

## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- OriginAir announced it will begin a new air service between Taupō and Wellington from 17 February. The service will operate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for a six-month trial.
- The summer events season kicked off with the annual Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge, followed two weeks later by the VinFast IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship.
- After an extensive consultation period, Council approved the Motutere Reserve Management Plan, which makes several changes to how the reserve will be looked after.
- Native birds are thriving at Spa Park thanks to a Council pest-trapping programme. In 2024 332 pests were caught, including 40 possums and 217 rats.
- Taupō District Council environmental ranger Liam Andrews was named Kaitiaki o te Tau - Ranger of the Year, an annual award given to the member of the parks and reserves team who best represents Council's values. Liam and his team do some hard mahi to keep the Taupō District beautiful.
- Taupō District Council's yearly report card to the community, the Annual Report, was adopted at an extraordinary council meeting on Friday 20 December.
- Taupō District Council's communications team won the web, digital and communications professional excellence team of the year award at the Association of Local Government Information Managers' Annual Awards.

To read these news stories and more head to: [www.taupo.govt.nz/news](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/news)

## IRONMAN 70.3 WORLD CHAMPS WAS A RECORD BREAKER!

**Taupō pulled out all the stops to host the 2024 VinFast IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship in December. Around 20,000 athletes and their supporters came to stay, boosting the district's economy by an estimated \$20 million.**

This was, by a considerable margin, the largest event that the Taupō district has ever hosted, with athletes and their supporters booking out all available accommodation plus spending at local businesses. Event organisers also provided a further boost by using local suppliers where possible. From hireage to printing and even flowers, many businesses reaped the benefits.

The event set a new record for international visitor volume in the Taupō district, recording a whopping 125 per cent increase in international visitors compared to our previous best numbers.

While credit card transaction data was not available at the time of writing, our town centre pedestrian counters showed that during the week leading up to the IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship, foot traffic

was well up on the usual counts and even higher than our normally busiest week of the year which is after Christmas. On the two days of the event itself, our counters recorded five and six times the usual number of pedestrian movements in the town centre. In fact, Sunday 15 December was our busiest day ever, at 60,364 movements!

All this would not have been possible without the support of the local community - volunteers, businesses, hosts, and spectators cheering the athletes on. Our thanks go to the community who cheerfully tolerated the disruption that such a big event was bound to cause. We hope you had the chance to enjoy some of the magic of the event, whether at the official welcome at Te Ātea on our lakefront, the IRONMAN parade of nations, lending a hand as a volunteer or cheering on the athletes along the course.



Volunteers handing out cold drinks during the women's race.



Crowds gather for the pōwhiri welcoming Ironmen to our home.



An expectant crowd awaits the first finisher in the men's race.



Parade of Nations - Puerto Rico.



Local entrant and professional triathlete Kyle Smith on the run course. Smith finished in fourth place in the men's race.

## GOOD PROGRESS ON CROWN ROAD

Crown Road's new commercial property development is taking shape!

About 90 per cent of the underground services are now installed, while power poles were removed and roads formed and sealed in January.

The development, next to Crown Road, will create 18 industrial lots on council-owned land. Councillor Anna Park says it is a win-win for the district.

"Our district is growing steadily and there is strong demand for commercial properties, which is great because more small and medium-sized businesses mean more jobs and economic vibrancy," she says. "Developing this land

makes good fiscal sense as it supports our local economy and raises revenue. It also allows us to make some improvements to the stormwater network in the area, and there will be a pathway through the gully linking Crown Road to the East Taupō Arterial highway, so there are connectivity benefits as well."

The gully that runs through the development was recently planted in native trees, shrubs, and ferns, so that once the work is complete it will be a pleasing green space to complement the nearby businesses.

The development is being undertaken in three stages, with the final stage expected to be finished in mid-2025. Titles should be available towards the end of 2025 or early 2026.



The Crown Road development site during the earthworks phase last September.

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# LEVEL 1

## WATER RESTRICTIONS

TAUPŌ, KINLOCH, WAIRĀKEI AND WAITAHANUI

### EVERY DROP COUNTS, CONSERVE WATER NOW

Level 1 water restrictions are in place for Taupō, Kinloch, Wairākei and Waitahanui.

During January, demand for water steadily increased, with lots of people enjoying all the Taupō District has to offer. And while we all like to maintain lush green lawns and gardens at home, that's put our water supply network under strain.

To help take the pressure off our water team who work hard to keep up supply, we've brought in level 1 water restrictions for Taupō (including Acacia Bay), Kinloch, Wairākei and Waitahanui.

In these areas, sprinklers may be used on alternate days only, using the odds and evens system based on your street address. That means if your address ends in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8, you can use sprinklers on even calendar days. If your address ends in 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9, you can use sprinklers on odd calendar days.

Hand-held hoses can be used anytime.

Water is precious and we ask everyone to use it mindfully.

Thanks for your help.

**For more water-saving tips, head to [www.taupo.govt.nz/waterconservation](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/waterconservation).**

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR DISTRICT

We have exciting events coming up over the next three months.

**Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 February**  
Seven Oaks Kinloch Triathlon Festival

**Saturday 22 February**  
Lake Taupō Rotary Across the Lake Swim

**Sunday 23 February**  
Wairakei Estate Ironkidz

**Saturday 1 March**  
ANZCO IRONMAN NZ and 70.3 NZ

**Saturday 8 March**  
Aramex Kiwi Walk and Run Trail Series: Tongariro River Trail, Tūrangi

**Friday 14 to Sunday 16 March**  
Taupō Trail Festival, The Hub, Taupō

**Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 March**  
Wake NZ North Island Championships, Lake Maraetai, Mangakino

**Thursday 3 April to Saturday 5 April**  
Wake NZ National Championships, Lake Maraetai, Mangakino

**Friday 11 to Sunday 13 April**  
Repco Supercars Championship, ITM Taupō Super440, Taupō International Motorsport Park

**Saturday 26 April**  
BFA Craters Classic, Craters Mountain Bike Park

**For more information go to [www.lovetapu.com/events](http://www.lovetapu.com/events).**

As well as lots of free council-run events and workshops as well!

**Saturday 22 February**  
Home Composting Workshop, Taupō

**Wednesday 5 March**  
Know Your E-Bike bike course

**Sunday 9 March**  
Emergency Services Day, Taupō

**Saturday 15 March**  
Know Your E-Bike bike course

**Saturday 22 March**  
Learn to Ride bike course

**Tuesday 25 March**  
Basic Bike Maintenance

**Saturday 29 March**  
Repair Café at Taupō Venture Centre

**Saturday 29 March**  
Home Composting Workshops, Taupō and Tūrangi

**Saturday 5 April**  
Park Ride and Neighbourhood Ride bike courses

**Saturday 26 April**  
Home Composting Workshop, Taupō

**Full details of each event along with details of how to register are at [www.taupo.govt.nz/events-calendar](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/events-calendar).**

## WATER-SAVING TIPS FOR SUMMER!



Save up rain water to water your gardens.



Water your plants with a watering can instead of a hose.



Wash your car with a bucket of water instead of a hose.



Don't leave the water running while you brush your teeth.



Save time and water by taking shorter showers!



0800 ASK TDC



[info@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:info@taupo.govt.nz)



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30 Tongariro Street, Taupō