

OCTOBER 2-17

kowhaifestival



Warkworth district braces for festive mayhem

The 41st annual Kowhai Festival starts on October 2 with a perfect event for the school holidays – a family picnic and the Black Dog Cafe Children's Dog Show in Lucy Moore Park.

For the last three years, the children's dog show has been held as part of the Kowhai Festival Huge Day Out, but organisers thought it deserved a day of its own and this year built a picnic day around it.

The dog show starts at 10am and includes categories to suit all breeds – waggiest tail, best trick, scruffiest, best costume, owner lookalike and a musical chairs 'sit' competition. Entry is \$1 per category and all winners – and probably all entrants – will get a prize.

The picnic and family games will follow at 11am; entry is free. With the aim being to have low-tech, low-cost fun, there will be old-fashioned games like sack races, egg-catch and tug-o-war, and the kids are encouraged to bring cardboard boxes for the one of the best free thrills – sliding down the hill. There will be plenty of prizes and giveaways to go around.

Warkworth Library is also getting involved by holding a teddy bear's picnic in the park before leading a teddies' parade to the library for story time at 12.30pm.

At least 20 more festival events are lined up for the following two

weeks, including an open day at the Warkworth Museum, Kowhai Crafts' annual exhibition, a concert by the Auckland Youth Symphony Orchestra and a cat show.

The picnic day on October 2 kicks off the first of three big festival weekends. On the following weekend, the main event is the Huge Day Out on October 9 – with the Mahurangi River Canoe Showdown, Wine and Jazz by the Wharf, Chuck a Duck, 100-plus street stalls, music stages and family entertainment in the Warkworth town centre from 9am to 4pm. Sunday sees the rafts racing on the river in the Barfoot and Thompson Raft Race at 10am, along with a special Lions riverside market.

The weekend of October 16 and 17 is the last of the festival and the highlights are an outdoor screening of 'Second Hand Wedding' in Lucy Moore Park on the Friday, the Festival Dance at the Mahurangi East Community Centre on Saturday night, and Festival Gardens, Red Hats and Cupcakes from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Programme and booking details at www.kowhaifestival.co.nz and Warkworth i-SITE.



Recliners set to rock the house

Warkworth's Huge Day Out will wind-up at the Bridge House when rockabilly band the Recliner Rockers take to the stage. One of the busiest music festival bands in NZ, the rockers play a mix of rootsy blues and rockabilly with a dash of psychedelic spice thrown in. Expect a flying double bass called Mr Horse, ridden by Geoff Fitzpatrick, machine gun guitar toted by Al Lavis and R18 drumming courtesy of Julian Davis. The Recliner Rockers have left a trail of broken strings, sticks and wounded animals from Invercargill to Paihia. Be warned!

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Kowhai Festival town crier Harry Sutcliffe.

Town crier preps for debut

What started as a joke has quickly turned into a reality for Harry Sutcliffe, who has been appointed the official Kowhai Festival town crier.

Into its 41st year, this will be the first festival with its own crier and Harry says he's a little apprehensive about the job.

"Cr Dave Parker and I were just kidding about having a crier and that's how it started," he says.

Harry, 73, a retired school teacher, says standing in front of a class taught him how to make himself heard. He taught at Rotorua Lakes High School from 1990 to 2001, before moving north with wife Gay to run coffee and lunch cruises on a small boat between Snells Beach to Kawau Island.

The town crier costume was specially made for him by Barbara's Alterations, Repairs and Costume Hire in Warkworth, who designed the attire in a more modern style.

His official crier duties started on September 21 in Wellsford, handing out flyers to promote the festival.

He will be the event announcer on the Big Day Out, as well as participating in the parades.

Harry and Gay have been supporting the festival since 1990 and used to run boat rides on the Mahurangi River, in conjunction with the festivities.



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2 October - 17 October

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- Black Dog Cafe Children's Dog Show
- Movie in the Park
- Gardens, Hats & Cupcakes
- Barfoot & Thompson Raft Race
- Festival Dance



HUGE DAY OUT:

Warkworth Town Centre
9 October 9am-4pm

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Artists assemble for exhibition

An eclectic mix of art and crafts will be on show at the annual Kowhai Arts and Crafts Group exhibition, which opens in the old Masonic Hall in Warkworth on October 7.

The exhibition will also celebrate the recent refurbishment of the hall.

Group president Leigh Lomas says members are excited to be part of the first event in the newly-renovated hall.

She expects 50 to 60 members to exhibit work, which will range from paintings, pottery and fused glass jewellery to felting, spinning and weaving, and knit wear.

"It's the only collective exhibition we do so is usually very well supported," Leigh says. "Items will be on sale for a wide range of prices."

There will also be an opportunity for visitors to 'have a go' at activities such as spinning (Friday morning),

felting and pottery (Saturday), and weaving and painting (Sunday morning).

The show will open with a ticketed preview evening from 7.30pm on October 7. It will then open from 9am to 4pm on Friday and Saturday, October 8 and 9, and from 10am to 2pm on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the group is inviting interest from the community in some upcoming workshops. One will be run by Gillian Carlson on book making and the other will be run by Doris Riederer on silk painting. The silk painting workshop starts October 19 and will run over three weeks. Info: Leigh Lomas on 423 7070.



Artists Rosemary Rowe (foreground), of Omaha, and Lauris Mortensen, of Warkworth, at work.



Artists are busy preparing for the exhibition in the Masonic Hall.

Park and Ride

Parking will be at a premium in Warkworth so the organisers strongly suggest festival-goers park at the A&P Showgrounds, just north of Warkworth, and catch the shuttle bus to town. The bus will run continuously from 8.30am to 4pm. There will be a nominal charge.

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Rafters at the ready

Keep an eye on the Mahurangi River on Sunday October 10, when the raft race will return. Get your floaties on and be prepared to get wet in a no-holds-barred race or join the wimps on the Warkworth wharf and cheer 'em on! There'll be a barbecue to warm everyone up and some super prizes for first, last, best raft and best costume. Enter at Barfoot and Thompson Warkworth, or phone 425 8742, or email warkworth.service@barfoot.co.nz Race starts at 10am.



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Relaxing on the riverside

This year's Wine, Food and Jazz Festival, on Wharf Road down by the Mahurangi riverside, promises a feast for the taste buds on October 9.

The region's best red, white, rosé and sparkling wines from Matakana winegrowers will be on offer for tastings or by the glass.

Kowhai Festival's Huge Day Out will see the début of two new vineyards, Grève and Matavino, and the first of the stunning 2010 vintage Rosé releases – increasingly popular summer wine style.

As well as the region's vine offerings, Kowhai Festival visitors will be able to enjoy fresh Mahurangi oysters – shucked or frittered, locally brewed Zeffer's new season apple and pear ciders, and beer from Leigh Sawmill Brewery.

The food alley, also on Wharf Street, will be packed with delicious treats to enjoy on the day or take home. Festival favourites will be there such as waffles, crepes, donuts, wood fired pizza, mussel fritters and gourmet sausages, as well as new food offerings such as spit roast, India Curry and pan paella.

The cool sounds of local jazz star Jennifer Eirena and the funky Leigh based Pippi Pickers will add the final touches for a great day out.

Souvenir wine glasses and two generous tastings will cost \$10 with subsequent glasses for \$5 and additional tasting samples for \$2 each. The festival runs from 10am to 4pm.



Teddy bear time at library

Warkworth Library will celebrate the Kowhai Festival this month, starting with a teddy bear's picnic themed storytime session on October 2, at 12.30pm. Children and their families are invited to dress up and bring their teddies and favourite toy animals along with them. Clifford the Big Red Dog will visit the library twice on Friday, October 15, at 10.30am and at 6.30pm. Clifford is also paying a visit to the Mahurangi East Library on Tuesday October 12 at 10.30am and Wellsford Library on Wednesday, October 13, at 10.30am.



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