

NO BUTTS ABOUT IT!

Taupō District Council and Keep New Zealand Beautiful are teaming up to rid the streets of cigarette butt litter. The 'No Ifs, Butts or Maybes' campaign will see 40 cigarette butt bins [like those pictured] installed in busy pedestrian places in Taupō, Turangi and Mangakino. The specially designed, vandal-proof bins have been given to the district by Keep New Zealand Beautiful, and will be maintained by Council's refuse contractor.

Mayor Rick Cooper hopes that smokers will do the right thing. "Cigarette butts have a habit of ending up on the streets and footpaths, then get washed into the stormwater system, eventually ending up in our Great Lake. We don't want this to continue. I hope smokers will use these bins to dispose of their litter, there's no butt's about it!"

The Mayor officially launched the 'No Ifs, Butts or Maybes' campaign on Wednesday in the Council Chambers.

Since the changes to the Smokefree laws in 2004, cigarette butt litter has become more of a problem for councils. Mary Brown, National Programmes Manager of Keep New Zealand Beautiful says the bins are a simple and effective solution to avert unsightly cigarette butts that are needlessly discarded. "The only way to overcome this problem is to help people understand that it is a matter of personal responsibility not to litter the streets and allow



cigarette butts into our beautiful waterways. With this initiative there is no longer an excuse that there's nowhere to put them."

10 bins have been installed around the district, with the rest being rolled out in the coming months.

Businesses are also encouraged to get on board with the campaign and can get their own cigarette butt bins direct from Keep New Zealand Beautiful.

COUNCILLOR CHRIS JOHNSTON THE LIGHT IS BURNING BRIGHT



Having spent 18 winters in Taupō, I know how tough it can be here for businesses. Outside influences beyond our control can seem to dominate. We can't control the global financial crisis, or the Canterbury earthquakes, and none of us can control the high dollar which keeps away tourists. Thank goodness the snow has arrived!

I can however, remain positive. I can support my staff and work hard on my business and Council duties. When winter is over our happy holiday town will return to life as usual – as it has pretty much every spring!

It's tough at the moment, but

LTP, Council will invite our communities to discuss their preferences about these strategic assets. Water treatment plants, for example, are a heavy burden for small communities to build and operate. The Taupō plant is being fully funded locally, and we have some Government subsidy for the Turangi and Mangakino plants.

"When winter is over our happy holiday town will return to life as usual"

there is light at the end of the tunnel. Rugby World Cup 2011 will see an increase in visitor numbers in our town, followed by our traditionally busy summer. We have exciting events in the wings, an economic development team working on large scale projects to inject life and business into the region, and a marketing campaign intended to persuade the rest of the country to visit.

We also have a positive and pragmatic Council who are working hard on making good decisions. The Annual Plan is now adopted and our next focus is on the 10 year Long Term Plan (LTP). For the last month we've looked closely at Council's assets, revenue and operating costs. Operating and payroll costs have been pretty much constant for the last seven years, but our interest and depreciation bill has been climbing steadily. Every new community facility adds to the depreciation bill – so it means we've had strong asset growth.

In developing the next

Due to the recession, the district's overall growth has slowed significantly and now we have to find a way to pay for these assets. Although we have a vast amount of land and property for sale, the current market means this may take a while. In the meantime, there's still interest to pay on things like the ETA and wastewater treatment plants. The ETA and associated land were supposed to be funded from property sales and Development Contributions – if we can't sell substantial land at a good price, we may need to look at other options.

In the next few months Council will inform everyone about their options so that the community can decide what they want, and give their feedback to Council. We'll take all the views into consideration in developing the draft LTP.

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Green waste charges increasing

The charges for disposing green waste at Taupō district refuse facilities is to increase as of today, 1 July 2011.

Ratepayers had previously subsidised green waste. Under the new fees and charges set in the Annual Plan 2011-12, green waste will now be charged on a 'user pays' basis.

What are the new charges?

- Broadlands Road Landfill**
Green waste per tonne \$50.00
- District Transfer Stations**
Green waste < 100kg \$5.50
Green waste < 250kg \$12.00
Green waste < 400kg \$19.00
Green waste per tonne \$50.00

DRIVER DIRECTIONS COURSE

19 JULY

TAUPO MOTORSPORT PARK

Traffic crashes are one of the top causes of death and serious injury for young people in New Zealand, with the highest crash risk during the first 6-12 months of driving solo.

Taupō District Council and Premier Partner Harvey's Real Estate want to support young drivers and their families during this crucial learning time.

The Driver Directions programme is a one-day driver training course aimed at helping learner drivers to gain more experience and driving time. Participants get real driving experience, including off-road and wet weather terrains, reversing, stopping distances and head-on crash avoidance exercises, plus other really useful knowledge that will help them on the roads.

The Driver Directions programme is free for anyone 15 to 19 years old, and no driving experience is necessary. To register, or for more info, call or text Delwyn on 027 316 0632 or Jeremy on 021 148 4632.

DOMESTIC CAMPAIGN GRABS ATTENTION

Destination Great Lake Taupō's new domestic marketing campaign "Grab It!" is grabbing the attention of Kiwi travellers. Since its launch on 23 June the GrabIt site has received over 6500 hits, and this number is climbing. Local businesses are enticing visitors to the Taupō district with deals on accommodation, dining, activity and shopping. The campaign is back on TV this Sunday, and is backed up by radio advertising and billboards in the main city centres - a great way for businesses to generate incremental sales during a slow winter period.

For information for businesses contact Donna Jarden at Destination Great Lake Taupō on (07) 376 0403.

To find out more about the amazing deals on offer, and to share them with friends, visit www.greatlaketaupo.com/GRABIT/

IMPORTANT DATES

- 26 June - 2 July North Island Cross Country Championship, Spa Park
- 8 July BANFF Mountain Film Festival, 6.30pm Taupō Events Centre
- 10 July Saucony Off-road Half Marathon, Mt Tauhara

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 07 376 0899 OR VISIT WWW.TAUPO.GOVT.NZ

