



Merry Christmas and Happy 2012 to you all!

Many of you will be having your first Christmas in NZ. We hope you celebrate this time of year enjoying your new life and feeling settled in Wellington. If you are used to a northern hemisphere Christmas with cooler shorter days and the possibility of snow, then it will be quite a contrast. Wellington is a great place to spend summer. See below for a host of activities and events you can enjoy. Our Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year but for any relocation assistance please contact Julia on 0274 371 893. Happy holidays !!

Wellington Summer City Festival is Wellington's three month celebration of Summer, jam packed with a sizzling array of outdoor fun and entertainment.

Check out details at www.wotzon.com

Summer events include:

New Years Eve Celebration on Wellington's waterfront with entertainment from 8.30pm through to the midnight countdown.

Horse Racing at Trentham Racecourse on 21, 21 & 28 January. Summer Festival Family Day Races are on Wellington Anniversary Day, **Monday 23 January.** Trentham continues its carnival atmosphere with loads of free activities and entertainment especially for the kids.

Films By Starlight. Join the crowds at the Botanic Gardens in **February** for these free outdoor film screenings.

The 2012 New Zealand Leg of the International Rugby Sevens returns to Wellington's Westpac Stadium on **3-4 February** and promises to be summer's premier event. There's lots of colour in the city as rugby goes 'dress up' for the occasion.

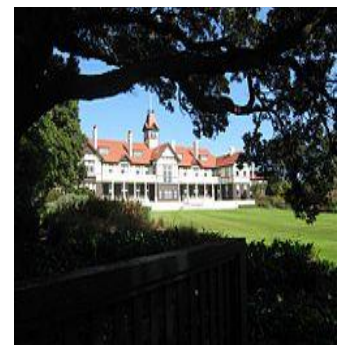
The ASB Gardens Magic Series offers free night time outdoor music concerts in **January** at the Sound Shell of the Wellington Botanic Gardens.

The Wellington Dragon Boat Festival returns in 2012 with an action packed weekend on Wellington's waterfront on **17-18 March.**

Summer Concert in the grounds of Government House at 2pm on **Saturday February 11.** After an extensive restoration project to Government House, Vector Wellington Orchestra's outdoor concert is back by popular demand. Relax in the beautiful Government House grounds with a Wishbone picnic and a glass of wine. There's celebrated arias and symphonic works, and the concert ends with Tchaikovsky's stirring 1812 Overture, complete with cannons!



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24 EXTRAORDINARY DAYS – 300 ART EVENTS



DON'T MISS The 2012 New Zealand International Arts Festival from 24 February to 8 March. The Festival will feature more than 300 performances from fairy tales to opera, from Shakespeare to salsa, from the Sahara Desert to a circus tent.

Wellington's waterfront will be transformed, with a new Festival hub on the waterfront. Michel Tuffery's vibrant multi-media artwork First Contact 2012 will turn Te Papa into a huge moving canvas every night at dusk; the Ronaldo circus dynasty's vintage Big Top will be pitched on the foreshore; a giant acrobatic spectacle will bring crowds to Waitangi Park and our home-grown Spiegeltent, the TelstraClear Festival Club, will be set right in the heart of the action in Odlin's Plaza, with acts including the Topp Twins and Finnish accordion rock star Kimmo Pohjonen.

We hope you will have an opportunity to enjoy some of the programmed events. Bookings are open and popular acts fill up fast. So don't forget to check out what you'd like to see and book your seats.



The Kiwi Christmas

For those of you who are going to have your first Kiwi Christmas, here are a few tips:

- ❖ Summer sales start after Christmas.
- ❖ Remember sunscreen and hats - our sun is fierce.
- ❖ Need places to stay on holiday? Check the AA Guide, NZ Bed and Breakfast book, Baches and Holiday Homes to rent, Jasons Motel and Motor Lodges, Holiday homes to rent in the newspaper, and www.holidayhouses.co.nz and www.travelonline.co.nz
- ❖ Look out for local produce stalls and for "pick your own" fruit and vegetables.
- ❖ Swim between marked areas on beaches; beware of hidden rips.
- ❖ The barbie or BBQ - the kiwi summer icon where cooking outdoors is the norm.
- ❖ The Pohutukawa tree - the NZ Christmas tree, prefers the warm, dry conditions of the shoreline in many parts of the North Island. For Maori people the flowers symbolise the blood of Tawhaki, a spirit ancestor who showed the way to heaven but died in the attempt. It was said as he fell; he plucked his eyes out and cast them onto the pohutukawa tree where they are still seen as the red blossoms.
- ❖ The Boogie Board and the Ocean - Some basic instinct drives every true Kiwi to get out on it or at least be close to the sea. Catching fish and cooking them is also popular.
- ❖ Explore the wonderful outdoors New Zealand has to offer.

Get on top of New Year's resolutions with assistance from **Brooke Coaching** for life/work balance, stress busting, get rid of bad habits, communication, getting back to work, learn to say NO, cultural or personal training (losing weight, getting fit) phone Julia 479 3765 www.brookecoaching.co.nz

BROOKE COACHING
work / life / balance

PO Box 12543, Wellington
T: 04 479 3765 F: 04 479 3769
E: julia@brookecoaching.co.nz



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If you know of individuals or companies who would benefit from using our settling services - nationwide, overseas or into NZ, please ask them to contact us on **479 3765** or email julia@reloc-wgtn.co.nz to discuss or refer them to our website.



*Seasons Greetings
from
Julia, Lynda,
Dale and Linda*

