

COUNCIL STAFF STEP UP TO HELP WITH RATS

IT'S A CASE of all hands to the pump with council staff helping distribute Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) through the Great Lake Centre.

Our venues team is manning a post daily and others have pitched in too, with everyone from Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas, councillors and council staff helping out.

"We're happy to help out our friends at Lakes District Health Board by providing a place where people can pick up RATs and I'm grateful to all the council staff and elected members who have given up their time to help," Mr Trewavas said.

Council's district events manager Sinead Vincent says it's fantastic to see staff from right across the

organisation volunteering their weekends to serve our community.

"It was great to have Mayor David, councillor Anna Park and councillor Kevin Taylor here over the weekend helping out, and we've had some wonderful feedback from the community on how smooth it's been to drive through and get tests", Sinead said.

The makeshift distribution hub is open daily for drive-through test pick-ups, but you do need to order these online first. You can order at requestrats.covid19.health.nz or by calling 0800 222 478.

The Great Lake Centre Community Collection site will be open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm and weekends from 9am to 3pm.



Cr Anna Park and Mayor David Trewavas were at the Great Lake Centre last weekend helping to distribute RATs.



IT'S OFFICIAL - PARKS ARE GOOD FOR YOU!

AS YOU KNOW, last month Taupō was named Most Beautiful Large Town in the Keep NZ Beautiful Awards.

A big part of that was due to the many - 240 in all - beautiful parks and reserves around the Taupō District.

From shared paths to cemeteries, freedom camping to playgrounds, sportsgrounds to garden beds, we believe our district has something to be proud of.

In all, we have 881ha of parks, 58 playgrounds, six sportsgrounds, 57 toilet blocks and 3 cemeteries as well as paths, garden beds and camping areas.

This week is Parks Week and a great opportunity to celebrate those spaces. Parks Week this year has a focus on how spending time in our parks and open spaces can positively influence wellbeing and lower rates of depression and anxiety.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association, more time spent in parks and green spaces can help individuals fight against mental health issues like depression, anxiety and stress. Making sure that all people have access to parks and the outdoors is a critical way to increase these positive effects on health and quality of life for your community.

Take the opportunity to explore a new park or revisit your favourite Taupō District park this week.



TAUPŌ MUSEUM IS offering residents a chance to sell their second-hand art in its Pre-Loved Art Sale. The museum is calling for second hand, quality art to be submitted for sale.

Exhibitions officer Kerence Stephen said the museum was keen to hear from people who have pre-loved original art, including painting, sculpture, ceramics and collectible or numbered prints to sell.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people who might be downsizing or have art that no longer fits their decor to sell it on to someone new" she said. "It's a way to keep quality art in circulation and able to be appreciated by someone new."

Artworks can be assessed at the museum for suitability on Wednesdays to Fridays from 10am to 1pm until Friday 25 March; or appointments can be made by contacting kstephen@taupo.govt.nz.

The Pre-Loved Art Sale will be held from April 9 to June 6 in the museum's main gallery. For terms and conditions about the art and sale process, [visit taupo.govt.nz/museum](https://www.taupo.govt.nz/museum).

A WORM WELCOME AT TAUPŌ MOTEL BELLA VISTA

GUESTS STAYING AT Taupō motel Bella Vista are helping keep some of the motel's permanent residents well-fed, thanks to a grant from Taupō District Council.

The motel was one of the six recipients of a Waste Minimisation Fund Grant in 2021. The grants provide funding to individuals, community groups and organisations with innovative ideas to minimise waste.

Bella Vista Motel used their funding to implement a hungry bin worm farm which is serviced by individual food collection bins in each of the guest rooms. The portable worm farm composts up to 2kg of waste per day and provides a great environment for compost worms to live in.

Bella Vista owners Jason Ang and Miyuki Ando say they are always looking for new and innovative ways to reduce their environmental impact and the grant funding has been instrumental in helping them achieve their sustainability goals. It also contributed to the motel securing a Qualmark Silver rating.

The duo noticed that there was a large amount of food being left behind by guests or in the rubbish and thought that there must be a better way to deal with the waste.

"The hungry bin enables us to easily process organic waste from the motel on site - keeping it from landfill and in turn providing us with compost and fertiliser for our gardens and landscaping around the motel," Jason says. "It's a win-win."

"We have diverted around 500kg of food waste from going to landfill since we have had the hungry bin."

Jason believes the initiative has contributed positively to the guest experience and encourages other local business owners to investigate the Waste Minimisation Fund. "Small changes can collectively make a big difference to our local environment."

Waste minimisation grant funding applications are open until tomorrow. To find out more or to apply, visit [taupo.govt.nz](https://www.taupo.govt.nz).



Bella Vista motel owner Jason Ang shows the motel's hungry bin worm farm to Brooks Harrison, 5.

RESEALING WHILE THE SUN SHINES!

WHILE THE GOOD weather continues we have some road resealing projects planned around Taupō town this coming week.

Spa Rd from north of Opepe Street to Totara Street (excluding the length fronting the Pihanga corner shops) will be resealed overnight between Sunday 13 March

and Monday 14 March. Please avoid this area if you can. Contractors will also be resealing the length of Crown Rd from Miro Street to Ashwood Avenue on the night of Monday 14 March. Following that, resealing work moves to Rakaunui Road which is planned to get a new surface on the night of Tuesday 15 March.

