

## Kapiti Island Wins Rankers Traveller Award

On August 17 [Rankers](#) announced the winners of their 2010 online awards, as voted by overseas and NZ holiday makers.

[Kapiti Island Alive](#) won the NZ Wide Bird Watching category, for the second time in two years. John Barrett (Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Te Āti Awa, and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga), co-owner and operator of Kapiti Island Alive, and resident of Kapiti Island, says winning the award means recognition of much hard work. "I'm very proud of our team and product," he says.

Kapiti Island Alive provides nature tours and nature lodge accommodation at Waiorua Bay, north end of Kapiti Island. They operate the only commercial activity on the island.

The Rankers awards are judged from over 4,000 qualifiers. Cymen Crick, co-owner of the internet site says their style of judging is "the way of the future". Their site has attracted over 20,000 rankings with reviews.

Minnie Clark, who coordinates much of the operations of Kapiti Island Alive, says she's very proud of their whanau and team. "Their passion and commitment helps make our visitors Kapiti Island experience whatever it ends up being; and going by the rankers reviews, that's a memorable and fantastic one."

Chris Barber, Chief Executive of [Nature Coast Enterprise](#), the Economic Development Agency and Regional Tourism Organisation serving the Nature Coast region (Kapiti Coast and Horowhenua), says "we're very proud of Kapiti Island. The Rankers award provides independent recognition of what we've always known. They're a real taonga of our area."

The Rankers.co.nz Traveller Voted Awards 2010 also awarded another Māori tourism business, [Māori Tours Kaikoura](#), the supreme award - Visitor Attraction Winner.

"There have always been a few great Māori products available in this industry," says Mr Barrett. "And seeing four or five Māori operators featuring lately is really exciting for me."

It's not the first award Kapiti Island Alive has won: Other awards include the "Manaakitanga Small Business Award" [Marketing & Advertising] at the [Kapiti/Horowhenua Māori Business Awards](#) 2010; a 2007 finalist award in the [Wellington Region Gold Awards](#); Rankers category award for 2009.

International and local visitors alike are singing the praises of this Kapiti Island business. And it's the local visitors especially that Mr Barrett would like to see more of.

"Winning this award doesn't necessarily mean more locals will appreciate Kapiti Island more. We still have to convert this good news into real interest, and then business and bookings."

The only other Wellington winner was Te Papa. "It's quite something to be recognised along with an organisation like them. Te Papa is recognised as one of the best attractions in NZ."

Bookings for nature tours and accommodation

Bookings for DOC permits and ferry

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