



CLIMBING KATIE ALL ABOUT THE ROCKWALL

Have you been thinking about giving The Edge Indoor Rockwall a go?

Katie Donald, 15, can give you a few good reasons to embrace the challenge and get involved.

The Taupō-nui-a-Tia College student has been climbing regularly at the Rockwall for the last three years after getting a taste for it when she was a child.

"It's helped my fitness, it's fun and you get to meet so many great people and form bonds with them," she said.

Katie said unlike other sports, this one relied on the trust between the climber and belayer at the bottom – the only person who is able to stop you from falling if you slip, thanks to the rope that joins the two.

"You're up there on that wall and they're your safety, so you have to trust each other," Katie said.

Katie is part of the Stalactites club, a Rockwall climbing club for teens, and helps out with the young ones in the Chalkies club.

"You meet people of all ages and their whole families as well," she said.

"If you're wanting an experience that's going to change you, do it. It changes your perspective."

The Edge Indoor Rockwall is an all-weather adventure climbing wall for beginner to advanced climbers. At 12 metres high, the wall has climbs graded from 12 to 29 so is a challenging activity for all.

Visit taupo.govt.nz/rockwall to find out more.

CHANGES FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS



Our district's one and only set of traffic lights is getting a whole lot of improvements to not only make them look better, but to improve traffic flows and safety.

Thousands of vehicles travel through the intersection of Tongariro Street, Heuheu Street and Story Place every day and with a growing number of people using the intersection we're upgrading the lights and the electronic system that runs them.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said the new and improved lights would feature turning arrows, pedestrian countdown timers and a new way for pedestrians to cross.

"The new lights will allow pedestrians to cross all streets in any direction – even diagonally – in one go with all vehicles stopped on red lights," he said.

"This is a lot safer than having turning traffic give way to pedestrians and aligns our traffic signals with how many others around the country work."

Denis said a countdown timer would also be installed to inform pedestrians how long they had to cross.

"As well as these new features to help make the crossing safer, we're also making the traffic lights smarter. They'll be able to tell when there are cars waiting at certain streets and change the lights accordingly.

"This means you won't sit waiting for long when there aren't any other cars using the intersection and will help traffic to flow more efficiently."

Work to upgrade the lights is ongoing, and we're hoping to have the new signals working next week. Make sure you take care at the intersection until you're used to the new phasing and turning arrow changes.

» What's on?

- 25 June Mid-winter Milk Warmer fundraiser, Waipahihi Botanical Reserve
- 13 July Miss Jean Batten, Great Lake Centre
- 14 July Firelight Celebration - Unison Light Trail, Tongariro South Domain
- 14 July Whisky and Jazz, Great Lake Centre
- 15 July Biggest Little Circus, Tongariro North Domain

For more information on Taupō District events visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com



STORMWATER QUALITY DEVICE WORK UNDERWAY ON LAKEFRONT

Work is underway to install a new filtering device on the lakefront that will help prevent sediment, oil and debris from entering Lake Taupō.

The underground stormwater quality improvement device is going in lakeside at the end of Mere Road alongside the hot water beach.

It works by funnelling stormwater into a vortex which separates and removes contaminants from the water.

The access road to the hot water beach is temporarily closed to allow contractor Spartan Construction to carry out the work.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said closing the road ensured the community's safety.

"The installation is weather dependant but we're hoping to have it finished and the access road reopened by the end of the month," he said.

The devices were budgeted for in the Long-term Plan 2015-2025 as part of the council's commitment to looking after the environment.

The work is taking place alongside erosion control work on the lakefront nearby.