



ALL THE TRAINING draws to a close as we experience another IRONMAN 70.3 Taupō event this weekend.

Every year, athletes flock here to enjoy the 1.9-kilometre fresh water swim in Lake Taupō, the 90-kilometre ride through our district, and the spectacular scenery along the 21.1 -kilometre run.

This year's race sees the opportunity for the record 1800 entrants to qualify for one of 100 slots available for the World Championships in November next year, with another 25 slots also up for grabs under Women for Tri.



FREEDOM CAMPING AMBASSADORS RETURN OVER SUMMER

Freedom camping ambassadors will be out and about helping campers at freedom camping sites like Hipapatua (Reid's Farm) as well as other camping sites and reserves across the district this summer.

Head of community, culture and heritage, Dylan Tahau said the ambassadors will be advising campers on how long they can stay, what to do with refuse, local alcohol bylaws, and how to take care of our environment by not washing in our lakes and rivers and using designated toilet facilities.

"We see huge numbers of visitors here over summer and we want them to enjoy their stay and be safe. We also want to help reduce the impact on our environment and the ambassadors can help our visitors look after our taonga and the place we love," he said.

The ambassadors will be a friendly face for visitors and locals alike and will also be passing on information about any unwanted behaviour to our compliance teams. They

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Don't worry if you've missed the boat this time though, another 80 slots will be available during the IRONMAN 70.3 New Zealand event in March next year.

Chief executive Gareth Green was pleased to again see the event here in Taupō, with the community gearing up to support it.

"A big thanks to all of the people who come out to support the event and in particular the volunteers, he said.

"We have a huge number of volunteers every time we have an IRONMAN event and it's one of the reasons athletes keep coming back."

NEW RESERVOIR FOR MOTUOAPA

The new Motuoapa Water Reservoir is now complete and supplying residents.

The two 300m3 tanks have a combined capacity of 600,000 litres and can supply residents for 22 hours under peak demand conditions (up from six hours). The main supply pipe for the settlement has also been renewed, and the reservoir was completed with a final budget of \$1 million.



Left to right, Taupō's new freedom camping ambassadors Vanessa Healey, Jazer Naumai and Murray Crane.

can be identified by their green uniforms, as opposed to the blue uniforms worn by our roving community ambassadors, who offer directions, recommendations and assistance to visitors around the town centre, lakefront and reserves. This initiative has been made possible through a funding agreement between Taupō District Council and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

IRONMAN 70.3 ROAD CLOSURES:

Please be aware of the following road closures during the event on Saturday;

- » Tongariro Street Spa Road to Lake Terrace, 2am 4pm
- » Lake Terrace Tongariro to Ruapehu Street, 2am 4pm
- » Lake Terrace Ruapehu Street to Napier Road, 6am 1pm
- » Rifle Range Road Lake Terrace to Tauhara Road, 6am 10am
- » Tauhara Road Rifle Range Road to Miro Street, 6am 10am
- » Centennial Drive Broadlands Road to Rakaunui Road, 6am 10am
- » Broadlands Road Miro Street to the district boundary, 6am 1pm
- » Miro Street Broadlands Road to Crown Road, 8am 1pm
- » Crown Road Invergarry Road to Taharepa Road, 8am 1pm
- » Taharepa Road Crown Road to Lake Terrace, 8am 1pm
- Due to changes to the course this year, Spa Road and Napier road will be open.

IT'S STARTING TO LOOK A LOT

LIKE CHRISTMAS...

With the festive season upon us, it's time for Christmas parades, concerts in the park, fireworks and lots of other fun events planned in the next month.

Christmas parades are on all over the district, and this year they all happen to be on the same day!

December 14 is the magic day, when floats will hit the streets in Turangi, Mangakino and Taupō.

The Taupō parade starts at 1pm, the Mangakino event sets off at 11.30am and the Turangi edition starts at 3pm.

ROAD CLOSURES:

- » Lake Terrace Tongariro Street to Kaimanawa Street
- » Tongariro Street Spa Road to Lake Terrace
- » Rifle Range Road Roberts Street to Lake Terrace
- » The sections of Lake Terrace and Tongariro Street will be closed on Saturday December 14, 11.30am – 2pm and the section of Rifle Range Road from 6am – noon.
- » A detour will be in place along Spa Road and Kaimanawa Street.

>> WHAT'S ON?

Dec 6	Kids Fun Run, Taupō	
Dec 7	IRONMAN 70.3 Taupō, Taupō	
Dec 7-8	Suzuki Series, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park	
Until Dec 9	Truth, nature, self exhibition, Taupō Museum	
Dec 14	Turangi Christmas in the Park, Tongariro School	
Dec 14	Mangakino Christmas Parade, Mangakino	
Dec 14	Taupō Christmas Parade, Taupō	
Dec 14	Taupō Christmas in the Park, Redoubt Street, Taupō	
Until Dec 16	From the Inside exhibition, Taupō Museum	
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For more information visit **www.lovetaupo.com**

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