

Chainsaw Carving Competition 2009

One of the great crowd-pullers at Kawerau Woodfest is the chainsaw carving competition which is run every year on the Saturday of the Festival. Always popular, the working area or 'bullring' is set up to maximize viewing opportunities for the public.

Participants are allocated a 1 metre by 0.7 metre block to fashion into a set theme item over a period of 6 hours. Over the 19 years that this event has been run, the theme has ranged from topical events of the day to icons of different countries.

This year the theme is 'Keep it Kiwi'.

Entrants come from as far a field as Awanui in Northland to Picton and have a range of experience in the field.

Other entrants work in forestry or aborist activities and use a chainsaw everyday.

Judges are chosen from Woodfest woodcrafters and people with street cred in forestry operations. Attractive cash prizes ensure interest remains keen.

All work is auctioned the following day and goes into funding for the following year's event.

Interested in entering???

Held on Saturday 12 September 2009

The Bullring is located next to the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre Corner of Plunket & Onslow Streets, Kawerau

Starts 9.00 am - Carving Finishes 3.00 pm

Prizegiving 4.00 pm

\$35 Early Bird entry fee

(closes 4 pm 28 August 2009)

\$50 late entries accepted up to start time

PRIZE MONEY

| | |
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| 1st Prize | \$1,000 |
| 2nd Prize | \$ 700 |
| 3rd Prize | \$ 500 |
| 4th Prize | \$ 150 |

Safety comes first

Please read the competition rules on the entry form. Those participants not complying with safety criteria will not be allowed to start.

For more information contact

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**12, 13 SEPTEMBER 2009
KAWERAU**

**KAWERAU
WOODFEST
2009**



Chainsaw Carving Competition

Background of Festival

The Kawerau Woodskills Festival, an iconic event for Kawerau, began in 1989 in recognition of the town's historic association with forestry and the timber industry. It was rebranded 'The National Woodskills Festival' in 1991 as a result of an overwhelming response from competition entrants throughout the country. Held annually in the second week of September, the National Woodskills Competition is recognised as New Zealand's premier event for carvers and turners.

The Kawerau District Council recognised the importance of this event to the township and in 2007, as part of its Regional Growth Strategy, partnered with the organisers The National Woodskills Trust. A five year strategic plan was developed to expand the Festival to include a wide variety of elements associated with the wood industry and the bush at large – an A & P show for wood if you like.

As part of the development process, the National Woodskills Trust created an umbrella brand.

KAWERAU WOODFEST

The creation of this brand highlighted the origins of the festival, provided differentiation between each of the proposed events and allowed each area the opportunity to market the uniqueness of their individual activities, while retaining a synergistic association with the festival.

While the National Woodskills Competition remains as the cornerstone of Kawerau Woodfest, new elements are being introduced each year to enhance participation and broaden the demographic appeal. It is becoming an event where, in addition to showcasing the artistic side of working with wood, the general public gains insight into the historical, practical, recreational and employment opportunities that arise.

Activities involve the entire Town Centre stretching from the Tennis Court end of Prideaux Park, along the length of Plunket Street to the Circus Paddock on the corner of Plunket and Onslow Streets. Each event is in line of sight to the next so that visitors can move seamlessly between one experience and another with a sense of expectation. Food and beverage outlets are scattered throughout the outlying exhibitions for the convenience of visitors.



Woodfest 2009

A traditional element of the Festival has always included chainsaw carving and woodchopping exhibitions. Art and floral displays, craft stalls and an open market, dot the town centre.

These are still growing each year with live entertainment added to the open markets and a variety of food stalls, showcasing the multi-cultural population of Kawerau.

In addition, local clubs swing behind the Woodfest weekend, with the Axeman Golf Tournament at the Kawerau Golf Club and a growing Lawn Bowls competition on the well-located bowling club situated right next to Prideaux Park.

Opening night on the Thursday prior to the weekend is now a gala evening where the public has the first opportunity to view and reserve to buy exhibits in the National Woodskills Competition.

But the *piece de resistance* of the rebranded Woodfest is on Prideaux Park. This area is set aside for trade and technology exhibitions with many live demonstrations and activities. There is a step back in time with spinning & weaving displays, sheep shearing and timber milling.

Woodfest is still evolving—additions to 2009 include

- The Big Dig—a chip shoveling competition
- KFL Chainsaw racing—A 'real world' competition for chainsaw professionals.

It is estimated that approximately 10,000 visitors attended the festival during the Kawerau Woodfest weekend.