



Upston Update

Louise Upston MP FOR TAUPO

March 2010

This newsletter updates you on what I have been up to in the Taupo electorate and in Parliament as your representative.

GREAT LAKE RELAY

I was delighted to cross the finish line of the New Balance Great Lake Relay last Saturday in just over 18 hours after Team Upston started. We entered a composite run-walk team, made up of friends, family and staff members who joined me for the final 100 metres to finish our first experience in the relay.

Congratulations to all the participants and teams that completed the relay, I appreciated the support of my team in getting over the finish line. Everyone involved in this event can take great pride in their accomplishment. The annual event has been going for 15 years and has over 5000 people participating in the 155km relay.

I really enjoyed seeing people of all ages and stages taking part in the biggest relay in New Zealand and I was encouraged by the level of support team members were offering each other. Taupo is the perfect location to host this event, and participants appreciated the beautiful scenery while completing their legs. Taupo put on a beautiful day for the relay members and spectators.

I would like to thank the organisers for all their hard work towards making this event a great success. Team Upston will be back - look out for us next year!



PARLIAMENTARY CRICKET

I am excited to be hosting the Parliamentary and Celebrity cricket game in Cambridge on 28 February. This celebratory game marks 140 years of Cricket in the Waikato and all proceeds from the day will go towards extending the Cambridge cricket pavilion.

The day's activities begin at 10am and the match starts at 11am. The game consists of two innings of 30 overs followed by an after-match celebration at the Cambridge Town Hall expected to start at 4.30pm.

Parliamentary Cricket is a wonderful chance for Members from across the House to socialise outside of Wellington and fundraise for a worthy cause. Admission is free so pack a picnic and bring the family along.

PRIME MINISTER'S OPENING STATEMENT

To mark the opening of Parliament for 2010 Prime Minister John Key announced his goals for New Zealand over the coming year. The Government is focusing on ensuring the tax system rewards effort, encourages savings and helps families get ahead. The tax changes that will be announced in Budget 2010 on 20 May will make the system fairer for all New Zealanders.

We are committed to reducing personal tax and changing the way property is taxed as recommended by the Tax Working Group.

The Government is also going to address some of the issues that currently surround our social welfare system. The New Zealand benefit system is there to provide genuine support and we want to ensure it best serves those who need it. For others, we want to support them getting into the work force. This will have positive effects on our community and for the future of the welfare system.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Children returning to school in February marked the start of National Standards in our education system. National Standards in primary and intermediate schools will address the shocking statistic that almost one in five children are leaving school without the numeracy and literacy skills they need to succeed.

It's clear that we need National Standards. They are all about identifying those youngsters who need extra help in reading, writing and maths and making sure they get the support they need to make progress. The Government is making an additional \$36 million available for this.

Education Minister Hon Anne Tolley is coming to Taupo to meet parents and community members interested in learning more about National Standards. Come along to Catelli's on Rifle Range Road, Tuesday 2nd March at 7.00pm.

WAIKATO DAY

Recently I asked the Waikato community about Auckland Anniversary Day. Currently we share Auckland's Anniversary Day, and I think it is time to celebrate Waikato's unique identity on our own regional holiday - Waikato Day.

I have been overwhelmed with the interest in this proposal, and along with the Waikato Times and Hamilton Mayor Bob Simcock I am hosting a public meeting to discuss this idea further. This will be held in the Concert Chamber at Waikato University, Monday 8 March at 6.30pm.

TAUPO CYCLEWAY

Another Taupo Cycleway was given the nod as part of the New Zealand Cycleway Trail Project.

It is one of 13 projects that will now undergo feasibility studies that are expected to be completed by the end of May. This track joins the Waikato River Trails that were started through the Quick Start programme last July.

The trail will showcase the best New Zealand has to offer. It will also support regional economic and employment activity. This means jobs for locals during the construction phase and

more importantly long-term jobs through accommodation and other support services. This is great news for local tourism.

The 10-kilometre all-weather multi-day cycleway will start 15 minutes from Taupo. It will run along the edge of Lake Taupo through native forest with views of the lake and Tongariro National Park.



EVENTS

- 27 Feb** **Putaruru A&P Show and Water Festival**
Glenshea Park.
- 28 Feb** **Parliamentary and Celebrity Cricket** at the Village Green, Cambridge.
- 2 March** **National Standards Public Meeting** with Education Minister Hon Anne Tolley.
7 - 8.30pm Catelli's, Rifle Range Road, Taupo.
- 8 March** **Waikato Day Public Meeting** 6.30pm, Concert Chamber at Waikato University, Hamilton.
- 9 March** **Pacific Island Affairs Minister** Hon Georgina te Heuheu visit to Tokoroa to meet members of the Pacific community.

I always enjoy hearing your views on issues that matter to you and I appreciate the time taken to express these to me.

You can contact me through my electorate offices.

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