



## OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD 2011-2012

The Our Neighbourhood summer series is back!

The Christchurch earthquakes and other catastrophes around the world have highlighted the need for community connectedness and the importance of 'getting to know your neighbours'.

The Our Neighbourhood Team are once again giving you the opportunity to come along and meet the people in your neighbourhood at a series of fun get-togethers.

From December 2011 to March 2012 free community events will be held in Taupō, Mangakino and Turangi. Activities include a free BBQ, live music, some good old fashioned family fun and games and a heap of exciting prizes and giveaways thanks to our sponsors Tuwharetoa Health, Experience Taupo, Maxprint, Taupo Hirepool and More FM.

The aim of the events is to provide opportunities for locals to interact and get to know each other.

The Our Neighbourhood partners and Council staff invite you to join in the fun at a reserve near you!

**Nukuhau Sportsgrounds, Taupō**  
5.00-7.00pm, Thursday 8 December

**Te Kura O Hirangi, Turangi**  
Mawake, Aonini, Maria Place Community  
4.00-6.00pm, Thursday 15 December

**Lake Front Recreational Reserve, Mangakino**  
4.00-6.00pm, Thursday 12 January

**Kamu Crescent Reserve, Wairakei**  
5.00-7.00pm, Thursday 26 January

**Tamatea Reserve, Taupō**  
5.00-7.00pm, Thursday 9 February

**Crescent Reserve, Taupō**  
151 Tautahanga Road  
4.00-6.00pm, Thursday 16 February

**Pihanga Reserve, Taupō**  
5.00-7.00pm Thursday 1 March

**Brice Street Reserve, Taupō**  
5.00-7.00pm Thursday 8 March



I am astounded at what this country's media considers to be newsworthy. The infamous 'storm in a teacup' saga seems to have distracted the nation from the election itself. Our nation has much more important things to worry about than what was or was not said. One journalist was even going to hire a lip reader to interpret what was said. Give me a break; this is absolutely poor journalism in my opinion.

Meanwhile, the most catastrophic environmental disaster the country has seen in years has all but fallen off the media radar. The recovery of the Rena now appears to be going well and subsequently the media seems to have lost interest.

Surely the successful handling of such a disaster is just as important as when we were

a visit from the Rugby New Zealand 2011 Management. The team are touring the country to thank each region for their assistance in the running of the tournament. General Manager, Andrew Steele, said the tournament went without any major hiccups and reached all of its goals, including \$269 million in ticket sales and nearly 100,000 visitors to the country. He said it was only possible through

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all fearing the worst? Surely our adept ability to respond to disaster can be something we as a nation can acknowledge? We seem to report on the bad and ignore the good, where is the balance in that? Are we simply following the trend set by some international news networks; reporting on gossip and sensational news rather than actual news? I struggle to see how this can be a good thing for our country. The quintessential kiwi "she'll be right" attitude has been replaced by one that seems to be cynical.

On a much brighter note, we are celebrating the success of the Rugby World Cup 2011 (RWC) for the Taupō District. We had a lovely BBQ on the weekend for our wonderful group of RWC 2011 volunteers. This team worked tirelessly throughout the six week tournament moving VIPs around town and making sure our visitors were both welcomed and informed.

On Monday, we also had

successful partnerships with regions. New Zealand's "Stadium of Four Million" was very much evident as communities got out and supported the tournament, not just our team. Well done Taupō on playing your part in this.

RWC was great for our district and I would also like to sincerely thank RWC 2011 Host Coordinating Committee for their governance and support and our staff for the extra efforts made during this time. I am very proud to be Mayor during this time. I hope that we can continue to attract more quality events to our district. Who knows whether that American or Welsh tourist who visits Taupō next month was inspired to come here by what they saw on TV and read online. Now there's some good news!

Mayor Rick Cooper  
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Ph 07 376 0899

## Celebrating Christmas Taupō District Style

Taupō and Mangakino will each have their own Christmas Parades and Carnivals this year, thanks to input from the communities.

**3 December** – The Taupō parade kicks off from the Fire Station at 1.00pm and follows Lake Terrace and Tongariro Street and joins the carnival on the Tongariro North Domain from 2.00pm. Contact John Burnside on 376 1394 or email jcfbcarnival@hotmail.com

**10 December** – The Mangakino parade starts at 11.00am, completing a circuit of the town, following Rangatira Drive past the shops before joining the carnival at the town centre. The carnival goes until 3.00pm. Contact Nan Munro at the Mangakino Community Agency on 882 8555 or email nan.mca@xtra.co.nz



## Christmas in the Vines

The organisers of the annual Vineaid concert – which last year raised over \$39,000 for the Christchurch Earthquake Mayoral Relief Fund – are organising another fun community event for the Turangi-Tongariro area. Christmas in the Vines is on 18 December from 2.00-8.00pm at the River Vineyard & Restaurant in Turangi. The afternoon will feature live music & entertainment, a BBQ and spit roast, a 'bring and buy' sale, Father Christmas, a bouncy castle and everything Christmas!

This is a non-profit event, organised by the Vine Aid Charitable Trust, with all profits split between three local community groups: the Tongariro walking/cycle track, the Turangi Playground and the Turangi Coastguard.

## Building Inspector Gadgets

From 12 December, the Taupō District Council (TDC) Building Inspection Team is getting tech savvy.

Anyone applying for a building consent will now have their building inspections processed electronically using the GoGet system. TDC building inspectors will be able to provide complete end-to-end inspections using hand-held electronic tablets, which includes the ability to input comments and issue a printed inspection sheet onsite.

The process, which will remove the need for the Building Consent Site Inspection Check Sheet (known as the yellow card), will help streamline building inspections. The inspection data will be stored in a centralised database linked to the property file which is accessible at the TDC customer service desk.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 26 November** General Election Voting Day – visit [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) to find a voting booth near you
- 26 November** Contact Energy Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge
- 29 November** Council Meeting, 1.00pm Council Chambers (Watch it live on webcam – [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz))
- 30 November** Tutemohuta Reserve Trust Meeting, 2.30pm Council Committee Room
- 3 December** Taupō Christmas Parade and Carnival, Tongariro Street and Tongariro North Domain

Email your elected members at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 07 376 0899 OR VISIT [WWW.TAUPO.GOV.TZ](http://WWW.TAUPO.GOV.TZ)



Mayor Rick Cooper, Dep Mayor Mike Downard, Cr Keith Crate, Cr Rob Henderson, Cr Barry Hickling, Cr Chris Johnston, Cr Gary Keepa, Cr Anna Kirk, Cr Rex Mincher, Cr Kirsty Trueman, Cr Nicola Williams