

## MANGAKINO LOCAL IS PARKS PERSON OF THE YEAR

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL Parks and Reserves team member Rui Kohiti has been awarded the prestigious Parks Person of the Year Award by Recreation Aotearoa.

This award recognises excellence in contributing to the community and environment at a national level. Rui was also the recipient of the 2021 Taupō District Council Kaitiaki O Te Tau, Ranger of the Year Award, for great work in our district.

Parks manager (open spaces) Andrew Moor said Rui's Recreation Aotearoa award was a well-deserved accolade for a greatly-valued member of the Parks and Reserves team.

"Rui has only been with us for three years but he has proven to be a real asset to us and the Mangakino/Pouakani area.

"Rui completed his National Certificate in Sports Turf Management Level 3 this year, and has begun studying towards Level 4, and he has applied a lot of what he's learnt there in his work for council. He has been instrumental in our 10,000 Trees Project, which focuses on the restoration and revegetation of reserve land

throughout the Mangakino/Pouakani and Tongariro/Tūrangi areas and has been behind some innovative work on the use of natural and organic fertilisers," Mr Moor said.

"But I think the award really recognises the incredible engagement Rui has with our community. For example, he has been involved extensively with the Pouakani Totara, New Zealand's largest, and possibly oldest Totara tree, which is on privately-owned Māori land but is open to the public to access. Rui has taken various school and community groups to view the tree, and Rui uses the tree to relay the messages of kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga.

"Rui himself embodies these concepts and the effect he has on others with him is really clear. He's a team player, who's always willing to share his knowledge with colleagues or the community alike."

Rui said it was humbling to be considered for the national award.

"Receiving this tohu is a real honour, and I'd like to thank the Parks team for nominating me - and the community for their support."



Rui Kohiti, pictured here with the Taupō District Council Kaitiaki O Te Tau, Ranger of the Year Award, on the Pouakani Totara Tree Walk near Mangakino.

## MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI

### CELEBRATE MATARIKI IN THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT

**AOTEAROA CELEBRATES ITS newest public holiday, Matariki, tomorrow.**

The Matariki star cluster appears in June, marking the start of the Māori New Year.

It's a time where people gather to remember the year that has passed, celebrate the present, and plan for the year ahead.

#### KAIHAUKAI / FEASTING

Food and eating together is a central element of Matariki. Prepare and enjoy a mid-winter feast with your friends or whānau, or visit one of our many eateries, gather around a crackling fire and toast the year ahead.

#### MANAAKITANGA / CARING

Donate non-perishable food items to the **Matariki Community Kai Collection** to support the wellbeing of whānau in our community. Drop donations into any of the district libraries until Thursday 30 June. They will be donated to Te Korowai Roopu Tautoko Pataka Kai in Taupō and Tūrangi, and to Mangakino Food Bank.

#### MANA TAIAO / ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Caring for nature and the health of the environment is intrinsically linked to Matariki. Celebrate your connection to nature by spending time outdoors and reflect on how you can help protect our natural environment. Reconnect with the whenua on a walking or biking trail, listen to birdsong, the roar of a waterfall, or soak under the stars in healing geothermal waters.

#### WHAKANUI / CELEBRATIONS

Matariki is a time of festivities, to gather to give thanks for the blessings and good times during the past year. Reconnect with friends and whānau and plan a weekend. Attend local events, share stories around the table, play games and discuss your dreams for the year ahead.

**What's on:** Explore contemporary fashion through the exhibition **Te Aho Tapu Hou: The new sacred thread** which showcases the life and work of Māori designer and fashion activist Jeanine Clarkin at Taupō Museum until 14 August.

**Marvel at magical light art at the Matariki Festival of Light Art Installation**, 22-30 June at Rangitukua Reserve in Whareroa, and 1-8 July, Tokaanu Village. See beautiful lightboxes adorned with tāniko and tukutuku and learn about the designs and the stars of Matariki.

Explore some of **Taupō Quiltmakers' works at Quilting with the Stars Exhibition**, 24-26 June at the Great Lake Centre. The challenge quilt section is the theme Matariki and Me.

#### WHAKAMAUMAHARATANGA / REMEMBRANCE

Matariki is a time for reflection and to honour those that we have lost since the last rising of Matariki. You could do this by sharing knowledge of your whakapapa (genealogy) with your children, by telling stories of your ancestors, and looking through family photos.

**What's on:** Matariki can decorate a **Matariki gratitude star** and add it to the community display at any Taupō district library, until Saturday 25 June.

**Make a Matariki star** out of wool, until Sunday 26 June at Taupō Museum.

These are just some of the Matariki events on around the district. To learn more about the meaning of Matariki, visit [matariki.net.nz](http://matariki.net.nz).

**MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI!**

## KINLOCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UP AND RUNNING



Mayor David Trewavas (centre) cuts the ribbon at the new Kinloch Wastewater Treatment Plant opening.

**COUNCILLORS, STAFF, CONTRACTORS and subcontractors gathered at the new Kinloch Wastewater Treatment Plant last Monday for its official opening.**

Mayor David Trewavas cut the ribbon and thanked everyone who made this project happen despite Covid-19 disruptions.

"The new treatment plant is going to be a real asset for Kinloch." Mr Trewavas said. "It'll not only mean a much more resilient system for the community but also future-proofs our wastewater system in this rapidly-growing part of our district."

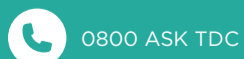
The new plant has been built to cater for the development of Kinloch so that as the village grows only simple upgrades will be required to expand the plant's processing capacity.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis thanked all involved, particularly Jason Ewert, who had been instrumental in seeing the project through.

"This has been a real team effort in very trying times with council staff and local contractors making sure the outcome is excellent."

Council has installed an underground irrigation system at Kinloch Village Golf Course that takes the treated water and uses it to irrigate the fairways.

Mr Lewis said this was a win-win as it also helps reduce the golf course's water consumption.



0800 ASK TDC



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