

IN ESSENCE

ROTORUA NEWS ~ SUMMER 2014

*Te Puia | NZMACI
celebrate*

50 YEARS

*RotoruaNZ.com 2.0
website launched*

*New glow worm
& hot pools tour*

And more...

RotoruaNZ.com

Look After Me New Partnership

New partnership celebrates cycling and hospitality

Homestay network Look After Me will also now be looking after cyclists travelling along Rotorua's Cycle Trail, Te Ara Ahi - Thermal by Bike, having proudly become the trail's official accommodation partner in August.

The network has around 30 quality hand-picked homestays in Rotorua and around 180 nation-wide, making it the largest homestay network in the country.

Founder Dr Julia Charity says many of Rotorua's hosts are within 4km of the start of the trail, and are passionate about cycling and genuinely interested in people, making it a fantastic partnership.

With the cycle trail now officially open, cyclists typically ride the 74km trail over two days, through a thermal wonderland of steaming vents, bubbling mud pools and spectacular geysers. At the end of the first day, cyclists can be welcomed and hosted in accommodation near the half-way point in Waikite Valley.

One such accommodation provider in the valley is Sandara Gardens, with hosts Marian and John Sandrey offering guests sanctuary in their four acre park-like grounds. The three-bedroom, one-bathroom accommodation starts from \$75 for a single guest, including breakfast and other meals by arrangement.

Guests can also soothe their aching muscles in the nearby Waikite Valley Hot Pools and indulge in quality, locally-produced meals and wine.

The Te Ara Ahi, Look After Me partnership is being run as a pilot programme over the summer season and if successful, the concept will be rolled out throughout the country, with Look After Me becoming a national partner to all 16 New Zealand Cycle Trails.

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Rotorua Top 10 Holiday Park New Development

Hitting the jackpot

The Rotorua Top 10 Holiday Park has a new hot mineral pool complex, after springs were discovered in the park's grounds.

Owner Dave Adams began drilling at the Pukuatua site in 2010 in the hopes of discovering a hot spring stemming from the nearby Kuirau Park.

On the third attempt they found what they were looking for and after a bit of brainstorming, decision making and planning, work began in late 2011.

The complex now has two stunning steaming mineral pools, fitting up to 25 people in the larger of the two that bubble away at 38°C to 40°C.

There is also a built-in flowing stream from one pool to the other and a boardwalk that snakes its way around the complex, the whole of which comes alive under beautifully illuminated lights at night, and is surrounded by over 250 native plants.

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