

WARKWORTH A&P SHOW – JANUARY 28&29

back to the country



Stretcher team challenge not for faint-hearted **Jam packed programme**

Courage, commitment, and comradeship are the essential ingredients needed in order to enter the Warkworth & Districts A&P Show military art competition on January 28.

Clubs, businesses, families and friends are being invited to muster up a team of at least five members to compete in a series of stretcher races and other gruelling challenges starting at 11am on show day.

Military Arts Club coordinator Max Carpenter says up to 24 teams are able to compete and the more participants the merrier.

“Depending on the amount of teams, there will be a number of stretcher heats and elimination rounds held before a grand winner is found,” Max says.

The winning team will receive a \$150 voucher to spend at Stables Restaurant, at the Matakana Country Park.

“While stretcher racing is a lot of fun, it is also very hard work. When the whistle blows people who have never entered a stretcher race before suddenly discover how heavy a person lying on a stretcher can be. A coordinated effort from the whole team is required to complete the 100m dash which has



A number of brave volunteers are needed for the Warkworth & Districts A&P Show military art competition on January 28.

many obstacles.”

Max says a good level of fitness is required if participants are going to race competitively.

“A giant game of tug-of-war will be

held in the arena around midday. The rope is 200m long and around 150 people are able to participate. It should be an entertaining event.”

To enter contact Max on 422 9944.

Warkworth will celebrate its country heritage on January 28 and 29, when the doors open on the 145th annual Warkworth A&P Show.

Show secretary Marjorie Blythen says that there have been many changes in the show over the years, but the basic features of a traditional A & P Show remain. The main day for the public is Saturday, January 28, when gates will open at 8.30am.

The show animals are always a huge drawcard and for many visitors, it's a rare opportunity to get up close to champion dairy and beef cattle, alpaca and this year, dairy goats. Handlers are normally only too happy to talk about their animals and share their knowledge.

Dog trials bring competitors from all over the North Island and shearers will be competing for points and prizes. Show favourite, the Puhoi Axemen's Club, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

There will be vintage cars and croquet demonstrations, a large number of horse rings on both days, and Greg and Mandy Clark's ewe racing and

continued next page

WARKWORTH & DISTRICTS A&P SHOW SOCIETY 145th Annual Show 28 January 2012 Extended Gymkhana will also be on 29 January 2012



GATES OPEN 8.30AM • OFFICIAL ENTERTAINMENT STARTS 10.30AM

Animal competitions start 9am • Indoor exhibits open 9am • All day entertainment at the large marquee

- Kids (old fashioned) races eg. egg on the spoon
 - Ewe racing & shearing demos with Greg
 - Vintage displays
 - Martial Arts display
 - Queen, fairy, princess & pirate competitions
 - Music by Mike Nesbit Trio and Highly Strung
 - Doug the Digger
 - Shearing competition
 - Dog Trials
 - Alpacas, beef & dairy, goats, Calf club & young handlers competition
 - Wood chopping
 - Croquet club play and display
 - Stretcher racing
 - Paintball
 - A wide variety of cottage industries and sales in the large marquee
- plus all the usual trade and side shows and much more including a hospitality bar at the rugby club**

ENTRY FEES

Adults: \$10

5-14 years: \$5

Family Pass: \$25

(2 adults & 3 children)

Bring a picnic lunch and watch the all day entertainment.

FREE PARKING



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Programme overview

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sheep shearing displays, which include opportunities to 'have a go'.

A new event this year is the Military Arts Teams Event (see story previous page). The Mahurangi Kindergarten is back to run a mainly children's programme of old-time entertainment throughout the day including sack, egg 'n' spoon and three-legged races.

The indoor section of produce, flowers, art and crafts, preserves, baking and floral art will be housed in a large marquee. These will be judged, as usual, on the Friday with the exception of a few special classes, which will be judged by guest compère Te Radar on the Saturday morning.

Hobby-type cottage industries will be selling a variety of homemade items in the marquee, which will also be the setting for hamburger and steak sandwich making competitions for teenagers and adults. A panel of judges including Te Radar will judge the competition with prizes supplied by Beef & Lamb NZ. The overall champion will win a dinner for two at one of Auckland's top restaurants.

Show Queen, Princess, Fairy and Pirate competitions will be judged during lunch and music from two live bands will keep people entertained. The Mahurangi Rugby Football Club will run a hospitality bar under the



The animal events are a huge part of the A&P programme. Pictured at last year's event are sisters Amber (left) with Alice, and Cara Doggett, of Wellsford, with her Charolais/Friesian calf Gypsy.

clubrooms where the Highly Strung Country Bluegrass Band will be performing.

Marjorie says trade displays are looking good with a number of new exhibitors joining the ranks and everything from cars to collectables will be on sale and display. There is also a great line-up of sideshow attractions.

Doug the Digger – a working digger for boys, young and old – will make his debut at this year's show and the Bayleys Guide Dog Auction will be held during the afternoon (see story page 45).




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back to the country



The short line-up in the 2009 breed show, from left, British Alpine, Sable and Saanen.

Goats groomed for big day out

There are five breeds of dairy goat in NZ and all five are expected to be on display at the Warkworth A&P Show on January 28.

Anglo Nubian, British Alpine, Saanen, Sable and Toggenburg goats will be judged by a panel of experts on their overall condition, how they lead, best udder class and breed type as part of the livestock section.

Show steward Carol Plumpton, of Helensville, says she expects around six to eight exhibitors from the Auckland and Northland regions to attend with a total of around 40 goats on display.

Carol is a former president of the NZ Dairy Goat Breeders Association (NZDGBA) and has 35 years of experience in breeding goats. She says no matter how long someone has kept goats, there is always something new to be learned.

"Showing goats can be a captivating hobby," Carol says.

"The thrill of gaining a place with a

beloved animal makes all the extra effort in preparation worthwhile. The groundwork for showing starts weeks beforehand. Grooming every day is essential to get the coat into show condition. The feeding of a little linseed meal gives the coat a silky sheen."

Carols says for those new to breeding or for anyone thinking of starting, the showground is a great place to meet goat-minded people and get some advice.

"Much can be gained from other breeders."

For a good milking doe, with production records and NZDGBA classification, expect to pay between \$250 and \$500, and for quality pedigree kids, \$200 to \$300.

The NZDGBA has been going for 57 years, and based on their membership there are around 200 dairy goat farms in NZ, including both large and small hobbyists.

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Proceeds from the Bayleys auction will go towards guide dog training.

Auction supports guide dogs

Warkworth A&P Show guests are being asked to open their hearts and their wallets for a charity auction raising money for guide dogs.

For the fourth year running, coordinator John Barnett has organised an auction of goods from local suppliers and businesses, with proceeds going to the Royal NZ Foundation for the Blind's guide dog service.

John says they have raised a total of \$10,000 over the last three years and hope to top last year's total of \$3200.

"Popular items last year included a weed-eater and Morris and James pottery," he says. "I'm hoping the weather is better this year and brings

more bidders."

Auction items include accommodation and food vouchers, local wine, pottery, as well as sports and DIY equipment. All items will be on display and will be auctioned by Ben Kloppers.

"It costs between \$22,000 and \$25,000 to breed, raise, train and match a guide dog to a blind or vision-impaired person. They are provided free of charge to those who need them so the Foundation needs all the support it can get."

There are around 300 working guide dogs in NZ all trained by the Foundation's guide dog services. Bayleys Real Estate NZ is a principal sponsor.



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