

## TOURISM NEWS BAY OF PLENTY DECEMBER 2007



### Office News



#### **HOLIDAY HOURS**

Tourism Bay of Plenty's marketing office will be closed during the public holidays and will have limited staff until 7 January. The Tauranga and Mount Maunganui *i*-SITES will be open every day with the exception of Christmas Day.

The team at Tourism Bay of Plenty would like to wish you all a very happy, prosperous holiday season.

#### **END OF YEAR INDUSTRY NIGHT**

A big thanks to [Mount Classic Tours](#) and [Aerius Helicopters](#) for hosting the end of year industry meeting on 4 December. It was great to see so many of you there - we had an informal head count of 120 - a record for these quarterly meetings. The next meeting will be held in March.



The Tauranga *i*-SITES welcome three new staff members who will help with the busy summer season: Benny Ron, Jackie Roche and Chloe Wickman.

Just a reminder that the Tauranga *i*-SITES will be closed on Christmas Day.



### New and updated product

[Cruise New Zealand's](#) website [www.cruisewhitezealand.co.nz](http://www.cruisewhitezealand.co.nz) is now live. Cruise New Zealand, with its *Ultimate Escape* luxury catamaran, is a new member of New Zealand Luxury and will be attending the PURE LUXURY New Zealand 2008 exhibition. Congratulations to Cruise New Zealand for being accepted into this prestigious exhibition.

[Kiwi Coast Cruises](#) will be offering sunset cruises starting on 27 December. The two-hour trips aboard the *Spirit of Tauranga* depart Tauranga at 6:30pm, and Mount Maunganui at 6:45pm. A cash bar is available onboard, and nibbles are provided. For booking details contact the



### What's new in the Bay of Plenty

#### **LONGRIDGE ON C4 TV**

[Longridge Fun Park](#) will be featured on C4 TV as part of Sam & Drew's Awesome Adventure. The twosome won 10 days of adventurous activities all throughout the North Island. Among their prizes was a jetboat ride at Longridge Fun Park; the duo also visited White Island. Sam and Drew's Awesome Adventure will air on C4 at 8.30pm on Tuesday 18 December.

#### **BAYWAVE SPECIAL**

[Baywave](#) is offering \$2 Tuesdays on the first Tuesday of each month for the use of its pool complex. From 6am to 8:45pm you can swim and exercise for just \$2. The special aquatic admission is for use of the pool complex but does not include the hydroslide, spa, sauna, steam or health club. For details ring 07 575 0276.

#### **SUMMER FERRY SERVICE**

The [Spirit Harbour Ferry](#) will begin its summer service on Thursday 27th December, which will run through Easter Weekend. The first ferry leaves Edgewater Park along the Strand in Tauranga at 9am (11am on Sundays and public holidays). The last ferry of the day leaves Salisbury Wharf in Mount Maunganui at 5:45 and arrives in Tauranga at 6:05pm. For full details visit [www.kiwicoastcruises.co.nz](http://www.kiwicoastcruises.co.nz).

#### **CRUISE SHIP SEASON**

January is a busy month for cruise ships into Port of Tauranga:

STATENDAM	3 January 2008
MERCURY	5 January 2008
STATENDAM	7 January 2008
MERCURY	7 January 2008
SILVER WHISPER	17 January 2008
SAPPHIRE PRINCESS	20 January 2008
SILVER WHISPER	21 January 2008
SAPPHIRE PRINCESS	22 January 2008
NAUTICA	23 January 2008
NAUTICA	25 January 2008
SUN PRINCESS	28 January 2008
STATENDAM	31 January 2008
SEVEN SEAS VOYAGER	31 January 2008

Tauranga i-SITE on 07 578 8103 or email [bookings@bayofplenty.co.nz](mailto:bookings@bayofplenty.co.nz).

**Matahui Lodge** has just been reassessed as a five-star Qualmark rated Guest and Hosted accommodation. The Katikati lodge offers three luxurious rooms with stunning harbour, vineyard, and orchard views. Visit [www.matahui-lodge.co.nz](http://www.matahui-lodge.co.nz).

**Ridge Country Retreat** is about to begin construction on an additional six units plus a new conference room and hot mineral pools. The new addition is expected to be complete by June 2008. For more visit [www.rcr.co.nz](http://www.rcr.co.nz).

**South Sea Vagabond** has just finished building a new 25-metre mast. The addition will allow the boat to sail without an engine, creating a quieter and more relaxing day out; it's now also better built for longer trips. For more visit [www.southseasailing.com](http://www.southseasailing.com).

**Waihi Beach Top 10 Holiday Park** has just launched a new version of its website that reflects the long history of the park. The website has been designed not only as a portal for telling stories but as an important means of attracting customers. Visit [www.waihibeach.com](http://www.waihibeach.com).

**Waimarino** in Bethlehem is now offering the region's first river boat cruise on the Wairoa River. The twin pontoon can cater for up to 40 passengers, and it includes a BBQ, spacious cabin and decks plus a CD player. The cruise options include a day tour from 2pm, and a sunset tour from 6pm. For more visit [www.waimarino.com](http://www.waimarino.com).



## Visitor Statistics

	Visitor arrivals	Guest nights
YE Oct 2007	533,588	1,266,282
Change from YE Oct 2006	+5.2%	+8.0%
Oct 2007	37,791	83,843
Change from Oct 2006	-9.2%	-2.4%

The regularly updated schedule is found on the Port of Tauranga's website; to see the full schedule click [HERE](#).



## Conference Corner

The first quarterly conference newsletter was sent out last week. If you have any news for this market or wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Karen Wallace, Convention Bureau Coordinator, on 07 577 6234 or [karen@bayofplenty.co.nz](mailto:karen@bayofplenty.co.nz).



## Upcoming Events

The **Bayleys Raceday**, one of the biggest events of the year at the Tauranga Racecourse, will be held on 2 January and includes a range of activities, live music and free children's entertainment. Gates open at 9am.

The **Port of Tauranga Half Ironman** is set for 5 January. This prestigious event attracts the top New Zealand and overseas specialists and is a marvellous spectator sport.

The **More FM Pro Tour International Beach Volleyball** will be held on 5-6 January at Main Beach, Mount Maunganui.

The **Thundercats** event will be held on 6 January in Mount Maunganui. This great spectator sport is free to the public and begins at 10am.

The **Katikati Summer Twilight Concerts** begin on 6 January at the Haiku Reserve, and the second concert is on 20 January 2008 at 55 Pukakura Road. For tickets contact the Katikati Mural Town Concerts info line on 07 549 4250.

The **Katikati Avocado Food and Wine Festival**, featuring all sorts of avocado dishes, is set for 12 January from 11:30-6pm at the Uretara Domain.

**Morton's Restaurant and Bar** will be holding a **Red Wine and Steak** evening on Friday 18 January from 6pm. For details ring 07 552 0620.

The **Outdoors New Zealand Traditional Archery Rendezvous** at [Experience Outdoors New Zealand](#) in Te Puke will run from 26-28 January.

Two **Mills Reef Stars Under The Stars** concerts will be held on 26 and 27 January.

**Garden Art @ The Elms** features [Elms Mission](#)

*(Source: Commercial Accommodation Monitor)*

[House](#) tours plus artwork on 27-28 January.

For full details on these and other upcoming events please visit [www.bayofplentynz.com/events](http://www.bayofplentynz.com/events).