



Re: Blossom Festival Grand Parade Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024

It's that time of year again. As we all start to hunker down for winter, some of us are thinking of spring.

This year we celebrate our 67<sup>th</sup> Festival.

Please find enclosed information regarding entry to this year's Blossom Festival Grand Parade.

Please note that we have altered the entry conditions regarding floral floats, now allowing smaller entries to be considered and able to be in the pool for the prize monies. Also, the amount we will reimburse your group for the costs of building a float has increased to \$500. Furthermore, we are offering, as an incentive to float builders a donation of \$750 to your organisation or group.

I have attached entry forms and information regarding both floats, parade vehicles and the princess competition; please disregard any of the attached if it is not relevant to you or your organisation.

Should your group or organisation require assistance with finding space to build your float or need help with finding a trailer please give us a call. We have many resources available to assist you in participating in the parade.

If this information is no longer relevant, get in touch and I will remove your contact details from my mailing list. If you are no longer the contact person for the organisation, please forward this to the appropriate person.

If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to get in touch.

Until September then. I am looking forward to hearing from you and seeing the response and effort you all put into making Blossom Festival a real success.

Best wishes

*Martin*

Martin McPherson  
Event Manager  
021 879 849  
info@blossom.co.nz



## Categories and Information 2024 Procession Participants

### FLOAT CATEGORIES

**Floral Float:**

A float that features paper flowers, is 3m or larger and may carry a Princess.

**Educational Floats:**

A category to feature the efforts by local schools, kindergartens and early childhood centres, and other providers of education and out of school care. This may include children walking in costume. Floats will be judged on the day.

**Contemporary Floats:**

The category that encourages creativity and design. Floats in this category do not need to be made in the traditional manner and may carry a Princess.

**Small Floral Float:**

A small float featuring flowers and built on a single axel domestic trailer.

**Vehicles and other entries:**

This category covers sports clubs, vehicles, and parade entries other than floats. Please note: No commercial vehicles are allowed in the procession unless used as a towing vehicle.

**\$750 Donation** to your club, school, or kindergarten as a fundraising incentive to participate in this years festival. Private business and others we will donate \$750 to a charity of your choice, (T and C apply)

### PRIZES

<b>People’s Choice:</b> Open to all floral, educational, and contemporary float entries: Judged by a public vote on the day.	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Best Floral Float:</b> Chosen by judging panel on the day.	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>Best Contemporary Float:</b> Chosen by judging panel on the day.	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Most Innovative / Creative Float:</b> Chosen by judging panel on the day.	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Best Educational Float:</b> Chosen by a judging panel on the day.	<b>\$1500</b>
Runner up	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>Best Small Float:</b> Chosen by a judging panel on the day.	<b>\$500</b>

## **Helpful Information for Float Builders**

- All floats are eligible up to \$500 GST incl. reimbursement for costs of materials. Please find application form attached.
- Each float entry will receive a maximum of 10 complimentary entry tickets to Saturday in the Park.
- A float can be entered by a school, childcare centres and kindergartens, community groups, business house, sports club or by individuals.
- Crepe paper is sponsored by Alexandra New World. Phone 448 6955 ext. 821 to place your order. Or pop into New world and talk to the staff at the counter.
- The Festival has a paper flower cutting press; please contact Central Martin McPherson 021 879 849 to book access to this handy tool.
- If you require help in finding a suitable place to build your float, please contact Festival Management
- “Men’s Sheds” (a group of experienced handymen) have volunteered to help community organisations build their floats. “Men’s Sheds” have a variety of experience in the engineering and building trades and will help out with the construction of floats. Please contact Brian Taylor 021 031 4576 or email waring@slingshot.co.nz for further information.
- **The Blossom Festival Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to the parade of any float the does not meet our standards, is deemed by the committee to be offensive or to fails to reflect the purpose and values of the Festival.**

## **Waste Minimisation**

This community is committed to waste minimisation and is working hard to divert material from the landfill and the better use of available resources.

### **When designing your float, please consider the following:**

Reduce – Reuse - Recycle

- Reduce – Can your float be built with less stuff? The ‘less is more’ principle.
- Reuse – Can your materials be stored and used again next year? Can you use pre-loved materials; there are many interesting items available at WasteBusters.
- Recycle – Can you break down your float into its various components ready for recycling? So long as they are separated, recyclers will take metal, cardboard, paper and plastic.

### **Float builders are responsible for the cost of all rubbish taken to the Transfer Station**

Rethinking the design of your float, reusing last years materials, and constructing your float in a way that can easily be undone and recycled, will help you save money and use resources more wisely.

Help support this community’s goal of minimising waste and reducing negative impacts to the environment.



## Parade Entry 2024

Please register your Float or Parade Entry to be included in the Contact Grand Procession, Festival programme and website. Complete the details below and send to:

**Alexandra Blossom Festival Parade Registration, 14-20 Centennial Avenue, Alexandra 9320**

**E-mail: [info@blossom.co.nz](mailto:info@blossom.co.nz)**

**Please return form by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Organisation:	
Postal Address:	
Contact Person:	
Email:	
Phone:	Cell phone:
Category entered (please tick):  <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Float <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Float <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Float <input type="checkbox"/> Small Floral Float <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles and other Entries e.g. Walking Groups	
Princess Name (if known):	
Title of Float / Entry:	
Description of Float / Entry:	
<p>On behalf of the above-mentioned Organisation, the undersigned hereby agrees to comply with the rules and regulations of the Alexandra Blossom Festival Committee, and to abide by all laws which may be applicable. Participants shall not hold the Alexandra Blossom Festival Committee or any of its members responsible for damage or injuries to any member of the group as a result of participation in the parade.</p>	
Signed by Organisation Representative: _____	
Date: _____	



## **Blossom Festival Princess and Prince 2024**

### **Important information for Float Conveners**

When you choose a Princess for your float, please pass on the following details to them

**Entrants must be 16 to 25 years as of 1st September, the year of the festival**

We realise it's not easy to find young people willing to go on floats, but it's been found over the years, those aged 16 years and over have greater maturity and are able to present themselves and your float to the best advantage. If you are unable to find a contestant, contact the Princess Convener (Dianne Eliot 448 6614) who may be able to assist.

Your Princess should be proud to represent your organisation and Alexandra and must be aware of their commitments in the weeks leading up to the Blossom Festival, and what is required should they become the Festival Queen.

There are certain compulsory duties required of each contestant the weeks prior to Blossom Festival, such as the photograph session; official judging and lunch; Senior Queen Competition and the official opening function. These are all occasions when the judges will be observing the contestants as part of the judging process. The procession and Official Ceremony on the Saturday afternoon are the highlight of the weekend.

There are other occasions, which (whilst not compulsory), are beneficial and an important part of Blossom Festival, such as their appearance at the Mardi gras, and the Round the Clock Event on Friday night. There may be other events that the contestants will be notified about.

The three successful contestants have duties which they are required to perform and events which they must attend during the week following their crowning. These include appearance at the Musical Society's production, and attending the Garden Tour (Sunday)

At each function, the Queen and the two runners up finalists will be accompanied by either the Chairperson of the Blossom Festival Committee, or the Princess/Prince Convener. On all occasions, sashes must be worn. For some of the events, smart casual attire such as jeans is allowed. On others, more appropriate clothing is required. If in doubt, ask the Princess/Prince Convener. Please ensure that your contestant is available the week 20<sup>th</sup> September through to Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

The contestants will be judged by a panel of judges; Float conveners are reminded that once the floats are in the park, Princesses and Princes are required to remain on the floats until the voting closes at 3.00 pm. Please ensure that someone from your organisation is responsible for ensuring your contestant has coats or wraps if the weather is cooler, as well as bottles of water.

The Committee wishes your organisation and your contestant, good luck for this year's Blossom Festival.

Best wishes  
Martin McPherson  
Event Manager  
021879849

Need Help finding a Princess or Prince:  
Dianne Elliot  
Princess/Prince Convener  
021 946 522



## Registration Form

Please note that your Princess / Prince is to be aged between 16-25 years.

Name:

Age:

Date of Birth:

Occupation:

Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Hobbies:

Favourite things about Alexandra:

Name of the Float:

Float Convenor:

Contact Details:

Sponsors:

**Please return forms by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Alexandra Blossom Festival

14-20 Centennial Avenue, Alexandra 9320 E. [info@blossom.co.nz](mailto:info@blossom.co.nz)

## BLOSSOM FESTIVAL PRINCESS/PRINCES' DUTIES - 2024

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September:

11.00 am Official Photo Session, Lanes Dam, top of Aronui Road. (Let Donald know how many contestants - 448 9448)

### Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September:

1.00 pm Judging. Living Options Centre, Ngapara Street (heading towards the Cemetery, complex on right). This is the formal part of the judging, and encompasses your personality as well as your appearance, so a tidy appearance is recommended. (Depending on number of contestants, this may be earlier and involve a light lunch. You will be notified if this is the case).

### Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September:

2.00 pm Senior Blossom Queen Contest, Alexandra District Club (contestants to find their own way there and meet Dianne outside at 1.45 pm). MC will introduce them and the floats they represent. Reasonable standard of clothing required.

### Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September:

6.45 pm Blossom Festival Art Exhibition, Central Stories, Centennial Avenue. Contestants to find their own way there - meet with Dianne outside at 6.30pm. Mingle with guests. MC may mention you by name – no speaking parts! Reasonable standard of clothing required.

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September

2.15 pm Visit to rest homes to talk to residents. Meet outside to go in as a group. **MASKS WILL BE SUPPLIED IF REQUIRED.**

2.30 pm Castlewood, Tarbert Street (Virginia)

3.00 pm Ranui, Chapple Street. (Leigh McLeod)

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September:

3.00pm High tea at Living Options (time and details to be confirmed) - new event for 2024?

6.00 pm Attend the Mardi Gras at River Street, beside the old swimming pool reserve area in Thompson Street Report to the stage where you will be introduced to the public. This is strictly informal – dress warmly and sensibly and just wear your sashes.

### Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September:

12.00 pm Procession. Assemble at Floats in Killarney Street, at 10.30 am (or when your float convener says to be there) ready for 12 noon start. You are required to stay on your float until **2.30 pm** unless the weather turns bad then I'll decide for you to get off early. Once off the floats, make your way to Central Stories for afternoon tea, or have a look around the floats, being back at the main stage at **3.15pm** ready for the crowning ceremony at **3.30 pm**.

## DUTIES FOR THREE WINNERS

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September:

7.30 pm Attendance at the Musical Society's production of "???" for the three winners. Meet Dianne outside Theatre by 7.15 pm **at the latest**. (Three tickets plus chaperone).

### Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> September:

1.00 pm Garden Tour. Meet outside Central Stories at 12.45pm Depending on the number of gardens, finish 4 – 4.30 pm.

Note – parents or supporters are most welcome to come as support if you wish, but they would need to purchase garden tour tickets and travel in their own cars.

**On all occasions, sashes must be worn. For some of the events, casual attire such as jeans, are allowed. On others, more appropriate clothing is required. If in doubt, ask the Princess Convener.**



## Float Reimbursement Claim

Please list items purchased and attach copies of receipts.

- Please note float costs can be reclaimed from the festival to a maximum of \$500 GST inclusive.
- Please ensure the claim form is completed & returned (including receipts) as soon as possible after the float has been completed. **If we have not received your claim form by Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of October it will not be accepted.**
- Payment will be made by Direct Credit to your nominated bank account.

### Description of Goods or Services

Cost

Description of Goods or Services	Cost

Total Claim \$

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organisation making claim: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Account Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach copy of all claimed receipts and return on or before **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024** for reimbursement to:

**Float Reimbursements**

**Alexandra Blossom Festival**

**14-20 Centennial Avenue**

**Alexandra 9320**