



Office News

MT HOT POOLS RE-DEVELOPMENT

Time is running out for ensuring you 'have your say' in regards to the Mount Hot Pool re-development. TCAL (Tauranga City Aquatics Limited) has set up a consultation programme to encourage you to be informed and get involved and 'have your say'. Don't leave it too late the deadline is coming up soon. For more information visit www.mthotpools.co.nz

INDUSTRY WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP

Last month's industry workshop at the Mount Surf Club hosted by AA's general manager of tourism, Peter Blackwell was very productive as local industry members had their say on where the RTO should be focusing in the upcoming years and tough economic climate. The staff and board of Tourism Bay of Plenty have since had a planning session to run through the ideas the evening produced and to build them into the organisational strategic plans.

CELEBRITY VISITS

Keep your eyes out for a couple of celebs this month as Tourism Bay of Plenty has been busy helping organise a visit for actor Robson Green's fishing show. Robson and his crew will be heading out of Tauranga harbour to film a new episode for his hit TV show 'Extreme Fishing With Robson Green'.

Mike Hall from TV3 will also be visiting Tauranga this month to film a special weather report from the slopes of Mauao.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TEAM AT TOURISM BAY OF PLENTY

The team here at Tourism Bay of Plenty want to wish all our stakeholders, partners, industry members and readers a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year and hope the holiday season brings you happiness and lots of bookings.



SITE

NEW SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Rawinia Houia who has been appointed to the position of i-SITE Supervisor. Rawinia has been employed at the i-SITE for the past two years as a Sales and Information Consultant and will be the first point of contact for all things i-SITE related. We wish her all the very best in her new role.

I-SITE REFURBISHMENT

The Mount Maunganui i-SITE has recently been refurbished with a strong focus on the visitor industry. Slimline full frontage brochure displays have replaced the bulky stands and retail area, and opportunities for high profile advertising have been introduced that reflect the trends that have been developed at the successful Taupo and Nelson i-SITEs. For more information on these display opportunities contact Diane Drummond at diane@bayofplenty.co.nz.

TRANSLATOR AVAILABLE

The i-SITE also has available for hire, a translator who speaks French and Spanish, and some



Dates to Diary

GNZTR TRADE MANUAL ADVERTISING NOW AVAILABLE

The 2009 / 2010 Great New Zealand Touring Route (GNZTR) Product Manual will soon be going into production. For those operators interested in communicating to the international trade audience, this is an opportunity not to be missed. Please register your interest with Sean from sean@bayofplenty.co.nz or on 07 577 6234. We will communicate the exact costs and specifications to the industry as soon as that information is released.

TAURANGA JAZZ FESTIVAL '09 BLASTS OFF!!

An impressive line up that boasts over 40 jazz bands and 12 different stages over five days at Easter 2009 was revealed on Wednesday at the launch of the 47th National Jazz Festival Tauranga. The announcement of the 4 times Grammy winning headline act The Blind Boys of Alabama was received with great excitement. To view the full press release click [HERE](#).

Festival concert programs are available from selected retail outlets and cafes in Tauranga, and Baycourt Theatre. Or visit www.jazz.org.nz.

'CELEBRATE SUMMER' AT FANTAIL LODGE

Fantail Lodge will be operating its 'celebrate summer' program from Boxing Day till Anniversary Day on the 26 January. The 'celebrate summer' program is aimed at visitors and locals who enjoy good cuisine in tranquil surroundings. For the first time this year they are also introducing local wines and combining this with wine tasting. To book or for more information click [HERE](#).

TAURANGA-HITACHI CULTURAL EXCHANGE 2009

The 2009 Sister City Tauranga-Hitachi Cultural Exchange is now available for booking. This exchange is open to all Tauranga residents and includes participation in their Cherry Blossom Festival, 3 nights homestay with Hitachi families, a visit to hot springs and 2 nights in Tokyo with a sightseeing option to go to Disneyland included in the schedule. The program dates are Wednesday 1st April to 9th April 2009. For more information and application details click [HERE](#)



Congratulations to...

[Port of Tauranga](#) was a finalist in this year's Company of the Year category at the Deloitte/*Management* magazine Top 200 Awards. Wine company Delegat's Group claimed top honours with Datacom the other finalist in contention.



Cruise Ship News

DAWN PRINCESS DUE IN ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Tauranga will welcome the Dawn Princess cruise ship (with approximately 2,500 passengers) into port on Friday 25th December 2008. Tourism Bay of Plenty is working with the Dawn Princess to ensure the passengers will have a selection of

Portuguese. If you are interested in tapping into Benny's services over the next six weeks, please contact Diane at diane@bayofplenty.com or on 07 577 6234.



Upcoming Events

HIKOIKOI: CATCH BLISSFULL ROOTS REGGAE IN THE BAY THIS SUMMER

Hikoikoi are an original conscious reggae group who are bringing their unique soul infused groove and righteous rhythm to Tauranga this Summer with a one-off concert on Friday 2nd January 2009. for more information click [HERE](#) or contact Leanne Wickham at leanne.wickham@huttcity.govt.nz Ph 021 185 4294 - (04) 589 5010

WORLD HYDROPLANE CHAMPIONSHIPS

This summer some of the world's fastest hydroplanes are set to shake downtown Tauranga. The first leg of the hydroplane world grand prix championship will be taking place on the Tauranga Harbour adjacent to The Strand on the weekend of 17-18 January. It has been 12 years since hydroplanes raced in Tauranga Harbour, which event organisers have deemed 'an awesome venue.'

MCENTEE HIRE PRO TOUR BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Also on the 17-18 January check out the best beach volleyball players in New Zealand as they battle it out with amazing international players and the up and coming New Zealand talent. An exciting, visually appealing sport with something for everyone, music, spot prizes, giveaways and competitions for the crowds.

THE MOUNT MAUNGANUI BLUES, BREWS & BBQ'S FESTIVAL

This year's festival scheduled for Thursday 8th January at Blake Park, Mt Maunganui is getting right back to its roots of celebrating fine ales and culinary cuisine. Tickets are still available from branches of ANZ Bank in Tauranga and Mount Maunganui. For more information click [HERE](#)

Tickets are also still on sale for the popular "**Mills Reef Stars Under the Stars**" concerts, which will be on 24 and 25 January 2009. Tickets are \$35 and will be available through Ticket Direct.

For details on these and other upcoming events please visit www.bayofplenty.com/events.

activities available so they can enjoy their festive day in port. If you are an operator or service provider and are operating on Christmas Day please contact Sean Marsh at sean@bayofplenty.com or on 07 577 6234



Industry Happenings

KUAKA NZ TO HOST US DELEGATION

Kuaka NZ is hosting an American delegation to showcase the Bay of Plenty's comprehensive sustainability initiatives.

The high-level delegation from Michigan's second city, Grand Rapids, comprises of the mayor, the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, and heads of manufacturing, research, sustainability, and academics.

The visit will build ties between the two regions in business and research, and boost the Bay of Plenty's international reputation for innovation and sustainable planning.

For the full press release click [HERE](#) and for further information visit www.kuaka.co.nz

GIANT RUGBY BALL HOSTS THOUSANDS IN LONDON

Over seven and a half thousand people have visited Tourism New Zealand's Rugby Ball venue in London and many more have seen New Zealand's message through media coverage of the event.

The Ball has now been dismantled after having been installed in the high profile Potterfields Park by the London Tower Bridge for one week. In that time the venue has been visited by the Queen, Prince Phillip, Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism John Key. A number of functions have been hosted there including the International Rugby Board pool draw on 1 December. Read the full story online [HERE](#).