

Media Release



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Skies and faces lighting up for Guy Fawkes

It's set to be a weekend of epic proportions with about \$18,000 worth of fireworks, a laser light show and an illusionist ready to entertain thousands at Taupō's Owen Delany Park. The event will follow a community celebration of Whakamaru that will bring people together to celebrate the place they call home.

Gates open at Owen Delany Park for the Starlight Cinema Fireworks Extravaganza at 5.30pm on Saturday, 3 November and fireworks will go for 20 minutes after dark. A new addition to the line up is the popular New Zealand band The Mermaids, featuring singer Jo Cotton. Guy Fawkes falls on a Monday this year, so Taupō's celebrations have been organised for the weekend prior.

The build up will see a magician do an illusionist act, live music, food stalls and side shows. Event Coordinator Rachel Trapski says the volume of fireworks make the event one of the biggest and best fireworks displays in the country. "There really is something for everyone at this year's show – kids, families and adults will all enjoy the spectacular display," she says. "It's going to be the biggest Taupō has ever seen and we're really excited about it."

Entry is \$3 for children, \$5 for adults or \$15 for a family pass for two adults and two children. No alcohol and no personal fireworks are allowed at the venue. If it rains, the event will be postponed to the following day, Sunday 4 November.

In Whakamaru, the community will be coming out in force before the fireworks begin for the Whakamaru Community Party supported by Taupō District Council 'Our Neighbourhood' event. The team are keen to bring communities together and will be providing everyone a chance to get out of the house, hang out with their neighbours and have some fun! The Whakamaru event is the first of a number of events around the District from Turangi to Mangakino. This community get together will be on from 1.00pm until 4.00pm at the Whakamaru Community Oval.

This year Council is working with members in various communities and neighbourhoods to help them plan and run their own 'Our Neighbourhood' events, so there will be new and exciting activities in store. There will also be the usual games, lolly scramble, live music, food and good times.

Also a reminder to everyone to be safe – it is a restricted fire season, which means any open fires need a permit. Forms to apply for a fire permit can be obtained from Council offices on Lake Terrace and in Turangi and Mangakino or by phoning 07 376 0899.

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