

May 2016 Edition

Welcome to the **First Edition** of the Showcase News. The purpose of this publication is to keep you abreast of developments as they happen, to pass on tips for a good Show and to build our Clubs Community.

The intent is to hold it to 1-2 pages, but I'm certain that will change closer to Show time when the volume of information grows like Topsy.

Enjoy,

Ralph Evans

Showcase Co-Ordinator

Clubs Showcase 2017

As mentioned in the e-mail I sent a couple of weeks back, I got the dates wrong!! The 2017 Showcase will be **7-9 April**, not a week later.

The Prospectus is due out at the start of June, so only a fortnight away at this point. Yes, it will be as long as the last one, as there is a fair bit to cover, but at this stage there are no major informational changes envisaged. Unless of course we get more legislative changes handed down from Wellywood.

Want the same site as 2016?

Register NOW at:

clubsshowcase@hnpl.net

Third Clubs & Creativity Showcase

By Day 1 of the Showcase, we had 23 confirmed clubs, and a list of call-backs for 2017 that has risen to over 100 ... and is still growing! It is certainly time-consuming to chase each contact down, especially when committees often seem to change in their entirety, meaning starting from scratch each year. As a result, each exhibitor represents roughly 8 hours of labour, which may not sound like much, but it is a noticeable investment in our community.

Friday's weather co-operated for the Grand Opening, but turned into torrential rain for a time, dampening the ardour of those outside, but inside our space was popping. A quieter day – although some exhibitors were still frantically busy - being the norm for a Friday thus far, with only 2-3,000 members of the public through. As always, however, Saturday and Sunday more than made up for the lower turn-out on Friday – 6,000-7,000 people on each day; absolutely **BRILLIANT!** Not to mention being around 1,000 people up on the previous year overall!! And mostly they flowed very smoothly, with few of the walls of people that were an unexpected feature of 2015. There were still times when the Showcase was so packed that it was difficult to move.

The Performance Space was popular again, and with the variety and types of acts using it, was probably more successful than the Family Stage outside. Of the 39 half-hour performance slots available, 22 were filled with scheduled events, whilst the balance were filled with dance lessons and similar, meaning there was little down-time. What a thing to have right at the entrance of the Showcase, and a great opportunity for the clubs using it to really shine!

New this year were the Graham Hannah Best Site awards, one awarded in each Expo after judging by the panel: a task requiring 3½ hours to complete. And just to show that **our** exhibitors are exceptional, the judges were unable to choose between the two finalists in the Showcase, so they were **BOTH** awarded the Certificate of Achievement! Well

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done to the **Kings Empire Veterans** and the **Hamilton Square Dance Club** !! Both sites were colourful, well laid out, fully engaging and interesting for the public; exactly what an exhibitor site *should* be, and something to be aspired to. The overall Best-In-Show went to My Republic in the Beyond Broadband Expo.

The Showcase would not have been possible without the support of local funders who backed our event this year. Both Trust Waikato and WEL Energy Trust returned for a third year, whilst Creative Waikato via Hamilton City Council supported the cost of our Performance Area for the second time. Their support was greatly appreciated, and we hope to work with them for Showcase 2017.

Roll on 2017 and the biggest Clubs Showcase yet! We are still aiming for a complete half-hall, so keep your eyes on these pages for updates, and spread the word!



Second Annual Tiger Hunt

As you will be aware from the steady stream of children asking if you had a tiger on your site, we ran the Second Great Waikato Tiger Hunt at the Show. One thousand entry forms distributed over the three days, six tigers repeatedly located, entries duly stuffed in **The Box**. And believe me, **The Box** was chock-a-block.

The Draw was duly performed on Friday 15 April and the winner was:

Suhaavi Caur, aged 4

Congratulations Suhaavi, we hope you and your mum and dad enjoy the visit to Hamilton Zoo!

