



WOULD YOU BE PREPARED IF AN EARTHQUAKE HIT?

A recent series of small earthquakes at the southern end of Lake Taupō has given us a timely reminder how important it is to be prepared for an emergency.

GeoNet confirmed a small swarm of earthquakes hit just west of Omori and Kuratau during the past fortnight. The largest was a 3.8 magnitude earthquake on February 21 and the depths of the earthquakes ranged from 1km to 11km deep, so were easily felt.

Emergency manager Ian Connon said

it was important to be ready for natural events like these, regardless of where you live in the district.

"Earthquakes are a regular occurrence in our district, and we all experience them at varying strengths all year round," he said. "Knowing how to respond in the event of a serious emergency is critical to our survival."

He said preparedness was key and suggested following Civil Defence's guidelines to get ready to get through.

BE PREPARED

- » Develop a household emergency plan. Assemble and maintain your emergency survival kit for your home and workplace, as well as a portable getaway kit.
- » Practice Drop, Cover and Hold.
- » Identify safe places within your home, school or workplace.
- » Check your household insurance policy for cover and amount. Take photos of rooms and valuables so you have a reminder of these things should an event occur.
- » Seek qualified advice to make sure your house is secured to its foundations and ensure any renovations comply with the New Zealand Building Code.
- » Secure heavy items of furniture to the floor or wall.

Visit www.eqc.govt.nz to find out how to quake-safe your home.

AN EXCITING TIME OF THE YEAR



Everyone who has lived in Taupō for a while knows that the first weekend in March is always an exciting one. You may have spotted an increasing number of athletes running, cycling and swimming around the district over the past few weeks as we gear up for one of the highlights on our events calendar. That's right, it's time for Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand, recently voted best IRONMAN event in the world by participants.

It's always an exciting time when IRONMAN comes to town. Our restaurants and bars are packed full of visitors and people are out and about soaking up the atmosphere. There's a vibe around that is always electric, and that vibrancy is one of the reasons we love living here.

An important part of the Māori culture in New Zealand is hospitality - we call it manaakitanga, and it's something we're fiercely proud of. Maybe that's why a huge chunk of our population - around 15,000 volunteers - support events such as IRONMAN each year, and tomorrow around 2000 locals will lend a helping hand. One of the key parts of this event being a success is the number of locals who give up their time to volunteer. A big thank you to everyone who will to help make our visitors and competitors feel welcome over the coming weekend.

While IRONMAN New Zealand has been in Taupō since 1999, this is the first year a 70.3 half IRONMAN event will take place on the same day. The introduction of an IRONMAN 70.3 event will allow us to showcase our beautiful district to an even wider audience, and we look forward to rolling the welcome mat out for those taking part both tomorrow and in years to come.

As always, I would like to thank the organisers, the sponsors and most importantly, the participants, for making this event happen and for supporting our district. We hope you enjoy the beautiful fresh water of Lake Taupō, views of the mountains, hopefully your fair share of sunshine (but not too hot on race day) and the vocal support of our residents while you are here. Good luck and have fun!

Mayor David Trewavas » dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

GETTING AROUND TAUPŌ DURING IRONMAN

Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand is taking place on Saturday, which means a few roads around Taupō will be closed to allow the event to safely take place.

Tongariro Street will be closed from the Spa Road roundabout to Lake Terrace from 2am on Saturday to 2am on Sunday, as will Lake Terrace from the bottom of Tongariro Street to Kaimanawa Street. Detours will be in place to help you get through town.

Other closures on Saturday are:

- » Story Place: from Tongariro St to Redoubt St, 2am to 6pm
- » Ferry Rd: from Tongariro St to the boat harbour, 5am to 10am
- » Tamamutu St: from Gascoigne St to Tongariro St, 2am to 6pm
- » Tamamutu St: from Kaimanawa St to Titirapunga St, 8am to 6pm
- » Motutaiko St: from Spa Rd to Tamamutu St, 8am to 6pm
- » Broadlands Rd: from Centennial drive to Taupō District boundary, 7am to 4pm
- » Centennial Drive: from Rakaunui Rd to Broadlands Rd, 7am to 4pm
- » Heeni St: from Wharewaka Rd to Secombe Park Reserve access road, 8am to midnight
- » Rainbow drive: from Charles Crescent (north) to Aubrey Cres (south), 8am to midnight



READING PROGRAMME A HUGE SUCCESS

Kids who got stuck into reading over the summer holidays have done a top job.

More than 90 per cent of children who committed to the Taupō District Libraries summer reading programme completed it this year.

The course, sponsored by Friends of Taupō Library and Genesis Energy, is run annually in December and January and is a free incentives-based programme for five to 13 year olds.

Library and museum manager Luisa Haines said the programme was a great way to promote literacy and to get our kids hooked on books.



What's on?

- 4 March Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand 2017, Taupō
- 5 March Playday on Track (cars), Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park, Taupō
- Until 13 March Harry's Friends Too, Taupō Museum
- Until 20 March If you go Down to the Woods Today, Taupō Museum

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



Mayor David Trewavas



Deputy Mayor Rosie Harvey



John Boddy



Zane Cozens



Barry Hickling



Rosanne Jollands



Tangonui Kingi



Anna Park



Christine Rankin



Kirsty Trueman



John Williamson