

# Connect

TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AUG - OCT 2009

Hilton Lake Taupo coming soon!

**Your rates**  
For the rating year beginning 1 July 2009, the maximum rates rebate has increased from \$530 to \$550.  
To check if you're eligible, go to [www.ratesrebates.govt.nz](http://www.ratesrebates.govt.nz).  
To apply, bring your rates invoice and evidence of your earnings for the tax year ending 31 March 2009 into TDC before 30 June 2010.

## hi folks,

We're well and truly into the throes of winter and, my goodness, we've had some real weather here in Taupo District. I've been told it's reminiscent of the good old winters of 30 or 40 years ago – before the days of subsidised home insulation schemes when Swanndris were as close as some came to environmentally sustainable heating.



At Council, we've kept ourselves warm by being very busy. Amongst other things, we've completed the district's ten-year plan, *Towards 2019*, and commenced our Taupo Urban Commercial and Industrial Structure Plan (CISP).

It might be the last time that we undertake a ten-year planning exercise as the Minister for Local Government Rodney Hide has clearly indicated a desire to reduce the level of community consultation and bureaucracy associated with local authority planning processes. It will be a case of 'watch that space' as there are many potential changes for local government being suggested at present.

The CISP project is all about identifying a vision for the Taupo urban area, including all land inside the East Taupo Arterial (ETA). The vision will ultimately lead to changes to the district plan which encourage appropriate development and quality investment in the town, and which aim to safeguard the future viability of the CBD and all new and existing industrial land adjacent to the ETA route. Watch out for more information on this exciting project over coming months.

Apart from that, it is business as usual for Taupo District Council and our main focus, as always, is to be the best that we can be. We have recently been given the results of our triennial *Residents' Satisfaction Survey* and I am pleased to note we are improving in the eyes of the community we serve. If you have any feedback, please contact me or our Councillors. It is only by trying our hardest and by listening to your comments that we will continue to improve the way we work on your behalf.

Rob Williams, Chief Executive  
[rwilliams@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:rwilliams@taupo.govt.nz)

## BE PREPARED



What a nerve-wracking start to July! The state of emergency triggered by the risk of a large landslip at Waihi Village – a place of great cultural and spiritual significance to Ngati Tuwharetoa – lasted almost 75 hours.

A swarm of small earthquakes and moderate rain had triggered some unusual natural phenomena in the Hipaua thermal area above Waihi Village. Concerned residents alerted Council's emergency management team who advised them to evacuate. The civil defence unit launched into action: welfare centres were established in Tokaanu to accommodate evacuated residents and an emergency operations centre was set up in the council chamber in Taupo.

Three days later, with the assurance of GNS scientists, the people of Waihi Village were told it was safe to return home. Minister of Civil Defence John Carter applauded both the civil defence staff for a fantastic job and the villagers for their forward thinking and resilience. He said the situation was an example to other New Zealanders of how to act in a civil defence emergency.

Residents from other settlements at the southern end of Lake Taupo are thanked for their patience and cooperation while SH41 was temporarily closed. It was great to see the entire district-wide community pull together quickly and effectively to manage the issue.

While there is still a significant risk of slip in the Hipaua thermal area, GNS scientists have informed Council there are no signs of fresh earth movement and will continue to monitor the area closely.

**inside...** great people, our i-SITEs are tops, TDC's new website, spring eco tip, Great Lake Walkway, take a trip down Memory Lane, AC Baths' Wall of Fame, events calendar, A-Z of Council services **PLUS half price offer!**

GREAT LAKE, GREAT PLACE  
**GREAT PEOPLE**

The Taupo district is full of little-known gems: the Maori carvings which are only accessible by boat, the pristine Lake Maraetai at Mangakino, the recently renovated Genesis Energy Turangi Aquatic Centre.

But it's also brimming with a population of hidden gems: people and organisations who make a very big impact on the community through their volunteer work, talent or passion. These are people with "energy to burn"! In a series of weekly "Energy to Burn" newspaper features, we've been shining the spotlight on some of these people.

They include Sid Lane, a record-breaking gyrocopter pilot; Walter de Bont, Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge's founder; Keith Crate, the Cycle Challenge's event director; Delanie Brown, a master carver; Jayme Fitzgerald, an award-winning teenage singer/songwriter; the Taupo Lakers, winners of TV2's *Top Town*; and many more.

You can read all the Energy to Burn articles by visiting [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz) – they're on the publications page.



Jayme Fitzgerald



Walter de Bont



Sid Lane

*energy to burn*

**NEW WEBSITE** *improved!*

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES – YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA GET!

We've overhauled the Taupo District's Council website. Aside from looking a LOT better, it's also more user-friendly. It's easier to navigate and has all sorts of new features.

- pay your rates online using a credit card
- make a request for service on the website
- fall in love with dogs and puppies waiting to be adopted from the Council's animal welfare centre
- download our latest publications

You can also read columns from your Councillors, check out our image gallery, find interesting and useful info about our district, follow links through to sites such as Taupo Library, Taupo Museum, AC Baths and much, much more.

Go to [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz) and have a surf around. Give us your feedback online and a box of chocolates\* may be heading in your direction.

\*10 yummy boxes of Cadbury Roses to be won.

**your OWN steam**

Have you considered walking or biking to work now that the days are getting longer and winter is on its way out? Leaving your car at home just once a week will significantly reduce your carbon emissions and pollution. You'll be helping the environment, saving money and getting some bonus exercise. Travelling under your own steam will also give you more time to enjoy Taupo district's great views during your journey.

**ECO TIP**

**i-SITES ARE A-PLUS**

Taupo and Turangi i-SITES are among the best in New Zealand according to the latest Qualmark ratings.

Both i-SITES received glowing Qualmark reports in June. The Taupo i-SITE was complimented on its hands-on management style and its sales and brochure layout. The Turangi i-SITE's spacious central layout and Department of Conservation display impressed the Qualmark assessor and the long-serving, fully qualified staff were acknowledged.

Qualmark is New Zealand tourism's official mark of quality and is jointly owned by Tourism NZ and AA. Tourism businesses that carry the Qualmark have been independently assessed as professional and trustworthy so travellers can use their services with confidence.



**MEMORY LANE**

*"I used to compete in ballet competitions in Taupo's old Memorial Hall where the Great Lake Centre now sits. It was decrepit and freezing in winter when we had the Queen's Birthday competitions. I remember one girl was in the middle of a dance when a frozen mouse fell from the rafters and landed on her tutu. She didn't even notice and kept on dancing!"* Nicola Hancock, Taupo

We'd love to hear your memories of our great district. Email [connect@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:connect@taupo.govt.nz).

**PAVING THE WAY**

What is two metres wide, seven kilometres long and has 1.3 million "body" parts? Taupo's Great Lake Walkway, of course!

Construction of the lake front walkway began in 1991 and had its final paver laid during a celebration at Wharewaka Reserve in late July. The project has been carried out in stages, costing around \$40,000 a year.

The path was originally planned for walkers but is now used just as regularly by runners and cyclists. A number of Lake Taupo events also use the Great Lake Walkway including the Taupo Half Marathon, Ironman New Zealand and Oxfam Trailwalker which together attract over 17,500 competitors and spectators from 40 countries.

The entire length of the Great Lake Walkway is a public reserve (and passes through popular reserves at Two Mile Bay, Three Mile Bay and Four Mile Bay) providing plenty of opportunities for recreation, relaxation, games, lake access and dog exercise – not to mention spectacular views of the lake, mountains and impressive waterfront homes.

Council has an ongoing plan in place to widen and continually improve the path by adding sculptures, signage, story boards and distance markers. In the meantime, get your shoes on and check out those 1.3 million pavers!

For information about other Taupo district parks and reserves, go to [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz).



A tranquil walk by the water



Taupo's "Hot Water Beach"

**DID YOU KNOW?**

AC Baths has a Wall of Fame! It was officially opened in November 2008 by the Lake Taupo District Sports Advisory Council in partnership with Taupo District Council and the AC Baths. To get your name on the wall you must have achieved the highest honour in your sport (selected for Olympics, world championships or a test match) and either have been born or schooled in Taupo, live here now or have been competing here when selected. If you can manage all that, you'll be keeping company with...

Louise Stevens (netball), Pat Ryan (rugby), Haydn "Hud" Rickitt (rugby), John Rademakers (basketball), Louisa Wall (netball/rugby), Rick & Lisa Powell (skiing), Lee Stensness (rugby), Graeme Anderson (pistol shooting), Tina Howard (golf), Dion Waller (rugby), Melina Hamilton (pole vault), Ben Townley (motocross), Gareth Hopkins (cricket), and Bevan Docherty (triathlon).

Check out the wall next time you visit AC Baths. It's in the main foyer beside the AC Baths' history panels.

**Half price!**

Entry to AC Baths' private thermal mineral pools is just \$3.50 per person on presentation of this coupon. Valid for use from 6am to 3pm until 30 September 2009.



Mayor Rick Cooper

Dep. Mayor Christine McElwee

Cr Kathryn Uvhagen

Cr Don Ormsby

Cr Doreen Blyth

Cr Bernhard Chrustowski

Cr Micheal Downard

Cr Ailsa Gathergood

Cr Gary Keepa

Cr Barry Hickling

Cr Andrew Welch

**WORKING FOR YOU**

Having your say is now even easier. Email your elected members at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)



# the events capital



## august

- 2 Mizuno Half Marathon  
[www.taupohalfmarathon.org.nz](http://www.taupohalfmarathon.org.nz)
- 12 Taupo Wine and Food Expo,  
Great Lake Centre
- 15-16 2009 Junior World Motocross  
Championship  
[www.taupomcc.co.nz](http://www.taupomcc.co.nz)
- 19 Coffee with Rick and Rob
- 29 My Neighbourhood, Parkdale Reserve,  
Richmond Ave, Taupo

## A mayoral cuppa



Have an informal chat with Mayor Rick Cooper and Council's CEO Rob Williams. This is your opportunity to ask questions, tell us what you like and don't like, and what you want to see from Council in the future. Meet us on the third Wednesday of each month from 7.30-9.00am. The muffins are on us!

19 August / 16 September / 21 October,  
Sierra Café, Tongariro Street, Taupo

## september

- 5 Mizuno Off-road Half Marathon
- 16 Coffee with Rick and Rob
- 20 Taupo Wedding Show  
[www.taupoweddingshow.co.nz](http://www.taupoweddingshow.co.nz)
- 24 Fur and Feathers Wearable Art 2009,  
Taupo Events Centre  
[www.nzsika.co.nz](http://www.nzsika.co.nz)
- 26-27 NZ Sika Show and Wild Food Taupo,  
Taupo Events Centre  
[www.nzsika.co.nz](http://www.nzsika.co.nz)

## Calling all mountain goats

The Mizuno Off-road Half Marathon is New Zealand's newest off-road challenge. The 21.1km course has stunning views of Lake Taupo and is suitable for new off-roaders or more experienced 'mountain goats'. It will be run on stages of the popular W2K track which winds its way from Kinloch to Whakaipo Bay. Set yourself a new challenge for 2009!

5 September, [www.taupohalfmarathon.org.nz](http://www.taupohalfmarathon.org.nz)

## Thrills and spills

The 2009 Junior Motocross World Championship is bringing the world's best junior motocross riders to Taupo. This is the first time the event will be held outside of Europe – Taupo Motorcycle Club will be fantastic hosts!

15-16 August, Digger McEwen Motocross Circuit, Taupo, [www.taupomcc.co.nz](http://www.taupomcc.co.nz)

## october

- 3 My Neighbourhood, Tu Wiremu Reserve,  
Kaiuru Street, Taupo
- 9-11 Kinloch Fishing Competition
- 21 Coffee with Rick and Rob

## In your neighbourhood

Meet your neighbours at a fun get-together in your local reserve. Four events have already been held in various suburbs around Taupo and everyone had a great time! The aim of the gatherings is to promote community spirit and pride. Come along for a barbecue lunch and join in some fun activities led by Sport Waikato. The events are on Saturday mornings from 11am to 2pm. See you there!

3 October Tu Wiremu Reserve, Kaiuru Street

14 November Besley Reserve, Acacia Bay

(Stay tuned for details of events in other reserves!)



For removal of abandoned cars, call Council with the location, number plate, make and model, colour and how long it had been abandoned.

- Council deals with everything from abandoned cars to water supply. Check out the list below!

- Abandoned cars, AC Baths, airport, animal control, annual plans, arts and culture, boat storage, building consents, building control, buskers and street activities, bus service, cemeteries, civic events, community arts, community development, community halls, community liaison, cycling tracks, Destination Lake Taupo, dog control, economic development, elections, erosion control, emergency management, environmental health, footpaths, funding and grants, gambling control, graffiti, Great Lake Centre, hazardous substances information, health licensing, heritage, housing for the elderly, Iwi liaison, land information memorandum (LIM), landfill, landscaping and streetscaping, libraries, liquor licensing, mobile shops and trading in public places, motor camps, museum, noise control, outdoor recreation facilities, Owen Delany Park, parks and reserves, parking, plant and pest control, policy development, property enquiry system, public swimming pools, public toilets, rates, refuse and recycling, resource consents, roading, rural fire, safer communities, sports grounds, stormwater, strategic planning, swimming pool fencing, Taupo Events Centre, Taupo District Plan, Taupo Museum, Taupo Venues, tree control, urban search and rescue, visitor centres, webcam, wastewater, water conservation, water supply.

A to Z