

2018 census

all about Kiwiburn's Paddock dwellers




kiwiburn
NEW ZEALAND'S REGIONAL BURNING MAN EVENT



CENSUS DATA FROM KIWIBURN 2018

According to Wikipedia:

Kiwiburn is a regional Burning Man event celebrating principles such as inclusion, radical self-expression, gifting, participative art and culture.

Location:	Hunterville, New Zealand
Inaugurated:	2004
Most recent event:	24 – 29 January 2018
Theme:	The Grand Bizarre
Population:	1800
Census forms returned:	457
Unicorn Sightings:	623

Census compiled by Anne Starkey Taylor and Shelley Watson

Cover photo: James Deane

Poster design: Georgina Manning

Photo above left: Andy Flint

Photo above right: Kasai Photography

www.kiwiburn.com

WE ARE NOT NUMBERS!

We are beautiful and individual people radically expressing ourselves!

Yup, we totally get that and it's why we love Kiwiburn. Numbers can be fun and interesting too – and the stats in the census help us to understand a little bit about who we are, where we come from, why we do Kiwiburn, how often we come back and what we do (and don't) like. This info helps us grow and develop future Kiwiburns so big thanks to all who took the time to fill in a census.

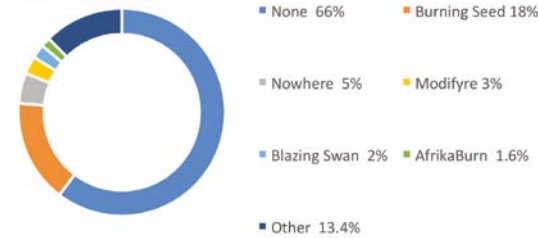
Let's get to know each other a little better.

BURN HISTORY

How many times have you been to Kiwiburn?



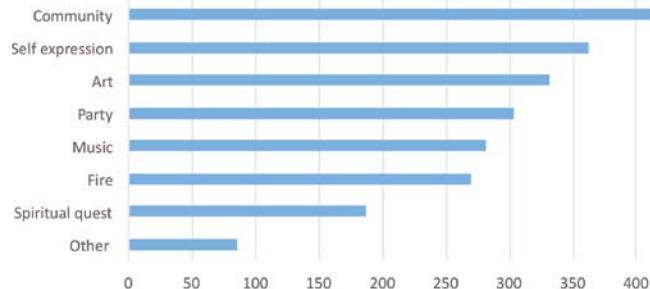
Which Regional Burning Man events will you travel to in 2018?



WHAT ATTRACTS YOU TO KIWIBURN?

As always, Community, Self Expression and Art remain the top reasons for coming to Kiwiburn. We must be doing something right.

What attracts you to Kiwiburn?

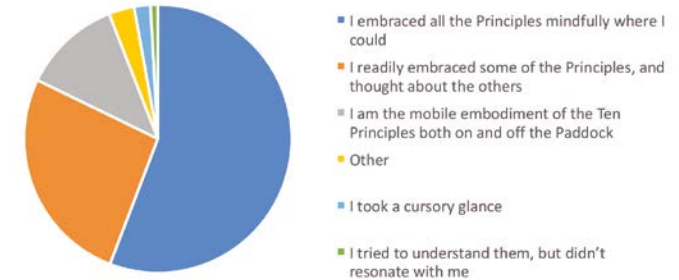


DID YOU END UP WITH A SPARE TICKET? IF SO, HOW DID YOU REDISTRIBUTE IT?

Plans change and tickets need to change hands... This is the first year using Quicket and STEP (Secure Ticket Exchange Program).

Most people (45%) transferred their spare ticket to a friend; 16% transferred it to a friend of a friend and 5% transferred it to a random human. 10% Gifted their spare tickets. 24% of people used STEP to exchange tickets securely.

THERE ARE TEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF KIWIBURN AND BURNING MAN. DO YOU KNOW THEM?



The majority of this community understand and embrace the principles. Those that don't necessarily embrace ALL the principles, do give the others some thought. So, what are those guiding principles again?

1. Radical Inclusion.
2. Gifting.
3. Decommmodification.
4. Radical self-reliance.
5. Radical Self-expression.
6. Communal Effort.
7. Civic responsibility.
8. Leaving No Trace.
9. Participation.
10. Immediacy.

GEOGRAPHY

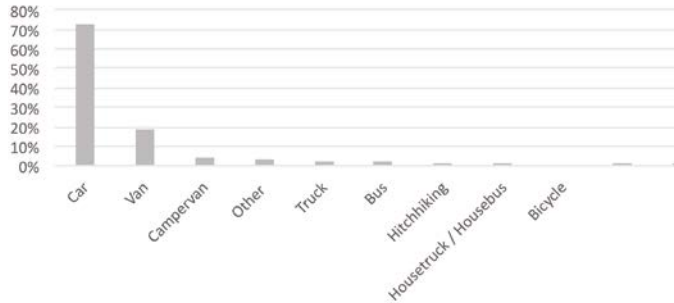
What country do you live in?

87% of our respondents currently live in New Zealand. 4% were from Australia, 2.8% from the USA and 1.7% from the UK. We also had burner family from the Czech Republic, Germany, Canada, Israel, France and Argentina

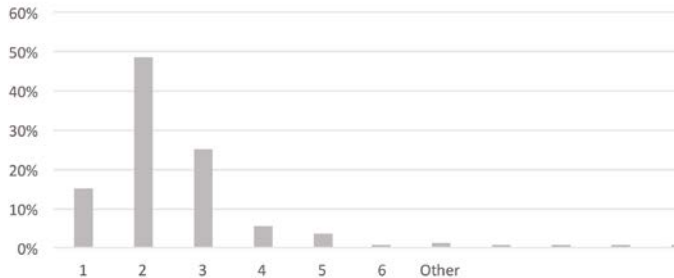
From what Region did you travel to Kiwiburn?

People travel from all directions to get to Kiwiburn, often dragging massive trailers filled with cool things to share with the community. Auckland and Wellington are closely matched once again (38 and 33% respectively) and make up about 70% of the community, the rest travel from all over the place and we have a fair representation from all directions including Waikato, bay of Plenty, Northland, Manawatu, Marlborough / Nelson, Taranaki, Canterbury, Gisborne / Hawkes Bay and Otago.

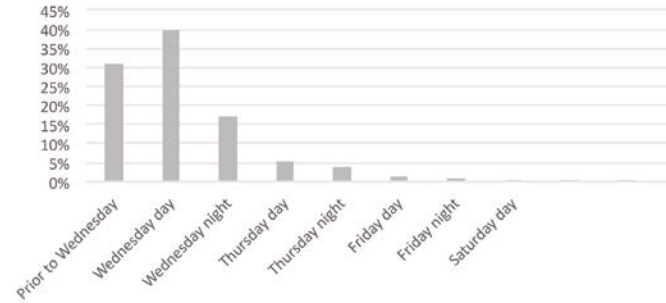
By what means did you travel to the paddock?



How many people were in your vehicle? (including the driver)

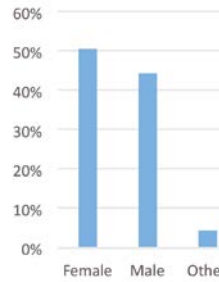


When did you arrive at Kiwiburn?

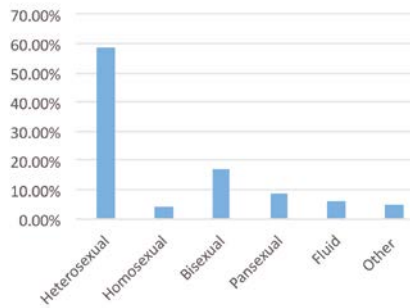


DEMOGRAPHICS

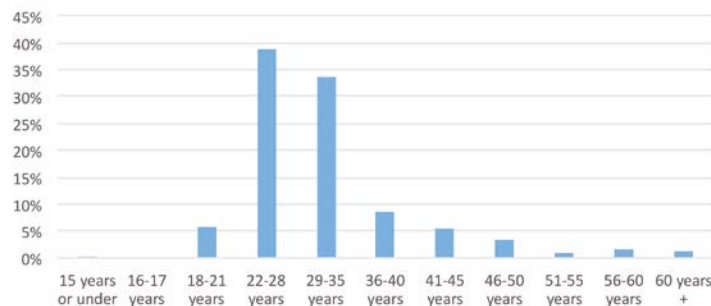
What is your gender?



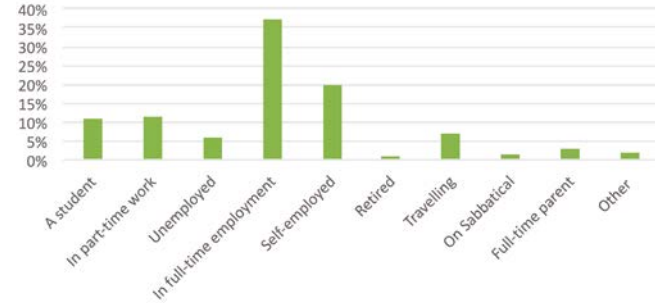
What was your sexuality during the burn?



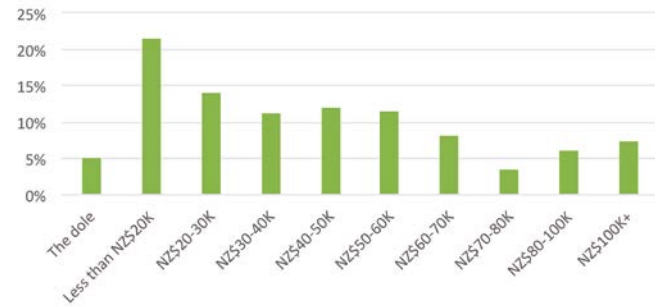
How old are you?



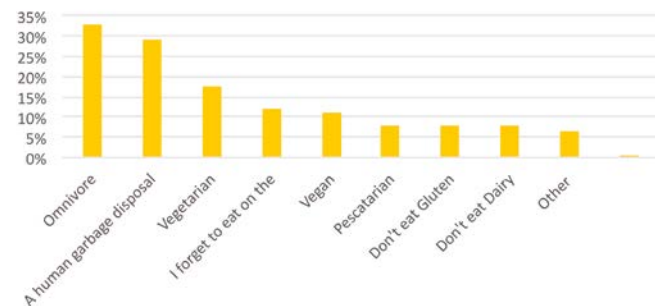
Are you...?



How much do you earn?



A lot of camps gift food. Are you?

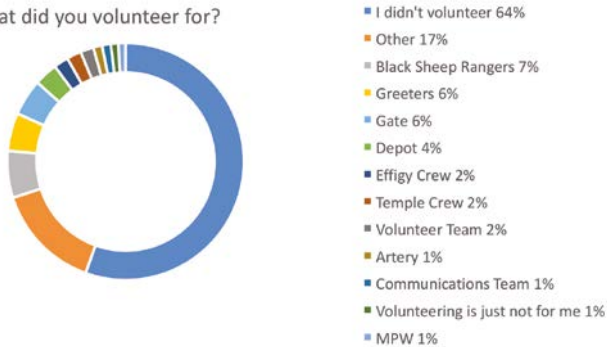


VOLUNTEERING AND COMMUNITY STUFF

There are so many volunteer jobs; some require time during the event, others pre-event and some all year round. Some people like to get involved during Kiwiburn (it's a great way to meet people and make new friends); others prefer to volunteer with pre-event admin, leaving Kiwiburn time open for play. If you are interested in volunteering, give some thought as to what you might be able to do that will best suit your available time. We really do need lots of dedicated and reliable volunteers... They make Kiwiburn happen.

In 2018, about a third of the population signed up to volunteer (great work everyone). Asked whether they would do it again we got a resounding YES (although a few said they would try a different department).

What did you volunteer for?



We asked what might encourage people to volunteer in future.

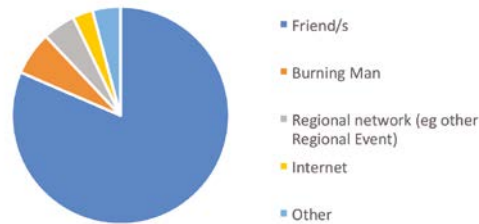
- Lots of first-time Kiwiburners said they would love to volunteer in future now they have been to their first burn and have a better understanding of how things work (that means they are coming back – yay).
- Running a Theme Camp affects some peoples' ability to volunteer during the event.
- Lots of people said they would volunteer if they had more info on what was expected and better communication beforehand.
- Some requested tighter management, assurance of support during their shifts and more engagement / teambuilding before the burn.
- There were a few suggestions for a buddy system and/or a volunteer get-to-know-you social event.

- We had a few suggestions for a platform where previous volunteers can tell their stories and thus inspire others to volunteer in future.
- And of course we had requests for Stickers, Gold Bars, Snacks, Shade, T-shirts and Drinks .

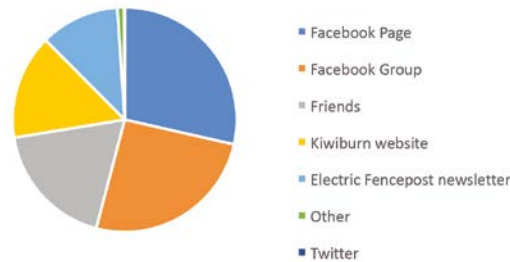
STAYING INFORMED

How did you hear about Kiwiburn and How do you keep informed?

How did you hear about Kiwiburn?



What are your main sources for getting Kiwiburn News?



If you are not signed up for the Electric Fencepost newsletter... do it now, [here](#).

THEME CAMPS

When a group of people camp together, that's a camp.... when they do it with interactive style and have a rocking great time – that's a Theme Camp. **Were you part of a Theme Camp?**

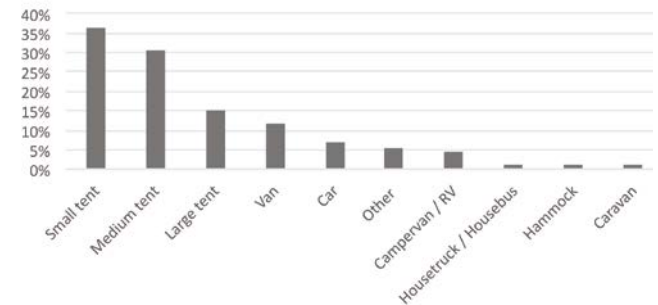
54% of people were involved in preplanning a registered Theme Camp.

9% spontaneously joined a Camp.

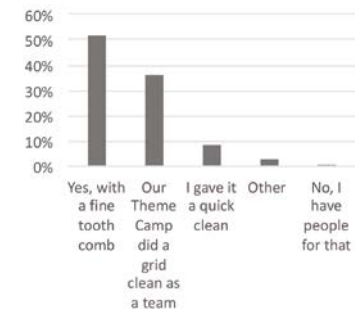
6% became a Theme Camp on the Paddock.

31% were not part of a Theme Camp.

How did you camp?



Did you MOOP your camp site?



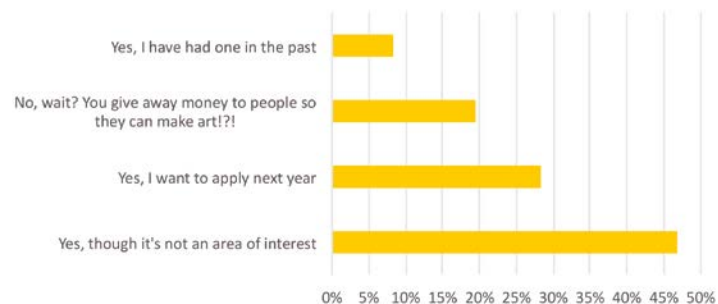
ART AND GIFTING

Kiwiburn helps fund art projects each year from ticket revenue.

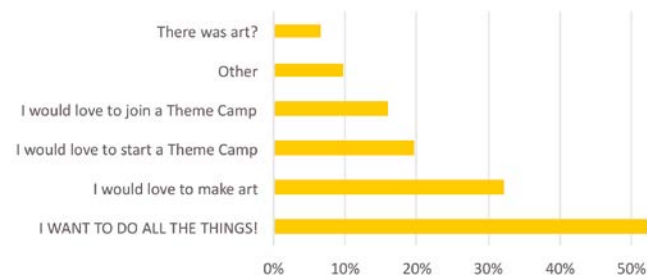
Did you interact with art on the Paddock?

A handful of people (5%) did a tour with the ARTery to make sure they saw ALL the wonderful Art and experienced it as part of a very energetic group. Some people (10%) did a self-guided tour to make sure they found all the art listed in the Event Guide (what a great way to tour the Paddock). The majority of people (87%) stumbled across fantastic pieces of art while they were wandering the Paddock. There are a few that claim they wouldn't know Art if they fell over it... it's Kiwiburn, isn't everything Art?

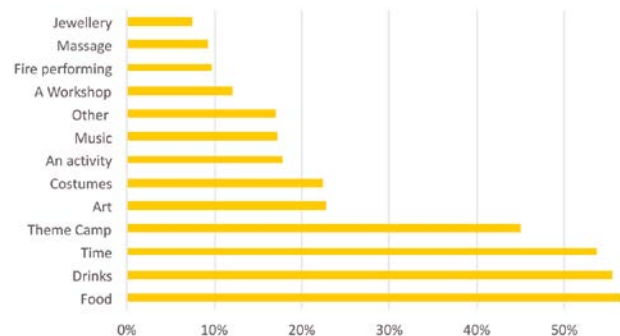
Do you know about Kiwiburn Art Grants?



Did the festival, or art inspire any ways you might want to contribute in the future?



Did you gift anything?
(Not including volunteer shifts)



THE FEEDBACK SECTION

Did you have a brainwave about how we could improve something at Kiwiburn?

This section of the Census not only captures ideas and suggestions but also includes a lot of feedback on the event, the organisers and the participants. Here are some of the responses (we got over 200 and can't include them all, be assured that ALL responses have been submitted in their full form for consideration by the ExCom).

For the last three years multiple people have requested a clock, this year it materialised at Town Hall. Kiwiburn is a do-ocracy. If you see something here and think it's a great idea, grab it and go... we hope to see some of these ideas implemented on the Paddock next year!

Let's start with some praise...

- I'm just in love with everything right now! But sure, there are things that I'm not overly keen on, but that's not for me to say, as other people have lives too. We are all different, and I'm happy with that :) open-mindedness for the win xx
- Festival was awesome. Presence of little people was awesome. No camping in forest was awesome. Keep doing what you are doing.
- I was so blown away by the whole experience.
- Kiwiburn surpassed all my expectations and needs no improvement
- I think Kiwiburn and all its volunteers did an absolutely fantastic job. I know that a gigantic amount of unpaid work goes on behind the scenes and all year round to make it happen, and I continue to be gobsmacked at the incredibly high standard at which Kiwiburn operates. Huge thank-you from me!
- This by far has been the best organised and participated in KB I have been to in recent years.
- You people rock love you all.

The Ten Principles, consent and general etiquette

- More education about the principles. One major difference we noticed between Kiwiburn and the Burn is an awareness of the principles and the idea that burning man is not just another festival.
- Perhaps a bit more info on etiquette, such as respecting the Templeburn (ie, not talking, laughing or eating, at least during the initial burn.)
- Continue putting emphasis on the importance of consent!
- Stricter guidelines around safe spaces - my partner attended 3 or 4 workshops at Two Moons but each time men entered workshops and made her feel unsafe, including being close in potentially intimate positions (yoga, etc). [] Overall consent was well understood by most, but a few people still missed the boat and made things a bit hard for others.

Ticketing and access

- More T I C K E T S (but obviously y'all gotta regulate growth and such so it's okay you guys do an amazing job).
- More directed group ticket sales to Theme Camps, contributors and volunteers
- If tickets were able to go on sale sooner, it would make organising things to bring to the Paddock easier.
- The ticketing site used this year was a huge stress and anxiety inducing nightmare! I know it was supposed to be easy to use and to take away the chance of scalping, however it was flawed on both these accounts.
- Ticket prices are getting rather steep now. There should probably be different tiers (i.e. cheaper ones for people who would like to contribute but can't afford such an expensive ticket).
- The only thing I would suggest changing is your ticketing system! Most of my family and friends didn't end up getting tickets because it was all too much of a hassle
- There was a lot of feedback around long waits for access – we can't post them all here but rest assured they are being read and considered.

Infrastructure and Layout

- Loved the way town planning was set up this year with the sound camps in top paddock and there were quieter paddocks so definitely keep that in mind for next year.
- Keep this years' town planners.
- Please keep the same layout! Town planners you are amazing
- More general camping area.
- I liked the new town plan, but did think it was hard to figure out where you could camp if you are not part of a Theme Camp i.e. hard to see where Theme Camp areas ended and general camping started.
- I wanted to congratulate who ever decided that we could all go back to how we use to and drive our stuff to our camp sites then park up!!! We always bring so much to give and it was such a pain last year having to walk back and forth for hours. Glad to have more personal responsibility over driving our cars safely *Thank You*
- Excellent set up this year!! I am grateful that we were able to park next to our tent; I think we should be able to continue to carefully drive to our tent site
- Could the shared camping / theme sites be marked out more obviously (or more significantly noted in the programme e.g. "green posts for general camping")? We arrived exhausted at night, got told to camp anywhere, set up in the dark, and then had to move our whole camp over by about 4 metres and set up again to make room for a newly arriving Theme Camp.
- Designated quiet camping spaces for families and those of us who need to sleep. Could we please camp in the forest?
- The road names (e.g. Sludgeway Lane) on the map, and the map put online the week before the burn so people have time to study it. Also, maybe using a spray paint or a clearer marking for the approximate Theme Camp space? I liked how the tenting and camping was mixed in between, but it made setup difficult as when we arrived not all the camps had been set up and then from that it was difficult to discern if we were accidentally on a reserved space.
- Put a rope at the end of the river so people don't go around the corner into the Rapids

Art, Theme Camps and Events

- Not have workshops so far apart and on the hour. was hot work running from one to another.
- Relocate the sex show truck (Chur) so it's not in plain sight of the whole Paddock (esp. kids and those who might be triggered). Radical Self-expression vs Civic Responsibility - there are some things that people don't want in their faces for very good reasons!
- Advice on dealing with intoxicated persons entering your camp. Given the health and safety policy and responsibilities for Theme Camps.

Toilets, Bins and Rubbish

- Thank you so much for having the toilets cleaned every day on Kiwiburn weekend. It made a huge difference. Can we please have all the toilets be flush toilets again? [And] given that the queue to get in the gate was twice as long as usual, could there be a portaloos about the midpoint and the end of the queue as well?
- I want to say that you improved the porta loo service this year so that they were the cleanest festival loos ever, and I will happily pay an increased ticket fee to ensure this continues
- New portaloos should be dropped off every second day as the hygiene was disgusting
- Facility for compost - realistically, most of the organic waste leaving KB ends up in landfill, does "leave no trace" not bow to, "do no harm" ?
- Compost toilets
- Clear reinforcement/reminders of the principles, especially for virgins. Quite a bit of moop near the Effigy on Sunday morning and some near the toilets by the medic bay
- I know this is a conversation that's already been had but I think we really need to look at how much plastic waste is being created by everyone bringing their own water. I don't think I know enough about the logistics of getting a lot of water to site but I thought it's worth mentioning as an issue. Providing water also goes against one of the main principles of the burn.
- Let people collectively pay for better recycling, a lot of people put recyclable bottles and cans in garbage bags as they had trouble organising appropriate disposal.

Organisation and Communication

- Clearer idea of early entry allocations. We went from 5 early entries to 1 person to set up our camp.
- Information flow from ExCom to participants, (it would have been nice if someone, anyone from ExCom had attended the town meeting, I know the ops crew were crazy busy!), advising cutoff dates early in the communications, advising Theme Camps of assistance available, more information on the organisation of camps from experienced teams (The Theme Camps 101 workshop never happened). Training of volunteers in health and safety type roles needs to be taken seriously.
- It would be good to keep us informed of what's going on - there were ambulances, a fire truck and a helicopter but no one said what happened and we were quite worried.

Music, Noise and general behaviour on the Paddock

- I would like to see rangers (preferably), or security, stationed at each of the large sound camps in the evenings. I was hosting a party, and would've really liked a consistent presence from Kiwiburn at the camp to keep an eye on things. I think this would create a safer space than relying on volunteers within the camp to keep an eye out, plus it sends a clear message that rangers are present if anyone needs assistance.
- The 3am music curfew was awesome.
- New site layout was good, music off at 3am is not good it should be turned down instead.
- I appreciated the new sound policy, but I feel like the cut-off time for late night loud music could have been pushed a bit later, maybe 5am on Sunday morning?
- More noise - new sound policy too restrictive??
- Consider asking everyone to turn off their generators and other noise making things during the Templeburn. It'd be really nice, but I'm not sure if it's a realistic thing to ask.

The Event Guide

- The booklet was very fun but quite jam packed and had a lot of slang in it which is where I'm guessing a lot of travellers would have trouble understanding what it was on about...the could probably use some reviewing. (Note: the entries in the event guide are written by the individual hosts - perhaps something for everyone to consider in future).

General

- I would love to have more of a feeling of ceremony and community, a coming together of everyone at kiwi burn. I felt disappointed by some aspects of the Effigy burn night. I would have loved to have someone speak to the festival to open the ceremony, to welcome, to unite everyone's attention and bring their awareness to the present and to each other. perhaps sent an intention, or perhaps something symbolic or participatory to connect everyone together. Perhaps song or music or holding hands. I feel a desire to have everyone's voices united in song around the burning Effigy. I would have also loved to have an opening ceremony.
- Would like to be involved in more group activity and ritual - such as an opening and closing ceremony featuring a procession of everyone around camp. The giving of a symbolic gift to everyone. Some sage burning! The calling of a bugle, Tibetan bowl or Maori conch shell instrument at the same time every morning would be amazing. It would be nice if the emphasis moved from drunken dance party and light show to a community united by ritual and shared beliefs...
- I would like to create a way that non-parents can help out with making kiwi burn awesome for parents and kids and for kids and parents to share their awesomeness with non-parents. I think there are many non-parents who love kids who would be happy to give an hour to play with kids and thus allow some parents to offer their wonderful non-parenting skills to the kiwi burn community.
- Kiwiburn seems a little oriented towards Kiwis, in the sense that there is no facilitation or help for internationals that are coming, not knowing anyone and having to hitchhike to the event with getting water for example (At Nowhere free campers can crowd find water cubes) I know Lumos is doing an amazing job, but for someone coming from outside it felt like that when you read between the lines of the info available it came a bit across like 'what, you don't have a car?' The same goes for Theme Camps, there didn't seem like there were many that took outsiders.
- The Templeburn focuses on serious "sad" emotions and doesn't seem to allow for happy emotions of love and friendship. Feels wrong laughing and smiling and cuddling at the Templeburn. I would love to change it or make emotions of happiness more part of it.