

Edition #11 **Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga** Newsletter
January – March 2008

We hope you enjoy this quick peek into the last three months. It was a busy season and we would like to thank you all for your support and for helping our business to grow.

Acknowledgements

From all of us here at Footprints and Crossings we would like to acknowledge those who have lost loved ones recently. This is always a sad time and so we would like to particularly offer our sincerest best wishes to Whaea Kuini, our colleague Jerry and others. Our thoughts are with you all.

Bet Nelley is moving on up

The TEAMS at Footprints and Crossings would like to congratulate Bet for being appointed the new Curator of the famous Matakohe Kauri Museum. Bet takes over the role vacated by Albert. Thank you Albert for all that you have done for tourism in Northland. We wish Bet and Albert all the best and much success.

It's that time again - Daylight Savings Ends

Our night tour departure times have moved back an hour now that daylight savings has come to an end. Please find these new departure times as follows.

Twilight Encounter – 5pm to 9pm
Meet Tane at Night – 7.30pm to 9pm

For your information Daylight Savings begins again Sunday September the 28th.

TV 3 News Presenter experiences Footprints Waipoua

"My family and I had a truly wonderful time exploring the glorious Waipoua Forest with Joe and Bill. It was a very intimate and magical experience. I think it's a trip every New Zealander should do." Good luck with the project Koro, we've already recommended Footprints Waipoua to everyone we know, and we're also planning to send my husband's parents up to Omapere to share the same experience. Hilary Barry and family.

Crossings & Footprints New websites

Check out our new websites courtesy of Adam Turner, visit www.notascooby.com. The video links courtesy of Action Adventure Videos, visit www.actionadventurevideos.com. Thanks Ruth and John, We have no hesitation in recommending Adam, Ruth and John.

Loreal FAMIL

It was our pleasure to host Vai Leo from Loreal. Pip was extremely happy that Vai was finally able to visit. We look forward Vai to any future opportunities to host a Loreal conference.

Video Link to Gift ceremony

Check out the video link of last year's Hokianga gift ceremony to the Tourism Minister on our Videos and Picture Gallery webpage www.footprintswaipoua.co.nz or www.crossingshokianga.co.nz. What an amazing opportunity and turnout this was for the Hokianga. Hokianga is privileged to have been given the honour of being a link between New Zealand and Japan.

Working on a Forest Sports Event for June

A group consisting of The Far North District Council, Te Roroa, DoC, Blah Blah Marketing and ourselves are currently working on a walk and run event through the Waipoua forest. This will be the first of its kind and we are all very excited about the prospects. We are being assisted by some international interest all of which we appreciate very much. More information will be circulated in due course. Watch this space.

Our Japanese Guide - Ai Okada

Ai has been in the Hokianga now for 3 months. It's fair to say Ai has settled in and enjoying the surroundings that her new home has to offer. Ai is currently working on a webpage dedicated to the Japanese market. I would like to thank the Hokianga Tourism Association for the use of some text we will use for this webpage. This text appears on their brochure and website www.hokiangatourism.org.nz. Check it out for more information on the Hokianga.

The Opononi Heritage Centre Update

Manea is well underway. The working group has much passion and belief. I look forward to sharing Manea with you soon. This development will help form a critical foundation of reasons for passerbys to stop, encounter and enjoy Hokianga, a significant New Zealand location. Thanks to all the support that the Te Hua o te Kawariki Trust has enjoyed and indeed the Trust Members and support crew.

TV 3 News Weather forecasts from Hokianga

Hokianga was the location for the TV 3 news forecast on Saturday the 19th of January. Always good of course to see the Hokianga on TV, lets hope that more opportunities will present themselves.

All FAMILS to Hokianga

Thank you for the opportunities. We hope that your Hokianga experience at least met if not exceeded your expectation levels.

MCK Waitangi Golf Tournament

Shane, Kristian and I attended the MCK golf tournament in Sydney. What a tough but very enjoyable day and evening. Thanks heaps to Chris and Joey for a FAB time.

New Zealand Conservation Authority Conference in Hokianga

We were lucky enough to host the NZ Conservation Authority Conference and some of the staff from our very own Northland Conservancy at the Copthorne Hokianga. It was an honour to meet and talk to many like minded people. I hope all is well and look forward to crossings paths in the future.

Ben Fogle visit

This famed UK adventurer was in New Zealand recently and we were fortunate enough to have him visit the Hokianga. What an interesting character he is. There were obviously some UK visitors staying at the Hotel as he was quickly surrounded by onlookers. Many thanks to Sam and the team at TNZ for the opportunity and we hope Ben liked the gift courtesy of the communities of Hokianga.

Interview with Radio NZ

Shane, myself and other Hokianga personalities were interviewed by Radio NZ recently when they broadcast their show from the Opononi Resort Hotel. The weather wasn't the best (who am I kidding it's always great in the Hokianga) but the opportunity to promote Hokianga and the warm and heartfelt discussion more than made up for this, I think.

New Images for our Library

We finally have a collection of images that are now on CD. Again thanks to Ruth and John from Action Adventure Videos (See the website above). These images will soon be available to download from our websites. Thank you also to Magic for their contribution.

Yakushima Island English Language School Visit

We recently hosted a group of students and teacher from Yakushima Island, an island located south of the mainland and famous for its Cedar trees and a forest that enjoys World Heritage status. This is the beautiful island that Shane and I have had the fortunes of visiting twice. I'm happy that we have taken another step in developing the relationship and look forward to either a delegation visit or a return trip in the near future.

Conclusion

It was a busy start to 2008 in the Hokianga. There are some exciting new developments that are progressing very quickly. I have to again say thanks to the various levels of support we enjoy. Things are happening but ironically the process is still one that's all about TIME. I wanted to take this opportunity to also make a special mention to Wayne Hutchinson for all the work he has been doing in the Hokianga since arriving. Thanks mate and keep it up. We hope that 2008 is a prosperous one for you all.

From the TEAMS at Footprints Waipoua and Crossings Hokianga