



Office News

ACCOMMODATION NEAR CAPACITY FOR KAPA HAKA FESTIVAL

Tourism Bay of Plenty has been trying to build a database of what accommodation is left for the 19-22 Feb. The festival is expecting to bring over 30,000 visitors to the region over that period and the Tauranga i-SITE is trying to match any vacancies with last minute accommodation enquiries. If you haven't already contacted the Tauranga i-SITE with any vacancies you may have or even if you are full we would like to know. Please contact Shelly on 07 578 8103 or email bookings@bayofplentynz.com

ENSURE THE TRAVEL TRADE IS AWARE OF YOUR BUSINESS

The 2009 / 2010 Great New Zealand Touring Route (GNZTR) Product Manual will be sent to the printers next week. If you are interested in communicating to international trade this week is the final opportunity to secure your place in the manual. For a full prospectus click [here](#) or please contact Sean on sean@bayofplentynz.com or on 07 577 6234 for more details.

THE FIRST INDUSTRY EVENT OF 2009

Tourism Bay of Plenty is organising the latest Tourism Industry event. We have taken your comments onboard from the last event and will be organising a 'roadshow' famil visiting a number of operators. This will allow attendees the opportunity of visiting businesses they may not have had time to familiarise themselves with. If you want to become one of the visited operators on March 11 please contact Karen on 07 577 6234 or karen@bayofplentynz.com. Further details will be announced as soon as possible.



Upcoming Events

ELMS TWILIGHT CONCERT

Enjoy an evening concert in the beautiful grounds of Tauranga's most historic place - The Elms mission house - featuring Vocal Edge. Sun Feb 15, or rain date 22 Feb. Concert 6-8 pm, gates open at 4.30 pm. Contact Patricia Cooper for further information on 07 577 0980.

TE MATATINI NATIONAL KAPA HAKA FESTIVAL

This Festival is the world's largest celebration of Māori performing arts. The 4-day event on the 19-22 of February at Baypark Stadium will attract more than 30,000 people from around the country. Tickets are now on sale, visit www.festival.tematatini.co.nz or call 04 499 6158 for details.

TAURANGA JAZZ FESTIVAL

This years Easter festival has an impressive line up that boasts over 40 jazz bands including 4 times Grammy winning headline act The Blind Boys of Alabama as well as a Māori jazz stage, Jazz village and the Sebel Trinity Wharf Jazz Riverboat. Venue sizes will limit the ticket sales so don't wait until the last minute.

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

MAKETU KAIMOANA FESTIVAL



SITE

CHECK YOUR LICENSES AND PRODUCT OFFERING

It has come to our attention regarding the provision of "free" transportation as part of a product offering that you could be acting outside the law if you do not hold the correct Passenger Transport and Vehicle Certification licences as defined by LTNZ.

The Land Transport Rule: Operator Licensing 2007 came into force on 01 October 2007. In that Rule a "Passenger Service" includes the carriage of Passengers: "in which the carriage of passengers is an integral part of, or reasonably necessary to provide, another service or activity (other than a transport service) for which payment is made"

This would mean that if an operator offers transport for another paid activity and that transport is integral or reasonably necessary to providing that activity then the operators of the service must be licensed.

i-SITE SALES RECORDS SMASHED

The i-SITE has achieved its second record operator sales month in a row as a result of a very busy cruise ship and summer season. Bay of Plenty operators are coming out the winners with the most growth, doubling sales within the Tauranga and Mount Maunganui i-SITE's over the same period last year. "We are noticing that passengers from the cruise ships are buying experience not retail items this year," said Diane Drummond, Commercial Manager.



Cruise Ship News

15,000 VISITORS EXPECTED THIS WEEK

From the 9th-16th February, the region will welcome over 15,000 cruise ship passengers to the port. After the recent run of long weekends and school holidays, it would be worthwhile to visit the

local i-SITE to check that your brochures are well stocked. Also check your supply of regional visitor maps and guides as the cruise ambassadors are reporting that they are proving to be very popular and in high demand.



Industry Happenings

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT CHANGES

Enjoying public holidays can be difficult for employees who work shifts that start on one calendar day and end on the next calendar day (as the public holiday runs from midnight to midnight).

The Holidays (Transfer of Public Holidays)

Amendment Act 2008 allows employees working night shifts that start or end on a public holiday to transfer the public holiday, by agreement with their employer, so that the public holiday covers one whole shift.

For more information on public holidays visit the DOL website here



National tourism industry news

SUMMER HOLDS UP BETTER THAN EXPECTED

Visitor arrivals figures out recently show that

The Maketu Kaimoana Festival, returns on Saturday, March 7, 2009. The festival is a celebration of seafood accented with great entertainment and fine wine and beer. The event takes place in historic Maketu on Okurei Point, one of the most spectacular oceanfront sites in New Zealand.

Tickets are available on-line though iTicket.com and from Paper Plus (Te Puke) and Maketu Landing (Maketu)

For more details visit their website:
www.MaketuKaimoana.co.nz

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



New and updated product

NEW BOUTIQUE BED AND BREAKFAST OPENS

Just two hours from Auckland and twenty-five minutes from Tauranga the Katiki Lodge has just opened its doors. Set in beautiful surroundings on the edge of the Tauranga Harbour the lodge has been designed for absolute comfort and relaxation.

Check out the website www.katiki.co.nz.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT RIDGE COUNTRY RETREAT

High in the Papamoia Hills there has been a bustle of activity as the six new villas and conference centre takes shape. Each villa boasts super king and queen beds, large ensuites with bath, shower and separate toilet and their own geothermal bath on the deck. Find out more here or visit the website www.rcr.co.nz

visits during December helped the year end on a stronger note. Statistics New Zealand figures showed total arrivals for December were up 1.6%, compared with the same month last year. Arrivals for the whole of 2008 were on a par with a year earlier, down just 0.3%. To read the full press release click [here](#).



Dates to Diary

NEW ENTERPRISE TRAINING PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

The new February to April Enterprise Training Programme Workshop Schedule is out with courses covering topics such as

- What is your plan B for these Tough Times
- Making Tough Employment Calls in a Downturn
- Financial Strategies for Tougher Economic Times

Click here to find out more information or contact the Empower Team to book a workshop place 0800 4ETPBOP or (07) 578 7017 or email: etpbop@xtra.co.nz

CATCH UP WITH TNZ CHIEF EXECUTIVE GEORGE HICKTON AND TNZ MANAGERS

Tourism New Zealand in conjunction with Destination Rotorua invites all Bay of Plenty operators to an International Market Presentation on March 5 2009 at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre.

For more information click [here](#) or RSVP by 2 March 2009 to karlene@rotoruaNZ.com or phone 348 4133



On the Web

FOURCORNERS.CO.NZ JOURNALIST DOCUMENTS HER VISIT

Journalist Amelia Norman visited the region recently and after experiencing as much as possible in the Bay the first of her stories has now hit the web. Check out her blo-karting adventure online [here](#).