

Planning and decision making

Regular contact is maintained with the Gisborne District Council and support services such as health and safety advisors, Police and security companies ... The planning also changed again in 2008 when the festival became a three day event, 29th December – 1st January; considerably increasing the complexity of the planning required...

Before the event, organisers would have to plan (1) how many people the festival can accommodate, this is crucial as it will determine the amount of accommodation, size of site, accessibility, availability of food, toilets etc as well as the number of support people like medical and security personnel, number of the stages etc...

...A sieve analysis technique was used to determine a favourable site in 2002, the success of this process can be assessed against the continuing suitability of the site at Waiohika Estate Vineyard as the festival has evolved in to a three day event attended by over 25,000 people (2)...

The Building Act 2004 states that for an event that includes over 800 people, a minimum of four toilets must be established.... Compliance with this piece of legislation is vital to ensure the safety of the people attending the event and protect the environment...

Analysis of the 2010 and 2011 events showed deficiencies with several areas, namely parking, toilets and number of doctors available. Resulting from this evaluation a swat analysis was completed to assess alternative actions necessary to remedy these issues. This approach has proven successful as these issue have not been a problem for more recent events (3).

Sound planning based on analysis and evaluation of past R & V festivals to amend and update strategies helps to ensure systems are effective...

Environmental impacts

The potential environmental impacts are huge with the increasing number of people attending this festival. Rhythm and Vines environmental conservation practices, specifically separating different types of waste to enable recycling are commendable and some of which will be explained below. I believe this one relatively simple action significantly limits the impact on the natural environment (4)...

It is inevitable that land will be damaged during the three day event...However, due to the ten year plan formulated by the BW campground and Gisborne District Council, these environmental effects are mitigated (5)... Money earned by the festival is being reinvested to remedy the impacts e.g. aerating the soil ... These funds help with the cost of rehabilitating the site ensuring its primary use and productivity as a vineyard is unhindered... the long term investment may lead to improvements (6)...

The evaluation of the impacts and methods used, encouraged or enforced by the District Plan, RMA and the thorough planning undertaken by the R & V management team ensure that the environmental impacts are minimal. The actions taken clearly demonstrate the organisers understanding of the environmental impacts... they endeavour to demonstrate that the event can be a viable partner with the vineyard and that both are sustainable uses of this environment (7).