

# A DAY AT THE BEACH

01-24 september  
WEST COAST ADVENTURE FESTIVAL  
2009

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## Local Lads Walking the West Coast - 350 km this September

August 20, 2009

### For Immediate Release

West Coast locals Louis Brown and Guy Ryan and a small group of people will set off on a 350km trek from Karamea to Franz Josef on September 1, 2009. They will be joined by others for sections of the journey, which will include 16 community events staged over the 24 days and nights making up 'A Day at the Beach'. These events will include beach clean-ups, tree plantings, public lectures, live music and short films in West Coast communities along the trek route.

The 'A Day at the Beach' festival will run from September 1 to 24, along the West Coast, celebrating the environment and encouraging positive action to combat climate change.

Festival co-director, Louis Brown said participants in the festival will plant at least 4000 native trees, and remove at least 10 tonnes of waste from the coastline. The length of the walk is also significant.

"The 350km represent the 350 parts of atmospheric carbon per million that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for humans," he says.

It's a journey Mr Brown has taken before. In 2006 he walked solo from Farewell Spit to Tauranga Bay, near Westport.

Mr Brown hopes that this year's event will result in positive change, including "thousands of seedlings thriving for years to come, the beach being cleaner and people having positive experiences of the outdoors. We will have a regenerated and regenerating coast that local communities are taking ownership over".

The event has sponsorship from Development West Coast, Keep New Zealand Beautiful, and the local branches of Department of Conservation and Westpac. It is strongly supported by many West Coast schools, communities and organisations.

For more information, please contact:

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