



Sounds Air launches service to Wellington

Sounds Air flew its inaugural flight to Wellington this week, with Mayor David Trewavas and Taupō MP Louise Upston on board.

Flights began on Tuesday and Mr Trewavas met Wellington Mayor Celia Wade-Brown at Wellington Airport and talked about the benefits the service would have for both areas.

"As a capital, it's important that everywhere is able to connect to Wellington," Ms Wade-Brown says.

She says Wellingtonians would be sure to take advantage of the service.

"The idea of a long weekend in Taupō is very attractive. I'm sure there will be plenty of holidaymakers from Wellington."

Mr Trewavas says he is thrilled the flights have begun as he was a strong advocate for making it happen.

The council entered into a six-year agreement with Marlborough-based air operator Sounds Air to provide at least three return flights on each week day and two return flights on

Saturdays and Sundays.

This was in response to an announcement by Air New Zealand in November last year that it would stop offering the service from the end of April.

Flights take about 45 minutes and are on a nine-seater Pilatus PC12 – a single-engine, turboprop plane widely used in Australia and the United States and manufactured in Switzerland.

Seats are offered at a fixed price of \$219 per flight regardless of when booked. Concessions for 10 flights at \$209 per seat are also available.

Mr Trewavas expected uptake to be strong. "We know our business community and residents depend on being able to fly to Wellington and we are pleased this connection has been restored," he says.

Anyone wanting to book a flight can do so online at www.soundsair.com or phone 0800 505 005.



Playground plans for Pihanga Reserve come to fruition

The foundations are being laid for the first stage of the Pihanga Reserve development and there is plenty to get excited about!

The Pihanga Reserve playground and community space project has been several years in the making and is being led by the Tauhara Community Support Initiative (TCSI) with our support.

We allocated \$80,000 for the first stage in our 2014/15 Annual Plan. This will involve landscaping, the installation of some basic play equipment and the creation of a concrete path and steps. It is expected to be finished by the end of June.

The landscaping of the area will allow for future development coordinated by the initiative, which has developed a plan that will see the reserve used by all members of the community if and when they can fund it.

The initiative wants to make it age-friendly, with elements that cater to the elderly, toddlers and all ages in between. It has plans to add furniture, a drinking fountain, fruit trees, gardens, ample play equipment, a sports field, an in-ground trampoline, outdoor fitness equipment and a basketball court.

Fundraising activities, working bees and sponsorship proposals are being planned to help the project move beyond the first stage in the future.

Plans for the playground were developed after consultation with the community. Three community consultation events were held on Pihanga Reserve and TCSI representatives spoke to children at neighbouring schools. Organisers gained an understanding of what the community wanted for the reserve and the ideas put forward were developed into a concept plan.

Trustpower Community Awards open

The Trustpower Community Awards are now open, so now is your chance to nominate a deserving volunteer group so they can be recognised!

The awards celebrate their 21st anniversary this year and recognise volunteer organisations both in Taupō District and nationally. There are five categories: heritage and environment, health and wellbeing, arts and culture, sport and leisure and education and child/youth development.

Last year the Tauhara Community Support Initiative took away the Supreme Award at the regional awards, and went on to represent the district at the national awards. The initiative is the group behind the Pihanga Reserve playground development and has been instrumental in lifting the community spirit in Tauhara with projects and volunteer work. In 2013, Taupō Model Railway Club took away the Supreme Award. The club started as a small hobby club and has grown to now organising and running the Starlight Cinema Hobby Expo, which is held at the Taupō Events Centre annually.

These are two examples of great volunteer organisations doing amazing things to

enhance our community, and this is your chance to tell the world about a fantastic volunteer organisation you know about.

The Taupō District awards run in conjunction with the council, supported by The Hits Taupō, and are one of 26 regional awards held around the country. The regional awards for Taupō and then the national final will be held later in the year.

To nominate a community volunteer group or find out more, visit one of the council's service centres, go online to www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards or search for Trustpower Community on Facebook.

Entries for the 2015 Trustpower Taupō District Community Awards close on Friday 17 July 2015.



Register your pooch online

It's almost time to register your dog for the year.

You can now register, pay and manage your dog registration online. All you have to do is go on to our website and set up your account.

Then, when it comes to registration time, we already have all your details and it's simple to register your dog. You can also check that all of your details are up-to-date and make any changes you need to. To set up your account, you will need your customer number and dog owner number. If you don't have these, give us a call and we can give them to you. We hope these changes will make registering your dog a lot easier.

Dogs need to be registered by July 1. All dogs over three months of age need to be registered for the 2015/16 year as soon as they reach this age.

What's on

- Until 15 Jun Active Arts Taupo, Celebrating 50 Years! Taupō Museum
- 9 Jun Turangi Tongariro Community Board meeting, 1pm, Turangi Boardroom
- 20 Jun The Edge Indoor Rockwall Taupō climbing competition, 8.30am, Taupō Events Centre
- 21 Jun Go Tongariro River Shiver, Tongariro River
- 23 Jun Council meeting, 1pm, Council Chamber

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

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to www.taupo.govt.nz

