

DEFENDER STOPS THE NASTIES REACHING OUR WATERWAYS

A NEW STORMWATER separator - known as a downstream defender - is being added to Taupō's stormwater system this week. The defender, on the banks of the Waikato River below Control Gates bridge, is the 10th to be installed, joining others near the Two Mile Bay boat ramp, Hawai Street, Taharepa Road, Ruapehu Street, Nukuhau boat ramp, Tongariro Street, and near the Hole in One in Taupō, as well as the Kohineheke Reserve outlet and Turanga Place outlet in Tūrangi.

The defenders use centrifugal force to catch pollutants in stormwater before they reach the lake. They are then removed by sucker trucks and disposed of at landfill.

Taupō District Council asset manager stormwater and solid waste Brent Aitken said the downstream defenders are part of an ongoing effort to improve stormwater infrastructure.

Council has a programme to install more defenders and is targeting the largest stormwater outlets that service big catchments and bigger pollutant loads. The next defender will be located near the tennis courts in Taupō to catch contaminants from Spa Road. Another is scheduled for Mangakino, two more in Tūrangi, and another five in Taupō.

"The downstream defenders are an innovative and very successful way of removing pollutants that have previously proven almost impossible to eliminate," Mr Aitken said. "They catch all the little stuff that gets flushed into the stormwater system by rain, and while these are smaller pollutants, they are also quite nasty ones: things like cigarette butts and plastic, oils and sediments which contain heavy metals, but also brake dust and rubber tyre particles from vehicles."

The defenders are emptied every four months, with around a tonne of pollutants recovered from each.

"So that is around 30 tonnes of really nasty stuff that no longer gets into our lake each year. And the great thing about them is that once they are in the ground they are nearly invisible. They just keep on quietly and consistently filtering out the stormwater on its way to our lake and rivers."



The components for Taupō's newest downstream defender were lifted into place on Tuesday morning.



THERMAL TWIST FOR TODDLER TIME

HELP YOUR PRESCHOOLER explore more about science and volcanoes at our special geothermal-themed Toddler Time event at Taupō Library next Wednesday, 27 July.

NZ Geothermal Week is on from Monday 25 July to Friday 29 July and as part of the raft of events celebrating and showcasing New Zealand's geothermal industry, the library is swapping out its usual Toddler Time for under-fives for one with a geothermal bent.

Bring along your little ones to hear a story about our local maunga, make a mountain of their own, and watch a mini-mountain erupt!

Venue: Taupō Library, Story Place, Taupō

Date and time: Wednesday 27 July, 10.30am to 11.30am

Cost: Free

To find out more about Geothermal Week activities visit www.taupo.biz/geothermalweek22.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



IF YOU'RE PASSIONATE about your community and have ideas for how to make it even better, then now is the time to make your stand for Taupō District Council.

The local government elections are being held on October 8. These elections occur every three years and are your opportunity to represent your community and the district.

Nominations opened last Friday and close at 12 noon on Friday, 12 August.

The Taupō District Council election will be for the mayor and 12 councillors as follows:

- Mayor at large
- One councillor for the Mangakino-Pouakani ward
- One councillor for the Taupō East Rural ward
- Seven councillors for the Taupō ward
- Two councillors for the Te Papamārearea Māori ward
- One councillor for the Tūrangi-Tongariro ward

Completed nomination documents must be received by the electoral officer no later than 12 noon on Friday 12 August 2022. Each nomination must be accompanied by a deposit of \$200 including GST.

For more information visit taupo.govt.nz/vote22.

MATARIKI DONATIONS SHARED WITH COMMUNITY

OUR TAUPŌ DISTRICT Libraries team swung in behind the spirit of Matariki with its Matariki Community Kai Collection initiative, collecting donations for local social service providers across the district over the two weeks of Matariki. Donation boxes were also available at council offices for staff to contribute.

Items ranging from soup mix to cookies poured in and the libraries team were grateful to those who supported the collection, said library customer service officer Sandra Quinn.

"The thing I enjoy about the lead up to Christmas is people's amazing generosity of spirit and thought for others. I'd love to see that happen more often throughout the year, and what better time than at Matariki when gathering together, sharing, and focusing on whānau are key."

Donations will be distributed in Taupō and Tūrangi by Te Korowai Roopu Tautoko and in the Mangakino area by

Mangakino Food Bank.

Taneal Paenga of Te Korowai Roopu Tautoko said the whānau at Te Korowai were more than happy to be a part of the initiative.

"Through the two years running the pataka we have been truly grateful for any donations handed to us as we do provide a lot of whānau with kai packs daily. We would like to thank everyone who donated to this kaupapa - a little goes a long way."

Mangakino Family Services Inc coordinator Joanna Hepi also praised the collection.

"We acknowledge and commend the Taupō libraries staff leaders and this wonderful initiative, to support the many local social services made available within our district. Kia kaha, manaakitanga, whānaungatanga te roopu o Taupō district."



Joanna Hepi and Rob Major-Tanirau of Mangakino Family Services Inc with some of the donations from the Taupō district libraries' Matariki Community Kai Collection.



Casey Thompson receiving Matariki kai donations on behalf of Te Korowai Roopu Tautoko.