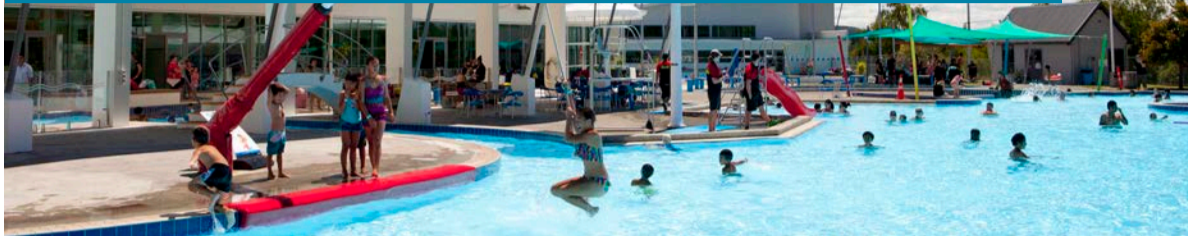


POO AND SPEW CLOSES POOLS 10 TIMES IN EIGHT DAYS



INCIDENTS CAUSED BY swimmers entering pools at the AC Baths when sick or without an appropriate swim nappy have caused pools at the AC Baths to be closed 10 times in eight days.

The shocking number has caused headaches for other swimmers and pool staff, who have to close each pool after an incident, drain it and refill it, which takes several hours.

Business and operations manager Scott Attenborough said it was incredibly frustrating some pool users were not adhering to the guidance offered for swimming at the pools.

"Ten incidents in just over a week is a huge amount of closures – unprecedented – and it's disadvantaging all our other pool users and costing time and money," he said.

"We have clear signage that lets people know all children under three need to wear a fitting, appropriate swim nappy and ask people to stay away from the pools if they aren't feeling well."

Mr Attenborough said it was not fair to people who came to use the pools that respected the guidelines.

"People pay to use our extensive facilities here and it's disheartening to have to restrict those facilities because of incidents like these," he said.

He said the guidelines were simple.

"If you are sick – come another day. If you have a child aged three or under, they need to wear a swim nappy – we sell these on site," he said.

He said reception staff had also been giving advice on the issues to pool users as they came into the complex to try to mitigate the issue.

WATCH OUT FOR MOTORCYCLES

WHETHER YOU RIDE a motorcycle or drive another vehicle and share the road with motorcycles, everyone has a part to play in motorcycle safety.

It's Motorcycle Awareness Month this October, and we are reminding motorists and motorcyclists how they can help protect our vulnerable riders with new billboards and radio advertisements, so keep an ear out for them. October marks the start of motorcycle riding season, with more than half of all riders getting back on the road.

Road safety coordinator Sarah Wraight said it was important for motorcycle riders to make sure they are visible, wear protective clothing and a full-face helmet when they're out on the road.

"Motorcycles are notoriously difficult for other drivers to see because they may be in a blind spot, so keep checking rear view mirrors," she said.

Differing conditions, from weather and light to other road users and surface changes, presented a big challenge to road



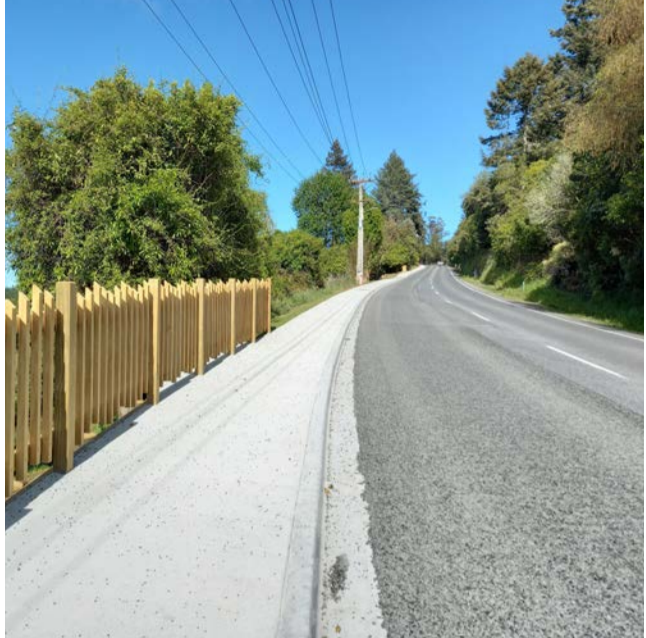
riders. Mastering them is the mark of an expert, Ms Wraight said.

"If it's been a while since your last ride, make sure to refresh your skills and check your gear and bike to make sure it's safe," she said.

For drivers, it's good to be aware that motorcycles can appear quickly.

"Be alert and pay attention – it could save a life," Ms Wraight said.

For more information on upcoming courses visit rideforever.co.nz.



MAPARA ROAD FOOTPATH PROVING POPULAR

WORK ON THE new footpath along Mapara Road is complete and is already proving popular with locals.

Local contractors TR Construction had changeable weather to contend with throughout the project but infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said the completed works offered greater convenience and safety to pedestrians.

"As the area grows we are seeing an increase in pedestrians using Mapara Road, and it is particularly popular with walkers, so it's great to see this new footpath in place," he said.

"As well as making the route easier for walkers and people with prams and the like, it also improves safety along what is becoming a quite busy piece of road."



INDOOR POOL NOW OPEN AT AC BATHS

THE INDOOR 25M pool at the AC Baths is now open after closing for major refurbishments in June.

The pool was closed to address damaged pipes that had been caused by earth movement.

Its pipe system has been completely replaced and earthworks have been completed to strengthen and support the base. Eight new competition-grade dive blocks have also been installed.

Business and operations manager Scott Attenborough said the team was excited to welcome people back.

"We know the community has really missed being able to use this pool and we are delighted it's up and running again, after having safeguarded its future," he said.

"A great cross-section of the community use this pool and I know its return has been long-awaited."

Lane bookings were also now open again.

The scheduled upgrade of the private pools and sauna is still underway, so they remain closed.

ARE YOU A STUDENT LOOKING FOR WORK THIS SUMMER?

WE ARE ON the hunt for high school and tertiary students who call the Taupō District home to fill some vacancies for us this summer!

We have student jobs in lots of departments including indoor and outdoor council venues and facilities and our swimming pools to name a few!

This is a great opportunity to work with a passionate group of people while gaining valuable experience in a field you are interested in.

Applications for these jobs close October 30 – so get your CV in quick – apply at taupo.govt.nz/careers.