



SWIMMING A WAY OF LIFE FOR KELLIEMARIE

Kelliemarie Kemp can't remember a time when the AC Baths and Swim School weren't a part of her life – and that's just the way she likes it.

The 12-year-old started swimming lessons when she was about three, because, in her mother Bridget's words, "she was keen in the water, she really wanted to be in the water, but she had more confidence than ability!"

Kelliemarie worked her way up through the levels at the Swim School over the years, and said it was a great environment for learning. Students are rewarded with stickers for a chart so they can track their progress.

"It's like you're getting rewarded for doing things well and that's cool," Kelliemarie said.

"They hold you up and make sure you're okay when you're swimming."

Now that she's made her way through to the top level, she now trains with a swim squad and swims competitively. The AC Baths, she said, is "basically like a second home".

"I just like the feeling of the water."

Bridget said she had watched her daughter go from strength to strength learning at the AC Baths, and had nothing but praise for the Swim School.

"The instructors really watch your child and focus on the individual"

In a place like the Taupō District, swimming and water safety skills were essential, with the many lakes and rivers around, she said.

Swim School Supervisor Lorraine Te Punga said putting children through the AC Baths Swim School was invaluable for parents, as it provided essential life and survival skills.

"A lot of the time we have a wait list for people wanting to join the classes because the school is so popular. It's fantastic our community is embracing swimming as a life skill and to see so many strong swimmers coming out of the school all the time."

In 2015, the AC Baths Swim School became the first programme in the country to be presented with a gold accreditation by Quality Swim Schools, and last year head coach Robyn Schwass won the highest accolade a swimming teacher can aspire to in New Zealand – the Nan Nevin Award for an outstanding contribution to teaching swimming and water safety.

The school caters to six-month-old babies through to adults. Visit taupo.govt.nz/swimschool for more information.

WELCOMING RUGBY FANS



The tour has started, the fans are revved up and rugby fever is in the air as the DHL Lions Series 2017 gets underway.

While we don't have any games being played here in Taupō, we'll still be able to cheer on our favourite teams and rub shoulders with Lions supporters who have travelled halfway around the world to back their men in red.

Our central location means our district is likely to be a stopping point for supporters on their way to games around the country.

Hopefully many of you will have managed to get your hands on tickets to watch the Maori All Blacks play the DHL British and Irish Lions in Rotorua on June 17 and I'm sure we'll see a few supporters making their way through our district leading up to that match.

After that, we'll no doubt see some day trippers making a detour through our district on their way to Hamilton, before calling back through on their way to Wellington for the match at the cake tin on June 27. I'd also expect we'll see another wave of visitors passing through between All Blacks matches in Wellington and Auckland on July 1 and 8 respectively.

It's great to see people here in the Taupō District getting in behind the tour to not only support our teams but to welcome those who have come from the United Kingdom and Ireland. Many of our local retailers have put up flags, signs and banners welcoming visitors and we even have our very own mini rugby pitch on Colonial Roberts Reserve set up and ready for visiting rugby devotees.

I've even noticed a few signs in support of the All Blacks on the roadside of rural properties around the district. What better way to show the Lions supporters that we're ready to out roar them than to turn farmland on the side of a state highway into a rugby billboard? Good old Kiwi ingenuity.

So thanks to everyone who in their own special way is welcoming our friends who are here supporting the Lions. Enjoy the tour, and go the All Blacks!

Mayor David Trewavas > dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

» What's on?

- 11 June Craters Classic MTB, Wairakei Resort
- 12 June Free Chinese orchestra concert, Great Lake Centre
- Until 12 June Heirlooms – Taupō Embroiderers' Guild exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 12 June The Crescent Moon – The Asian Face of Islam exhibition, Taupō Museum

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

NEW WATER PIPES KEEP THE FLOW GOING

If you've seen all the roadside activity going on in some parts of the town centre, you'll know our contractors have been hard at work!

Downer has been busy renewing some of our water pipes – earlier this year in Turangi and Tokaanu, and now in Taupō.

The pipes they are replacing were installed in the 1950s and 1960s, so are at the end of their useful lives. New pipes made of a more modern material are being installed. They are expected to service the district for the next 100 years.

Downer is now finishing off the installation of the pipes along Spa Road and Taniwha Street, after recently completing a section on Tamamutu Street.

The work should be finished in the next week or two and we're grateful for your patience. From time to time there may be some disruption to water flow as we reconnect properties to the new pipes but we'll work hard to ensure this is kept to a minimum.

