

COUNCIL GRANT OPENS DOORS FOR DRIVERS

MORE THAN 120 local drivers now have their restricted or full driver's licences thanks to Taupō Learning Centre and a Taupō District Council partnership agreement grant.

Since getting the car in December 2021, Taupō Learning Centre has worked with a range of people, supporting them to work towards their restricted or full driver licences with two qualified driving instructors. Previously, it was only able to assist with the theory aspect of the licences.

Now it can support drivers throughout the entire licensing process, with its council grant enabling the lease of a Suzuki Swift, modified for driver training.

Claire Northcroft fills many roles at the Taupō Learning Centre, including as a driving instructor. She's thrilled that with this little car, doors have been opened for so many.

"It's great being able to help people. Otherwise, we know many would drive anyway but not fully legal.

"We want to work with the ones who'd find it difficult to learn because they don't have someone who can teach them, don't have the money to pay for an instructor, or don't have a road-legal car they can use to learn in.

"One of the biggest challenges for learner drivers is not being able to practice. They can do all the learning and nail it, but it takes experience behind the wheel to become a safe driver."

Learner driver Brooke Taylor faced the challenge of having no one able to legally supervise her to practice for her restricted licence. However, finding the Taupō Learning Centre's course changed that.

Gaining her restricted licence has meant more freedom and autonomy.

"I've been driving on my own for about a week now, we had to get the insurance sorted first. I can go to work, do errands, go to my sports.

"I'm off to Auckland next year to study so I'm saving up to buy my own car to take with me."

To learn more about Taupō Learning Centre's work, visit www.taupolearning.nz.



Brooke Taylor in the Taupō Learning Centre car.



CHILDREN'S AREA GETS A MAKEOVER

EXCITING CHANGES ARE coming to the children's area at Taupō Library! The existing stage and seating area will be removed and the area fully refurbished, including new carpet.

The work is expected to run for two weeks, from Saturday 5 November until Saturday 19 November. During this time, our young readers will still be able to access their favourite picture books, early reader and middle readers' books, reader set books, cartoon books, the Chinese collection and the parent and child collection. There will be only limited ability to access children's non-fiction books.

All library services will continue as usual and the popular Toddler Time sessions will still run on Wednesdays at the normal time of 10.30am.

THE FINAL COUNT: TAUPŌ DISTRICT VOTER TURNOUT FOR EACH WARD IN THE 2022 LOCAL ELECTION



The Taupō District Council from left: Cr Yvonne Westerman, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Kirsty Trueman, Cr Danny Loughlin, Cr John Williamson, Deputy Mayor Kevin Taylor, Mayor David Trewavas, Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Christine Rankin, Cr Karam Fletcher, Cr Kylie Leonard, Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Anna Park.

THE MAKE-UP of councils all over New Zealand has been decided in the 2022 local elections. In terms of voter turnout, how did the Taupō District fare?

For the district as a whole, 12,537 of an eligible 27,217 voters had their say, a return of 46.06 per cent. This was down from 52.16 per cent in 2019, but above the national return of 40.44 per cent.

Of the individual wards, Taupō ward was the highest achiever with 51.19 per cent (9152 out of 17,879), closely

followed by the Tūrangi-Tongariro ward with 50.38 per cent (1253 out of 2487).

In the Taupō East Rural ward, 638 of an eligible 1728 (36.92 per cent) people returned their vote. Mangakino-Pouakani had a return of 477 out of 1349 (35.36 per cent).

While the Taupō East Rural and Mangakino-Pouakani ward candidates were both re-elected unopposed, voters in those wards were still able to vote for mayor.

The new Te Papamārearea Māori ward had a return of 1017 out of 3774 eligible voters (26.95 per cent).

Nationwide, the top three councils in terms of voter turnout were Kaikoura District Council (62.02 per cent), Carterton District Council (59.06 per cent) and Westland District Council (58.75 per cent).

The bottom three were Hamilton City Council (29.4 per cent), Waikato District Council (32.3 per cent) and Hastings District Council (32.95 per cent).



Let's recycle better. Let's sort it out.

Put your recycling knowledge to the zest. Let's sort out the rubbish.



Clean plastic bottles such as juice bottles, milk bottles, fizzy drink bottles and water bottles.



Tetra Pak cartons cannot be recycled in the Taupō district.



Remove all lids and caps and throw them in the rubbish. Tin, aluminium, and plastics 1, 2 and 5 can go together in a green kerbside recycling bin.

www.taupo.govt.nz/kerbsiderecycling