

## **Prideaux Park 2009**

The Trades, Technology and Exhibitions area on Prideaux Park, is becoming a 'must see' part of the festival with Exhibitors providing an interesting array of displays and demonstrations.

The 'centerpiece' of this area is an early 1900's bush house constructed of Redwood planks and corrugated iron roofing. Activities around the outside of the house depict life in those times—spinning, bodging, post splitting, horse shoeing, sheep shearing, milking cows, spit roasts etc. It is also the area which houses many of the yesterday tools.

Adjacent to the bush house is a working portable sawmill, working traction engines. Clydesdale horses offering rides around the Festival and town will also depart from this area.

An large exhibition area for events is also be housed on Prideaux Park. These events change from year to year to provide special interest activities

Premium sites of uncovered blocks of up to 150 sq mtr's (large), 100 sq mtr's (medium) and small covered sites of up to 50 sq mtrs are being offered. The larger sites are ideal for product display or activities while the smaller covered sites are better suited to more static displays. If required, electricity can be supplied to the larger sites located on the western and southern boundaries.

Please ask for a layout plan of the park.

## **Interested in reserving a site?**

As an introductory offer for this area, the investment cost of security a site for the **two days** has been set at

Large site	\$200
Medium site	\$100
Small site	\$50

The Friday 'set up' day is free of charge.

A recognized Security Company will be employed from Friday night through to Sunday morning.

To reserve a site or for more information please contact either

Peter Wilson

Ph: 07 323 8083

Or

Su Cammell

Kawerau District Council

07 306 9009

**12, 13 SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**KAWERAU**

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**WOODFEST**  
**2009**



## 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 2008

Traditional elements of the Festival included Chain-saw Carving and Woodchopping exhibitions on the Circus Paddock, Art Displays in the Concert Chambers, Floral Displays in the Presbyterian Church and Craft Markets in the open Courts of the Town Centre during the Saturday of the Festival. Woodfest 2008 saw all these elements return.

Since 2007 several new activities have been introduced to expand the choice and appeal to a wider group.

- **Opening Gala Evening** on the Thursday prior to the festival where the public has the first opportunity to view and reserve to buy exhibits in the Woodskills Competition.
- **Tatai Hono.** Established in the area directly in front of the Recreation Centre, highlights both traditional and contemporary Maori arts and crafts.
- **Wearable Arts Show.** Held on Saturday night, demonstrates the use of natural products as fashion items.
- The markets situated in the retail area have been expanded to include **Cultural Food and Entertainment** becoming a favourite place for visitors to sit down, eat, relax and watch live music and dance.
- **Prideaux Park.** This area, set aside for Trade and Technology Exhibitions is growing year on year and attracting large crowds .

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