

1. Explain how your nominee has made a difference to the festivals & events industry.

Crispian has been a key figure in selling Rotorua as a destination for festivals and events. He played a key role in putting together the bid proposal on behalf of the Rotorua District Council to McMaunus Entertainment who are the promoters for Raggamuffin.

Raggamuffin is a reggae festival and in its first year in 2008 attracted a sell-out audience of 32,000. The festival still continues to draw over 20,000 attendees each year, of these attendees 90% are from outside of Rotorua. This has a major effect on the economy and has produced record spend per head, every year.

Crispian was also part of the team who bid for Rugby World Cup matches when proposal for regions were requested. His input towards this proposal was invaluable with his past experiences around how the venue would manage under capacity and the logistics required. This experience and input provided a sense of trust and capability that the region and venue could cope. Rotorua hosted three Rugby World Cup matches alongside fan zones because of his input to this process. This introduced Rotorua to the world and assisted with establishing our city as a holiday destination for all. This exposure is invaluable and continues to assist with the growing visitor numbers.

Te Matatini Festival is a bi-annual event that hosts the top indigenous performance groups in New Zealand, who are performing to be named top Maori Kapa Haka group in the country. This festival is held over four days with 1600 performers and 15,000 spectators each day. This festival is allocated biannually to regions based on proposals as presented, again Crispian played a key role in putting this together and working alongside the local committee. With his experience hosting festivals and events such as Raggamuffin and Rugby World Cup, the confidence he was able to add to the proposal assisted in the successful allocation of the event to Rotorua.

Te Matatini Rotorua 2013 was considered one of the most successful Te Matatini festivals held since its first festival 21 years ago, with a record profit and national and international TV coverage, exposing Rotorua to the world. Without his experience and input to the proposal and management during the event this outcome would not have been possible.

2. Submit a general overview of your nominee's career, including organizations they have worked for, positions held, titles, awards, etc.

Crispian has been working for Events & Venues Rotorua for nearly 9 years as Operations Manager – Rotorua International Stadium, which demonstrates his commitment for the organisation and Rotorua. He has recently been promoted to Development Manager, this appointment recognises his ability to successfully work with key stakeholders including local government, businesses and national bodies.

His recent achievements includes being nominated as trustee for Globalfest. Globalfest provides an active vehicle for cultural groups to showcase and share their language, arts and crafts, dance, music, games, dress, food and beverages, religion and customs. He has been a volunteer member of this group including managing the festival since 2008.

Other positions he has held include Event Manager for the World Rafting Championships in Rotorua 2013, a role offered to Crispian alongside his Operations Manager role.

He has extensive experience in event coordination with two previous roles held with two local council organisations within NZ.

3. Describe the level of involvement your nominee has had with the IFEA during their career.

To date his involvement with IFEA has been very minimal due to a lack of knowledge about the organisation. However if successful I hope that with his extensive involvement with events and festivals within NZ and his relationships with key stakeholders, that it can demonstrate that someone from a small town can compete with others from larger organisations and destinations and demonstrate commitment and ability to performing at a high level.

4. What void would there be if he/she were not an event professional?

He has played a major role to drawing large scale events to Rotorua, without his experience, his input and the confidence he has been able to demonstrate to these organisations these bids I believe would not have been possible and successful.

Rotorua relies on exposure like most cities to draw in visitors and with minimal attraction and destination marketing budgets, the reliance on holding events that can create a positive exposure nationally and internationally is extremely important. His continuous hard work to sell and attract events to Rotorua has been invaluable and he continues to commit to not only attracting events to Rotorua but is also managing these events at the venue. He is multi skilled and shows commitment and drive and is a leader and mentor to many. He has created and continues to sustain some important relationships with key people in key roles within important organisations, his void would create a gap within these relationships and would take years to recreate the trust and confidence that he has built.

I do not know anyone more deserving of this award than Crispian Stewart.

Please see the following links and articles that I hope can assist with your decision with this nomination which outlines his experience and involvement

<http://nz.linkedin.com/pub/crispian-stewart/4/29b/a98>

<http://www.rotorudailypost.co.nz/news/citys-cup-teamwork-honoured/1183479/>

<http://www.rotorudailypost.co.nz/news/planners-come-together/1634870/>

<http://www.rotorudailypost.co.nz/news/world-cup-coming-to-rotorua/953696/>

<http://www.rotorudailypost.co.nz/news/raggamuffin-big-numbers-for-the-big-day/1043026/>