REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Fallen servicemen and women will be remembered in dawn and civic services around the Taupō District on ANZAC Day. The main ceremony will be held at the cenotaph on Tongariro Domain in Taupō at dawn this Tuesday.

Those involved in the dawn parade will depart from the Taupō RSA on Horomatai Street at 5.50am and will travel along Horomatai, Ruapehu, Tamamotu and Tongariro streets before arriving at the cenotaph for the 6.15am service.

This route accommodates those with mobility issues as it avoids speed bumps. Later in the morning, at 10.30am, a civic service and parade will be held. Mayor David Trewavas is scheduled to take part in the service and to make a short speech.

All ex-servicemen and women as well as other interested parties can take part in the parade. Those who want to join in can assemble outside the Taupō Bowling Club on Ferry Road at 10.15am, ready to march to the cenotaph outside the Great Lake Centre.

CYCLONE COOK HELPS US GET PREPARED

The Taupō District got through Cyclone Debbie two weeks ago, our Emergency Operations Centre was activated to prepare for the arrival of ex-tropical Cyclone Cook last week. It was forecasted the cyclone would cross right over the district, bringing with it gale-force winds and torrential rain.

As Cook’s storm made landfall in the Bay of Plenty, it moved east and changed its path to miss most of our district, although some heavy rain and winds hit us before dawn. Many families ensured they had enough food and water for three days, tied down outdoor furniture and delayed travel. It was a great opportunity for people to ensure they are prepared should a natural disaster happen.

"While the effects of Cyclone Cook weren't as dramatic as we had expected, it was a great opportunity for people to ensure they are prepared should a natural disaster happen."

For community messages during adverse weather or in case of a natural disaster, go to:
- taupo.govt.nz
- facebook.com/CivilDefenceTaupo
- facebook.com/TaupoDistrictCouncil

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Each year I am honoured to be a part of the ANZAC commemorations in our district. It is always pleasing to see many generations, young and old, who gather to remember New Zealand and Australian soldiers who fought and died all those years ago. Like many of you, taking part in ANZAC commemorations is something we do each year, but this year I have a new understanding of the raw emotion of war after I visited Pearl Harbour in Hawaii last year.

The Pearl Harbour military base was attacked in a surprise Japanese strike on the morning of December 7, 1941, resulting in over 2,400 American and 64 Japanese servicemen losing their lives.

While the harbour remains an active military base, it is outside of the hustle and bustle of the rest of Hawaii. Spending time at Pearl Harbour was a moving experience. There is very little commercial activity in the area – only a souvenir shop – and there are no cafes or restaurants. Pearl Harbour is very quiet and still, and there is an overwhelming sense that this is a very solemn place.

As you look across the water you can't help but think about the ships under the sea that still hold the bodies of all the servicemen who sacrificed their lives to fight for their country. You think about their families, who sat at home waiting for the day their child would come home from war. But that day never came.

While it has been over 75 years since the attack took place, you walk away from the harbour feeling entirely overwhelmed by the emotion of the place and the horror of what it must have been like to be there on the morning of December 7, 1941. Each ANZAC Day we remember those who fought and died in battles around the world, risking their lives for others in countries far from their home in New Zealand. We remember those who sacrificed their lives for future generations during World War II landing at ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli, but we also recognise those who have fought and died in battle since then.

This ANZAC Day, I urge you to remember those who have fallen. Like our brave soldiers who stood together on the shores of Gallipoli, we will stand together in services around our district to appreciate the sacrifices our soldiers made.

Together, we will remember them.

Mayor David Trewavas

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What’s on?

21 April  Waste-free Parenting Workshop with Kate Meads, Great Lake Centre
22 April  Jowett Car Display, Tongariro North Domain
22 April  Greening Taupō Community Planting Day, rest area on Thermal Explorer Highway
Until 28 April  School holiday programme, Taupō District Libraries

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