

MEDIA STATEMENT

17 June 2009

TE TAIRĀWHITI HOST TE MATATINI NATIONAL KAPA HAKA FESTIVAL 2011

Te Matatini Society chairman Selwyn Parata announced today that Te Tairāwhiti would host the Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Festival 2011, in Gisborne. This year's festival in Tauranga drew crowds of up to 50,000 spectators over the three days and the expectation for Festival 2011 is to double those figures with a growing number of non-Māori and international tourists expected to attend.

'The decision was made by the national committee, who represent Kapa Haka groups throughout New Zealand and Australia' he said.

Four bids were received from Aotea (New Plymouth), Te Arawa (Rotorua), Te Tairāwhiti (Gisborne) and Waitaha (Christchurch).

'The Te Matatini national committee was tested to the maximum in considering a number of outstanding proposals but at the completion of presentations the committee identified two bids for consideration – Te Tairāwhiti and Te Arawa' said Mr Parata.

'Both presentations captured our imagination.'

'Te Arawa presented with a high degree of professionalism. Te Tairāwhiti presented a green fields proposal using Wai o Hika, the venue of the successful Rhythm and Vines concert'.

After much deliberation, he said, the committee made its decision to award the 2011 Festival to Te Tairāwhiti and the next festival in 2013 to Te Arawa.

"I congratulate Te Tairāwhiti on the success of their bid and welcome their support to assist Te Matatini run a world-class event."

Ends

For further information contact Lyn Harrison, Communications Advisor
Tel 027 245 2477



MEDIA NOTE

Background

The Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Festival is a biennial event that is hailed as one of New Zealand's supreme cultural events. The event features 36 Kapa Haka groups representing 13 regions including Australia, competing in a highly skilled and disciplined demonstration of the Māori performing Arts.

Te Waka Huia claimed the title of supreme winner at Te Matatini National Kapa Festival 2009.

Te Matatini Society Incorporated National Committee

Chairman	Selwyn Parata
Te Taitokerau	Pauline Hopa
Tāmaki Makaurau	Annette Wehi
Tainui	Paraone Gloyne
Mātaatua	Te Kahautu Maxwell
Te Arawa	Anaru Grant (proxy representative)
Te Tairāwhiti	Willie Te Aho (proxy representative)
Ngāti Kahungunu	JB Smith
Aotea	Bubs Ngarewa (proxy representative)
Rangitāne	Tupito Maruera
Te Whanganui ā Tara	Bill Nathan
Te Tau Ihu o te Waka a Māui	Dayveen Stephens
Waitaha	Tihi Puanaki (proxy representative)
Te Whenua Moemoeā	Ronnie Peita



THE SELECTION CRITERIA

1. That the supporting infrastructure is able to cope satisfactorily with the teams, supporters and audience numbers;
2. The event area is capable of handling a daily audience of 30,000 (where possible under cover and with easy visual reach of the stage);
3. The Host Committee can contribute \$100,000 towards the costs of running the Festival;
4. The event to be preferably within reach of the largest concentrations of Māori audiences;
5. The Host Committee is strongly supported by constituent iwi and has a demonstrable capacity and expertise to assist Te Matatini Society to run a major event;
6. Local authorities are actively supportive of the event as demonstrated by measureable indicators of support;
7. The event area is as far as possible “clean” (that is few if any restrictions around catering, corporate boxes etc.);
8. Notwithstanding the criteria laid out above the National Committee may from time to time determine to award the Festival to a business case that does not meet all of the above criteria.

