

KELLOGG'S NUTRIGRAIN IRONMAN NEW ZEALAND COMES TO TOWN



Supplied: Kellogg's Nutrigrain IRONMAN New Zealand

IT'S THAT TIME of the year again when we ready ourselves for the influx of visitors to our district for the IRONMAN events.

The first weekend of March is marked on the calendar for many, as our community gears up to watch, cheer and volunteer for the biggest event on our annual calendar.

Taupō District events manager Steve Giles is excited about this weekend and the momentum heading towards the coveted World Championships later in the year.

"This year sees a record number of entries into the 70.3 distance, as competitors vie for a place in the World Championships which will be hosted here for the first time in November. The full IRONMAN distance sees over 1400 athletes racing and the 70.3 tops 1250 – the most we've ever seen here," he said.

None of this could happen without the help of some fantastic volunteers, with many coming back regularly to lend a hand on race day.

Each year, over 2000 volunteers put their hand up to help out with the event.

Volunteer coordinator Felicity Cantwell said it's great to see some familiar faces each time an IRONMAN event rolls around. "We have a lot of return volunteers, that just love the vibe the event brings to town.

"There's fundraising opportunities for different groups too, which always attracts a few people.

"It's a busy day, but so much fun getting behind the events, and more importantly the amazing athletes," she said.

KELLOGG'S NUTRIGRAIN IRONMAN NEW ZEALAND ROAD CLOSURES



PLEASE BE ADVISED of the following road closures for the IRONMAN event weekend on Saturday March 7 and Sunday March 8.

Changes to this year's course allows for better access into town. With the bike leg moving off Spa Road, there is now three entrance ways into town via Wairakei Drive, Centennial Drive and Napier-Taupō Road. The CBD remains open for the duration of the event.

Tongariro Street from Spa Road to Lake Terrace - Saturday 2am to Sunday 2.30am

Lake Terrace from Tongariro Street to Kaimanawa Street - Saturday 2am to Sunday 2.30am

Lake Terrace from Kaimanawa Street to Napier Road - Saturday 5.30am to 7pm

Rifle Range Road from Lake Terrace to Tauhara Road - Saturday 5.30am to 3pm

Tauhara Road from AC Baths Avenue to Miro Street - Saturday 5.30am to 3pm

Centennial Drive from Broadlands Road to Rakaunui Road - Saturday 2am to 3.30pm

Broadlands Road from Tauhara Road to the District Boundary - Saturday 6am to 6.30pm

Miro Street from Tauhara Road to Crown Road - Saturday 7am to 6.30pm

Crown Road from Invergarry Road to Taharepa Road - Saturday 7am to 6.30pm

Taharepa Road from Crown Road to Lake Terrace - Saturday 7am to 6.30pm. *Non-Emergency Hospital access is available via Kiddle Drive.*

Kiddle Drive from Taharepa Road to Invergarry Road - Saturday 7am to 6.30pm

Heeni Street from Wharewaka Road to Secombe Reserve Access Road - Saturday 8am to Sunday 1am

Rainbow Drive - Charles Crescent to Aubrey Crescent - Saturday 8am to Sunday 1am. Limited Resident's access only.

Note: Limited access to Story Place, Ferry Road and the Boat Harbour will be via Redoubt Street. Residents living between Rifle Range Road and Taharepa Road can get to and from this area via controlled intersections via Taharepa Road, Tamamutu Street and Rokino Road.

A map showing this is available at taupo.govt.nz/roadclosures

WHAT'S ON?

- Mar 7 Kellogg's Nutrigrain IRONMAN New Zealand, Taupō
- Mar 7 Kellogg's Nutrigrain IRONMAN 70.3 New Zealand, Taupō
- Mar 8 Drift Antics #18, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- Mar 10 Tutus On Tour, Great Lake Centre
- Until Mar 30 Beyond the Surface exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until Apr 6 Looking Good exhibition, Taupō Museum

For more information visit www.lovetaupo.com

TAUPŌ DISTRICT WELCOMES \$5.87M BOOST FOR AIRPORT RE-DEVELOPMENT



TAUPŌ DISTRICT MAYOR David Trewavas has welcomed the announcement from regional economic development minister Shane Jones outlining \$5.87m of government funding for the re-development of Taupō Airport.

The funding – which comes from the Provincial Growth Fund (\$5 million) and the New Zealand Upgrade Programme (\$870,000) – will enable a new terminal to be built, a car park extension and expansion of the airside apron in order to operate larger aircraft safely.

"This investment is a huge step forward for us and one which is essential to this district's growth and prosperity. I am so pleased the Government is backing the future of our airport and has the confidence in our district to invest here," said Mr Trewavas.

"We might be small, but we have big aspirations, and our airport – as a key gateway to the Central North Island and the Central Plateau – is a vital part of that. Importantly, this investment will complement other major investments central and

local government has made here including the Sky Waka Gondola at Whakapapa.

"We'll be able to accommodate bigger planes and larger numbers of passengers coming into and out of the Taupō District; the opportunities that affords is really exciting.

"For local businesses, it will open more doors for growth and expansion and just as importantly, it will allow us to welcome the growing number of tourists every year.

"There really is no better time to ensure we have the necessary capacity to facilitate this growth.

"Of course, we couldn't have done this without the support of the Ministry of Transport – our joint venture partner in this important regional asset, and we will continue to work closely with all of our stakeholders as we progress," he said.

In total, the airport upgrade is expected to cost \$9.7m and will be funded in partnership with council and central government.

The project is expected to begin this month and be complete by October 2021.

