

Edition #8 **Footprints Waipoua / Crossings Hokianga / Kings Crossings Hokianga**
Newsletter
July - August 2007

Welcome to the 8th edition of our Newsletter. I hope you find it an enjoyable read.

Tourism Award WINNERS & NOMINEES

The Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga TEAMS would like to congratulate NZONE The Ultimate Jump the Air New Zealand Supreme Award Winner and all other nominees and winners at last night's Tourism Awards function. Because we are new businesses we certainly admire and appreciate the hard yakka required to attain such recognition.

Tourmasters & Magic Travellers Network are Tourism Award Winners

Talk about a busy week. Congratulations Brian and the team, what an amazing night you guys must of had. Not only do you have awesome products but more importantly a wicked bunch of people who are passionate, motivated and hard working. We can't wait for October 1. Thanks for everything.

07/08 & 08/09 Rates are now available

For Footprints Waipoua and Crossings Hokianga rates please contact Nikki on 09 405 8207 or info@footprintswaipoua.co.nz and info@crossingshokianga.co.nz. For the new Kings Crossings Hokianga rate or information see below.

FAMILS & Media Exposure.

We would like to thank the many people who have visited Hokianga and provided us with the chance to tell you a little bit more about our home. Footprints Waipoua has enjoyed much publicity including a spot on the Australian programme The Great Outdoors and the Australian Readers Digest. Thanks to all those who have been interested enough to talk, show and write about Hokianga.

This was a poem sent in by some Footprints Waipoua participants. It's called TREES by Joyce Kilmer.

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast
A tree that looks to God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray.
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair
Upon whose bosom snow is lain,
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Best wishes to the Footprints Team for 2007 - Eunice and Ian Faulkner

Kings Crossings Hokianga (New Product info and contact persons)

We would like to thank all those who attended the launch of our new partnership with Intercity Group and Kings on August 1 at the Copthorne Hokianga. Kings Crossings Hokianga provides day tours to Hokianga ex Bay of Islands. For more information including rates please contact:

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ats Pacific Award

We would like to thank ats Pacific for recognising Footprints Waipoua with the Best Product Relationship & Rates Quality/Timeframe Award. I was unfortunately unable to attend the evening but I understand it was enjoyed by many and the certificate hangs pride of place on our office wall.

Clear Skies Conference Group

In my last newsletter I mentioned that we attended a Clear Skies Conference Group promotional evening in Auckland. I forgot to mention the involvement of Andy Larsen Waitangi National Trust and Mel Miller Scenario Events. Sorry Andy and Mel. I hope this makes up for it.

Ai Okada – Yakushima Island Guide Visit

We hosted Ai Okada a guide from the company YNAC located on Yakushima Island in Japan. We only hope that she enjoyed her time in Hokianga as much as Shane and I enjoyed our time in Yakushima.

Northland Rugby Team and visit to Tane Mahuta

The Northland rugby team visited the Hokianga just before the start of the Air New Zealand Cup. Footprints Waipoua was fortunate enough to spend some time with them. We would like to congratulate Justin and the boys for their spirited performances to date and would like to wish them all the very best for the remainder of the season. Thanks also to George Goodhew, Puss and the kids for your involvement. Just remember boys as Puss said “The kauri may bend but never breaks”.

Grand Pacific Coach Drivers Conference

We would like to thank Peter and Stacia for providing the Hokianga with the opportunity to host their coach driver’s conference. We hope that everyone enjoyed their stay. Have a safe and prosperous season guys and girls.

Joe on Holiday

Joe is away on a well deserved 6 week holiday in UK and Europe. Good for some. We hope your enjoying it Joe.

Meetings Conference in Auckland at Sky City

Pip from the Copthorne Hokianga and I recently attended the Meetings Conference in Auckland. What a magnificent turnout of Northland operators there were. Northland is certainly a region that provides unique conference experiences. For more information regarding conferencing in the Hokianga please contact Pip at 09 405 8737 or pip@omapere.co.nz. For more conferencing options in Northland visit www.northlandnz.com.

George Hickton & TNZ Executive Committee Visit

Prior to the ITOC conference George Hickton CEO and his Tourism New Zealand Executive committee stayed the night at the Copthorne Hokianga. This provided us with an opportunity of a lifetime to showcase the Hokianga. The following morning a community breakfast was held to discuss tourism opportunities for Hokianga and the Far North. Also present were the Far North Mayor Yvonne Sharp, Deputy Mayor Laurie Byers, Councillor Ian Bamber, Far North District Council CEO Clive Manley, Malcolm Johns CEO InterCity Group, MSD representatives and other community kaumatua, leaders, business and industry people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend and contribute to what was a successful community morning.

A big HOKIANGA welcome to Gordon Hewston

Thank you to Whaea Kuini from the Mangungu Mission House and Historic Places Trust for introducing us to the new Heritage Destinations Manager Gordon Hewston. We hope Gordon that your time in NZ and with the Historic Places Trust is both enjoyable and rewarding.

ITOC Conference

The Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands was an amazing location for the ITOC conference. Congratulations to David and his TEAM for hosting what was a very busy and interesting conference. I would like to thank Kylie and TNZ for inviting me to be part of their initial presentation.

TNZ Staff Conference

Again thanks to George, Kylie and the team for inviting me to their staff conference and for providing me with an opportunity to share with the TEAM what Kylie and I have been working on.

Bay of Islands Information Centre Staff

We recently hosted staff from various Information Centres including Whangarei, Bay of Islands and Kaitaia. We appreciate any support of our experiences for this coming season.

DoC Awards

The Copthorne Hokianga recently hosted the Department of Conservation & Northland Biodiversity Enhancement Group Awards. Footprints Waipoua was acknowledged for the valuable contribution to the conservation of Northland's Natural & Historic Heritage. We were absolutely in awe of the tremendous work that a lot of individuals and community groups are doing in Northland. This was truly an inspirational occasion and we were very proud to be invited and to be part of the day. Something I forgot to mention was that we certainly acknowledge the great work being done by the Waipoua Forest Trust.

CANON photo shoot

Thank you to Jason Hill and his team at the TNZ Japan office and Hide Arai and NZ Network Co Ltd for the opportunity of Footprints Waipoua being involved in a Canon photo shoot.

Northland Roadshow

The Northland Roadshow is another opportunity to push the destination message. A good amount of Northland operators showed up to take advantage of this opportunity. Various agents turned up to learn and listen about how special and unique the Northland region is. I just wanted to say a big thank you to Robyn, Nineke and the rest of the Destination Northland team.

Kings & ICG FAMIL

Thanks to Gary and Rio from Kings and Daniel from Intercity Group for bringing their teams over to experience the Hokianga. It is a special place guys and I hope that we went some way to help you recognise that.

Radio New Zealand

Thanks to Lois Williams from Radio New Zealand for spending some time with us.

Kathy Ombler

We had the pleasure of hosting Kathy who has written nature and bird books. Kathy stayed with us for a night to coincide with writing a couple of future articles that will feature Hokianga. Bill and I enjoyed our night Kathy.

Our meeting with the Kohukohu business community

Shane, Pip and myself visited Kohukohu to discuss tourism opportunities for this coming season. We would like to thank the communities of Hokianga for their support. Our intention is to develop managed tourism to create sustainable opportunities. Together this will happen.

MAGIC Travellers Network Sales & Marketing TEAM FAMIL

We just wanted to say to Rob, Shayne, Sally, Tracey and Emma thanks for the huge basket and that we hope your weekend was enjoyable. Emma I really do hope you find Opo.

ATTTO Staff Training

The Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga TEAMS attended an ATTTO Customer Service training course at the Matakohe Museum. They all came back well enthused and so much better for having attended. For more information about ATTTO courses please contact Eamon Nathan at eamon.nathan@attto.org.nz or 0274555093.

Daffodil Day Fundraising Breakfast at the Copthorne Hokianga

A great breakfast was held at the Copthorne Hokianga. It was fantastic to see the community turn out to help celebrate and fundraise for the Cancer Society. I know the Copthorne Hokianga would like to thank George Goodhew and the Lions Club for his and there efforts in ensuring that everyone had an enjoyable morning. A big shout out to all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes and apparently our very own Tawhiri and friend Daryl did an excellent job entertaining when entertainment was required. The amount raised was a staggering \$1442.30. Well done to our communities, I am sure that the Cancer Society will appreciate this donation.

TIA Conference Panelist

I sat on the “Best practice engagement by tourism organisations with local communities” panel at the TIA conference held very recently. This subject is certainly close to our hearts and so I thank Fiona Luhrs and her team for inviting us to be part of this discussion. I understand from other delegates that the conference was enjoyed.

Conclusion

A lot has happened in the last couple of months. It certainly is a trying time with all the things going on including the integration of the Kings Crossings Hokianga partnership and systems. We appreciate your patience, support and understanding during this process. We look forward to a season that is shaping up to be a very exciting and interesting one.

From the Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga TEAMS.