

Promote Waipu Christmas Eve Parade Participation Guidelines

Thank you for registering to take part in the 2025 Promote Waipu Christmas Eve Parade. We hope you enjoy the event. Float categories are described at the end of this document.

All groups, whether walking, in a vehicle, or on a float, must abide by the following guidelines:

Timing

The Parade begins at 7.00pm on the 24th of December outside McLeod's Brewery and Pizza Barn. The assembly area for all floats is the Northpine yard at 34 Cove Road. Gates will be open at Northpine from 4.00pm for the construction and organization of floats. Cove Rd will be closed down at 6.45pm to allow parade participants to move down Cove Rd and assemble at the Pizza Barn.

Entries

The Parade is a non-political, non-opinionated, non-controversial Christmas community event and all floats submitted must adhere to this policy.

Floats must not contain anything of a sensitive or offensive nature and must be suitable for young children.

Floats must be constructed with safety in mind – if you have people on board, they must have something to hold onto in case you have to stop suddenly.

All props must be securely fastened to the float.

Each float needs an allocated representative who is present on the day at the assembly point and responsible for all matters regarding the float. Each float will be given an identification number at the assembly point which must be clearly displayed for judging purposes. All drivers and representatives must follow the direction of the marshalls in the assembly, dispersal and parade areas.

Christmas festive themes are encouraged but **please do not have a Santa as part of your entry**. There is to be only one Santa in the parade – don't spoil the highlight! If one of your group arrives dressed as Santa they will be asked not to participate.

Each float must obey the road rules when traveling to and from the parade area and all drivers of vehicles must have a current NZ Drivers Licence.

Assembly Point

Northpine, although closed for the holiday period, is an active work site and areas may be roped off or sign posted as No Entry. Please respect these notices. Please supervise all children and make sure they do not climb on stacks of timber or enter any buildings. The covered "drip pad" at the Treatment Plant is a no access area due to the presence of chemicals.

The Parade

All participants must be ready to depart at 6.45pm from Northpine.

Any float whilst in the assembly, parade or dispersal area must not exceed a slow walking pace of more than 5km/hr.

Please do not pre-empt the marshalls as they merge the floats and hot rods and other vehicles.

People walking in the parade should not walk closely in front of a vehicle or be placed between the towing vehicle and the float.

Please be mindful of gaps opening up between your group and the one in front. If a gap starts to open up please move to close it. To keep the parade flowing it is **not** possible for groups to perform stationary performances as this has a major impact on the parade timing and causes congestion and angst.

No lollies or giveaways are to be thrown from the floats at any stage during the parade, or before and after. However, lollies, balloons and the like **can be handed out to the crowd if you are on foot**. If you wish to hand things out please have enough people to do this so it does not slow the parade down.

End of the Parade

The parade travels through The Centre, turns left into St Mary's Road and then into the Caledonian Park. All floats then line up while waiting for the results of the judging and prize-giving.

Santa will be travelling at the rear of the parade and when he arrives at the Caledonian Park he will hold a small lolly scramble for the **young** children.

Please have your representative at the Celtic Barn for the handing out of prizes. Prize giving should be within about 15 minutes of the last float arriving in the park.

Once prize-giving is complete, floats can leave the park as they wish but as there will be a great number of people and many young children, the 5 kph speed limit applies.

Prizes

Cash prizes will be given for the best entry in each category (listed below). Please note, these prizes are financed by Promote Waipu, a not-for-profit incorporated society with all funds raised going back to the Waipu community. The value of the prizes will reflect this. A Supreme Award will also be presented for an outstanding entry that is deemed to be the best across all categories.

Float Categories

This year prizes will be awarded for the best entry in each of the following categories:

Group Categories

- Best Business
- Best Community Group
- Best Friends and Family/Whanau Group

Individual Category

- Decorated Car
- Decorated Bike (bicycle/e-bike)

An individual decorated bike must be ridden or wheeled by one person who is at least 10 years old. Decorated cars can contain as many passengers as legally allowed. Please adhere to the 5kph speed limit.

Judging Criteria

The Group Category Floats (Business, Community Group, Friends & Family Group) will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Theme**
How well does the entry reflect the 'theme' of the float (participants are asked to state their theme when they enter).
- **Originality**
How unique, unusual and different is the entry?
- **Energy & Spirit**
How much energy and fun does the entry radiate to the audience?
- **Overall Appearance**
The look and feel of the entry (design, style, use of color, etc)
- **Unity and Participation**
How cohesive and coordinated is the unit and all participants?

The Individual Category Floats (Decorated Car and Decorated Bicycle) will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Overall Appearance**
The look and feel of the entry (design, style, use of color, etc)
- **Theme**
How well does the entry reflect the 'theme' of the float (participants are asked to state their theme when they enter).
- **Originality**
How unique, unusual and different is the entry?

The Judges' decisions are final and no discussion will be entered into.

Got Questions?

If you have any questions, please get in touch at hello@promotewaipu.co.nz.

