

Edition #10 **Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga** Newsletter  
November - December 2007

This is the 10th edition of our Newsletter. We thought we would get this one out before Christmas and the New Year. Good reading.

**Big News - The Kings & Fullers Merger**

What an amazing opportunity for Hokianga the Kings and Fullers merger is. We look forward to building a platform for Hokianga based on the momentum that recent relationships have presented us.

**BASE Travel**

Thank you Justine and your team at Base Travel for taking the time out to come and experience what Hokianga has to offer. We look forward to your support of the opportunity that we are providing in conjunction with Magic Travellers Network

**A Fantastic Hokianga Get Together**

Recently Footprints, Crossings, Opononi Resort Hotel and Copthorne Hokianga hosted a Hokianga provider dinner, and what a great turnout it was. We appreciate the support we enjoyed that night. I think that the feeling and thinking was mutual. We all need to work together. We hope that you enjoyed your night.

**Blessing of Hokianga Wharves**

Just recently some of the Hokianga wharves have been upgraded. The wharves that have been worked on certainly look sharp. The Crossings Hokianga boat *Max* was used by local elders and invited guests to bless the finished wharves. I understand that it was a day enjoyed by all.

**The Future**

We were happy to make the boat available for a cruise enjoyed by a local Kohanga Reo. It was highly likely that we had future Hokianga guides on board.

**New Zealand Paradise Week 2007**

Shane and I attended the above festival in Tokyo. This was the largest independent New Zealand promotional event ever to be held in Japan and celebrated the vibrant mix of New Zealand's contemporary lifestyle including fashion, food, wine, music, tourism and 55 years of diplomatic relations. What an amazing opportunity this was for Shane and I to showcase the Hokianga, Far North and Northland. We would like to say a big thank you to Tourism New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise for the opportunity. Apparently 16,000 people attended the weekend event at Roppongi. It was an occasion I felt very privileged to be a part of and an event that made me feel very proud to be a Kiwi. A sequel is just what the doctor ordered I reckon. It was a pleasure meeting and working with household names like Hinewehi Mohi, Hayley Westenra, Nesian Mystic, Rhombus, Ruia and many more. Thanks to Karen Thompson and her events team for a wonderful and unforgettable journey and as usual thanks Jason Hill and the TNZ Japan team for hospitality second to none.

### **Our Friends from Christchurch City i-SITE Centre**

Shane and I made some friends from the Christchurch i-SITE Centre. It was a pleasure meeting you Rimi and Kaz. We hope to see you both in the Hokianga soon.

### **Fukuoka Forest Event**

Shane and I flew to Fukuoka from Tokyo to attend a Forest Event run by Reborn Tours a leading Japanese Eco Tour Company. It was an awesome sight to see about 1000 people celebrating Mother Nature. It has certainly given us inspiration to create a sister forest event.

### **Yakushima Island Visit**

Shane and I really, really enjoyed our second visit to Yakushima Island located south of Kyushu. What an amazing place Yakushima is. If anyone gets the chance to go you must. This was a wonderful opportunity to develop mutually beneficial relationships. We look forward to working on these opportunities and maybe a reciprocal visit by a Yakushima delegation next year. It could be on the cards that Shane and I return again next year. The world is certainly a big place and full of opportunities.

### **Japanese Media in Hokianga**

Thank you Ryo, Aki and Kei for coming to Hokianga. I'm glad you enjoyed planting the trees and learning about the special connection that Hokianga now has with Japan. We look forward to you helping us promote the Hokianga, Far North and Northland message.

### **NZTE Meeting in Wellington**

I would like to thank Dame Cheryl and Nick Metson from NZTE for inviting me to their meeting. Thanks to all the other Maori tourism operators who were present. Let's hope we can take this opportunity to the next step.

### **Cruise Ships Season**

It's that time again, Cruise Ship season. Thanks to Renaissance Tours for kicking the season off for us. Cheers Tony.

### **Tawhiri in Woman's Weekly**

Tawhiri was recently seen posing in Woman's Weekly. He mentioned to me that his picture was either side of Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise. All I can say is, you wish. Keep it up Tawh.

### **Indigenous Trails**

Thanks for coming up Des. We enjoyed your company and the discussions. We certainly have no problems supporting your cause and helping you to achieve your objectives. Your e-mail gave me a huge laugh.

### **Waterfront Suites Party**

Thanks Michael and Kim for the invitation. It was good to catch up with you both particularly at a social level. What a beautiful place you have there. We look forward to hosting your clients on the Kings Crossings Hokianga Day Tour.

### **PHD Students Conference**

Nga Pae o Te Maramatanga a group led by Dr Marilyn Brewin from the Auckland University held its fourth International Indigenous Writing Retreat at the Copthorne Hotel and Resort Hokianga. The intention of the International Writing retreat was to provide quality conditions and encouragement for senior Maori indigenous researchers to complete a substantial piece of academic writing, for publication to contribute to the Maori, Indigenous and International Academy. Dr Mere Kepa and her local iwi presented a paper to the researchers. Local Kuia and Kaumatua shared an evening with the group. The group enjoyed a Footprints Waipoua Meet Tane at Night experience. What a fantastic opportunity for Hokianga to have this group stay here. Many thanks must go to Marilyn and Te Tuhi for providing Hokianga with this opportunity.

### **Paihia**

It was nice to meet you Stacey. Stacey has recently taken over from Jeune. Stacey we look forward to working with you and helping you to promote the Kings Crossings Hokianga product.

### **Hokianga Tourism Development & Promotions Group**

Thanks to all those who turned up to the group's second meeting held at the Marae in Omanaia. Although the gathering was small, some big decisions were made and it's onwards and upwards from here. As mentioned, of course we have a responsibility to our businesses but more importantly we have a responsibility to Hokianga. We are all busy but keep on truckin' on and make sure not to slow down.

### **Meet the Locals Filming**

The new TV 6 series Meet the Locals visited Northland recently. This is a series hosted by DoC's Nic Vallance and is all about creating an awareness of the many animals and special places that makes New Zealand a unique destination. Footprints Waipoua had the pleasure of hosting Nic and the crew. We are glad that you enjoyed your visit to Northland. Thanks guys.

### **Conclusion**

Well we just keep going and keep doing as much as we can. Just the other day I was interviewed and a question asked of me was, How long have you been operating for? I paused before I answered almost 3 years. It honestly feels like just yesterday. Time really does fly. I want to personally say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us, we really appreciate it. What amazing industry tourism is? Tourism allows you to travel, meet total strangers who become lifetime friends and do wonderful things for communities. My biggest lesson this year has been that our business is to tell stories, and that we all have a story to tell, so go out there this season and enjoy telling your story. We also hope that while your season is busy that it is also safe and happy, so to all your friends and family the Footprints Waipoua & Crossings Hokianga teams say a BIG Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.