



GREAT LAKE, GREAT PLACE, GREAT PEOPLE

Haka celebration comes to Turangi



The mighty haka Ka Mate, as performed by the All Blacks, will be celebrated this Sunday on the site it was originally composed at Opotaka, on the shores of Lake Rotoaira, just South of Turangi. The South African Rugby team, who arrive in Taupō on Sunday morning, will be the special guests and will be treated to a performance of the haka, as well as a retelling of the story of how the haka was composed. As the story goes, way back in 1820, Te Rauparaha, the great Māori warrior and Chief of the Ngati-Toa Rangatira tribe, was being pursued by a rival iwi. Upon

coming to Taupō he was directed to Motuopuhi by the Paramount Chief Te Heuheu, where the local chief Te Wharerangi helped him. He permitted Te Rauparaha to hide in his kumara pit, while Te Whareangi's wife, Te Rangikoa, then sat over the hole of the pit, concealing him. Fearing certain death, Te Rauparaha chanted "Ka mate, ka mate!" which means "I die, I die!". After he was overlooked by his enemies he cried "Ka ora, ka ora!" which means "I live, I live!". The rest, as they say, is history.

This exclusive event, which kicks-off at 1.00pm, is being filmed and a

live broadcast will be beamed to big screens at both the Turangi town centre, and the Great Lake Centre in Taupō.

If you are in Turangi, head to the town centre from 11.30am for free live entertainment, activities and food stalls. From 1.00pm watch the Opotaka celebration live on the outdoor big screen.

In Taupō, head to the Great Lake Centre from 1.00pm to watch the celebration live, then stick around for the RWC 2011 FANZONE hosted by the Welsh ex-pat community for the Wales v Samoa match.

MAYOR RICK COOPER

NO LIFE ON THIS HIGHWAY

On Saturday I had the pleasure of being invited to visit the Rapid River Jet which operates on the Aratiatia Rapids. Now, I have done just about every jet boat ride available in this country and this was, without a doubt, one of the best jet boat experiences I have ever had. We have some incredible tourism operators in this district, and this was up there with the best. The service was exceptional, the price was very fair and the entire outfit was run very professionally. They had good knowledge of the river and shared interesting information about it, such as the fact that some of the filming of the *Yogi Bear* movie was done there. Of course the actual ride itself was simply exhilarating. What's more, this is a fully



So I rang Transit and asked them why we can't have signage in our district and was told that New Zealand has an accord with Canada and Australia which prescribes a colour coded road sign system. Green signs for places, blue signs for streets and brown signs for attractions. Ugly brown signs to tell our tourists to come and have a wonderful experience. I think that stinks.

Why then, when I go to Australia, do I see 10ft

"We have some incredible tourism operators in this district"

Taupō owned and operated company, so it's nice to know the profits are staying here and will be reinvested back into the local economy.

So what's my gripe? Well for a start, me and the grandkids were the only group there that day. And why? Because Transit won't allow anyone to know where Rapid River Jet is located. A fantastic establishment like this should be allowed to have grand signs on the main highway, telling tourists to turn off for an exhilarating experience they will never forget. But alas they are not allowed. Another wonderful local establishment that is suffering from a similar fate is the National Trout Centre, located somewhere south of Turangi. And they are not alone.

high pineapples, 20ft high koalas and giant kangaroos and crocodiles dotting the highways telling me to turn off to see wonderful wildlife attractions? Where is the consistency in that?

This is tantamount to bureaucracy by overpaid zealots bent on styming enterprise, employment and economic growth. Shame on you Transit.

The saddest part of all is that the highways are littered with 4x2m signs telling us not to text while we drive, to slow down for corners and to think before we overtake. Tell us something we don't know (like how to get to Rapid River Jet)!

Mayor Rick Cooper
rcooper@taupo.govt.nz
07 376 0899

Plan Changes submissions extended

Due to public interest, the submission period for the proposed Taupō District Plan Changes 28-33 has been extended to the following Friday, 23 September 2011, giving interested parties more time to prepare submissions.

The proposed Plan Changes and

submissions forms are available at any Council office or library, or online at www.taupo.govt.nz.

For more information on the Plan Changes or the submission process, call Kendall Goode on 07 376 0775, or email epu@taupo.govt.nz

Plant a native for Pinetree

The Great Living Legends "Muck-in" is this Sunday, 18 September, at Whakaipo Bay from 9.00am.

Bring your gumboots and a spade and help us plant 5000 native New Zealand trees at this iconic reserve overlooking Great Lake Taupō. The Whakaipo Bay planting day will honour the rugby career of Sir Colin "Pinetree" Meads, who will be at the site in the morning.

Living Legends, in association with DOC, is a national operation coordinating 17 native tree plantings around New Zealand during September and October.

Visit www.livinglegends.co.nz for more details.



IMPORTANT DATES

- 17 September FANZONE: Ireland v Australia (hosted by Irish ex-pat community), 6.30pm Great Lake Centre
- 18 September Living Legends native tree planting day, 9.00am Whakaipo Bay
- 18 September FANZONE: Wales v Samoa (hosted by Welsh ex-pat community), 2.30pm Great Lake Centre
- 19 September Springboks Public Training Session, 10.00-11.30am Owen Delany Park, Taupō
- 21 September Oranges at Halftime, rugby photographic exhibition, Tongariro Domain, Taupō

Coffee Morning at Sierra

Mayor Rick Cooper and CEO Rob Williams will be joined by key members of the RWC 2011 Taupō project team for their regular coffee morning this month. Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the RWC 2011 Host Coordinating Committee, Mike Downard; Project Manager, Karen Balasoglou; District Events Manager, Nick Reader and King Country Rugby CEO, David Trewavas will all be at Sierra Café on Tongariro Street from 7.30am this Wednesday, 21 September. As always \$2 coffees will be available.

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 07 376 0899 OR VISIT WWW.TAUPO.GOV.TZ

