



## IT'S HERE! IRONMAN NEW ZEALAND RIDES INTO TOWN

Are you ready for this, Taupō District?!

The Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand competition is here and it's going to be huge!

It's the 18th time we have hosted IRONMAN in our district, and this year over 1350 athletes from 51 countries will be taking on the ultimate challenge.

These include 41 local athletes who will be representing the Taupō District in one of the toughest and most popular endurance races in the world. No doubt there will be thousands of friends, family and neighbours out there on the course tomorrow cheering them on!

Mayor David Trewavas says IRONMAN is fantastic exposure for our beautiful district and he is looking forward to seeing the action get underway.

"For the athletes taking part in this event, this event is the finale of months and months of hard work, and it is incredible to see that coming together for them," he says.

"I applaud the commitment and dedication of these amazing individuals and wish them all the best."

Best of luck to all those taking part. Bring on the Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand 2016!

**For more information on road closures, visit [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz).**



## NO SMALL UNDERTAKING



It's finally arrived! It's been somewhat difficult to miss the fact that IRONMAN is back for 2016 – for the last few weeks the set-up has been slowly materialising around town, from signage to seating, fencing and paraphernalia, and I can't wait for it to all kick off tomorrow morning.

This is one of our most iconic events and it always creates a huge buzz around town. It brings in thousands of people – athletes, supporters, family and crew – from around the globe and it's an opportunity to showcase our district on a grand scale.

Not only does it allow people to see and experience our district, it also makes a huge contribution to our economy both now and in the future.

We are lucky to reap the rewards of such a successful event – our accommodation is almost always full, cafes and restaurants are doing a great trade, retailers have plenty of business and the footpaths are jam packed with sightseers and athletes.

IRONMAN is one of our premier events and it's amazing how everyone involved with it comes together to make it happen each year – it's no small undertaking! The organisers, World Triathlon Corporation, volunteers, competitors, supporters and everyone else involved always give us an event to be proud of.

Along with the amazing individuals competing, over 2000 volunteers, mostly from the Taupō District, will be helping out with the event. Of these, 29 local volunteers have been lending a hand at every single IRONMAN event held in the district since it began 18 years ago – what an amazing commitment!

Finally, I want to wish all the athletes taking part in this year's competition all the best. What you've signed up for is a huge and daunting task that most of us would never consider a possibility. We are all in awe of your dedication, passion and perseverance. Good luck!

Mayor David Trewavas • [dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz) • 07 376 0899

## PLAYGROUND UNDERWAY AT ACACIA BAY

Who is looking forward to the new Acacia Bay playground at Besley Park? Well, you're in luck – you won't have to wait much longer!

The new pirate ship playground is being installed from next week, and will take just a few weeks to complete!

We are really looking forward to creating a unique playground for the residents of Acacia Bay and beyond that suits their needs. The playground was chosen after we sought feedback from the community on five options selected by the Acacia Bay Residents' Association, so we think it'll do the trick!

This week our contractors have been busy preparing the site and installing some swings ahead of the installation of the main pirate ship structure.

Keep an eye out for progress next week as the playground starts to take shape. It'll be across the road from where the old playground was located.

### KEEN TO CELEBRATE THE NEW PLAYGROUND WITH US?

We've got a bit of a party in the pipeline! More details of the event will become available in the next few weeks, so keep an eye out and we'll tell you what we've got planned to give Acacia Bay's new playground a proper welcome!

## MANGAKINO TOWN CENTRE UPGRADE PROGRESSES

Have you been wondering what all the activity is going on in Mangakino's town centre?

Our contractors are hard at work on the redevelopment of the town centre and progress is going well!

Work started late last month after a blessing at the site. It is the second stage of the redevelopment – the first of which was the building of the popular new skate park in town.

This second stage focusses on the creation of a new playground, seating and shaded areas. Contractors have started on the new decking and the installation of playground equipment and foundations.

It has been designed in consultation with the community and is expected to be completed by the end of April.

If you're in Mangakino's town centre, be sure to check out the progress – there's plenty going on!



## What's on?

**Until March 7** The Hollings Show exhibition by Russell Hollings, Taupō Museum

**Until March 14** Lyrical Waxing exhibition by Ann Hay, Taupō Museum

**March 5** Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN, Taupō

**March 9** Waste-free parenting workshop with the Nappy Lady, Great Lake Centre

**March 12** Taupō Wellbeing Fair, Great Lake Centre

**March 18-20** New Zealand Jetski National Championships, Kinloch

**March 19** Turangi Sweet Souz, Tokaanu Tailrace

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)



Mayor David Trewavas, Dep Mayor Barry Hickling, Cr John Boddy, Cr Bernhard Chrustowski, Cr Rosie Harvey, Cr Rosanne Jollands, Cr Anna Park, Cr John Williamson, Cr Zane Cozens, Cr Maggie Stewart, Cr Kirsty Trueman