

# Kiwiburn 2008 Afterburn Report

April 30, 2008



## 1. Introduction by New Zealand Regional Burning Man Contact, Mark Stirling, aka Yonderman

Well, we have reached that time of year again. Time to write our Afterburn report, in which we reflect on all aspects of our recent achievement, Kiwiburn 2008. This year was the fifth Kiwiburn, and the second held at our North Island site of Whakamaru Domain. The three day event had the theme "Combust in Unity", which was an easy theme for everyone to embrace. People from New Zealand and a large number from abroad made up the >180 person attendance, and the event went off with a bang of success in more ways than one (see later sections). The Man was a work of art and was built by Chris Hankins aka Kiwi and helpers.

For me, this was the first Kiwiburn to have a really strong Burning Man feel about it. The early South Island events I either organised by myself or with Grant Knowles (aka Tribalman) formed a critical mass by way of a very Tribal interpretation of Burning Man. That critical mass eventually moved the event to the North Island to capture the more mainstream Burner population (Auckland and Wellington) and resulted in the successful Kiwiburn 2007.

However it is our 2008 event that outshines all others, presumably as a result of the greater preparation time for the organising committee and participants. It was clear that people had been given a greater opportunity to prepare and participate than before. The array of Theme Camps were impressive, as were the various forms of art. I am talking performance art, static art and interactive art. We were even treated to an early morning cacophony of "Radio Insomnia", reminding many of us of those bleary-eyed mornings at Burning Man when loud art cars stopped by to give us their own personal Jesus. All very Burning Man. In an indirect way I measure the success of the early events through the success of the most recent events. The formation of a passionate, hardworking and dedicated Kiwiburn committee was the big forward step to come out of those early events. Once the site was found and the event provided, it was then the participants who made the magic happen.

I have personally enjoyed the Kiwiburn ride over the last five years, and this year even had opportunity to celebrate those five years with my art structure "Cincophoria". Kiwiburn was given accolades at the recent Regionals Summit in San Francisco (pictures of Kiwiburn 2008 were displayed at the Summit), and press coverage was considerable in the New Zealand papers. A Kiwiburn documentary was even filmed.

The event organisation wasn't without its hard times. The committee lost the considerable talents of committee members Myles, aka Firebrat, and Jess, aka Jessica Strawberry Cheesecake Rabbit, for various reasons, and many committee members faced considerable life challenges during the year. The BMORG was to have sent Marian Goodall (Maid Marian, Mistress of Communication) to New Zealand for Kiwiburn, but she had to cancel at a late stage due to mounting workload in San Francisco. Some mishaps occurred at the event (read later sections) but nothing beyond the ordinary for an event of this size and diversity.

I look forward to the future with excitement. I have never been of the opinion that Kiwiburn will grow exponentially, and indeed hope this will never be the case. I do however look forward to how we grow in terms of our "richness". I am talking more in terms of participation, art, performance, music, diversity and the like. Thank you all for your participation now and in the future, especially to our committee chairperson Wendy, aka Dr Windy, who will step down from that challenging role this year. Thanks also to Destination Taupo for their financial support and belief in us. We also have the Whakamaru Domain site as our home thanks to them, and Kiwiburn is even being incorporated into their future Management Plan. We are here for the long haul, so come and join us for the journey of your life!

The following sections are a more detailed report on Kiwiburn, broken down into a series of topics, and each written by the relevant committee member.

## 2. Organisation by Kathy "KuriousKat" Guidi

In August of 2007, Kiwiburn became an incorporated society and now has the professional sounding name of Kiwiburn Incorporated. Our incorporation document governs how the organisation is structured and this document can be found on the Kiwiburn website. Becoming an official entity affords us further credibility as we grow Kiwiburn and interface with official bodies in the real world; it also means we have an official bank account and must file annual financials with the IRD!

We have three official officer roles: The Chair (Big Nob), The Treasurer (Bean Counter), and Secretary (Committee Wrangler). These three officers serve on the larger Organising Committee (ExCom) whose purpose is to act as stewards for Kiwiburn Inc., providing oversight and guidance on business matters required to run the festival.

This year's organising committee (serving May 07–April 08) was comprised of 13 colourful and passionate individuals hailing from all around the country and even from as far as Australia. We added three newbies to the team: Jodi York, Kathy "KuriousKat" Guidi, and Jonathan "Helix" Beza, and said goodbye to two outstanding committee members Myles "Firebrat" White and Jessica "Strawberry Cheesecake Rabbit" Lunsford.

In brief, your ExCom consisted of:

**Wendy "Dr. Windy" Allison:** Wendy stepped up and became Kiwiburn's first ever Big Nob and did a great job overseeing the committee and keeping us all in order with her tact, focus, and diplomacy. As in 2007, she also served as the event's Health and Safety Officer (HSO) and worked with all art and theme camps to ensure they had adequate safety plans to comply with OSH regulations. Tapping into her creative side, Wendy delivered the memorable art installation called The Wendy Box and was also one of the members of Pink Moa.

**Polly "Mistress Polly" Lind:** Polly again served as the Committee Wrangler keeping everyone on track and on task throughout the year. She also served as Volunteer Coordinator, assisting in finding tasks for the group of volunteers who came early to help set up and stayed late to help clean up at Kiwiburn. Polly's artistic talents were put into her theme camp "Polly's Put The Kettle On".

**Jodi York:** Jodi joined the team and took over as Bean Counter and did a great job monitoring income and expenses throughout the year and keeping the eager committee at bay whenever someone wanted to spend, spend, spend! You all would have met Jodi at Kiwiburn as she went around and personally delivered your KB ticket and checked you off the ticket roster – a thankless and time consuming task that we are working on improving.

**Mark "Yonderman" Stirling:** A veteran Burning Man and Kiwiburn burner, logging now the 11th Burning Man and 5th Kiwiburn, Mark's the man who had the vision to bring Burning Man to New Zealand. Mark serves as the official regional representative and liaison to the Burning Man organisation (BMORG) and also serves as our ExCom elder, bringing years of sage experience and advice to the group.

**Allyn “Chewtoy” York:** Allyn stepped down as Bean Counter and just (and I say this lightly) became a regular committee member. Still the ‘voice of reason’, Allyn offers sound advice whenever heated discussions occur on the committee.

**Chris “Kiwi” Hankins:** Kiwi continued as our festival on-site manager and overseer of the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) team and as our liaison to all things bureaucratic (Destination Taupo, Taupo District Council for permits, the Volunteer Fire Brigade, King Country Power Company, the loo company and more). To show off his artistic flair, Kiwi took on the role of designing and creating The Man as well as co-creating The Temple, two outstanding art pieces.

**Bruce Scanlon:** A long-standing Burning Man burner (8 under his belt), Bruce continued to be a good sounding board and advice giver in many of the complex ExCom discussions. Bruce, along with his campmates, brought back The Green Fairy, and he also co-created the Temple, bringing us the powerful spiritually based Merkaba as the Temple’s altar.

**Cass Edwards:** Our resident OZ member, Cass continued as our Website Czar, handling the on-going quarterly updates to the website. Also Green Fairy member, Cass could often be seen ‘shaking up’ the green goodness in camp each evening.

**Sam Hankins:** Sam is still our youngest member of the team but is no novice to the burner culture having now served twice on the DPW at Burning Man. Sam often brings great insight to many ExCom discussions. Sam continued as the Auckland theme camp regional contact and this year was a key organiser of the Skullf\*ck theme camp.

**Shelley Watson:** Shelley continued to serve as our Marketing Guru, responsible for the beautifully designed flame-coloured logo featured on our tickets, business cards, posters, and website graphics. Shelley, and fellow burner Abbie, brought back the Cookie Tree along with the additional Candy Tree, two edible art installations.

**Kyla Dryesen:** Kyla served as our Community Outreach Liaison responsible for managing the News and Updates section on the KB forums. She also continued to serve as the theme camp and art installation liaison, providing info and registration packets to all registrants. Kyla made it to Kiwiburn this year –yay – and could be found at Polly’s Put The Kettle On.

**Kathy “KuriousKat” Guidi:** Another newbie, Kathy joined the team and often stuck up her hand to do a lot of the boring administrative tasks like writing reports and managing the changes for the website. Kathy is the third member of The Green Fairy and this year brought the successful Costume Korner to Kiwiburn, ensuring everyone looked ‘paddock fabulous!’

**Jonathan “Helix” Beza:** Our third newbie, Jonathan brought a lot of enthusiasm to the committee and often assisted in many various research roles. Jonathan was one of the co-creators of Pink Moa, the great pink dance zone, and main resident DJ allowing everyone to get their groove on. Jonathan also brought us another memorable year of Radio Insomnia.

As you can see, in addition to serving on the committee all year long, attending regular meetings, and trying to keep the organisation on track, many on the committee bring big art and theme camps to Kiwiburn with great effort of year-long planning and execution. This year, most of the ExCom felt over-taxed at Kiwiburn with managing their dual roles of responsible committee member versus creative partying anarchist artist which made for a somewhat stressful experience for some. Addressing burnout is something that the committee will be taking a much needed closer look at this year!



### 3. Financials by Jodi York and Kathy “KuriousKat” Guidi

We had another good financial year with 182 participants attending the event. Tickets were sold in the \$50 and \$60 range with the majority of tickets purchased using Paypal or direct deposit. We changed retail outlets this year and went with Cosmic Corner who sold 23 tickets on our behalf. And once again, we received a significant grant from Destination Taupo (TDC) – thank you!

On the expense side of things, we invested more money into the main art structures for Kiwiburn: the Man, the Temple and the greeters station. These three projects accounted for a little more than 30% of our budget. We also decided this year, after discussion on the forums, to account for our carbon emissions by making a donation to a local nature reserve; \$2.60 of each ticket was donated to The Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust, for a total of \$473. All other expenses were within the forecasted budget.

Income	
\$ 5,084	Paypal (net)
\$ 1,260	Cosmic Corner
\$ 2,480	Direct Deposit
\$ 920	Gate Sales:
\$ 5,000	sponsorship TDC
<b>\$ 14,744</b>	<b>total income</b>
Expenditure	
\$ 900	council rental fees and pony club rental
\$ 2,500	Event Medics
\$ 823	Printing (cards, signs, posters, business cards)
\$ 752	sound system rental
\$ 820	Marquee rental and permit
\$ 366	Insurance
\$ 10	Power
\$ 599	Toilet rental
\$ 3,607	art and construction supplies – man, temple, greeter station
\$ 473	Carbon Offsets
\$ 233	Miscellaneous admin
<b>\$11,083</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>
<b>\$3,661</b>	<b>Pre tax income/loss</b>

## 4. Environment and Site Management by Chris “Kiwi” Hankins

Kiwiburn is a leave no trace (LNT) event. Everything that is brought in must be taken out. This is one of the guiding principles of our event.

The main infrastructure of the festival is managed by the MPW – Ministry of Public Works which is modeled after the DPW – Department of Public Works at Burning Man. The MPW is responsible for pre-festival set up which includes: creation of the Man burn platform so as to ensure no scarring of the paddock is done due to the burn, proper lighting of main pathways, delivering of cigarette receptacles to all theme camps, creating and placing signage, establishing the gate, assisting with major art projects; festival maintenance: monitoring of the loos (rentals and onsite); management of burn night, maintaining pathways and roads; and post-festival cleanup: disposal of recycling, burn platform cleanup, etc.

### Prefestival Setup

We had a great crew of approximately 20 volunteers for MPW this year. Several, including Josie, Max, Johnny Payphone, Arnaud, and Dougal Dutch, came from overseas specifically to help out on the MPW and they joined a great group of mainly Auckland-based young, strong, teen- and twenty-somethings.

During the days leading up to the festival, the MPW crew worked tirelessly to create the gate and greeters station, create the burn platform for the Man which included bringing truckloads of dirt up from the lower paddock, assisted with the creation of several theme camps, cleaned out and organized the Pony Shed, put up the main marquee and created the flooring for center camp, and helped out with a myriad of other tasks that need to be done in time for the event.

### Festival Maintenance

While the event is in process, the MPW ensures that roads and pathways are maintained and also assists with general clean up of recycling around the premises. The toilet block had to be maintained and cleaned regularly due to plumbing problems. The plumber had to be called in over the weekend to deal with faulty and leaky plumbing issues. The loo rentals also had to be maintained as they were filling to capacity before the event was over and we could not call in for services because of the weekend.

Arnaud and Dougal Dutch spent most of their time working on building and kitting out the Man, fitting him with EL wire and ensuring his ‘glowiness’.

On the day of Burn Night, several of the crew worked all day to prepare the Man for the evening’s burn. After consulting with several people, including a non-credentialed pyrotechnics person, we decided to pour several litres of petrol, within an enclosed space at the base of the man to ensure for a quick burn (unlike 2007 where the Man took over a half hour to ignite and then burn). The firemen were consulted for a safety check.

No one predicted what would happen. Unfortunately, on ignition, the fumes trapped in the Man base exploded with a boom instead of a woomph destroying the man and injuring Dougal. In retrospect, it is theorised that the petrol fumes accumulating in the closed area under the man platform were the cause of the explosion.

Ka’boom!

### Post Festival CleanUp

The majority of the MPW crew stayed until Tuesday evening assisting with cleanup. The burn platform had to be dismantled (first, a magnet was used to remove all metallic items from the burn pyre; then all the dirt had to be returned to the lower paddock); all the recycling (including glass, plastic, paper, and aluminium) was taken to the Mangakino dump station after a bit of a snafu with the station’s managers about opening times; the center camp marquee had to be taken down; the Pony Shed organised and cleaned up; and all paddocks had to be swept for any rubbish to comply with our Leave No Trace ethic.

Tina Jakes from the Taupo District Council came by on Tuesday evening for a debriefing. Tina was pleased with the overall tidiness of the site and has given us further permission to store materials etc in the pony club shed.

Dougal performed a comprehensive site sweep and report which showed only small amounts of moop, some of which was the result of incredibly strong winds that hit the site on Monday night and Tuesday all day also making the removal of the burn site dirt a major challenge for those involved. At this point I’d also like to point out that whilst there is a core membership to the MPW, everyone that helped in the set up and tear down are rock stars, you might not all have got a t-shirt, but without your input the jobs wouldn’t have been completed as fast and efficiently. Thank you all.

## Issues to be addressed for next year

We need to have better controls for the burning of the Man. This may include creating a group consisting of Kiwi, a professional pyrotechnics advisor, and the HSO, who together will determine the best use of flammables for the Man.

The toilet situation needs to be reviewed as we did not have enough loos to meet attendance. We can either increase the number of loos rented or we can think about working with the Council to have the toilet block upgraded. We may even suggest installing a composting toilet, one is being trialed on another reserve and we hope the results are good so Whakamaru Domain can get one.

We are discussing with Council the idea of establishing a permanent burn platform so that it does not have to be created and then deconstructed pre- and post- festival. The platform will be constructed with concrete retainer sides and filled with pumas soil to approximately 200mm deep and will approximately 10 metres square and have a corrugated iron cover to prevent the animals from messing it up.

## 5. Art and Theme Camps by Kathy “KuriosKat” Guidi

### Planning and Placement

Polly, aka Mistress Polly, was responsible for Town Planning this year, which encompassed working with all registered theme camps and art installation people before the event to discuss their camp or art needs, their size, their volume, etc, so as to accurately assign them to appropriate locations on the paddocks. The realised versus planned placements mainly went according to plan with the exception of The Green Fairy. The Green Fairy was originally targeted to be located in the outer paddock near The Skullf\*ck Bar and Pink Moa; however upon arrival it was determined that there was not enough access to get to the site and it was also too close to the other camps which had loud sound systems. The Green Fairy then decided to locate on top of the hill in the ‘loud camp’ paddock. This location was sited under the power lines. As the Green Fairy carport was being erected, electrical currents started transmitting from the power lines through to the steel poles of the carport, causing electric shocks to people. The Green Fairy had to relocate again and made it's home in the main paddock.

### Art and Theme Camp Descriptions

For a relatively small festival of 180 people, we participants really stepped up to the plate and delivered a remarkable array of theme camps and art. So much so, that one had to actually choose what they wanted to do and one could not do everything. Just like at Burning Man.

The Tauranga fire spinners created Balrogs Playpen and dazzled us each evening with their exciting pyrotechnic skills. Pink Moa came with a lineup of pink-haired DJ's, creating a pinked-out circular dance space under the stars complete with beanbag filled chill space. HiDive totally upped The Sheep End with an amazing sound system set upon a hilltop paddock. More important was his mobile sound system – the black van with a 4 foot paper mache black sheep and solar-lamp eyes perched on front – which careened across the paddock pumping out tunes. Roy and Alfred's The Drop Zone with centralised paddock placement offered a 24 hour chill space, providing tranquil indian/middle eastern music by day and a movie zone by night.

Urs and David brought us B-Movie Camp which featured a variety of, well, B-Movies. The Jafab group came with a mighty crew and provided us with The Skullfu\*k Bar and Dance Zone often pumped out heavy metal to accompany Anne Bonny's Thunder Ditch battles. Hippy Tim came with a group of friends and formed Camp Pedro, featuring disco music and cheap wine. Polly's Put The Kettle On provided many with tea and coffee and could always be seen from anywhere in the paddock with its giant yellow 10 foot teapot frontage. And there was Purple Camp and West Camp.

Trailer Trash camp morphed into Los Caravanos de les Muertos. Jen and Ants and Scotto, Jess, Allan, Hana, Lily, Poppy, Cora, and all the other lovely ladies of the camp worked tirelessly throughout the year to make gorgeous paper mache skulls, 2 metre tall cacti, a chapel, and a float all fully decorated with Day of The Dead themed items. The detailing that went into their camp was remarkable. And The Green Fairy black-light lounge was back, with Cass, Jeremy, Bruce, and Kathy serving up delicious libations, tasty treats, and music.

As for art, well, Dr. Windy outdid herself with The Wendy Box, a 3.6 metre x 3.6 metre x 2.1 metre covered cube which one had to climb up a ladder and descend into, and which was full of hundreds and hundreds of balloons. Rich brought us the thing we'd all talked about and hoped for: a floating art boat: A full fledged pirate ship, aptly named the Dodgy

Roger, complete with mast, pirate flag, and, quite often, a pirate or two! Moored at the lake's edge, the Dodgy Roger was often host to the children of Kiwiburn who found delight in diving/jumping off the deck. Ian brought us The Impossible Triangle, a giant optical illusion.

Shelley and Abbie brought back The Cookie Tree – a tree from which little baggies of tasty cookies were hung. They also added The Candy Tree which was conveniently placed on the path between all the dance camps. And next to the Candy Tree Shelley resurrected the metal fern art she made for Burning Man 07, encrusted with playa dust and with leaves bent by the playa storms. Bacon hung large paintings in a couple of trees on the site. Mark "Yonderman" brought us Cincophoria, a 2 metre tall 'friendship circle' comprised of six stick-figured men with covered halogen solar lamps for heads and which glowed at night. This art piece was a tribute to Kiwiburn's 5th year and to Kiwiburn08's theme: CombustInUnity, whereby all participants were encouraged to make 'man' icon art pieces to display and the burn with the Man.

Kiwi volunteered to make the Man and came up with a design whereby the 10' tall Man would sit perched in a chair throughout the festival until the day of the burn, at which time he would stand up and raise his hands towards the sky. Kiwi and his MPW crew of young, strong, teens and twenty-somethings, worked tirelessly for days to build a burn platform, and then build a square, pyramid-shaped base on which the 3 metre Man was placed. Not satisfied with just a plain décor for the Man, burner Arnaud took it under his wing to 'trick out' the Man adding an incredible amount of artistic curves and which gave an added challenge to our EL wire king, Dougal Dutch, who rose to the challenge. By the last day, the Man was a colourful, glowing, beautiful art piece.

The Temple of Unity was an interactive, spiritually based art piece created by the collaboration of Kiwi and Bruce. Featured as the Temple's altar was Bruce's 3 metre tall Merkaba, a three-dimensional structure of two nested tetrahedrons, complete with orgone accumulator material, orgonite, an orgone generator and a platform at its centre from which one person could sit. Surrounding the Merkaba, at each of its six anchoring points, were 2.4 metre tall x 1 metre wide pyramid-cubbies. The pyramids provided a canvas for people to express their artistic talents and express they did. Purple, Lady Steph, Karen, Squirrel, Kurious Kat, Cass, Jeremy, Gadgit, a bunch of others added colour and revelry to what were basically cardboard triangles. Bruce left a journal in the Merkaba for people to record their experiences. It was, and is, a powerful structure and the Temple of Unity offered a calm oasis away from the sea of chaos and bacchanalia that framed most of the festival.

There was no lack of performance art. The most memorable, because it had been talked up for months, was the short marriage ceremony of the Jafab and Trailer Trash camps. The two Auckland based groups formed a strong friendship over the year and decided to make their 'union' official by having a full weekend wedding celebration complete with hen party, stag party, and civil ceremony. The brides and grooms raucously delighted the guests along with officiant Kiwi, who, could often be heard yelling 'shut the f\*ck up' through the bullhorn.

Kathy brought us the Kostume Korner which was set up in the centre camp marquee, stocked with bags and bags of op shop found burner attire, and which was available to everyone. On Saturday afternoon, Janet, Dougal and Kathy morphed into the fashion police, complete with mobile clothing rack, and spent an hour or so roving the paddocks citing people for their fashion faux pas. This segued into the first ever Kiwiburn fashion show. MC'd by Helix and featuring a wooden catwalk under the main marquee, the lovely band of paddock-fabulous dressed contestants entertained and dazzled the equally well-frocked audience. Hilarious.

Throughout Saturday morning we were treated to awesome live 'band' music performed by various burners. Jez and Andrea offered lessons on The Silks – an acrobatic 'rope-climbing' art of sorts; Jodi offered hula-hoop lessons. The 'hug me' guy carried a sign which read 'free hugs'. And, brought back by unpopular demand, was our lovable, and sometimes hateable, DJ Helix, offering us Radio Insomnia, a 7:30 am Sunday morning 'breakfast show' of sorts. There has been some debate as to whether this 'performance art' falls under the Burning Man ethos of radical self-expression or whether it constitutes blatant badgering; perhaps next year there will be a radical 'performance art' kidnapping of said DJ.

And then there was burn night, the culmination of the festival on Sunday evening. Everyone gathering, everyone partying, two firetrucks and twenty volunteer local fireman with smiles on their faces, all here to watch the burning of the man, the burning of the temple, followed by a walk through Pearl's fire labyrinth. Let's just say the Man kaboomed; we danced; we released; we enjoyed.

Wow, what an awesome festival we created. Lots of hard work and dedication put forth by all the burners. I hope that every one of you was thanked, at least once, if not a hundred times, for your creativity and vision and for being your wonderful selves.

Once again, next year will only get better, with many burners already planning their contribution. Join the theme camp discussion forums (<http://www.kiwiburn.com/forum/>) and think about registering your camp (<http://www.kiwiburn.com/themereg.html>) or art installation (<http://www.kiwiburn.com/installreg.html>) now!

## 6. Communication and Technology by Allyn “ChewToy” York

### C and T in the lead up to the Event

1. Communications among the ExCom is done primarily over email with fortnightly teleconference meetings in which the technology used was Skype. Our Skype connection often proved unreliable with dodgy connections. Often only one caller could connect and communicate with the core team in Wellington while others could only listen. Also, not all ExCom members had a computer system which could run Skype and therefore not everyone on the organising committee could participate in meetings.
2. The Kiwiburn forums which were set up last year has become the main method of communications among the burner community, now surpassing the level of activity that was once on Tribe.net. We added a new section to the forums called “News and Updates” which allows for dissemination of ExCom news to the community. Agendas and Minutes of Meetings are regularly posted for all to see and comment on. The ExCom hopes that this will promote transparency and engender a lot of feedback!

### C and T During the Event

1. We had nobody “manning the phones” for the last week as we were all on site for set-up. Therefore, we didn’t get last minute communications, ie queries about arrivals/registration/etc. In the future we can either put a message on the website specifying that we’re out of touch or have more of a commitment to staying in communication with the outside world.
2. We lacked a plan about who was going to take down the ticket buttons (paypal and direct deposit) and when to do so. We talked about it prior to going, but we ended up flying by the seat of our pants. We got the job done but it could have better.
3. Onsite internet connections: Shelley and Gadgit both had dodgy, slow, intermittent internet access. Eventually they got the job done, but it took a lot of patience and the help of Cass. Thank you very much Cass!

### Issues to be addressed next year

During set-up/pre-event it might be worth going into town daily to an internet cafe to check all relevant email addresses, compile ticket sales info (we didn’t get as many last minute ticket sales this year as in 2007, but it still does happen), and make website updates

The ExCom needs better technology for teleconferencing. Various conferencing systems will be researched. This is a critical problem to be solved.

## 7. Public Relations by Bruce Scanlon

DJ Mikey Havoc of Auckland’s 95bFM radio interviewed Regional Rep Mark Stirling in the lead up to the event. The interview went well, and when Mikey Havoc was approached at a random meeting on a Auckland beach, he urged Kiwiburn to contact him earlier next year.

Participant Serendipity and a sympathetic writer friend produced an excellent and very positive article for the major daily, Dominion Post. This article was reprinted in local papers and stimulated local visitors.

An ad was placed in Mangakino papers inviting locals for Sunday afternoon tea and a tour. Some locals showed up early on Sunday morning and were hosted at the Green Fairy. They pledged to attend next year and bring friends.

The Sunday afternoon tea party was a big success, and some local residents who had experience with running longer than 3-day Celtic spirituality festivals volunteered their experience should Kiwiburn seek to extend the duration of the event, which would require additional permitting and consent from the local authorities.

Throughout the three day event, a few local residents trickled in and a good time was had by all!



## 8. Health and Safety by Wendy “Dr. Windy” Allison

This report looks at the health and safety aspects of the festival, noting what happened, what issues were raised relating to health and safety during the event, and at the bottom of the report is a list of action points that have arisen from the health and safety, that can be addressed for Kiwiburn 09.

### Safety planning in the lead up to the event

This year, all theme camps and art structures had a pre-prepared safety plan. Contacting theme camps and artists individually and offering help with preparation of these eliminated a lot of confusion, and was useful in making sure that plans were made for safety ahead of time. I feel this is a good exercise to carry forward into the future.

### Safety during the event

Safety in and around theme camps and art structures was very good this year, with no injuries sustained by participants related to the safety of structures or power sources. There was an incident in one sound camp where a strobe light got wet due to a rain shower, and shorted out the power for the camp. This highlighted that it does rain at Kiwiburn, and that dampness getting into electrical equipment is an important safety issue for those using power outdoors. While this was addressed within safety plans, it could maybe stand to be highlighted as a site specific issue.

Safety inspections were not carried out satisfactorily (not all camps received an inspection), highlighting the necessity of the HSO spending time on the first day of the event visiting each camp with the safety plan in hand, and making sure it has been adhered to or altering things to address any changes to proposed structure/plans. It may become necessary to enlist the help of a volunteer for this task as the festival grows, but at this point it's a job that can be carried out by one person, if that person does not have other tasks as well.

### Total injuries seen by the medics this year

- 1 case of heat stroke
- 1 case of appendicitis
- 1 case of 2 twisted ankles due to walking on rough paths in the dark under the influence of alcohol
- 1 bee sting
- 1 bruised knee as a result of knocking on an old injury while climbing a ladder
- 1 bruised knee when hit by flying debris at the Man burn

While this is a relatively small number of injuries given the size and nature of the festival, a couple have highlighted areas where health and safety could be improved – visibility on the pathways at night, and communication between organisers during the festival.

### The Man Burn

The explosion during the burning of the Man was unexpected, and the damage could easily have been much worse than it was. Investigation shows that the cause of the explosion was petrol being used as an accelerant prior to the man burning. The prepared health and safety plan for the Man burn did not allow for the use of petrol or fireworks as part of the burn, and the exclusion zone around the Man was based on a simple fire as opposed to an explosion. Use of accelerants and pyrotechnics require a larger exclusion zone for the safety of participants, and preparation by experts. The exclusion zone was not clear to participants, requiring people to be moved back before the fire could be lit.

This demonstrates that while a comprehensive safety plan was prepared, it was not followed, and the changes to the plan for the Man burn were not consulted on, or notified to key people. This highlights an issue of communication between the MPW and the HSO during the festival, and the role of the HSO as part of the burns. While the volunteer fire brigade were consulted prior to the burn, it is clear that more consultation is needed to ensure the safety of participants.

The HSO was not present at the preparation for the burn, as a security check was being carried out at the time – a role that could be filled by other people (rangers?), leaving the HSO free to perform safety checks.

### Hygiene

There were no hygiene-related injuries or illnesses at Kiwiburn this year. However, there were some problems with the existing toilet block that could have become a hygiene issue – that of the cisterns in the toilets not filling, the water sitting on the floor in both ladies and gents sections of the block, and the sinks not draining correctly. A plumber was called out on the Sunday to deal with the drainage issue, but the cisterns not filling is to do with the water feed to the toilets and could not be fixed 'on the spot.'

The portable toilets filled up much faster this year, and because there were several events on in the district on Kiwiburn weekend, they could not be replaced or emptied. KB organisers will need to address the issue of the number of portable toilets as part of preparation for KB09.

Hand sanitiser and toilet paper were provided by the organisers, and these were adequate for the duration and population of the event.

### Issues to be addressed for next year

- HSO role to be separate from other roles – ie if HSO, not on greeter duty or security. Look at recruiting an assistant for HSO
- Lighting for main pathways at night
- Communication between organisers on site (daily meetings, walkie talkies, HSO to be present at preparation for the burns). Copy of safety plan to be on hand for burn preparation time
- Supervision of pyrotechnics and/or fireworks by an expert
- HSO presence during preparation for the burns to ensure exclusion zones are marked and appropriate to the techniques used for the burn
- A group of key people to develop the plan for the Man burn, and to assess and approve any changes to safety plan for the burns before they are carried out
- Specifically addressing the issue of rain when dealing with outdoor lighting and electrical cabling within safety plans
- Looking at solutions for the toilet facilities to be effective for the use of 200+ people for three to five days – explore options.



## 9. Future Vision by Bruce Scanlon

Looking at last year's Future Vision and comparing it with the actuality of 2008 is interesting: We said our goal was "to spread the [Burning Man] culture as far and as wide as possible without diluting it by trying to do it too fast." That goal still sounds like a good one!

We expected participants to double or triple, but experienced "only" a very respectable 50% growth rate. As they did last year, people are still calling for a 5 day festival.

We achieved our goals of water art, art cars, incorporation, and have continued our excellent relationship with the local council.

I also note that the 2007 Future Vision was written 130 days after the event, but I am now writing it just 34 days later.

So the vision here will be a little clearer in some ways, less clear in others.

As much as Kiwiburn 2007 captured the culture of Burning Man, Kiwiburn 2008 moved closer to the actual sensory overload too-much-to-do-too-many-people-to-meet feeling of the Nevada event. We reckon this trend will continue, and bring more people, more theme camps, more art, and more opportunities to increase our organisational expertise so that everything will continue to run smoothly.

For 2008 it seems safe to anticipate the creation of an art grant process, more exploration into extending the length of the festival, continued work on making permanent improvements to the Whakamaru Domain, and more structure for volunteer and committee oversight during the event in order to avoid burn out and make sure anticipated difficulties already have a means of resolution in place.

Barring unforeseen events, 50% growth seems like a reasonable target, especially since many of the attendees are overseas visitors on holiday, and the core community of New Zealand burners is itself obviously composed of dynamic wide-ranging individuals who continually seek new growth experiences, which must sometimes inevitably conflict with being at a certain spot in New Zealand at the beginning of February.

That said, there was filming this year for a Kiwiburn documentary. Should this be completed and let loose at New Zealand film festivals, we might experience accelerated growth. In addition, the very favourable press we received this year in the Dominion Post might also further stimulate growth.

What is clear from all of the above is that Kiwiburn enjoys solid and growing support from both the New Zealand and international burner community as well as New Zealand institutions of the default reality.

The future once again looks very bright!