

# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Taupō / Taupō East Rural Community  
Grant Distribution Committee meeting**

**28 April 2026**

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## March 2026 - Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Fund – Summary Sheet

This summary sheet provides decision makers with a concise review of all applications submitted to the Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Fund. It includes an overview of average scores and notes from officer assessments based on the community funding eligibility and assessment framework.

**Application total:** 47

**Amount available:** \$75,000

**Amount requested:** \$178,387

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
1	<b>Taupō Budget Advisory Service Incorporated</b>	To support operational costs (wages)	\$5,000	5	
2	<b>Taupō Bluelight Ventures</b>	To support operational costs (wages, equipment, travel)	\$5,000	5	
3	<b>Lake Taupō Woodworkers Guild</b>	To support operational costs (rent of club workshop)	\$2,400	5	
4	<b>The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc</b>	To support operational costs of the SPCA centre	\$5,000	5	

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	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
5	<b>Taupō Community Patrol</b>	To support operational costs (general)	\$5,000	5	
6	<b>Taupō Community Gardens</b>	To develop a youth volunteer program	\$5,000	5	
7	<b>Town Centre Taupō</b>	To support costs of Graffiato: Taupō Street Art Festival	\$5,000	5	Application also submitted to the Creative Communities Scheme Fund for \$10k to support general festival costs. This is a Creative NZ Fund that is administered by TDC. There is no conflict with the TTER Fund.
8	<b>Awhina Taupō Community Foodbank</b>	To support the Food Security Project: Boosting Storage for Community Distribution	\$5,000	5	
9	<b>Age Concern Taupō</b>	To support operational costs (wages)	\$5,000	5	
10	<b>Wairakei Community Group</b>	To support costs for the Wairakei Community Matariki Event	\$972	5	
11	<b>Citizens Advice Bureau Taupō</b>	To support operational costs (wages)	\$4,720	4.75	

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
12	<b>Family &amp; Financial Solutions Trust</b>	To support operational costs (wages)	\$6,000	4.75	Application is for \$6,000 however applicant is only eligible to receive a maximum of \$5,000. Applicant has been advised.
13	<b>The Order of St John New Zealand - Taupō Area Committee</b>	To purchase an Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for a residential community	\$3,392	4.75	
14	<b>Taupō Netball Centre</b>	To support the Positive Vibes Only Programme & Court Hire	\$4,000	4.75	
15	<b>Life Education Trust Central Plateau</b>	To develop take-home packs for Taupō and Taupō East Rural Schools	\$5,000	4.5	Applicant has also made a request to the Tūrangi Tongariro Community Fund for operational costs of delivering the programme for southern communities. Applicant received a grant in late 2025, meaning only one of the applications in March 2026 can be successful. Applicant and both decision committees advised of this.
16	<b>Emma Hampson-Tindale</b>	To support travel costs of attending the Australian	\$2,500	4.5	

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	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
		Gymnastics National Championships 2026			
17	<b>Pregnancy Help Taupō</b>	To support operational costs (rent and wages)	\$5,000	4.5	Applicant has also made a request to the Tūrangi Tongariro Community Fund for operational costs of delivering the programme for southern communities. Applicant received a grant in late 2025, meaning only one of the applications in March 2026 can be successful. Applicant and both decision committees have been advised of this.
18	<b>Taupō Neighbourhood Support</b>	To support operational costs (wages and rent)	\$5,000	4.5	
19	<b>Ruth Tremain</b>	To purchase fabric for pyjamas for children and their families (donated through Pregnancy Help Inc)	\$1,000	4.5	This initiative has been running for over 20 years, with Ruth first receiving support from TDC in 2025 for this mahi.
20	<b>Momentum Charitable Trust</b>	To deliver life and financial skills programmes	\$4,380	4.25	

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
		supporting reintegration for Taupō Residents			
21	<b>Oruanui Pony Club</b>	To deliver community first aid courses	\$3,000	4.25	
22	<b>Aphasia NZ</b>	To support Aphasia support services in the district	\$3,500	4.25	
23	<b>Nikea Williams</b>	To support travel costs for Nikea to represent New Zealand in Polocrosse	\$3,500	4.25	
24	<b>Kinloch Community Association Incorporated</b>	To purchase pavers and signage for the Kinloch Beach Mat	\$4,447	4.25	
25	<b>Brain Injury Waikato</b>	To support costs of delivering education and support groups	\$5,000	4	Applicant has also submitted a request to the Tūrangi Tongariro Community Fund for operational costs of delivering the programme for southern communities.
26	<b>Rugby 101 Kiwi Warrior Incorporated</b>	To support marketing and operational costs for the Rugby 101 sport.	\$5,000	4	

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
27	<b>Taupō Multicultural Council</b>	To support operational costs (training, rent, resources)	\$4,945	4	
28	<b>Taupō District Riding Club and Bridleways</b>	To support the maintenance of Bridleways	\$3,105	4	
29	<b>Tania Withers</b>	He Kai Taonga	\$4,933	4	Under our eligibility requirements - we cannot fund the purchase of food for events. Given this request is for a programme of work it is considered to be eligible
30	<b>Taupō Cosmopolitan Leisure Marchers</b>	To support venue hire for 2 May 2026 event	\$1,078	3.75	
31	<b>Parkinson's New Zealand</b>	To deliver wrap-around support for people with Parkinson's in the Taupō district	\$2,500	3.75	
32	<b>Girl Guide NZ</b>	To support programme delivery that empowers girls and young women across the country	\$2,400	3.75	

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
33	<b>Mt Tauhara Gymnastics</b>	To purchase new heaters for the gymnasium	\$3,800	3.75	
34	<b>Taupō Disc Golf Club</b>	To replace vandalised metal basket hole parts	\$982	3.75	Previously funded through TDC community grants. Clarification sought on if the group have insurances in place to cover damaged equipment. As at 10/04 the applicant has not submitted an accountability report for previous funds allocated. Until this is recieved, the applicant is ineligible to receive future funds.
35	<b>Good Bitches Trust (trading as Good Bitches Baking)</b>	To support operational costs of the Baking it Better Taupō programme	\$1,000	3.5	
36	<b>Taupō Academy of Dance</b>	To support travel costs for group to attend the She Shines on Dance Tour 2026	\$5,000	3.5	Applicant is a group of parents with children who attend the Academy of Dance and are travelling overseas. Applicant is the TAD as parents felt it was more appropriate to have a third party bank account rather than a private bank account for the

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
					group. Clarification sought on whether uniforms will be kept by individuals, if so this cost is ineligible.
37	<b>Bowel Cancer New Zealand</b>	To deliver the patient wellbeing programme for Taupō residents affected by Bowel Cancer	\$2,000	3.25	
38	<b>International Mums Group</b>	To support operational costs	\$1,300	3.25	Outstanding accountability report as at 10/04. Further information including updated quotes, budgets and supporting evidence requested. Until this is recieved, the applicant is ineligible for funding.
39	<b>Lake Taupō Hospice</b>	To purchase a specialised air mattress for patients	\$4,657	3.25	
40	<b>Taupō Parents Centre</b>	To deliver the Taupō Car Seat Service.	\$5,000	3.25	
41	<b>Great Lake Taupō Fillipino Basketball</b>	To support venue hire for the 5th Winter League, One Day Tournament	\$2,500	3	

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
42	<b>Sam Westlake - Taupō Collectibles Event</b>	To support venue hire costs of delivering the Taupō Collectibles Event	\$3,000	3	Applicant has confirmed he is applying as an individual to run the event that directs profits back to local charities.
43	<b>Taupō Rowing Club</b>	To support travel costs of the Taupō Rowing Club - Junior Squad	\$5,000	3	Invoices submitted are considered retrospective. On 8/04 updated quotes and information for future regatta were requested.
44	<b>Te Korowai Roopu Tautoko Inc</b>	To purchase new gym equipment for the Te Korowai Roopu Tautoko Hauora Space	\$5,000	2.75	We have requested updated accounts for the organisation. These are currently being finalised and will be uploaded prior to the allocation meeting.
45	<b>Treats of Taupō</b>	Treats of Taupō - Food Festival	\$5,000	2.5	Awaiting clarification of legal status of applicant - appears to provide benefit to business or profits back to individual.
46	<b>Te Ngare o Te Kohera</b>	To clear land at Te Wharakenga o Tētahi Whenua Wāhanga o te o Whangamā No.3	\$3,875	2	Applicant is applying for support of clearing private land. Recommend consideration around the precedence this may set.

	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Name of project/ initiative</b>	<b>Requested amount</b>	<b>Assessment Score (average)</b>	<b>Assessment Team Comment</b>
47	<b>Paula Gee-wanhill</b>	To deliver wise ones fitness classes	\$2,500	1.5	Seeking clarification of legal status of applicant - appears to be linked to and benefit a business.
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$178,387</b>		



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# Welcome

***Thank you for your continued support and distribution of community funds.***

***We appreciate the time and expertise it takes to consider funding applications.***

The purpose of this document is to support you and your fellow committee members to make decisions when allocating the below community funds:

## 1. Taupō and Taupō East Rural Fund

## 2. Mangakino Pouakani Fund

## 3. Tūrangi Tongariro Fund

# Background

Council decides to allocate a budget to its community funding programme every three years, as part of its long – term planning process.

During this process, Council also adopts a funding policy and eligibility assessment framework to guide what types of contestable funds are available for communities, their purpose, and how applications will be considered, assessed, and prioritised. These documents are reviewed every six years, or as otherwise decided by Elected Members.



The *Community Funding Policy (2024)* and *Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework (2024)* were last adopted on 1 August 2024. Both documents are available to view at [taupo.govt.nz/grants](https://taupo.govt.nz/grants).

In early 2025, Council accepted applications to and distributed its Strategic Partnership and Accelerator Funds. Both of these funds are explained below, but will not be available for distribution again until the next LTP is adopted.



02 COMMUNITY FUNDS - DECISION MAKERS TOOLKIT

## Strategic Partnership Fund

The Strategic Partnership Fund is designed for forward-thinking organisations ready to collaborate with Council to deliver real impact.

*This fund supports groups that:*

- Align with and advance Council's key strategic outcomes
- Provide TDC with expert advice, leadership and support on core programmes, projects, and business-as-usual activities

Council Priority	Strategic Outcomes Sought	2024 – 2027 Recipient	Annual Allocation
Sport, recreation, and reserves planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for the future of our district's sport and recreational facilities, reserves, and parks.</li> <li>• Support recreation and sports organisations to collaborate and to be sustainable.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Sport Waikato</a>	\$50k plus GST per annum
Arts, culture and ngā toi and cultural well – being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for the future of our district's cultural art facilities, venues, and opportunities for communities.</li> <li>• Support the development and capability of resilient arts, culture and ngā toi communities across the district.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Creative Taupō</a>	\$50k plus GST per annum
Climate risk and environmental well – being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect our district's natural ecosystems.</li> <li>• Connect people to and educating them about nature.</li> <li>• Plant trees and undertake native revegetation programmes.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Greening Taupō</a>	\$60k plus GST per annum
Community well – being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide social service networking opportunities.</li> <li>• Facilitate opportunities that build capability and capacity for community organisations.</li> <li>• Support social service community organisations to collaborate.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Waiora Community Trust</a>	\$70k plus GST per annum
Sustainable transport choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Taupō to be the most cycle friendly place in New Zealand.</li> <li>• Educate and encourage people, including rangatahi, to use sustainable transport options.</li> <li>• Maintain cycling tracks across the district to provide economic opportunities for the district.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Bike Taupō</a>	\$70k plus GST per annum

## Accelerator Fund

The Accelerator Fund is a launchpad for impact. Designed to empower up to eight visionary community groups or organisations, this multi-year fund offers the momentum groups need to turn bold ideas into lasting change.

Over three years, groups receive a powerful mix of financial backing and in-kind support tailored to help scale your aspirations and deliver meaningful outcomes for community wellbeing. This isn't just funding - it's a partnership for progress.

2024 – 2027 Recipient	Purpose of funding	Amount allocated per annum
<a href="#"><u>Mangakino Central Charitable Trust</u></a>	To support operational and initiative costs for the Mangakino Central Charitable Trust	\$20,000
<a href="#"><u>Tūrangi Rangatahi Hub</u></a>	To support operational costs for the Rangatahi Hub	\$20,000
<a href="#"><u>Taupō School of Music</u></a>	To support operational costs for the Taupō School of Music	\$20,000
<a href="#"><u>Safe Tūrangi</u></a>	To support operational costs for Safe Tūrangi	\$20,000
<a href="#"><u>Lake Taupō District Sports Advisory Council</u></a>	To support administration and wage costs for the delivery of the KiwiSport Programme, Taupō Sport Services and the Taupō District Sports Awards	\$20,000
<a href="#"><u>Volunteer Great Lake Taupō</u></a>	To support operational costs for Volunteer Great Lake Taupō	\$20,000
<a href="#"><u>Taupō Sculpture Trust</u></a>	To support a community engagement plan and marketing campaign for the Taupō Sculpture Trust	\$20,000
<a href="#"><u>Kids Greening Taupō</u></a>	To support administrative costs for the Kids Greening Taupō programme	\$20,000

## Community Grant Funds

Community grant funds are contestable, one off funds providing up to \$5,000 excl GST to support community-led events, projects, and initiatives. Community groups, organisations and individuals may apply for eligible costs under these funds.

The funds are split across Taupō District Council Wards.



**\$150,000** excl GST available annually for the **Taupō and Taupō East Rural Fund.**



Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Grant Distribution Committee allocate funds twice per year.



A maximum of \$5,000 excl GST may be allocated to an applicant each funding round.

**\$40,000** excl GST available annually for the **Mangakino Pouakani Fund.**

Mangakino Pouakani Representative Group allocate funds twice per year.

A maximum of \$5,000 excl GST may be allocated to an applicant each funding round.

**\$50,000** excl GST available annually for the **Tūrangi Tongariro Fund.**

Tūrangi Tongariro Community Grant Distribution Committee allocate funds twice per year.

A maximum of \$5,000 excl GST may be allocated to an applicant each funding round.

# Application Process



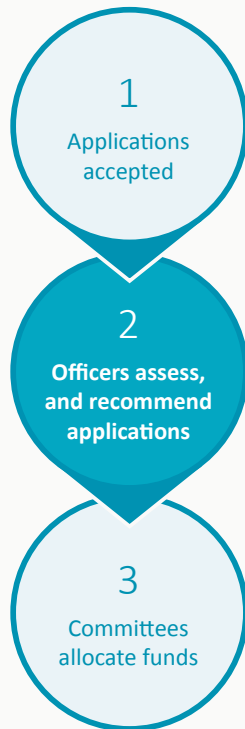
## 1) Applications are accepted

Applications for community funds are accepted at different times:

- **Strategic Partnership Fund** – every three years, following adoption of Council’s long – term plan.
- **Accelerator Fund** – every three years, following adoption of Council’s long – term plan.
- **Community Grant Funds** – twice per year, typically six months apart.

All applications are submitted through the Taupō District Funding Portal, available on our website at [taupo.govt.nz/grants](https://taupo.govt.nz/grants). This is a centralised platform to accept, assess, decide on, and notify applicants about their request. This system is the place decision makers log into to view applications ahead of decision meetings. Please see the ‘How to use the Taupō District Council Funding Portal’ document for further information on how to use and navigate the system.

The opening and closing dates for each fund are advertised through our website, social media, in TDC newsletters, newspaper and community – led communications. We also encourage committee members and Elected Members to promote funds through their networks.



## 2) Officers assess applications

Applications are assessed by officers in accordance with the Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework. The eligibility criteria establish whether a prospective applicant is eligible to apply for funding and the assessment framework guides the priority of applications. Following this assessment, officers provide a recommendation on the eligible and prioritised applications to decision makers. This method is used to ensure a transparent and equitable approach to community funding decision making, and supports Council’s approach to building capability through community led development.

Scan to view the Eligibility criteria and assessment framework online at:  
[taupo.govt.nz/community/community-grants-and-awards/eligibility-criteria](https://taupo.govt.nz/community/community-grants-and-awards/eligibility-criteria)



### ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

	Considerations	Scoring Weight
<b>Project/ activity purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the applicant clearly defined the purpose and expected community outcomes and benefit the project, activity or service will provide?</li> <li>• Has the applicant clearly outlined the community need that is being met and why this is important?</li> </ul>	1
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the applicant demonstrated how their initiative aligns to council’s strategic priorities and goals?</li> <li>• Has the applicant demonstrated that the initiative aligns to Council’s community outcomes and strategic priorities?</li> </ul>	1
<b>Capacity and Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the applicant have the capability, capacity, and experience to deliver the project, activity, or service to an appropriate standard?</li> <li>• Is this evidenced by a relevant track record of successful delivery or a clear plan of how they intend to deliver?</li> <li>• Has the applicant identified areas where it would value additional support?</li> </ul>	0.5
<b>Evidence Based Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the applicant present a realistic, evidence-based budget for the project, activity, or service?</li> <li>• Does this budget include all elements of the project?</li> <li>• Has the applicant identified how the grant will be spent?</li> <li>• Has the applicant evidences other funding streams in their budget if applicable?</li> </ul>	0.5
<b>Success Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the applicant identified how the success of the project, activity or service will be evaluated?</li> <li>• For example, will any information be collected on the number of people benefiting from the initiative?</li> </ul>	0.5
<b>Project Benefit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the applicant identified who the project, activity or service will benefit and where in the Taupō district these people reside?</li> </ul>	1
<b>Community Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the applicant provided evidence of community support, collaboration or involvement in the project, activity, or service? <i>For example, volunteer hours, or donated goods/services?</i></li> <li>• Has the applicant provided evidence of support from a recognised regional or national body (where relevant)?</li> </ul>	0.5

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- This assessment is based on the eligibility and assessment framework Council adopted in August 2024. Further detail around what assessors consider when assessing applications is included as appendix one.
- If an accountability report for a previous grant has not been submitted by the date of the allocation meeting, the application is not eligible to receive funding. If this applies to any applicants, an update will be provided at the decision meeting.
- If an applicant is already receiving another community fund through Council, this will be noted in the assessor comments.
- All applicants have access to the scoring criteria during the application process to support them in making an application.
- Partial scores may be granted if a criteria is partially met.



### 3) Committees allocate funds

#### Your role as a community funding decision maker:

- Is to work impartially as part of a committee to consider and allocate Council's community funds impartially.
- You will receive access to the funding portal to view applications, and to prepare ahead of each decision meeting.
- You will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest at the beginning of every allocation meeting.
- Where it is decided that an application will be declined, we ask decision makers to provide rationale as to why this decision has been made. This allows officers to provide support to declined applicants and where possible ensure they have the opportunity to improve on any future applications they make

#### Who attends a fund allocation meeting?

- » **The public.** Applications are considered in an open forum - we ask committees to welcome those who wish to listen to the meeting. At the time of making an application, applicants may choose whether they would like to be present to answer any questions of clarification during the decision-making process.
- » **Elected Members.** Where committees of Council make decisions, those elected members who do not sit on the decision-making committee are able to attend the meeting with non-voting rights.
- » **TDC officers.** Will be present at allocation meetings – with non-voting rights. Officers are available for policy or eligibility queries, to provide further context, and to ensure a consistent process is upheld.

# Funding Priorities

As part of the application process, are asked to demonstrate that their request aligns to at least one of the priorities outlined in the table. The assessment summary decision makers receive will outline what funding priority (or priorities) the application aligns to.

COMMUNITY OUTCOME	GUIDANCE
Tangata whenua are acknowledged and respected	<p><b>We want to fund initiatives, projects, or activities that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the needs and aspirations of hapū and iwi</li> <li>• Promote the cultural heritage of Māori</li> <li>• Celebrate Māori identity</li> <li>• Improve knowledge of tikanga and te reo</li> </ul>
Vibrant places and connected communities	<p><b>We want to fund initiatives, projects, or activities that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate our people, history, or culture</li> <li>• Support arts, culture and ngā toi activities</li> <li>• Support sport and recreation activities</li> <li>• Connect people for shared experiences</li> </ul>
Resilient communities working in partnership	<p><b>We want to fund initiatives, projects, or activities that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the ability of whanau and communities to meet their needs</li> <li>• Establish safe places that offer support to vulnerable people in our community</li> <li>• Promote collaboration within the community and foster a spirit of working together</li> <li>• Enhance social and economic resiliency in our communities</li> </ul>
Innovative, thriving economy	<p><b>We want to fund initiatives, projects, or activities that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the image of our district</li> <li>• Support vibrancy and attractiveness of our public places</li> </ul>
Flourishing environment	<p><b>We want to fund initiatives, projects, or activities that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the state of our natural environment and conservation efforts</li> <li>• Promote sustainable outcomes</li> <li>• Champion activities that emphasize the principles of reuse, reduction, or recycling of waste</li> </ul>



If you have questions, please  
reach out to Taupō District  
Council's Community Funding  
and Partnerships team by  
emailing [funding@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:funding@taupo.govt.nz)



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