



## FESTIVAL TO MARK OUR NATIONAL DAY



TONGARIRO NORTH DOMAIN, TAUPŌ, 6 FEBRUARY 2016 12PM-5PM

Our Waitangi Day festival is returning for 2016 tomorrow, and this year we'll have contemporary Māori artist Maisey Rika headlining the event! The event is on at Tongariro Domain from noon to 5pm.

Rika is a singer and songwriter who performs in both English and Māori and she will be joined by musician Rob Ruha on stage. Unfortunately Turangi's rising star Jackson Owens has been called back to the US and can no longer join us, but Aaron Moeke from Turangi, Daniel Trueman from Mangakino and Michaela Pointon and Tegan McConachie from Taupō will all be there.

There will also be kapa haka and other cultural groups performing.

The day will also feature children's inflatables, food stalls, competitions, prizes, art and craft exhibitions, and a dedicated wood skills and processing arena.

In previous years we have had over 4500 people attending, including groups from Turangi and Mangakino.

We are working alongside sponsors Ministry of Culture and Heritage, BayTrust, First Sovereign Trust, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, Lake Rotoaira Forest Trust, Lake Taupō Forest Trust, Ngāti Tūwharetoa Fisheries Charitable Trust, Mighty River Power, Contact Energy, Taupō District Creative Communities Scheme and Creative Taupō to ensure the festival is free to attend.

Come along and join in the fun!



## ANOTHER BUSY WEEKEND

It's always good at this time of year to reflect on how good we have it in this beautiful country of ours, as we celebrate our national day.



We're a relatively new country, but we already have plenty of rich history and we're adding to it all the time.

We have our own traditions in the Taupō District, including celebrating tomorrow with Waitangi Taupō Moana, a festival that recognises all things kiwiana. It's about enjoying each other's company with music, food, entertainment and, at the same time, having a think about how we have come together as a nation.

I really believe it's important to come together as a community from time to time and think about how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful place filled with so many great people.

The festival follows on from another spectacular Taupō Summer Concert, which was a fantastic day out.

The concert featured superstars Huey Lewis and the News, REO Speedwagon and Melissa Etheridge – all incredible musicians with a lot to throw down on the stage.

It's a privilege to be able to host this concert each year alongside popular tourist hotspots Whitianga and Queenstown, and we are always keen to welcome it back. Organisers Dean and Amanda Calvert (pictured above) do a fabulous job at showcasing Taupō at all their events and they must be congratulated for the sterling work they do in bringing thousands of visitors to town each year. No doubt, next year's concert will feature another amazing lineup.

Whatever you are doing this long weekend, I hope you're out there enjoying the sunshine and summer activities while they last.

Don't forget to stay safe while you're having fun!

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz • 07 376 0899

## KEEPING THE KIDS READING

Ask Oran Hammersley why she took part in the Taupō District Libraries summer reading programme, and she'll give you plenty of reasons.

"I thought it would be a big chance to get my reading skills up," she says. "It's really cool. I think it really helped me with meeting people I didn't know."

The eight-year-old from Taupō was one of over 135 kids aged five to 13 to take part in the reading programme these holidays.

The programme involved children reading books and reporting back to library staff.

Although she only had to report on four books, Oran can't recall the amount she read. "I just kept reading all the time," she says.

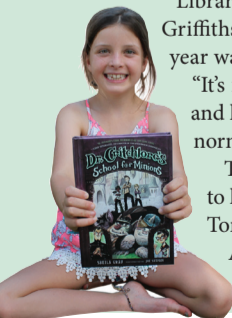
Her mother, Sarah Hammersley, said it was the first time Oran had done the programme and it had exceeded expectations.

"It's a great initiative for growth," she says. "You want their learning to be fun and enjoyable."

Library and museum education officer Claire Griffiths said the commitment from kids this year was outstanding.

"It's fantastic to see so many children reading and learning with the library at a time it is not normally a priority," she says.

The programme ran from mid-December to late January. It ended with finale parties at Tongariro Domain in Taupō and the Vertical Assault indoor climbing wall in Turangi where children received a free book.



## WOULDN'T YOU RATHER GO BY BIKE?

Have you ever considered getting to work or school on a bicycle instead of in a car?

We think it's a great idea to go by bike and, next Wednesday, February 10, we're holding a day to celebrate our passion for pedals in conjunction with Sport Waikato, Bike Taupō and More FM.

Mayor David Trewavas will be leading the charge on a short bike trip that goes from the Lake Terrace water treatment platform and along the Lions' Walk at 7.45am. This will be preceded by a free tasty breakfast on the platform at 7am for all those taking part. There will also be great spot prizes for some of those who join in the fun!

For more information, contact Dianna Harrison at dharrison@taupo.govt.nz or 07 376 0720.



### HINTS AND TIPS FOR CYCLISTS TO HELP KEEP ALL ROAD USERS SAFE

- Pull over, if possible, to allow vehicles to pass
- If you're passing a cyclist, allow plenty of space and time
- Remember, cyclists and motorists have the same rights and responsibilities
- Be friendly and patient
- Be considerate and share the road!

## What's on?

**Until 7 Feb** Wanderlust, Wairakei Resort

- 6 Feb** Waitangi Taupō Moana, Tongariro Domain
- 13 Feb** Huka Xtreme River Swim, Waikato River, Taupō
- 14 Feb** Sovereign Tri Series Kinloch, Kinloch Domain
- 19 Feb** Taupō Great Lake Relay, Lake Taupō
- 27 Feb** Rotary Club of Taupō Espresso Across the Lake Swim, Lake Taupō
- 28 Feb** Wairakei Estate Ironkidz, Taupō lakefront

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)

