



TAUPŌ DISTRICT ROLLING OUT THE WELCOME MAT

AS REGIONAL TRAVEL has now resumed under Alert Level 2, the Taupō District is rolling out the welcome mat for kiwis to come and experience what our district has to offer.

Mayor David Trewavas said his district had been one of the hardest hit, given a third of its employment was related to tourism and, for the time being, its recovery was going to be reliant on the rest of New Zealand coming to visit.

“Now, more than ever, we need people exploring what is in their own backyard,” he said

Mr Trewavas said the return of domestic flights to the district this week was a positive step, with Sounds Air recommencing flights between Taupō and Wellington since Monday, and Air New Zealand following suit from Monday June 8, when it will recommence its flights between Taupō and Auckland.

“These flights not only allow better connections for locals to travel to the major centres for business, they also open up opportunities for visitors to start reconnecting with our district at a beautiful time of year.”

The focus on domestic tourism will also provide some relief for the district in the short term, particularly with IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships moving to 2021.

“The postponement of this event would have been a difficult decision, but the most important thing is that we as a community are ready to welcome these athletes when the time is right,” he said.

“We are proud to be home to IRONMAN New Zealand and are ready to showcase exactly why that is to the rest of the world. Bring on 2021.

For now though, it’s time to tell your family and friends to hit the road or hop on a plane and head to our district, Mr Trewavas said.

“We want people from all corners of our country to come and reconnect with our district, whether it be visiting their bach, or coming to enjoy what our tourism, accommodation and hospitality providers have to offer. See you soon!”



LIBRARIES NOW OPEN AT ALERT LEVEL 2

ALL TAUPŌ DISTRICT libraries are now open, with borrowing, returns and holds available at Taupō, Turangi and Mangakino.

You will, however, notice some other changes at our libraries to ensure we are keeping our community and staff safe. This includes contact tracing, limited numbers entering the building, social distancing and strict hygiene and quarantining of returned items.

Reduced hours are in place with Taupō Library closing at the earlier time of 5.30pm on Thursdays and Mangakino Library opening 10am – 3pm daily. Opening hours remain the same at Turangi Library.

All loans have been extended until 30 June 2020 so there will be no fines or fees for any items borrowed prior to lockdown.

You are able to visit one of our libraries to borrow and return library items and collect holds but there will be no public computer service and all programmes, events and meeting room bookings are on hold.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. We look forward to welcoming you back at one of our district libraries!

For more information about our council facilities and what services are available at Alert Level 2, please head to taupo.govt.nz.

AWARD-WINNING POTTER TO LAUNCH EXHIBITION AT TAUPŌ MUSEUM

WITH THE TAUPŌ Museum and Art Gallery open at Alert Level 2, now is the time to get down there and check out the latest exhibition from award-winning potter Fiona Tunnicliffe.

With a career spanning 30 years, Fiona is well-known and respected for her passion for clay, her love of animals and sense of humour, all of which is cleverly reflected in her distinctive and desirable creations.

“As a regular exhibitor at the museum, we are so pleased to welcome her back again to showcase her beautiful work, especially as our first exhibition after the recent COVID-19 lockdown closure,” Exhibitions officer Kerence Stephen said.

“Fiona has won numerous accolades as a full-time potter, most recently winning the Waiclay National Ceramics Premier Award for 2019 with a mid-fired clay work called Blue Horse. We are excited about this exhibition which will be popular with locals and visitors alike,” she said.



Under Alert Level 2, there will be strict hygiene, contact tracing and physical distancing measures in place, and a limit of 50 people in the museum at any one time.

Taupō Museum is open 7 days (Except Easter Friday and Christmas Day) from 10am to 4:30pm. Entry is free to Taupō District residents and ratepayers with proof of address and all children. Adults \$5, seniors and tertiary students \$3.

