



# Ruakaka Reserve

## Motor Camp

21 Ruakaka Beach Rd, Ruakaka Northland

Ph 09 432-7590



## 2011 Newsletter



Hello Campers

No doubt you are all getting ready for your summer holiday, which is fast approaching. Hope you have all had a busy and exciting year. We have been busy in camp making some changes and getting things ready for your arrival.

**This newsletter covers some important points, please read particularly carefully:**

- Ruakaka Reserve Board – applications
- Public Meeting for Campers
- Bookings for next season
- New Year's Eve – extra guests staying
- Visitors

### Updates

- **New staff assistants** – Lyndie and Tony Mullins have come to join our team, they are replacing Colin and Jan from last summer. This will be a new experience for them and are looking forward to meeting you all.
- **Camp 6 kitchen and laundry** – we have a new kitchen and laundry facility just been completed! Hopefully this will take the pressure and queues off the other kitchens and laundries this summer, making camping even more relaxed for all cooks, dishwashers and clothes washers. Don't be shy and check it out.
- **Night Lights** – we have upgraded lights outside some of the ablution blocks, kitchens and Hall for your safety. The walkway from Camp 5 up the hill to the toilet block is now lit up too.
- **Gardens** - we have planted more trees and even some flower beds which adds some welcome colour. We have barked these areas to assist moisture retention and protect them from the hot sunny days ahead.
- **Banks** - we have been very fortunate to have been donated a few truck loads of *bark* which we have placed around the banks to protect trees and the banks themselves, so we urge everyone to help look after these areas and not climb over them or drag the bark away. *A huge thank you to the Matich family for their donation.*

- **Camp 6 Showers** – have moved the shower heads and changed to diesel boilers so the water pressure is much better and the showers more enjoyable. Unfortunately you are unable to have free cold showers in this block now.
- **Outdoor Showers** – we now have three outdoor showers, the original one in *Camp 3* by the estuary, one by the *steps up to Camp 4* from the estuary and one at the *bottom end of Camp 6 past site 39*. *Please use these to wash the sand off after swimming* instead of the ablution block showers, this will help to keep showers clean and the drains not blocking with sand. Children using these showers must be under adult supervision. Thank you.
- **Picnic tables** – we have been lucky enough to have a couple of picnic tables donated to Camp which are beside the Kitchens. Our older tables are worn out so if you would like to donate one or a kitset it would be much appreciated. Please see Mike or let us know at the Office.
- **Camp 3 tin fence** – this has been removed and been replaced with a tree hedge and high resistant windbreak. A feature of its own!
- **Toilet Roll Holders** – something new for you to check out! Hopefully this time it won't cause such a huge conversation topic like last season, just more smiles this time. Please no pushing or shoving trying to see what we have done!
- **R&M** – we have also had Camp 6 block reroofed and exterior painted, repaired the Jetty, removed more bamboo, extended footpath entrances to some of the small ablution blocks, reinforced the water tank stands, repaired windows and showers.
- **Facebook** – Camp has its own facebook page now! Go on and register to become a friend, love to see more photos and comments added onto our page. Have had some lovely photos sent so far of children and families playing, water fights with Fire Brigade and just enjoying camping.

## News

- **AA Spirit of Hospitality Award Finalists** – we were in the **top 6** out of 363 Holiday Parks and Campgrounds throughout New Zealand. Although we didn't win it has been positive exposure for the Camp. We would like to **thank** all those who took the time to **nominate us** by way of webpage or filling out the form you were given last summer season. **Please take a minute to go onto this link and review us** <http://www.aatravel.co.nz/beenthere/review.php?clientId=810020029&key=27d7b2d7ebb4c6eec8c1e643a3aeac01c7b7ea3e>  
We love your input and it helps us to plan and improve things better for you as campers.
- **Ruakaka Sewerage System** – as some of you are aware Ruakaka South is upgrading its sewerage system to do away with septic tanks, this seriously affects the Camp as our Resource Consent for disposal is subject to connecting onto the new system when in place. *A public meeting for this is to be held at the Ruakaka Surf Club on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at 2pm.* This will be an informational meeting to find out what support the Council has from Ratepayers and those affected by the proposal. The Camp will be affected and as of yet we don't know the final figure that we are expected to pay towards the contributions. Although the Health Department is subsidising this scheme (expected to be operational by 2013) the connection will come at a considerable cost (as yet to be determined by Council) to our Camp, this will adversely affect our future site fees. The good news is that Ruakaka is the last coastal area in the Whangarei district still on septic tanks so

once completed the quality of water in the estuary will improve which means our lovely environment will be cleaner for the future camping generations to enjoy.

**Ruakaka Reserve Motorcamp Public Meeting** to be held at the Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2012 at 10.30am, everyone welcome.

### **Ruakaka Reserve Board**

Expressions of interest are sought for positions on the Ruakaka Reserve Motorcamp Board.

Department of Conservation (DOC) is looking for keen, able and committed Board members, interested in the challenge of running and maintaining an expanding family camp.

Note: these are unpaid voluntary positions and there is an expectation that you attend Board meetings that are usually held 6 weekly (currently at the Camp Hall on a Sunday morning).

Those interested should forward a resume outlining their skills, interests and attributes to  
The Secretary  
Ruakaka Reserve Board  
P O Box 8015  
Kensington 0145  
Whangarei

Closing date is 11 January 2012.

Applications will be reviewed by DOC during February, 2012 where upon appointments are made by them.

### **Events for Summer Season**

- Fire Brigade Meat Raffles
- Mrs Whippy
- Helicopter Rides
- City Impact Church Kids Programme
- Bagpiper will be here for New Year's Eve again.
- Ruakaka Race Day – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012
- Ruakaka Surf Club Blanket Appeal
- Notice boards in Camp will be updated regularly on Community Events

### **Next Season Bookings – 2012/13**

On check-in you will receive a *Booking Application Form* to be completed and returned to office before you leave or post back prior to closing date on the form. Sorry no booking form in by due date could mean no site for next season. This is now your responsibility to get your dates and information to the Camp office as sites are in more demand than ever now due to growth.

### **New Year's Eve**

*Please pre- register* any extra people you have *coming to stay* on your site for this evening a.s.a.p. as our camp is at capacity at this time and we must be wary of the numbers due to

OSH and Health & Safety regulations. Note: we would hate to turn friends and family away due to exceeding legal capacity, so registering numbers now is safer for all parties.

### **Visitors**

*Day visitors* need to register names and details in Visitor book at front gate and cars to be parked in carpark, not inside camp. Visitors must vacate camp by 10pm.

*Short term staying extras* must register at Office, then vehicle may be brought into Camp and parked in 'extra car' parking area.

These are both legal requirements of OSH and Health & Safety.

Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Mike and Anne-Marie & family, Staff and Ruakaka Reserve Board

