



## School holiday fun at the libraries and museum

Can't wait for the spring school holidays? Neither can the team at Taupō Library and Taupō Museum! We have a whole host of activities for the kids on offer and these holidays we're running a programme themed on our very own local author and illustrator Donovan Bixley.

Bixley's creative creatures and whacky words are sure to get the kids enthusiastic about all the arts and crafts we have planned.

The library is even getting a few visits from the man himself when he comes to teach kids how to draw dragons on Tuesday, September 29 at 10.30am and presents his new book, Pussycat Pussycat, on Wednesday, October 7 at 10.30am.

At the museum, kids can do an ancient archaeological discovery dig, create ink quills

and make fake amulets and daggers!

All of the activities we're running at the library and museum are free, but some require bookings.

Turangi Library is also running a programme these holidays which is all about dinosaurs! Kids can go along and create a paper pterodactyl, learn how to draw dinosaurs, and make a crafty tuatara or a dinosaur puppet. These are also free and do not require bookings – just turn up!

Mangakino also has activities on for kids, with rainy day movies, arts and crafts.



For the full schedule visit [www.taupo.govt.nz/holidayprogramme](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/holidayprogramme) or pop into one of our libraries or Taupō Museum.

## Cultures coming together

I returned from my trip to China and hit the ground running this week with a visit from our Chinese Sister City, Suzhou.



Myself and Ngāti Tūwharetoa paramount chief Sir Tumu te Heuheu hosted the group at Taupō Museum and it was wonderful to see them and share the heritage and history of our district with them.

The delegation was made up of representatives from the museums of Suzhou and it was the first arts and cultural delegation we have hosted of this kind in the Taupō District.

Ngāti Tūwharetoa kaumatua welcomed the group with a beautiful powhiri, a korero from Sir Tumu te Heuheu and a rousing performance from Taupō-nui-ā-Tia College's kapa haka group.

Suzhou has an astounding 73 museums throughout their city of 14 million people – quite a substantial number compared to our district, which has just one museum!

Although it may be small, the feedback I received from the delegates was all positive. The delegates are representatives of some no doubt impressive and grand facilities, so it was heartening to hear they enjoyed our museum.

Sir Tumu te Heuheu spoke to the delegation about the way Māori and Chinese share many common values – the importance of family, ancestors and history – so this heritage was a common foundation I'm sure both groups could relate to. Our heritage helps to shape our future, and on that note, I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Taupō District Youth Awards this week.

It never ceases to amaze me how accomplished many of our young people are, and this year was no exception. We have young people doing wonderful things – like overall all-rounder winner Sian Moffitt representing New Zealand in rock climbing! Congratulations to Sian and all the winners and nominees. It was a fantastic night and I hope I can be part of it again next year.

*David*

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## Sounds Air celebrates Taupō service

Sounds Air managing director Andrew Crawford loves operating his air service in Taupō, and says he's here to stay.

The air carrier began operating on the Taupō-Wellington route in June this year and this week began flying its new plane on the route. Air New Zealand pulled out of the route in April.

The new plane carries the Great Lake Taupō logo to advertise its home.

"Air New Zealand's departure left an obvious gap that we had the right aircraft and capability to fill. It was the perfect fit for our company," Mr Crawford said.

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. 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 since Sounds Air launched its operation in the district.

Mr Crawford said passenger numbers were still growing, even over the winter months.

"Starting a new service is always a challenge but the feedback we are getting has been astounding and word of mouth is proving to be our greatest asset," he said. "Once people fly on our aircraft and experience our level of service, we have clients for life."



## Budding artists exhibit in Class Effort

Want to discover art through the eyes of our local youth? Come along to the Class Effort exhibition at Taupō Museum these school holidays.

Class Effort is an annual exhibition we hold each year featuring artworks produced in our local classrooms.

This bright and colourful exhibition includes paintings, sculpture and mixed media works created by budding young artists from local primary and intermediate schools and preschools, kindergartens and after-school art classes.

Come and experience our district through the eyes of our children!

## Nominations open for sports awards

Do you know an accomplished sportsperson, or someone who has made an outstanding contribution to sport this year? Nominations are now open for the Sport Waikato Taupō District Sports Awards.

If you know an amazing administrator, coach, club, team, referee or umpire or sportsperson, now is the time to recognise them. Nominations and eligibility criteria are online at [www.sportwaikato.org.nz](http://www.sportwaikato.org.nz).



## What's on

- Until 19 Oct Class Effort – schools exhibition, Taupō Museum
- 14-20 Sep Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week
- 21 Sep Royal New Zealand Navy Band on Tour – Great Lake Centre
- 26 Sep Auckland Youth Orchestra – Pathétique Great Lake Centre
- 26-27 Sep Sika Show – Taupō Events Centre

For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

Email your elected members at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)



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