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## NEW OWNER FOR TAURANGA MARATHON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Auckland based events promoter, Running Events, has taken stewardship of the Tauranga Marathon from original owner and creator, Total Sport. The next event will take place on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and will feature a full marathon, half marathon, 10k, 5k and kids' dash.**

The signature marathon and half marathon fields will start together near Papamoa and follow a course that hugs the ocean until rounding the Mauao base track. It then runs over the Harbour Bridge to the city, where the marathon course peels off to take in the Otumoetai foreshore and the stunning Daisy Hardwick track. All events finish among the bars and restaurants of downtown Tauranga on The Strand – closed to traffic for the event.

“We’re thrilled at the opportunity to take on this great event and build on Total Sports’ achievements in 2017 and 2018,” said Running Events’ Rob Docherty. “For us, the opportunity to produce a full distance marathon was too good to refuse. Most runners will only do one or maybe two full distances marathons in a year. Some may only do one in a lifetime. We see it as our core responsibility to give them an event experience they will remember for a lifetime.”

Former event producer, Total Sport, will continue to be involved with the event, providing valuable on course and logistics support throughout the planning phase as well as assisting on race day.

Total Sport director Aaron Carter said “We’re very excited to see the Tauranga Marathon in the hands of Running Events - these guys are the best in the business at this style of event. We’re really looking forward to seeing this event reach its potential, and we are looking forward to staying involved and supporting Rob and his team to ensure 2019 is bigger and better than ever”.

The event has enjoyed strong support from the city of Tauranga since its inception. Tauranga City Council Events Manager, Gareth Wallis, said the Tauranga International Marathon had become a significant event on the city’s calendar. “We’re very pleased to have Running Events on board to build on this fantastic event and look forward to hosting more runners and walkers to our city as they prepare to take on an absolutely stunning course.”

A new web site has been created for the 2019 event at <https://taurangamarathon.co.nz>. Online registrations have opened and super-earlybird pricing is available for the marathon and half marathon for a limited time.

### **About Running Events**

Running Events are one of New Zealand's largest organisers of mass participation sport, attracting over 20,000 registrations each year. We focus on 100% home-grown, in-house events that Kiwis love to do. We are driven by a desire to produce the finest quality events with a fantastic athlete experience at an affordable price. Our secret is simple ... we're runners too.

### **About Tauranga**

Tauranga is New Zealand’s fifth largest city and home to around 125,000 people. The city lies in the north-western corner of the Bay of Plenty region, on the south-eastern edge of Tauranga Harbour. Tauranga is one of New Zealand's main centres for business, international trade, culture, fashion and horticultural science. The Port of Tauranga is New Zealand's largest export port.