

Homegrown Blend of good Coromandel food and Kiwi music.

The first ever 'Homegrown Festival' kicks off in a months time and two of New Zealand's finest acts will be on the Coromandel joining in the celebrations.

PLUTO, who last year won Best Single at the NZ Music Awards, will be back on the Coromandel with one of their electric live performances, supported by ANIKA MOA at one of New Zealand's iconic music venues, the Coroglen Tavern on Saturday 25 May.

The night is part of a month long celebration through May showcasing Coromandel food and Kiwi music.

The Coromandel's finest venues and restaurants like Salt in Whitianga and the Peppertree in Coromandel town will all have special HOMETGROWN dishes on the menu through May. There are a range of food events including what promises to be a very special night at the Peppertree on Sat 19 May when award winning Coromandel chefs will collaborate on a five course menu with matching local wines.

Tourism Coromandel CEO Jim Archibald is delighted with how the festival is coming together "It is a unique concept for a festival in that it runs over a whole calendar month, and blends together a variety of elements but essentially all centred around our ever popular homegrown cuisine. The brand and programme also tie nicely with the wider promotion surrounding New Zealand music month."

NZ Music Month organizers are delighted that a small region like the Coromandel has the initiative to jump on board NZ Music Month celebrations in such a strong way.

"It's fantastic to see a region like the Coromandel joining in the nationwide celebration that is NZ Music Month" says Cath Andersen, General Manager of the NZ Music Commission. "We wish the Homegrown festival all the best, look forward to it becoming a fixture on the NZ Music calendar each May, and can't wait to check it out for ourselves."

Other events include organic food tours, the Great Coromandel Arts Tour, a new Coroglen Farmers Market, and the launch of a new food and wine trail. A full calendar of events can be viewed from 11 April on www.homegrownfestival.co.nz Tickets for Pluto and Anika Moa also go on sale 11 April.

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