



'WITH LOVE FROM TAUPŌ' LETTERS OF SUPPORT A HUGE HIT

This year's Kellogg's Nutrigrain IRONMAN New Zealand athletes' were given a little piece of Taupō to take home. Each race pack included a special addition – an individual letter of support from school children across our district entitled 'With Love from Taupō'.

Primary and intermediate students from our community wrote messages of encouragement with a drawing for every competitor in both the full IRONMAN distance and the 70.3 event.

This year's woman's champion, Laura Siddall, from the United Kingdom made a special trip on Monday morning to visit Hilltop School to personally thank Ilia W, aged 9, who illustrated a picture with a message of support for her. It read "Kia kaha – be strong, be courageous – bike like a monkey, swim like a stingray, run like a leopard. I think you're a winner. Good luck. Wai marie pai".

This clearly touched Laura ahead of the race:

"Receiving Ilia's note was amazing. I love coming to Taupō for this event, and feel such an incredible support from the local community. Receiving the letters in our registration packs before the race was really lovely and moving. I took her words into my race, and it was just made even more special by taking the win. The best bit was being able to meet Ilia and thank her myself; this was just the best moment of the weekend."

Due to the success and popularity of the initiative, it has been confirmed we will continue this each year.

"Both the kids and athletes alike got a huge thrill from this," said our district events manager Steve Giles.

"We always get positive feedback from the community each year, but this time we've been overwhelmed by messages from both athletes and children. We've heard of a lot, like Laura, who have taken the opportunity to meet the writer of their letter, which is something really special."

ROAD LAYOUT CHANGES

After consultation with road safety experts, this week sees road layout changes for the Spa Road to Tongariro Street roundabout and Norman Smith to State Highway One interchange. The work for both sites is to be completed between March 9-12 weather permitting. Signage reflecting these changes will be installed.

SPA ROAD TO TONGARIRO STREET ROUNDABOUT

All south-bound traffic entering the roundabout will only have a left turn into Spa Road from the left lane.



NORMAN SMITH/TONGARIRO STREETS INTERSECTION

The Norman Smith Street and Tongariro Street intersection will become a true merging lane with the existing merge lines to be blacked out.



CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Thirty new 'Kiwis' have been welcomed to the Taupō District.

Candidates from Britain, Malaysia, Italy, Argentina and many more countries across the globe came together to take their oath to become New Zealand citizens at the Great Lake Centre.



» WHAT'S ON?

- Mar 10 - Apr 9 Translated into Paper – Mayumi Sherburn exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Mar 10-11 Jet Ski Racing New Zealand Grand Prix, Kinloch
- Until Apr 2 Dog Show, Taupō Museum

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