

Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga Newsletter #15

January – March 2009

I would like to personally thank all our supporters during a season where we experienced many highs and lows.

Daylight Savings

It's that time of year again, Daylight Savings. This of course means that our night walk meeting, departure and return times are now an hour earlier.

The Twilight Encounter tour meets at 4.45pm, departs at 5pm and returns at approximately 9pm. Our Meet Tane at Night tour meets at 7.15pm, departs at 7.30pm and returns at approximately 9pm.

2009 Waipoua Forest Fun Run & Walk

Sunday May 24 is fast approaching. We hope you get your running shoes on for the 2nd running of the Waipoua Forest Fun Run & Walk.

Changes to Crossings Hokianga harbour cruise

During the season we made a decision to make some changes to our Crossings Hokianga product. The major change was the increase of our minimum number required to operate a cruise from 6pax to 11pax.

Pechanga Visit to Hokianga

We were privileged to host two representatives from the Pechanga Tribe from America. We were happy to return the hospitality shown to Tawhiri and Koro last April on a cultural mission to North America with Tourism New Zealand.

'Have your say UK' Campaign

Thank you to the 'Have your say UK' campaign that called into the Hokianga and Waipoua forest.

National Business Review Survey

It came as a complete surprise that Footprints Waipoua was named as 1 of 10, 2008 Most Exciting Tourism Companies in New Zealand. We would like to congratulate the other three Northland companies on that list. In order of excitement Explore NZ / Sail NZ #1, Dive Tutukaka #3, Footprints Waipoua & Air New Zealand #5 EQUAL, Fullers Bay of Islands & Shotover Canyon Swing #8 EQUAL.

NFL Player Dhani Jones in Hokianga

Hokianga recently hosted Dhani Jones a US *Discovery Channel* presenter and celebrity NFL player for the Cincinnati Bengals. His visit coincided with the Tourism New Zealand 'The New Zealand Lifeback Promise' campaign.

Indigenous Trails and Award

We would like to congratulate indigenous Trails on receiving the Indigenous Tourism and Biodiversity Website Award 2009 announced in Munich, Germany. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in partnership with Planeta.com, and the generous support of the government of Spain, created the first Indigenous Tourism and Biodiversity Website Award. The award is presented to an indigenous tourism operation for having a website that promotes sustainable practices and educates visitors on cultural protocols and biodiversity. For more information visit www.itrails.co.nz or send an e-mail to Des Harris at des@itrails.co.nz.

Volunteer Student Groups start visiting Hokianga

The first of several volunteer student groups to Hokianga courtesy of Indigenous Trails stayed recently on the Whakamaharamatanga Marae. While they were here they participated in several community projects. We look forward to the groups that will arrive later in the year and other long term placement and exchange volunteer programmes opportunities. These are true community development opportunities that we are keen to explore, maximise and benefit from.

A visit to Northland from David Perks

It was nice to see David in Hokianga recently. David recently left Northland to take up the role of CEO of Tourism Wellington. David was accompanied by Nancy McIntosh-Ward CEO of the newly named Zelandia Sanctuary formerly known as the Karori Sanctuary.

Kauri Coast Delegation Visit to Yakushima Island

Alex Nathan, Stephen King, Bett Nelley and Shane visited Yakushima Island. I understand the visit achieved the desired business and community outcomes. Watch this space for more information.

Farewell & Welcome Back

We said farewell to Zak and in the same month welcomed back Tawhiri. I would like to acknowledge Zak for his passion and commitment to Crossings Hokianga and the promotion of tourism in Hokianga. Zak is now commercial fishing in the Bay of Islands. Good luck Zak.

A new Hokianga Product

Andrew Kendall and Diane Larsen from Mitimiti are in the process of launching a new exciting tourism activity in Hokianga. This will be a beach activity with a unique difference. Watch this space for more information.

Client Feedback

A big thank you to Glyn, Lili and Sienna from South Australia for a letter full of thought, passion and constructive feedback. I hope you like our little gift Sienna.

We hope that your 2009 is full of good health.

Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga TEAMS