



Taupō Summer Concert announced

After selling out the Taupō Amphitheatre last year, Greenstone Entertainment is excited to return for their fifth year of the Taupō Summer Concert. Audiences will not be disappointed with next year's line-up featuring American rock icon Huey Lewis and the News, classic rock legends REO Speedwagon and Grammy Award winning Melissa Etheridge, playing Saturday, January 30 2016.

Huey Lewis and The News are truly one of America's great rock and roll bands. These are the Grammy Award winners that have brought you 'If This Is It', 'Heart and Soul', 'I Want A New Drug' and 'Power of Love'.

Formed in 1967, signed in 1971, and fronted by iconic vocalist Kevin Cronin since 1972, REO Speedwagon has had huge influence on the music and the culture of rock 'n' roll. Released in 1980, Hi Infidelity's millions in sales were fuelled by massive hit singles such as "Keep On Loving You" and "Take It On The Run".

American rock singer-songwriter, guitarist, and activist Melissa Etheridge charms hearts with her raspy, smoky vocals. She has been nominated 17 times for Grammy Awards and received an



Academy Award for Best Original Song 'I Need to Wake Up' in An Inconvenient Truth.

Tickets are on sale on Monday, July 6. Strictly limited local tickets – \$89 (plus booking fee) at i-Site Taupō. All other tickets \$99 (plus booking fee) through www.ticketek.co.nz or 0800 TICKETEK.

Time flies

Where does the time go! It is hard to believe we are halfway through the year already.

As a council, we have been very busy developing the Long Term Plan and many thanks must go to the staff for doing the background work and running workshops, and to the people from around the district that took the time to make submissions. It all helped us to make informed decisions about the best way forward and I for one feel very positive about the future of our district.



At the same time as we were busy with the Long Term Plan we were also getting on with other important business for our community such as completing the South Western Bay Settlements Reserve Management Plan which was one of the committees I sat on.

We have had very positive feedback about the Sounds Air Taupō to Wellington flights and I'm really pleased that the community is getting behind this service as it is one we need to retain.

Recently I was also lucky enough to be able to attend the Local Government Community Board Conference along with my fellow board member Chris Te Whare and staff member Tina Jakes. The board had entered its community plan into the community board awards and was well rewarded by winning both the Leadership and Supreme awards. Chris, Tina and I were absolutely elated to receive them on behalf of the board. Thank you to all the board and staff for the commitment to the plan, and the Turangi community. The Supreme Award was accompanied by the opportunity to host a free Local Government Know How Workshop in Turangi with a topic of our choice.

Also at the conference board member Mary Smallman and I were presented with Certificates of Appreciation from Local Government New Zealand in recognition of our contribution to the community, having given more than 14 years of community board service. It is an absolute pleasure to serve our district as a councillor and to continue my hands-on involvement in Turangi as a community board member. As always I am here for you so please do get in touch if I can be of assistance.

Maggie

Cr Maggie Stewart • mstewart@taupo.govt.nz



ANZ Young Farmer of the Year Contest Grand Final in Taupō

A warm welcome to the participants, supporters and organisers of the ANZ Young Farmer of the Year Contest Grand Final – the Ultimate Rural Challenge!

The contest has been underway over the last couple of days here in Taupō, with the televised evening show planned for tomorrow night at Taupō Events Centre.

The evening will see contestants competing in a quiz hosted by Mark Leishman and will be attended by Minister for Primary Industries Nathan Guy.

A meal and celebratory ball will be held following the quiz – a nice treat for the seven hardworking young farmers who made it all the way from the local contests to the national final.

They have come from a pool of 276 young farmers aged 16 to 31 eager to prove their farming skills and have been whittled down through 24 district contests and seven regional finals.

Finalists are competing in a number of physical, mental and academic challenges to decide the ultimate champion.

The competition is no walk in the park – participants will be grilled by an interview panel, have to prepare and deliver a speech, complete a written exam and take part in plenty of hands-on activities.

For their efforts, there are plenty of amazing prizes on offer – the prize package for the winner totals over \$76,000 and includes cash, travel vouchers, farm products, scholarships, four-wheel drive and farm equipment and electricity vouchers. Winners of each challenge also receive a variety of prizes.

Sounds Air flights going strong



The new Sounds Air flights between Taupō and Wellington are gaining in popularity after the launch of the service on June 2.

Loading numbers on Marlborough-based air operator Sounds Air flights are steadily increasing and managing director Andrew Crawford said he expected to see this continue as the community learned about the service.

"We're really happy with the way the Taupō community has embraced the new service and are confident it will continue to grow," he said.

Businesses with connections to Wellington were supporting the flights and there were many repeat customers.

A lot of passengers had commented on the high quality of the service.

The council has a six-year agreement with 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 2015.

If the average number of seats per flight per week is less than three, the council will pay the difference in the cost per seat. The support for the air service has meant that there has been no cost to council in Sounds Air's first month of operation in the district.

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.

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

What's on

- Until-2 Aug Te Hau - The Wind, Matariki exhibition and activities, Taupō Museum
- 2-4 Jul ANZ Young Farmer of the Year Contest – Grand Final, Tongariro North Domain and Riverside Park
- 4-18 Jul School holiday activities at the museum and libraries
- 7 or 8 Jul Driver Directions, Ricoh Taupō Motorsport Park
- 16 Jul Family Quiz Night, Taupō Library

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

