



FESTIVAL OF THE ELEMENTS

WAITANGI DAY

6 February 2007
Te Rauparaha Park

NEWS ITEM

CALLING ALL STALLHOLDERS

There's no stalling the 2007 Festival of the Elements. Held on Waitangi Day as a celebration of cultural diversity, stallholders are being called upon to join the festivities. Stallholder coordinator Brendan Egan says: "Over the years we've had all kinds of stalls set up shop for the day. Mostly they fall into two types. After several hours in the sun people need access to food and drink while arts and crafts stalls embrace the cultural variety which lies at the heart of the festival."

Potential stallholders wanting to sell food and drink in 2007 need to apply for and receive a 'Food Sellers Licence' from Porirua City Council in advance.

"Like most of the festival's events, the stall holding requirements have evolved each year. Thankfully, so far, there's been no 'errors' regarding food hygiene but we are required to police the food licences rigorously to ensure that people's health is protected."

The orchestrating of and attending to the stall holder's arrivals, problems and departures will be in expert hands too as the Titahi Bay Lions Club assists.

"The Lions are very experienced with stall holding logistics. They've been responsible for organising the market at Porirua City Centre for years," says Brendan. "And we're very grateful for their assistance. They're so relaxed with all the stallholders and find solutions to any problems that may arise very quickly."

The festival's 15 year history has seen most stallholders come from within the Wellington region, though some have come from Wanganui and Levin. Their types of wares have varied dramatically. In the food and drink category, anything from authentic Indian cuisine to hot chips and candy floss have been available for purchase, and this year a few large coffee carts were a hit.

"It was great to sit in the sun and drink a cup of coffee while listening to the great music and watching the performers," says Brendan.

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Arts and crafts stalls over the years have also included jewellery, clothing and ceramics. Three airbrush artists were available this year to paint temporary tattoos (a reflection of the participation of BodyFX in the festival).

“A lot of kids were seen trotting round with their faces painted with moko designs or like cats and dogs,” says Brendan. “It was very cute and most appeared very proud of themselves – this all added to the celebration the festival encompasses and the family atmosphere.”

And for the more alternative and like minded individuals, 2006 also saw a Maori Spiritual Healing stall present. It was swamped with enquiries and questions.

“The festival itself tries to cater for everyone and the stalls are no different,” says Brendan. “We’re interested in hearing from anyone wanting to hold a stall.”

Commercial and personal stallholders alike need to be aware that due to the limited amount of ground space at Te Rauparaha Park, craft stalls are limited to 3 x 3 metres in size and food stalls 4 x 4.

Anyone wanting further information should contact Fru Egan on 237 0753 or email egan.family@clear.net.nz. The closing date for applications for food stall holders is the 19th of January 2007 to ensure a ‘Food Sellers Licence’ is obtained before the festival. All spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis – so be in quick.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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