Media Release

TAUPŌ MUSEUM
Taupō District Council

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Taupō kiwi comes home

A special brown spotted kiwi has found its place in Taupō after 120 years. The kiwi is on display at Taupō Museum after originally being found in a Taupō chimney in the 1890s.

Taupō's then-postmaster Joseph Salmon found the kiwi in the chimney of his home, which was attached to Taupō's first post office at the AC Redoubt in Story Place. How the kiwi became stuck there and died remains unknown, but it has been on quite a journey since.

In 1900 Mr Salmon was transferred to Wellington, where he was a postmaster until he retired in 1929, and the kiwi travelled with him. The kiwi was passed down to Mr Salmon's daughter, Olive Croker who cared for it in the family home in Wellington.

The kiwi remained in the family for more than 100 years before Olive's children, Bob Croker and Barbara Hercus, donated the kiwi to Taupō Museum in 2003. Mr Croker said he remembered the kiwi living on top of the family home's gas meter just inside the front door.. "In 1969 the kiwi came into my possession and I remember that the truck driver was very relieved that it had survived the journey from Wellington to Auckland," he said.

Since returning to Taupō, the kiwi has spent some time on display in the museum and some time in storage, occasionally coming out to entertain local school children. Museum manager Luisa Haines said it had long been the desire of museum staff to give the kiwi its own display. "It details the wonderful story of how the kiwi was found, its journey and how it was cared for by the descendants of Joseph Salmon," she said.

The new kiwi display is a chimney constructed by display designer Mark Comber to reflect where it was found. Museum staff are delighted with the new display, which includes lighting and kiwi call sound effects.

Taupō Museum is open seven days from 10am to 4.30pm. Entry is free to children and Taupō district residents with proof of address.

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