

Media Release: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November



**Community event attracts record numbers for 4<sup>th</sup> annual Childrens Halloween Party at Shantytown.**

A record number of ghost and goblins attended Shantytown Heritage Park's 4th annual Junior Monster Halloween Party on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October this year.

Acting Shantytown Marketing Manager, Michelle Fox-Bishop, said they were well prepared for the numbers attending by ensuring there were more than enough childrens' goody bags, just in case.

"This year's event really exceeded expectations with the number of people that attended. We saw a total of 1336 people through the door and gave out 750 kids' goody bags. It was fun to see the effort involved with all the kids and adults really going to town with their costumes. It made judging the Best Costume quite difficult!"

Once again Shantytown had the full support and endorsement of NZ Bluelight Greymouth and NZ Police Greymouth – all 17 of whom were volunteers taking part in their own time outside of working hours.



“Greymouth’s Bluelight and the Greymouth Police have been our major supporter from day one, coming on board not only with volunteer help on the night for every event we have held but also with funding to ensure we have enough for all the little ones. We simply could not offer the type of evening we do without their assistance and manpower,” said Ms Fox-Bishop.



“This year we were lucky enough to welcome The Warehouse Greymouth as a co-sponsor. Vicki and her team indicated after last year’s event that they would love to become involved,” said Ms Fox-Bishop. “They really ‘came to the party’, providing many of the spot prizes among other essential items and endorsing our event instore right next to their Halloween stock, as well as sending half a dozen volunteer staff to help us on the night.”



Created in 2012 as a way of providing a safe and Halloween friendly environment for children, Shantytown’s Halloween Party has become quite the annual fixture with people coming from as far away as Reefton, an hour’s drive north of Greymouth.

Children under 12 pay only \$2 to enter and receive a sponsored goody bag with vouchers for a game, free drink and Dinner Box as well as a toy, lollies and other goodies. On site entertainment includes a Monsters Disco, bouncy castle & Flying Fox, Scary Sweets stand, Junior and Little Monsters games as well as Best Costumes.



Ms Fox-Bishop said this year’s event was very well supported by local businesses.

“Each year we have gone out to the local business community to ask for donations or in-kind product. Whether it’s been left over paint, a good price on fizzy drinks and lollies, spot prizes, food items or vouchers we have been truly amazed and grateful towards these businesses who continue to make a decision to support this community event. Plus we are pretty sure we saw many of them with their own kids or grandkids here on the night!



Shantytown CEO Andrea Forrest remarked that yet again Shantytown’s luck held with weather that night. “Fingers crossed, we have never had to revert to the back-up Plan B of pop up tents and marquees and the weather that evening turned out to be just as forecast.”

"We've since had a good de-brief with both the Police and car parking team, which has given us great feedback and even more ideas to make sure everything runs even smoother for next year's event" said Ms Forrest.

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