

# Taupo District, New Zealand International Safe Communities Designation #186



Taupo District Safe Community Steering Committee, alongside the Site Visit Team

On Wednesday 21 April 2010, members of the Taupo Safe District Steering Committee hosted six ISC reviewers and six observers from Hutt City, Upper Hutt, Napier, Rotorua, ACC and Ministry of Justice. The ISC site visit review team was particularly impressed with the leadership shown by the Council to address community safety concerns for residents and visitors to the Taupo District.

The Taupo District has a population of 32,600 and is situated in the middle of the North Island. Taupo District prides itself on being a world-class events location, with Lake Taupo a centre point for many sporting and recreational activities. The Taupo site visit was well-organised and demonstrated community involvement of a range of key organisations and individuals. The presentations and field trips all provided meaningful insights into how Taupo District had effectively adopted the WHO Safe Community model to improve community safety at a local level.

The application ably demonstrated the wide range of injury and violence prevention initiatives underway in the Taupo District, with a total of 161 initiatives listed. The site visit team was particularly impressed with the level of commitment to improve safety for children and young people together with the effective partnerships established between the Police, the Council, the Violence Intervention Network and the newly established Taupo Safer Community Trust.

Following review of the Taupo District ISC application and the successful conduct of the site visit, an ISC designation ceremony was held at the Taupo Events Centre on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. This ceremony was followed the next day by a community open day at the AC baths. As Doug Scott, Project Manager, Taupo Safer Communities commented: *“we now need to ensure that these projects are maintained and are sustainable leading to a further application in five years time for re-accreditation”*.



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Further information can be found by visiting the Safe Communities Foundation NZ web site <http://www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc/taupo>