

## ENJOY EASTER IN THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT



### HAVE YOU HEARD about all the cool events and activities happening around our district this Easter?

There's something for everyone, so get out and support local these holidays.

Easterfest, our annual pop-up style street festival, is on in Taupō from today to April 5. It'll feature world-class street performers, an Easter egg hunt, a hot chocolate competition, Easter movies at Starlight Cinema and more.

If you're in Taupō you can also catch the New Zealand National Finals Rodeo or watch the Lake Taupō Yacht Club Easter Trailer Yacht and Sports Boat Regatta on Saturday and Sunday.

In Mangakino, the Easter Event and Raft Race 2021 are happening on the Lake Maraetai lakefront on Sunday April

4. It'll kick off with an Easter service at 9am, followed by music, races, games and food stalls from 9.30am and the raft race at 12.30pm.

Easter public holidays mean some of our facilities will be closed. Taupō, Turangi and Mangakino libraries will be closed tomorrow, Friday April 2, Sunday April 4 and Monday April 5.

Landfill and transfer centre hours vary by location though all are closed Friday, April 2. You can find out hours for specific centres by visiting at [taupo.govt.nz/rubbish](http://taupo.govt.nz/rubbish).

Our customer service centres are closed Friday, April 2, but open 10am to 1pm for the rest of the long weekend.

Taupō Museum will remain open every day from 10am to 4pm and the AC Baths will also be open from 7am to 7pm each day.



## LONG-TERM PLAN - TWO WEEKS LEFT TO HAVE YOUR SAY

**OUR TEAM, ALONG with elected members, are enjoying getting out and about in the community across the district to talk with you in person about the Long-term Plan (LTP).**

The LTP sets out our vision, key projects, initiatives and budgets for the next 10 years. With input from our communities, we develop a new LTP every three years. It affects you and your whanau, so it's important you have your say.

Submissions are open now and close in just two weeks on Friday, April 16, 2021 at 5pm. Find out more at [taupo.govt.nz/ltpl](http://taupo.govt.nz/ltpl).

### FINAL INFORMATION SESSIONS: DATES AND LOCATIONS

Turangi-Tongariro Community Board	Wednesday, April 7 12.30pm–1.30pm Former Turangi service centre
Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group	Tuesday, April 13 10am Mangakino service centre

## PRIVATE POOLS UPGRADE NEAR COMPLETION

**THE UPGRADE TO the AC Baths private pools is now nearing completion after a few interruptions created by Covid-19 restrictions. The New Zealand-made pools have been lowered into their bases by crane and the final fit out of the new pools should see them up and running by mid-April.**

The new pools will be larger and able to accommodate sports teams.

Facilities officer Laetitia Bowers said the interiors of the pool rooms had also been completely refurbished.

"The new pools are substantially larger than the previous pools, so groups have a bit more room to spread out," she



said. "This project has had its challenges due to difficulties in sourcing some materials, so it's great to see the upgrade nearing completion and we're looking forward to welcoming the community back to our thermal pools."

## TAUPŌ TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION - PEOPLE WITH PASSION



**SHANNAN BELL WILL be a familiar face to many in Taupō. Shannan was site manager on the upgrade to the Ruapehu and Tūwharetoa Streets intersection and helped show Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern around the work proposed for the town centre. Most people, however, will recognise her as the friendly face in the driving seat of some heavy machinery at our Horomatangi Street intersection upgrade.**

It's all quite surprising for someone who trained for a very different career.

"I was studying accountancy when a customer in the café where I worked part-time and offered me a job driving a roller and it just clicked immediately," she said. "I've been working on machines for 11 years now – and have no plans to go back to being an accountant!"

Instead, Shannan moved to Taupō – partly because there was plenty of work here and partly because she was captivated by Taupō's beauty. She and her partner are now expecting their first child, so while she will be off the machines for a while, she has no intention of giving up doing what she loves. "I'll definitely be back. I just love doing my job and it's great to be a part of a project that is transforming the town. I love it here, it's a beautiful place and we're so lucky to live here."

"The work we're doing on the Taupō Town Centre Transformation is pretty challenging – everything has to be aligned to the millimetre – but it's also really rewarding when you walk away and see the finished project. We've had great feedback from everyone about the Horomatangi roundabout, and we're looking forward to the rest of the town centre transformation work. Ultimately I want to help more women do what I do. It's a great industry to be in and now is an amazing time to get involved, whether you're male or female!"



## AC BATHS LEISURE POOL NOW OPEN

**THE AC BATHS' leisure pool and hydrosides have reopened, following after a 10 day closure for essential maintenance.**

About a million litres of water was pumped out of the leisure pool to allow for the first major maintenance and closure at the AC Baths since its refurbishment in 2013.

Tiles around the bombing island and on the entry stairs have been replaced along with lining in the "water overflow" areas of the pool. Pipes and valves have also been repaired and areas inaccessible when the pool is full were inspected and cleaned.

Thanks to everyone for their patience while the work was carried out. Please be aware temperatures may be lower than usual for a day or two as the water reheats.

