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Te Matatini Society Incorporated

For Immediate release

Te Matatini brings Kapa Haka to the world from Gisborne 2011

Te Matatini Society Incorporated, the national organisation for Māori performing arts excellence will be showcasing kapa haka to the world next year from Gisborne.

Working with the Tairāwhiti Cultural Development Trust, tickets for the 19th biennial international Kapa Haka Festival of New Zealand go on sale from Sunday 01 August for Te Matatini o te Rā 2011 (Te Matatini in the East 2011).

An event attracting authentic world-class Māori performances from around the country and Australia, the region will be hosting over 2000 performers and up to 20,000 spectators over four days from 17 – 20 February 2011.

“Gisborne will be the destination of choice for local, national and international audiences. Waiohika Estate is the perfect outdoor venue as a natural amphitheatre to watch the best kapa haka in the world,” says Darrin Apanui, Executive Director of Te Matatini.

With a camping ground on site, it is sure to be a hit with families looking for an ideal location for a family holiday after the busy Christmas period. “The East Coast in summertime is always busy,” says Mr Apanui from Wellington this morning, “and this event in early February will enable families to have some quality time after the silly season and still enjoy the region, world famous for its sunshine.”

The last time an international Festival of this calibre was hosted in the region was 32 years ago in 1977. With the full support from Mayor Meng Foon and the Gisborne City Council, the region is going out of its way to host the event.

Selwyn Parata, chairman of Te Matatini Society Incorporated explains, “when the region asked to host this Festival, Mayor Foon was behind it completely. We have the support of the community and local businesses who are enthusiastic about putting on such a large event. It’s a win-win arrangement: for spectators, tourists, performers, local businesses and the city. We are all very excited.”

Day passes or four day passes are available now. Children under five years are free for the whole event.

For information about purchasing tickets, visit www.ticketdirect.co.nz or ring 0800 4 TICKET. For information about Te Matatini o te Rā 2011, visit www.tematatini.co.nz.

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