

For immediate release

1 May 2007

CREATIVE FIBRES ON SHOW

A variety of creative fibres, from felt and weaving to wearable arts, will be on display at the Rotorua Convention Centre in September.

Janet Nairn, convener, said the exhibition involves Creative Fibre clubs from around the Bay of Plenty region. "There are 10 clubs in the Bay of Plenty and each year a different club hosts the exhibition. The last time it was held in Rotorua was in 1997." She said several hundred club members plus a number of local creative fibre artists are expected to exhibit. "This will be the first exhibition of this scale in Rotorua for a long time and we are also hoping for good support from Rotorua residents."

The aim is to widen the exhibition base to include a number of new features. "Creative fibre is all about using the fibre in innovative ways, whether for clothing, wearable arts or more traditional concepts such as crotchet and spinning, and everything in between." People attending the exhibition will be able to buy items such as alpaca wool from traders or to purchase finished creative fibre clothing from sales stalls.

Raewyn Pearson, a professional felter from Te Aroha, will be the guest exhibitor and will have a stand featuring clothing, hats and work from her gallery. "There will also be a number of demonstration classes and exhibits from eight Bay of Plenty creative fibre clubs." Janet said there is sure to be some amazing and interesting fabrics and garments on display and the exhibition is one not to be missed.

Te Waiariki Purea Trust are to have additional waka-ama or sailing waka added to its outdoor pursuit equipment.

Laurie Durand, coordinator, said the waka-ama are a 5.5 metre outrigger canoe that could be considered equivalent to a 'p-class' in yachting terms. "They are suitable for young people to learn the art of waka sailing in." Every year more than 5,000 young people from local and visiting schools, marae and youth clubs utilise the Trust's range of outdoor pursuits including abseiling, kayaking, orienteering and waka paddling plus more. All pursuits are delivered by qualified staff.

Laurie said the purchase of the six new waka-ama will add another activity to those already on offer. "It also provides an opportunity of promoting and keeping the skills of waka alive." "There are a number of traditions around paddling as well as the knowledge of paddling," he said. The new waka will be stored at the Trust's shed at Lake Okareka but they will also travel to different lakes in the region as required.

High schools from around Rotorua and the local region are coming together to take part in the annual Stage Challenge® competition.

Laura Staples, event manager, said school teams compete in an eight minute dance-based drama set to contemporary music. “They choose a theme and create a storyboard based on this and then design their performance.” She said previous themes have included ANZAC Day and the Rainbow Warrior, but it can be anything. The school teams are made up of up to 140 members, including up to 100 performers, 20 involved backstage in casting and props and a further 20 supporters for lighting, hair and make-up, and school supervisors.

“This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of Stage Challenge® and as in previous years there is strong support in the region, both from schools and the community. The Stage Challenge® aims at encouraging young people to be their best in a one hundred per cent smoke free and drug free environment.”

A total of 12 regions from around the country take part in the competition. Rotorua’s event is to be held at the Civic Theatre on 13 June. Schools from the Rotorua region taking part include: Western Heights High School, John Paul College, Kai Tao Intermediate, Reporoa College, Rotorua Girls’ High School, Rotorua Lakes High School, Taumauranui High School and Tauranga Girls’ High School.

The groups and organisations to receive funding from the Rotorua Trust this month were:

Aotearoa Network of Indigenous Health, Knowledge & Development Conference	\$2,000
Breast Cancer Network Conference	\$3,000
Gifted Childrens Enhancement Trust Gifted Kids Programme	\$31,200
Kea St Special School Hoist, Electrical Work	\$15,000
Lake Tarawera Play Centre PBC Blinds, Sandpit Cover	\$8,750
Owhata Kindergarten Safety Matting	\$15,000
Philips Search and Rescue Trust Rescue Helicopter	\$50,000
Rotorua Creative Fibre Textile Exhibition	\$6,600
Rotorua High Schools Kapa Haka Competition	\$15,000

Rotokawa School Hall Kitchen	\$30,000
Rotorua Play Centre Association Conference	\$2,000
Stage Challenge Foundation Stage Challenge	\$3,500
Te Rangimarie Kohanga Reo Heating	\$5,113
Te Waiariki Purea Trust Six Waka	\$32,000

Ends

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