

March 2009 - Report on 2009 Event

Kia ora - Greetings

Thank you for your support for the 2009 Rotorua Walking Festival.

The 16th annual event was a wonderful success, thanks to participants, sponsors, volunteers and supporters. The event had activities over three days including 6 regular walks, 4 charity walks, plus the dinner and dance, powhiri, mayoral reception and opening walk and closing ceremony in addition to activity around the buskers and shop.

Overall the details of the walks and numbers involved were:

Festival Charity - Support - Information Walks

1. Historical walk - Rotorua Historical Society - Friday afternoon - 15 people
2. Nocturnal Walk - Rotorua Botanical Society - Friday evening - 54 people
3. Dog Walk - Rotorua SPCA - Saturday afternoon - 66 people
4. Activity Walk - St Chads Communication Centre Trust - 20 people

Total 155 people. (Note that few - if any of these people did the other festival walks)

An estimated 115 people took part in the official opening Friday night walk which is also a parade of nations with all of the international people together with supporting locals and other New Zealanders present.

All organisations above reported very favourable comments regarding these walks.

Festival Regular - Marathon (42 km), half marathon (21 km), 10 km Saturday walks and 30, 20 and 10 km Sunday walks

Overall:

- 618 People registered (91 walkers were from overseas including one group of 39 from Belgium, Switzerland, France, Netherlands). Also we had a group of 12 from Japan and a group of 6 Russians who would like to bring larger groups back to the event. There were also other regular international walkers from UK and Australia.
- 597 walked 1st day (Saturday) (71 walked the marathon)
- 354 walked 2nd day (Sunday)

All funds from the charity walks went directly to the organisations concerned. All walkers on the charity walks received a special certificate. Other "regular walkers who walk for one day received a certificate and those that walk for two days received a medal and certificate.

Great sponsorship and support for the event has allowed the Rotary Club of Rotorua West to produce a quality event and for proceeds to be either given to the community or back into the event to improve it for future years.

We are extremely grateful for the great Rotorua businesses and organisations that support the event.

We look forward to 2010!