



## **FESTIVAL OF THE ELEMENTS**

### **WAITANGI DAY**

6 February 2010

Te Rauparaha Park

[www.elementsfestival.org.nz](http://www.elementsfestival.org.nz)

### **News Release – Ice Sculptors January 2010**

#### **Cool sculptures grace Festival of the Elements**

Porirua's annual Festival of the Elements celebrates under the auspices of earth, air, fire and water. The latter will take on a special form this year as sculptors shape it into statues in its frozen state, ice. The blocks of ice that will be used are specially formulated to be crystal-clear and to avoid splintering.

Because ice sculpting is a relatively unusual event and requires specialized knowledge and tools, it can prove a hard slot to fill. Several sculptors have been found for this year, but room for a few more remains. Wood carvers generally have the closest comparable skillset. If there are whakairo exponents around who would like the opportunity to work in this novel medium, Festival organisers would like to investigate their possible inclusion in the event.

However, the Festival welcomes carvers from any locale or background. A recent addition to the list, sculptor Iman Nur Hadhi looks forward to the unexpected chance to practice his craft. He competes every other year in an ice sculpting event in Tauranga, but stays in practice at other times by creating art of chocolate and butter for the catering company that employs him.

Originally from Burma, Nur Hadhi came to New Zealand about six years ago. He began his sculpting career working with more traditional materials, such as wood and soft stone, and has been creating sculptures for some fourteen years. He already has an idea for his Festival ice sculpture, which will remain secret for the moment but is sure to please the crowd.

The Festival of the Elements is free to the public and will run from 11 AM to 7 PM on Saturday, 6 February. The ice carving will begin at 10 AM and run until 4 PM. For more information, please contact Margaret Armour on 027 224 5670 or at [armour@xtra.co.nz](mailto:armour@xtra.co.nz). The festival website is located at [www.elementsfestival.org.nz](http://www.elementsfestival.org.nz).

#### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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

Festival Chairman: BOB CATER –  
Ph 236 7381

Festival Coordinator: MARGARET ARMOUR –  
Mobile 027 22 456 70

Publicity: LAUREL SHIBA –  
laurelshiba@gmail.com

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