

Charity rewarding part of Johnson's gig

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Laid-back Hawaiian singer Jack Johnson is every reporter's dream.

Many celebrities treat interviews as an occupational nuisance; not so the modern day crooner.

Johnson was happy to talk about his impending concert at the TSB Bowl of Brooklands on November 28.

Then, for good measure, he rang back after the interview had finished to make sure the Taranaki Daily News had enough details about the local charities set to benefit from the concert.

"I forgot to tell you," he said from his home on Oahu, "we are donating some of the proceeds for the New Plymouth concert to your local non-profits". "I'm sorry I can't tell you which ones because I don't even know yet."



Slick stuff: Jack Johnson knows how to make a reporter happy.

But he wants non-profit Taranaki organisations to be involved in the concert and benefit as well.

"It's a new thing we are doing. "It's wonderful to be able to give back to the places we are playing at.

"It costs a lot environmentally to put on a tour and this way we are helping repair some of the damage."

In 2008, using 100 per cent of his tour profits, he established the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation, an endowment to support environmental, art and music education now and into the future.

"It's pretty rewarding and it's a lot of fun to raise money for those things and actually start to see all the different things that we are able to give back to is pretty exciting."

Johnson's 2010 tour will reach out to groups who are concerned about water quality, community and school gardens, land preservation, environmental education and more.

He will perform a variety of songs from albums Brushfire Fairytales, On and On, In Between Dreams, Sleep Through The Static and his latest offering To the Sea on November 28. The 2008 concert at the bowl is remembered by Johnson for the part played by some of the crowd who partied in the pond in front of the stage.

He agreed his 2008 concert at the Bowl was "pretty eventful".

"Everyone climbing into the duck pond, it was pretty good fun," he said.

"One of our really good friends is the promoter in New Zealand and Australia and it was funny to see him get on the microphone and tell people to get out of the duck pond."

Despite the havoc of the impromptu swim, Johnson said the lake platform would not be used during his November concert.

Johnson is also looking forward to returning to Taranaki to catch some waves as well.

"We try to get in the water as much as we can and it's one of the perks in that area.

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