelopment of the Otumuheke Stream bathing area at Spa Thermal Park. It has been turned into an amazing useable space with infrastructure that will protect this taonga for years to come. I encourage you to check it out.

We had some great news on the events front this year, with Taupō winning its bid to host the 2020 IRONMAN World Championship. This will easily be the biggest event we have ever hosted, bringing an economic return of \$20 million to the district – about two-thirds of the return the district's events normally generate annually. It'll also mean around 5000 competitors, 13,500 supporters and media from around the world – we can't wait! Although it seems far away, 2020 is just around the corner and there's lots to do before then to ensure our district shines for this event.

I feel like we've done ourselves proud in many ways this year. We fought for the retention of Taupō's rescue chopper and the Government listened – it remains in operation. Fantastic for the safety of our community and visitors.

We also won the Keep New Zealand Beautiful large town award – and quite deserving, I think! It's great to be recognised for the effort our community puts into ensuring we get to live in a beautiful place.

On the home front, we were named the top council in the country for offering a quality customer experience at the 2018 Association of Local Government Information Management Spring Conference. It's amazing for our team to be recognised for going the extra mile for those who matter the most – our community!

Reflecting on the year is a good way to see how far we've come, and think about where we are heading. I think we'd all agree there's plenty to look forward to in 2019.

Please look after each other as you welcome in the New Year, and we'll see you in 2019.

Mayor David Trewavas » dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz



## HANDY HOLIDAY INFORMATION

### COUNCIL OFFICES – HOLIDAY HOURS

- Friday 28 December: 9am-3pm
- Monday 31 December: 9am-3pm
- Tuesday 1 January: Closed
- Wednesday 2 January: Closed
- Thursday 3 January: Normal office hours resume

If you need to contact council at any time, you can call 0800 ASK TDC (0800 275 832). This is a 24/7 service.

### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Rubbish and recycling collection days remain as normal for January 1 and 2. If you want to find out what your collection day is or the location and hours of our transfer stations, visit [taupo.govt.nz/refuseandrecycling](http://taupo.govt.nz/refuseandrecycling).

### ALCOHOL BAN

Taupō's town centre alcohol ban extends to 24/7 over the holiday period and also covers Hipapatua Recreational Reserve (formerly Reid's Farm) on Huka Falls Road and several reserves. Otumuheke Stream bathing area at Spa Thermal Park is now also included in the alcohol ban, so no alcohol is allowed in the area 24/7 year-round.

For detailed maps and more information go to [www.taupo.govt.nz/alcoholban](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/alcoholban).

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[www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)

Taupō District Council

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