

# TOURISM BAY OF PLENTY NEWS

## MARCH 2009



### What's New in the BOP

#### **TECT TO SURVEY CONSUMERS REGARDING ANNUAL SURPLUS**

Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust (TECT) has announced that it is to seek an indication from qualifying Consumers of their preference for future distributions.

Currently TECT returns up to 80% of its annual surplus by way of cheque direct to Consumers. The remaining 20% is distributed as grants to Consumer community organisations.

If you are a TECT account-holder, you will soon receive your voting paper. We ask you to vote for continuance of 20% of TECT funds going to the community. **Tick Box A – remain with the status quo.**

To find out more information, or to vote online visit [www.tect.org.nz](http://www.tect.org.nz). Votes must be received by **12 noon on Friday 17 April 2009.**

#### **SUBMISSION TIME**

Three important documents are currently in the public submission stages, and Tourism Bay of Plenty encourages all tourism, retail and hospitality businesses to have their say.

**TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL'S TEN YEAR PLAN** is open for submissions until 4pm Thursday 23 April. Some of the items TCC is seeking feedback on include:

- the Mount Maunganui Hot Pools development
- the Sport and Exhibition Centre at Baypark
- the Southern Pipeline.

To download a copy of the Ten Year Plan click [here](#), or visit [www.tauranga.govt.nz](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz).

#### **DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW**

The future of Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty is in your hands so make sure you have your say on the District Plan Review's for both Council's.

If you live, work and play in Bay of Plenty region the District Plan affects you. The District Plan sets rules around what can and

can't be done when it comes to development in your town, neighbourhood and property.

Your feedback needs to be received by 4pm Friday 3 April 2009 for Western Bay of Plenty District Council and 4pm Thursday 23 April for Tauranga City Council. For more information and submission forms go to [www.westernbay.govt.nz](http://www.westernbay.govt.nz) or [www.tauranga.govt.nz](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz)



### New and updated product

#### **THE BAY SUMMER CHALLENGE – ARE YOU UP FOR IT?**

There are still two places for operators on 'The Bay Summer Challenge'. The Bay Summer Challenge has been developed to provide locals and holidaymakers with a predefined group of challenges (10 in total) that will encourage children to try new things, promote healthy activities, spark new interests, while providing cost effective entertainment.

The challenge is designed to bring additional numbers through your gates, and expose your business to clients who haven't tried your activities before. You are guaranteed business, as the child has to complete all activities on the challenge map.

Interested? If you believe that the Bay Summer Challenge suits your business aspirations, then give Chris at Horses Inc. a call on 021 584 220 or 07 577 1754 during office hours.



#### **NEW *i*-SITE MANAGER**

Congratulations to Rawinia Houia who has been appointed to the position of *i*-SITE Manager. Rawinia has been employed at the *i*-SITE for over two years as a Sales and Information Consultant and for the last three months as *i*-SITE Supervisor. We wish her all the very best in her new role. Rawinia will be the first point of call for all things *i*-SITE related, email [Rawinia@bayofplentynz.com](mailto:Rawinia@bayofplentynz.com).



**NEW i-SITE STAFF**

The Tauranga i-SITE welcomes Joel Bell to the team. Joel's position is fulltime Sales and Information Consultant.

**ACCOMMODATION AVAILABILITY OVER EASTER WEEKEND (JAZZ FESTIVAL)**

We are expecting accommodation over Easter to reach capacity. The i-Site will be sending an email to all accommodation providers in the Bay of Plenty region, in the next week for an availability update.

Or if you would like to contact the Tauranga i-SITE with any vacancies you may have or advise that you are full, please contact Shelly on (07) 578 8103 or email [bookings@bayofplentynz.com](mailto:bookings@bayofplentynz.com)



**Cruise Ship News**

**SEASON NEARLY FINISHED**

The 2008/2009 cruise ship season is nearly complete. The Millennium will be the last cruise ship to visit Tauranga on Monday 13 April.



**Upcoming Events**

**TAURANGA JAZZ FESTIVAL**

This year's 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 the Jazz Steam Train, 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](http://www.jazz.org.nz)

For details on these and other upcoming events please visit [www.bayofplentynz.com/events](http://www.bayofplentynz.com/events).



**Congratulations to...**

[Indigenous Trails](#) who won the Planeta 2009 'Popular Count' International Indigenous Tourism and Biodiversity Website Award. For more information on the awards visit [www.planeta.wikispaces.com/itbw](http://www.planeta.wikispaces.com/itbw).

[Waihi Beach Top 10 Holiday Park](#) who are the first Holiday Park in New Zealand to receive Enviro-Gold, Qualmark's prestigious new environmental rating.

**WESTERN BAY 'ON A PLATE'**

A Destination TV film crew visited the Bay of Plenty over the last week, to shoot an episode of 'New Zealand on a Plate' for the Sky Food Channel. The programme will showcase local delicacies and award winning cuisine, alongside the local landscapes. Local chef Peter Blakeway is hosting the episode, that will feature the best of local produce, including kiwifruit, avocados, prime beef and seafood.

**FREE BUSINESS COURSES**

The Enterprise Training Programme is fully funded by the government (NZTE) and designed to upskill owners and operators of small-medium sized businesses to assist development and growth of their businesses.

Training opportunities are generally in the form of half day workshops and topics include marketing, e-commerce, managing resources, financial planning, business systems, sales and customer service. Some workshops have been developed specifically for the tourism industry.

For more information call 0800 438 7267 or email [etpbop@xtra.co.nz](mailto:etpbop@xtra.co.nz). Click [here](#) to see upcoming courses.

**90-DAY TRIAL PERIOD FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

From 1 March 2009, businesses that employ fewer than 20 employees will be able to hire new staff for a trial period of up to 90 days. The trial period must be recorded in a written employment agreement at the beginning of the employment relationship.

An employee cannot pursue a personal grievance for unjustified dismissal if he or she is dismissed during the trial period. The employee can however raise a personal grievance if issues such as discrimination arise. The Department of Labour will be updating its web-based Employment Agreement Builder to include guidance on how to incorporate trial provisions in employment agreements.

For more information on the new law please visit [www.ers.dol.govt.nz](http://www.ers.dol.govt.nz).



### TOURISM INDUSTRY MONITOR

A new survey initiated by the tourism industry is helping to measure the impact of the global financial crisis on tourism firms.

One thousand tourism operators, ranging from the small to New Zealand's largest companies, completed the latest online survey. The survey looked back at performance over the past three months, as well as expectations for the three months ahead. For more information and to participate, visit [www.tourismresearch.govt.nz](http://www.tourismresearch.govt.nz).

### \$5 MILLION TO BOOST TOURISM FROM AUSTRALIA

The Government has shown its support for the tourism industry, with the Prime Minister John Key's announcement of an additional \$2.5 million for tourism promotion in Australia. Air New Zealand has matched the deal with a \$2.5m promotional campaign aimed at giving away \$2m worth of domestic travel to encourage Australians to take trans-Tasman holidays. Read the full media release [here](#).



### Office News

### CHANGES AT TOURISM BAY OF PLENTY

Good luck and bon voyage to Karen Wallace, who is leaving Tourism Bay of Plenty to travel around the Mediterranean, Europe, Turkey and the United States for six months. The team wishes Karen all the best in her adventures.

Diane Drummond has decided to take a voluntary redundancy option and has left Tourism Bay of Plenty to pursue other options. We'll all miss Diane and wish her the very best for the future.

Tourism Bay of Plenty would like to welcome Catherine Connell and Heather Gerritsen to the office. Catherine started in early March as the Communications Manager, replacing Tony Quarby, and you may have already spoken to Heather who is the Office Coordinator. Heather is replacing Karen Wallace.

If you have any news or new products or simply want to say hello to either Catherine or Heather drop them a line on [Catherine@bayofplentynz.com](mailto:Catherine@bayofplentynz.com) or [Heather@bayofplentynz.com](mailto:Heather@bayofplentynz.com).

### THE FIRST INDUSTRY EVENT OF 2009

Thanks to Paul, Richard and the team at Blokart Heaven who hosted the first tourism industry meeting of 2009, at their venue in Papamoa. The turnout was great and it was a good opportunity for everyone to hear an update on Tourism Bay of Plenty's activities and to network with other operators.

Those who attended also had the chance to try out the blokart, after the gale force wind had died down. The next industry meeting will be held in June; more details will be sent out once a date and venue are set. If you have any ideas or would like to offer your venue for the next industry event please email [Heather@bayofplentynz.com](mailto:Heather@bayofplentynz.com).



### Dates to Diary

### 2 JUNE 2009 – NEW ZEALAND HERALD TRAVEL SUPPLEMENT, FEATURING THE BAY OF PLENTY

The New Zealand Herald's Travel liftout is published every Tuesday, and won Best Travel Section at the 2008 Qantas Media Awards. Travel will be featuring the Bay of Plenty as a destination on the 2 June. If you would like to advertise your business in this edition call Roxanne Blackley from the Bay of Plenty Times (07) 577 7770 ext 2882 or email [Roxanne.Blackley@bopp.co.nz](mailto:Roxanne.Blackley@bopp.co.nz).

### TRENZ 09

From 8 – 11 June 2009 TRENZ, (Tourism Rendezvous New Zealand) trade show will be held at ASB Showgrounds, Auckland. For more information visit [www.trenz.co.nz](http://www.trenz.co.nz).

### MEETINGS 09

Running from 21 – 23 July 2009, Meetings is New Zealand's only annual, national business tourism event for the conference and incentive travel industry.

Over two days you will have the opportunity to showcase your product to qualified national and international buyers, and to share knowledge and inspiring ideas with other industry professionals.

Meetings 09 will be held at Skycity Convention Centre, Auckland. Registration closes Thursday 23 April, for more information visit [www.meetings.co.nz](http://www.meetings.co.nz).