

Extra judges added to NZ Aria to fill demand

Entries to Rotorua's world class opera song contest — the New Zealand Aria — are up by 50 per cent on previous years.

Momentum is gathering for the Waiariki Institute of Technology New Zealand Aria finals to be held at the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre, formerly the Rotorua Convention Centre, on November 2.

Unprecedented response to the under-21 singing categories has forced organisers to add two more judges to the panel of four after entries closed in late August.

Australian guest judges Merlyn Quaife and John Bolton Wood will officiate in the Open

Mike Watson



section. In the under-21 section, the judges are Gina Sander and Glenese Blake, with Ngairo Heretaunga and Mere Boynton as New Zealand Maori Song judges.

Timua Te Kowhai will judge the under-21 Maori Song classes, and the New Zealand Maori under-16 and under-18 sections.

Hamish McKeich is guest conductor, with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, for finals night.

The song contest began in 1946 and was for many years known as the Lockwood Song Quest.

Rotorua baritone Christian Thurston has returned for his second year in the Open section.

Mr Thurston recently won the Dame Malvina Major Foundation Aria in Wellington, and was third in the Lexus Song Quest.

The Aria is regarded as one of the best song contests in Australasia and previous winners have gone on to forge international opera careers.

HIGH NOTE: Rotorua's Christian Thurston performing at the New Zealand Aria in 2012. PHOTO/FILE



Numbers grow in fanciful fun run

By Mike Watson
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Hundreds of runners donned fancy dress outfits to run around Lake Rotorua in the 12th annual Rotorua Ekiden marathon relay.

The popular event has become an important social event on the running calendar with 236 teams, helped by fine weather, competing in Saturday's 42km race.

Race director Rob Docherty said the event could grow to double the size after race entries were more than 20 per cent up from last year.

"It proves that if you do something well, people will be attracted to enter," he said.

"We definitely think it can grow as a social event because there are many people wanting to do these and have fun doing it.

"We want to encourage people to get into fancy dress and have a great day out."

Teams in fancy dress outfits numbered almost a quarter of the full entry list, he said.

"It was a fantastic day and the weather made it a great day to showcase the city and the lake."

Overall winners in the men's and women's team sections were Wanganui Collegiate and Glendowie College respectively.

Fifty teams of walkers also entered the event.

Among the runners was Jemima Price, of Taupo, who celebrated her 37th birthday with her Event Junkies team members.

At each 7km leg she was presented with a birthday



BIRTHDAY BASH: Taupo's Jemima Price (centre) celebrated her 37th birthday at the 12th annual Rotorua Ekiden Marathon relay with friends Kelera Smith (left) and Angie Gow.

PHOTO/STEPHEN PARKER 121014SP1

present by the other team members. "We all met at a 'boot camp' in Taupo and decided to sign up for as many events as we could over the winter," she said. "We have run in the Tough Gals, Taupo half marathon and Xterra event, and the Ekiden was our last one."

"Now it is time to put our feet up for the summer... It was a

fantastic event and really well organised."

The team raised \$500 for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Rotorua residents made up 100 of the teams involved, followed by Auckland with 60 teams. Other entries came from Hamilton, Tauranga and Porirua.

The Ekiden traced the

Rotorua marathon course for 42km with six team members each running between 5km and 8km.

In line with Japanese tradition, where the race originated, each team member passes a sash, or tasuki, to the next runner. All finishers received a specially minted commemorative medal.

Copter plucks injured skiers from mountain after fall



RESCUE: The copter was called to Mt Ruapehu. PHOTO/FILE 121013CHOPPER

A group of four skiers who took a wrong turn on Mt Ruapehu fell over a cliff and slid more than 200m before coming to a stop.

The group turned back due to bad weather when hiking to the summit, but while skiing down took a wrong turn and four of them fell down the cliff. The Taupo-based Greenlea Rescue Helicopter was dispatched to the Mangaehuehu Glacier on the

southern slopes of Mt Ruapehu on Saturday afternoon after the accident happened. Greenlea Rescue Helicopter pilot Nat Every said the helicopter picked up the three injured men from an altitude of about 2134m and took them to a local medical centre before flying two of them to Rotorua Hospital.

A third man was flown to Auckland's Middlemore Hos-

pital with spinal injuries. The fourth man was uninjured.

Mr Every said the incident happened outside of the ski area, but the Mt Ruapehu ski patrol had done a fantastic job in attending the incident and providing initial treatment to the men until the helicopter arrived.

The men are believed to be from Auckland.

ROTORUA Breakfast briefing

Guard against scams

Age Concern, Rotorua police and Neighbourhood Support will hold a seminar tomorrow aimed at helping people become "scam savvy". The event will be held at St Barnabas' Church Hall, Ngongotaha, from 10.30am. Everyone is welcome.

Tourist tip

If you are a visitor to Rotorua and you need medical treatment, you will find Lakes PrimeCare on the corner of Tutanekei St and Arawa St. The medical centre provides accident and medical services for visitors to Rotorua every day of the week. It is open between 8am and 10pm.

Ten years ago

Central North Island forestry workers fearing for their futures are quitting New Zealand in favour of better conditions and increased job security in Australia. The exodus is a direct result of the downturn that has gripped the industry over the last two years.



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Lotteries

Lotto: 4, 10, 20, 24, 25, 39. **Bonus number:** 40. **Powerball:** 10. **Strike:** 39, 4, 25, 10. **Keno draw 10320:** 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 18, 20, 36, 41, 42, 47, 50, 57, 65, 66, 68, 69, 71, 72, 80. **Draw 10321:** 1, 3, 6, 8, 15, 19, 32, 33, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, 58, 59, 60, 65, 70. **Draw 10322:** 4, 13, 15, 18, 21, 23, 26, 27, 35, 41, 47, 49, 55, 62, 66, 68, 72, 73, 75, 78. **Draw 10323:** 1, 3, 6, 7, 16, 18, 21, 25, 32, 39, 40, 42, 52, 55, 61, 65, 66, 73, 76, 77. **Draw 10324:** 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 25, 35, 39, 41, 49, 52, 60, 64, 71, 72, 76, 77. **Draw 10325:** 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 19, 21, 35, 36, 43, 44, 45, 50, 51, 56, 62, 63, 65, 75, 80. **Draw 10326:** 8, 14, 17, 19, 23, 28, 29, 32, 35, 42, 46, 47, 57, 60, 61, 67, 68, 74, 78, 79. **Draw 10327:** 2, 17, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 43, 44, 47, 53, 61, 66, 69, 76, 78. **Saturday Bullseye:** 447150. **Saturday Play3 Draw 6:** 408. **Sunday Bullseye:** 174859. **Sunday Play3 Draw 7:** 805.