



FESTIVAL OF THE ELEMENTS

WAITANGI DAY

6 February 2007
Te Rauparaha Park

MEDIA RELEASE

RECIPE FOR ADVENTURE WITH HUTT VALLEY FENCING CLUB

It's a recipe for adventure at the Festival of the Elements in Porirua this year as kids are invited to try their hand at sword fighting.

The Hutt Valley Fencing Club is taking part in the Kapi Mana Art Action!, a day of workshops and entertainment for kids running at the Porirua Recreation Centre as part of the festival on February 6.

The Festival of the Elements is in its 15th year and has become the country's biggest Waitangi Day celebration; attracting 30,000 people last year.

It's a free, day-long celebration of art, music and entertainment featuring over 1000 performers appearing across four closely linked venues.

Hutt Valley Fencing Club Coach and organiser Susan Grant-Taylor says they'll be running a series of sessions teaching children the finer details of fencing and then letting them try for themselves.

They'll be using plastic swords, masks and protective clothing and Susan says that done right fencing is one of the safest sports around.

Other workshops running at Kapi Mana Art Action! include learning to create masks, paper flowers, ceramic tiles, cartooning and Pacifica painting, as well as trying out rock climbing and trampolining.

Alongside there will be a heap of entertainment including a pantomime and a string of top young performers.

Te Rauparaha Park is the centre of the Festival of the Elements.

The Festival of Elements is an event arranged and managed by the
Porirua Community Arts Council (Inc)
PO Box 52 011, PORIRUA CITY

There will be non-stop multi-cultural entertainment on a main stage hosted by Gary McCormick, plus a range of quirky events and competitions on the park, alongside funfair rides and food and craft stalls.

The entertainment rocks into the night with a strong line-up of headline acts including kiwi music trio SIRENZ, funky virtuoso violinist Elena, internationally acclaimed quartet The Musical Island Boys and TV singing star Ben Hazlewood.

At Pataka Museum and Gallery artists will be demonstrating their skills, while in two venues musicians and performers will entertain, including the Victoria University Gamelan Orchestra with Shadow Puppets and highly acclaimed poet Tusiata Avia.

And across the road at Elsdon Park the New Zealand Kite Flyers Association will be showing off their giant kites.

Those wanting to try their hand at fencing will be the capable hands of experienced coaches from the Hutt Valley Fencing Club. It is the biggest in New Zealand with around 100 members aged from 6 to mid-60s.

They are high achievers holding the men's national foil title and several under-17 Oceanic titles for men and women. Two younger members have just returned from the junior commonwealth games with bronze medals.

Susan says fencing is a great sport for all ages. Described by some as "physical chess", it can be tactical as much as physical.

"It's really good fun and it's very social."

For more information about fencing call Susan Grant-Taylor 938 3090 or 021 0276 1922.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Festival Coordinator: MARGARET ARMOUR – armour@xtra.co.nz
Mobile 027 22 456 70