

# GuySers Gazette

Mt Tarawera crater walk

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A filmography of Manu Bennett

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The history of artist Theo Schoon

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How to make a 'cheats hangi'

## Rotorua for mates and lovers



Rotorua, New Zealand

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## Welcome

Welcome to the autumn 2016 edition of our very own quarterly e-magazine "Guysers Gazette".

We've got a bumper issue for you in this *Gazette* where we get to the bottom of what makes Rotorua a special place for mates and lovers. Whether you like to relax and take it easy, admire the beautiful scenery or go hard out with action and adventure activities, Rotorua has it all!

We try out Rotorua's newest eco-attraction – *The Redwoods Treewalk* which is a gentle 30 minute walk along 12 metre high suspension bridges through the Redwood Forest. We also hike to the summit of Mt Tarawera with *Kaitiaki Adventures* for a breathtaking view of this sleeping volcano and the 360° views of the Rotorua district.

We take some snaps of the colour and festivities at the Chinese New Year celebrations held on the 11th February in Rotorua city.

We have an article supplied by three really nice guys from Spain who stayed with us recently.

We put the spotlight on the very sexy Rotorua born actor Manu Bennett, famous for his raunchy, stripped-down role in the series *Spartacus*.

We look into the interesting past life of artist Theo Schoon and finish with a 'cheats hangi' recipe using a Slow Cooker. Enjoy!

**Peter & Mike**

Guysers Gaystay, Rotorua, New Zealand

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# The romance of Rotorua during autumn

The autumn season sees a change in the weather, with shorter days and cooler daytime temperatures. Before the winter blues set in, spend a few days with us at *Guysers Gaystay* and see for yourself what makes Rotorua such an exciting, fun and romantic destination.



*The colours of Autumn in Rotorua*

Rotorua is a great place to visit any time of the year, but its during autumn when the vibrancy of the city seems to come alive. The trees around the cities parks and gardens burst into colours of yellow, orange and red before the leaves slowly drop to the ground. Thermal mud pools, fumaroles and hot springs around the city fill the air with mystical wafts of steam and the darker evenings see the town lit up with twinkly coloured lights.

During the autumn months, Rotorua's Convention Centre (otherwise known as the *Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre*) sees many stage shows, concerts, musicals and ballets coming through and the cities conference centres are busy holding national and international conferences with all sorts of topics making it a very busy and lively city indeed.

*Guysers Gaystay B&B* (for men) in Rotorua city provides the perfect place to base yourselves for a few days while you explore the cities many attractions, thermal hot pools and parks or high-adventure activities. Or you can simply chill out and relax at *Guysers Gaystay* with a hot soak in our spa pool or curl up with a good book, watch a DVD or sit and chat with your hosts or other guests with a glass of wine.

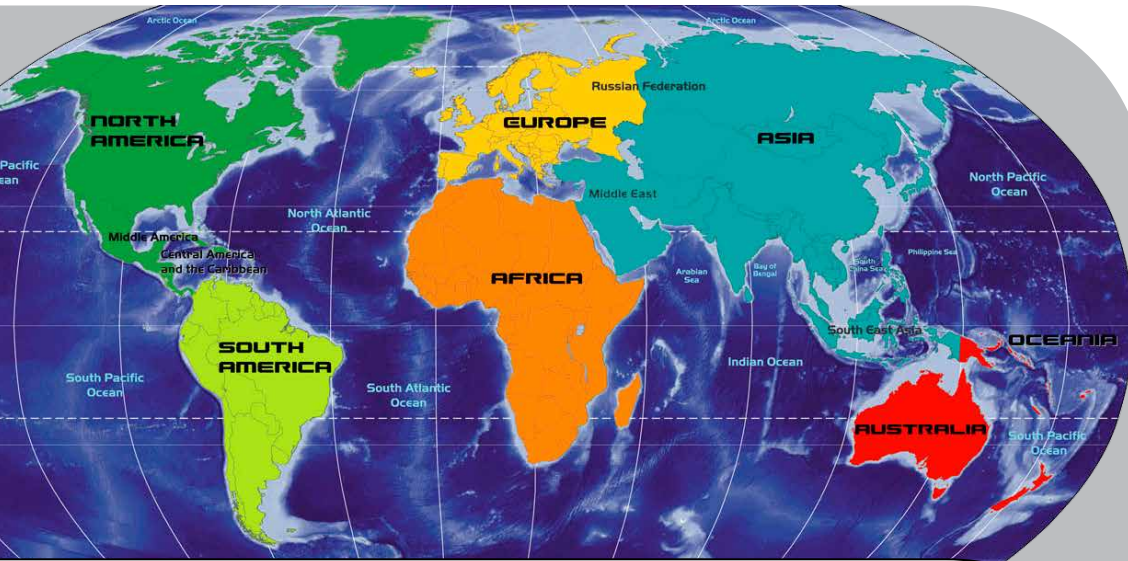
Our handy location is just minutes walk into the centre of town where you'll find a multitude of restaurants, cafés and bars.

Tourism to Rotorua has steadily been increasing since we opened *Guysers Gaystay* in October 2012. Come and see for yourself why Rotorua is one of the top destinations to visit in New Zealand!

**Continued over...**

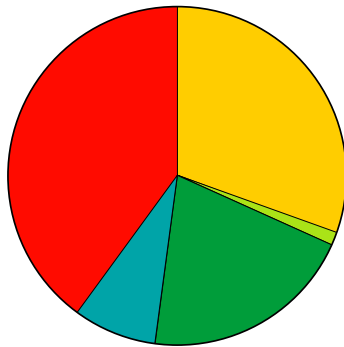
# Who's been staying at *Guyser Gaystay*?

The following stats have been gathered between Jan 2013 and Jan 2016



## Percentage of travellers visiting *Guyser's Gaystay* from each Continent

(Jan 2013–Jan 2016)



Europe	31%
South America	1%
North America	21%
Asia	8%
Oceania	40%
Africa	0%

## TOP 10 nationalities to visit *Guyser's Gaystay*



NZ 23.2%



USA 16.3%



Australia 16.1%



UK 10.7%



Germany 7.7%



Canada 3.6%



Netherlands 3.3%



France 2.3%



Singapore 1.5%



China 1.3%

## % Breakdown of countries that have visited *Guyser's Gaystay* (Jan 2013–Jan 2016)

EUROPE	% guests	STH AMERICA	% guests	ASIA	% guests
Austria	0.6%	Brazil	0.2%	China	1.3%
Belgium	0.6%	Chile	0.2%	Hong Kong	1.0%
Czech Republic	0.4%	St Maarten	0.2%	India	0.6%
Denmark	0.8%			Indonesia	0.2%
France	2.3%	<b>NTH AMERICA</b>	<b>% guests</b>	Israel	0.2%
Germany	7.7%	Canada	3.6%	Japan	0.6%
Italy	1.0%	Mexico	0.4%	Korea	0.2%
Ireland	0.2%	USA	16.3%	Malasia	0.2%
Netherlands	3.3%	Costa Rica	0.2%	Philippines	0.4%
Norway	0.4%			Russia	1.0%
Poland	0.4%	<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>% guests</b>	Singapore	1.5%
Spain	0.4%	Australia	16.1%	Taiwan	0.2%
Sweden	0.8%	New Caledonia	0.6%	Thailand	0.2%
Switzerland	1.0%	New Zealand	23.2%		
United Kingdom	10.7%			<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>0%</b>



“*Relaxing in the hot spa at Guysers Gaystay is total bliss! Swimwear is optional too!*”



## Rotorua for mates and lovers

Rotorua is a great destination to bring your mate or partner for a few days. Rotorua offers a multitude of activities that can be enjoyed in any season throughout the year. We've listed here just some of the fun, relaxing or romantic activities that best mates or lovers can enjoy together while spending time in Rotorua. Check out our handy 'romance ratings'.

If you'd like more info on any of these attractions email us at [enquiries@guysersgaystay.com](mailto:enquiries@guysersgaystay.com)



Take a stunning trip over to *Hot Water Beach* on the Tarawera Water Taxi. Along the way your driver/guide will share the dramatic history of Mount Tarawera and the once famous Pink and White Terraces. Once at *Hot Water Beach* there are bathing spots along the shore edge that is naturally heated by thermal springs. A short boat journey then takes you to a natural unspoilt hot pool in native bush where you can relax and enjoy the best that nature has to offer. The experience is a 1.5 hour return trip.

Romance rating ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

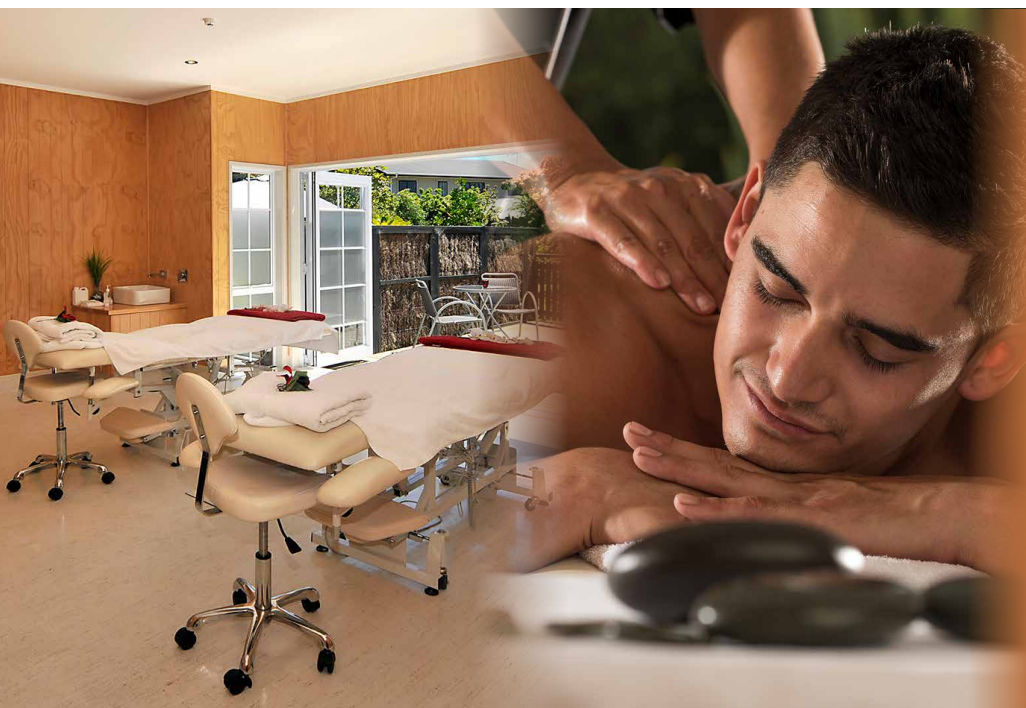
Enjoy a romantic evening dinner cruise onboard the *Lakeland Queen*. Departing daily at 6pm from the Rotorua Lakefront, this two-level paddle steamer will cruise around the lake taking in the views of Sulphur Bay, Mokoia Island, Kawaha Point and the living Māori village of Ohinemutu. Enjoy a lovely buffet dinner and a glass or two of wine with your partner while taking in the stunning views, natural wonders and landscapes that Rotorua is famous for. Lunch cruises are also available that depart at 1pm daily.

Romance rating ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥



Rotorua's **Agroventures** has the world's only 'Shweeb'. Climb inside the clear suspended pods and use pedal power to race with your partner at speeds of around 45 km/h around a 200m circular, undulating track (each race is three laps). Lean into the corners and pedal as fast as you can to beat your partners time. Not high on the romance scale, but extremely fun all the same!

Romance rating ♥♥♥♥♥



Rotorua is known as 'the Spa capital of New Zealand'. Especially designed for couples the **Wai Ora Day Spa** is equipped with a twin therapy room. Treat yourselves to a relaxing massage or try their exclusive geothermal mud body therapies, wraps or facials. After your treatment enjoy their outdoor mineral pool and hot sauna. (Note: female therapists only here).

Romance rating ♥♥♥♥♥

Rotorua is the home of **Zorb** and **OGO**. Otherwise known as 'globeriding', you and your mate can hop inside a large inflatable ball filled with warm water while you slosh, slide and laugh your way down a specially landscaped zig-zag downhill track. For even more of a rush, try their straight tracks while you are harnessed inside! You won't be able to get enough of our big balls!

Romance rating ♥♥♥♥♥



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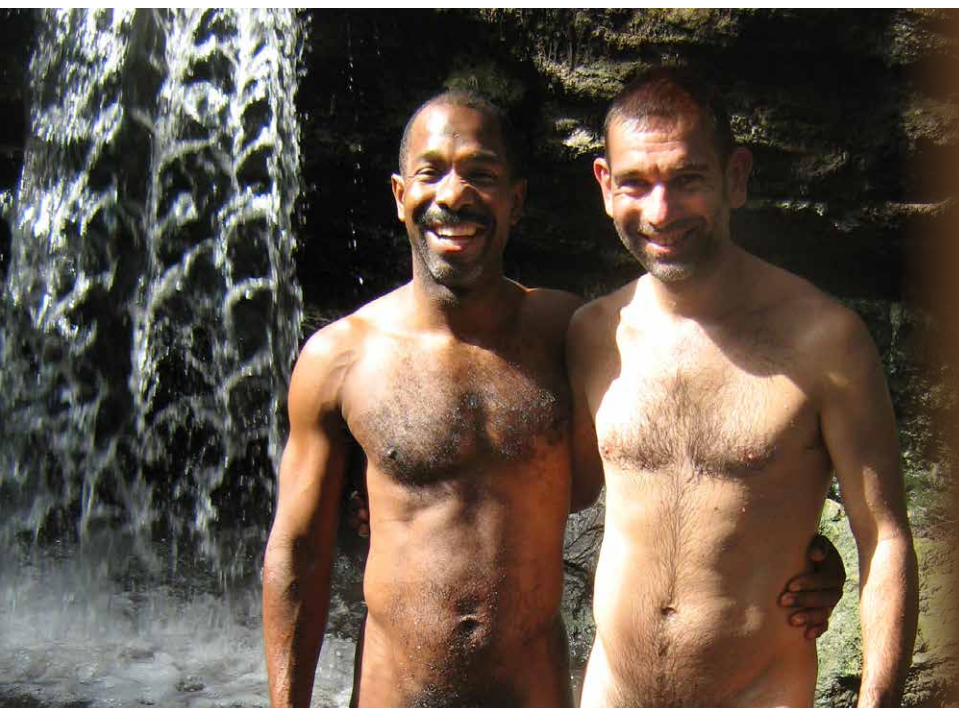
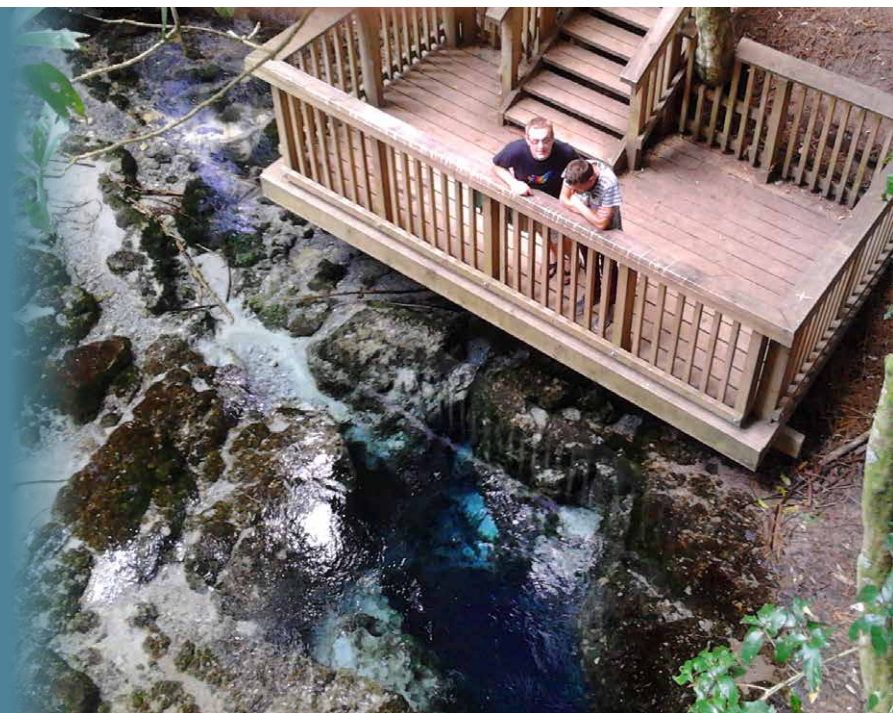


Take a kayak trip with *Waimarino* on Lake Rotoiti in their twin-seater kayaks – perfect for couples! Gently paddle across the lake past cliffs of Pohutakawa trees, cascading native bush and abundant bird life. Admire the many holiday homes around the coves before entering the glow-worm cave with your kayaks. Then cross the lake to the Manupirau thermal hot pools for a hot soak before paddling back. Round trip is around 3.5 hours.

Romance rating ♥♥♥♥♥

For a scenic free walk with your mate or partner head to the northern side of Lake Rotorua to *Hamurana Springs*. This beautiful 45-minute walk begins from the carpark area of the Hamurana Golf Course across the bridge over the crystal clear Hamurana stream, into a magnificent Californian Redwood Forest grove arriving at the stunning and wonderous Hamurana Spring. 4,500,000 litres of pure water emerges from this spring per hour! The best things in life are often for free!

Romance rating ♥♥♥♥♥



A personal favourite of ours is to head to the thermal streams and waterfalls around the Wai-O-Tapu area. There are three bathing spots; the most popular being *Kerosene Creek* or the *Hot & Cold Twin Streams* just around from the Wai-O-Tapu ticket office (next to the bridge). For the more naturist-inclined there is the *Waterfall Spout* (or what we like to call 'the secret, secret spot!'). Best to enjoy this thermal bathing spot the way nature intended!

Romance rating ♥♥♥♥♥





Experience the best of Rotorua's iconic landmarks onboard the Southern Hemisphere's only operational *de Havilland* floatplane with **Volcanic Air**. Enjoy the romance of the sky as you take off from Lake Rotorua, fly over Mokoia Island, then over Mt Tarawera and fly south to take in the views of the Waimangu Volcanic Valley before returning to land back on water at the Rotorua Lakefront. A memorable flight that will stay with you for a lifetime.

Romance rating ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

There are many free sights and walks around the Rotorua district. If you have a car, grab a map and some local knowledge and go and check out some of the unique and scenic locations. Pictured here is the **Wai-O-Tapu Mud Pool** – one of the largest mud pools in the district – and its free to visit! Feeling energetic? Why not take a walk up to the summit of **Rainbow Mountain** to take in the stunning 360° views around you.



Romance rating ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥



Don't forget: for all-male, gay owned and hosted accommodation during your stay in Rotorua, be sure to book with us at **Guysers Gaystay B&B**. We are right in the heart of Rotorua City, close to everything. We offer comfortable, stylish accommodation in a friendly, relaxed, homely atmosphere with all the amenities you'd expect in a quality motel.

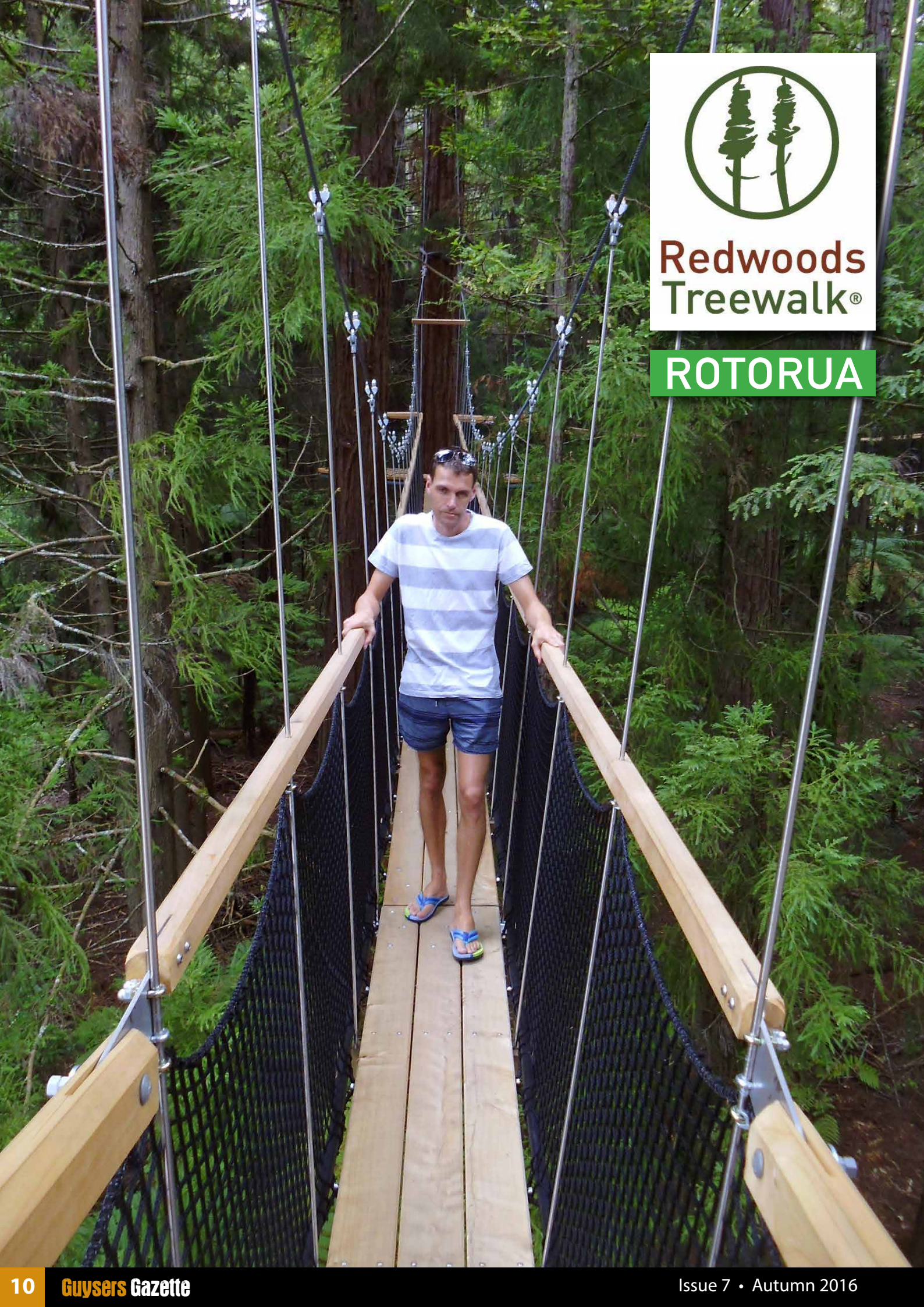
<https://guysersgaystay.com> ☀

Romance rating ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥



Redwoods  
Treewalk®

ROTORUA



# Redwoods Treewalk

## Rotorua's greenest attraction

When you come to Rotorua, be sure to experience the *Redwoods Treewalk*.

*Redwoods Treewalk* is Rotorua's newest eco-tourism attraction. Using ecologically-friendly engineering, the *Treewalk* is suspended from 100 year old majestic Californian Redwoods. Featuring a series of suspension bridges and living decks, elevated from 6 metres to 12-metres at its' highest point. Designed for use without harnesses or protective gear, it is suitable for all ages. The only pre-requisite is that all users must be able to walk the entire circuit.

The *Treewalk* is 553 meters long. There are 23 bridge sections connected to 22 living decks.

Visitors can walk at their own pace and take time to enjoy the unique views from the living decks. It takes up to 30 minutes to complete the walk.

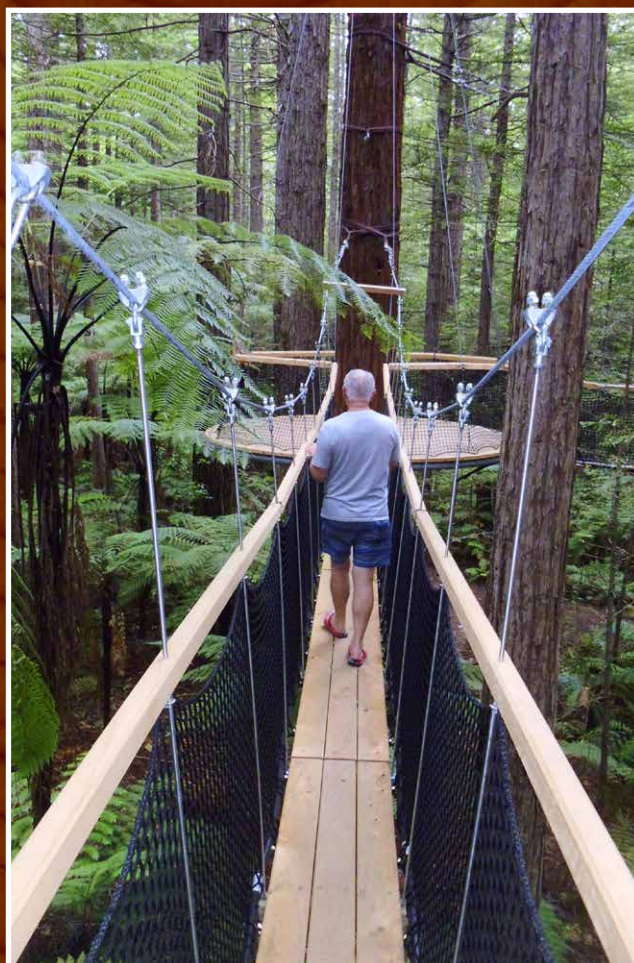
To be able to complete the *Treewalk* customers must have a reasonable level of fitness. All *Treewalkers* must be able to walk unaided. There is a maximum weight of 120kgs for any individual.

If it's raining, no problem! – in fact the forest ambience and colours are even more stunning in the wet, so this is a very good wet-weather activity. The *Treewalk* will not be open during high winds, thunder or lightning storms (for obvious reasons).

The Californian Redwood trees within the Whakarewarewa forest were planted in 1901. The tallest Redwood here is 72 metres high and 2 metres in diameter. Feel the spirit of the forest as you walk high amongst these gentle giants.

For more info, location and prices visit:

[www.treewalk.co.nz](http://www.treewalk.co.nz) 🌞





# Mt Tarawera Crater Walk



**Rotorua's iconic Mt Tarawera is infamous for its massive destructive eruption that occurred on June 10th, 1886. Today this sleeping giant can be experienced with a guided 4WD and hike to the summit with Rotorua's *Kaitiaki Adventures*.**

The experience begins with a 4WD bus trip from Rotorua City through native bush and up onto Mt Tarawera via an unsealed, private access road. Once you arrive at the drop-off point your guide from *Kaitiaki Adventures* will go over some safety issues and provide a traditional Māori welcome/blessing onto the mountain.

Your walk/hike then begins to the edge of the fissure rim where it becomes evident of the massive eruption that took place.

Shortly after midnight on the morning of 10 June 1886, a series of more than 30 increasingly

strong earthquakes were felt in the Rotorua area and an unusual sheet lightning display was observed from the direction of Mt Tarawera.

At around 2:00 am a larger earthquake was felt followed by the sound of an explosion. By 2:30 am Mt Tarawera's three peaks had erupted, blasting three distinct columns of smoke and ash thousands of metres into the sky. At around 3:30 am, the largest phase of the eruption commenced; vents at Rotomahana produced a pyroclastic surge that destroyed several villages within a 6 kilometre radius, and the Pink and White Terraces appeared to be obliterated.

The eruption was heard clearly as far away as Blenheim and the effects of the ash in the air were observed as far south as Christchurch, over 800km away. In Auckland the sound of the eruption and the flashing sky was thought by some to be an attack of New Zealand by warships.

Approximately 2 cubic kilometres of tephra was erupted, more than Mount St. Helens ejected in 1980! Many of the lakes surrounding the mountain had their shapes and areas dramatically altered, especially the eventual enlargement of Lake Rotomahana, the largest crater involved in the eruption, as it re-filled with water. The rift created during the eruption extends 17km across the mountain, Lake Rotomahana and through the Waimangu Volcanic Rift Valley.

This hike takes you to the highest summit point of Mt Tarawera, the *Ruawahia Dome*, which is 1111 meters above sea level. The 360° views of Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty are breathtaking.

Reaching the summit gives a real sense of achievement, but the fun begins on the decent as you do a 45° scoria scree-run into the depths of Mt Tarawera's crater heart. Once you get into a run there is no stopping yourself until you reach the bottom! Then there is another climb up a zig-zag path back to the awaiting bus.

If hiking, adventure, stunning scenery and volcanic wonders are your thing, be sure to experience Mt Tarawera with *Kaitiaki Adventures*. 🌞

*The rugged landscapes of Mt Tarawera's volcanic fissure.*



*The exciting scree-run into the depths of the crater.*



# Rotorua celebrates the Chinese New Year

On the 11th February Rotorua's community came out to celebrate the Chinese New Year 2016 - the year of the monkey.

Held at Rotorua's Thursday Night Market on Tutanekai Street, the Chinese New Year was celebrated with an abundance of Chinese culture, colour, traditional costumes, performances and a 30 meter Chinese Dragon.

Chinese dignitaries were there, along with Rotorua Mayor, Steve Chadwick, who gave speeches. The street market was decorated with red lanterns, there were stalls selling Chinese food, Lucky Bamboo Plants, henna art and calligraphy and people were handing out Fortune Cookies. There was a tea ceremony, Tai Chi displays, Chinese folk dances and the very significant red envelope gifting.

There is always something great happening in Rotorua! 🌟



*Chinese Lucky Bamboo Plants for sale.*



*Colourful costumes and the Chinese Dragon pass by in the street performances.*



Past event

ROTORUA MUSICAL THEATRE FUNDRAISER

# DRAG YOURSELF OUT

The encore



Kola Gin.



**“Drag Yourself Out - The Encore” was a spectacular drag show fundraiser for the Rotorua Musical Theatre which was held at the Casablanca Theatre over two nights in late February.**

This R18 drag show was the second time it has been brought to Rotorua.

Direct from Auckland were some of K’Road’s finest drag performers who delighted a packed theatre in Rotorua with their talent, charisma, costumes, and side-splitting wit!

From Auckland’s Caluzzi Cabaret was the fabulous *Kola Gin* and *Victoria Secretzz*. Encore Entertainment’s *Chanel D’Vinci* was there putting on a great performance, as was the glamorous diva, *Lady Nanu*. One of the Bay of Plenty’s absolute finest drag performers, *Chi Chi La’Qua*, was also wonderful.

The M.C. for the night was one of Auckland’s most famous and well-established drag performers – the hilariously funny *Miss Ribena*.

The 2-hour show had plenty of costume changes which were simply amazing, catchy disco numbers to sing along to and plenty of jokes and naughty x-rated humour which had the crowd in hysterics!

For the ladies in the audience there was a ‘big boobs’ and ‘best catwalk strut’ competition. All the ladies selected to come on stage received a bottle of wine and the winners received *Te Puia* tickets for two as well as a \$50 bar tab at Rotorua’s *Ponsonby Road Bar*.

The “*Drag Yourself Out*” show was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who managed to score tickets to this sold-out event. We hope the ‘cocks in frocks’ (as *Miss Ribena* calls them) come again soon! ✨



The M.C. for the evening,  
Miss Ribena.





A photo opportunity at Kakahi hot waterfalls, Hells Gate, Rotorua.

## La compañía de tres (Three's company)

Diego and Juan Jose (pictured above left) are from Spain but are now living in France. They travelled to New Zealand on holiday in February with their best friend Graham (standing right) who is English but is now living in Spain. They stayed with us at *Guysers Gaystay* for 3 nights. Here is their story of their visit to Rotorua in both English and Spanish...

### *Why did you choose New Zealand for your holiday?*

We really enjoy travelling and we go as often as we can, thanks to having a degree of flexibility at work to choose our travel dates. In Spain everyone knows that if you made a hole through the centre of the Earth in a straight line you would come out the other side in New Zealand, and that leads to a certain fascination for your country. On top of that, it's a place we've always wanted to discover.

*Nos gusta mucho viajar y lo hacemos siempre que podemos, aprovechando que en nuestro trabajo tenemos flexibilidad para elegir las fechas de las vacaciones. En España siempre se repite que si haces un agujero en línea recta hacia el centro de la Tierra y continúas llegas a Nueva Zelanda, por eso hay una cierta fascinación por vuestro país. Más allá de eso, era un país que siempre habíamos conocer.*

## **Was there something in particular that drew you to Rotorua?**

Rotorua is one of those places where anyone who's been to New Zealand will tell you is a must. When we started to look for information for our route through the North Island it was really clear that it was somewhere where we had to stay, on our way between the Coromandel peninsula and Wellington. Apart from that, we really like natural spas and Rotorua is one of the best places in the world to enjoy them!

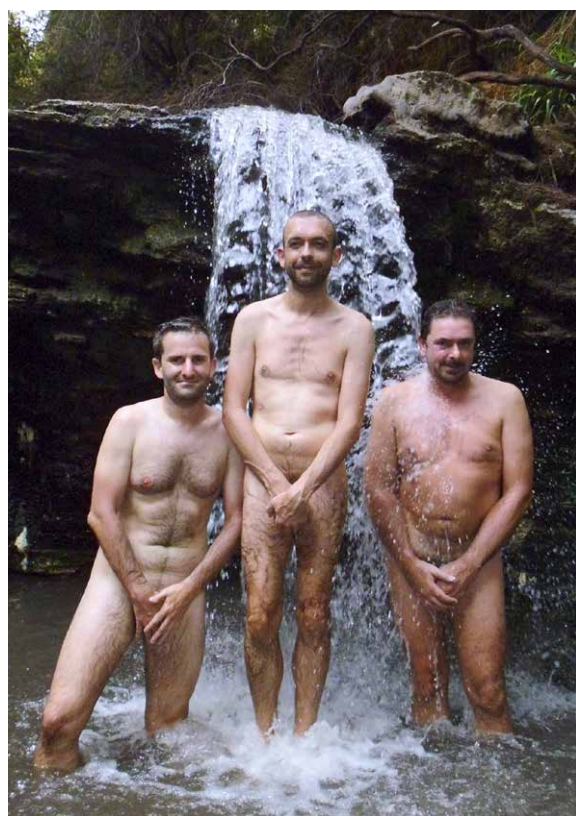
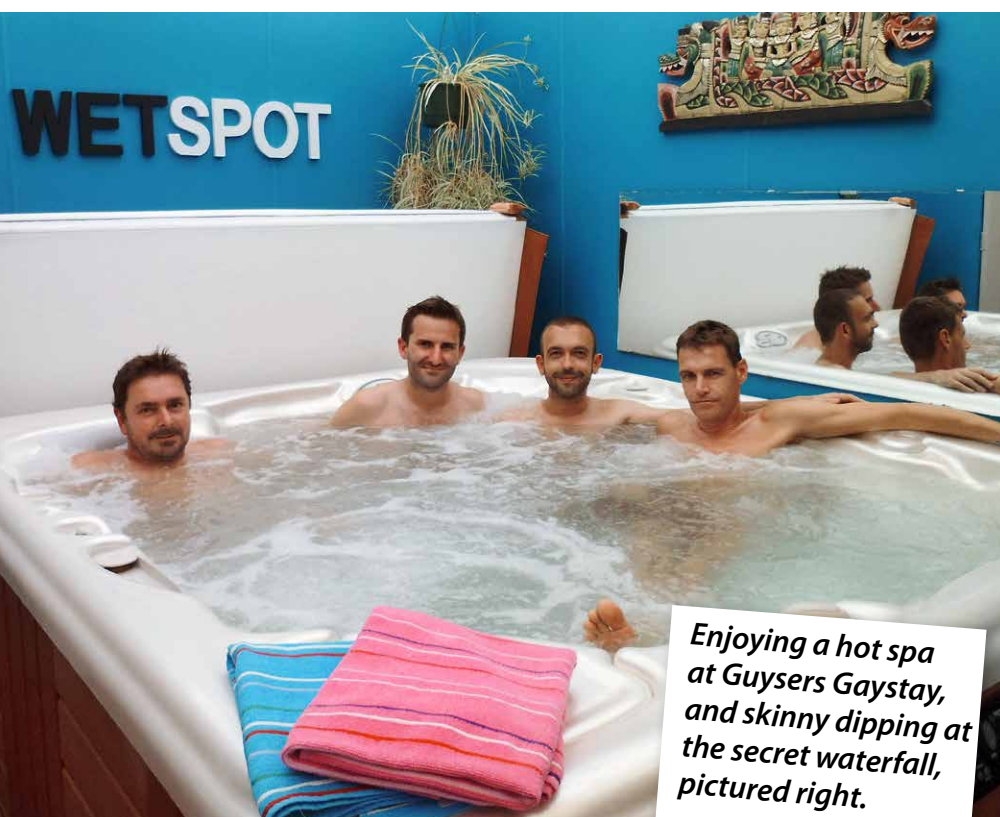
*Rotorua es uno de los sitios que cualquiera que haya estado en Nueva Zelanda te dice que tienes que visitar sí o sí. Cuando comenzamos a buscar información para nuestra ruta por la isla norte nos quedó todavía más claro que era un lugar imprescindible como etapa intermedia para unos días entre la península de Coromandel y Wellington. Además nos gustan mucho los spas naturales y Rotorua es uno de los mejores lugares del mundo para disfrutar de ello!*

## **Tell us a bit about your time spent staying in Guysers Gaystay**

When we started looking under 'Gay Rotorua' (on Google) we immediately came across **Guysers Gaystay** and it looked like the perfect place to stay during our few days in Rotorua. The fact that it was clothing optional and the many really good comments we read on the internet made us even more keen to stay. It was a perfect choice. Our hosts were there to help at any time. We had a great stay. After a few days of quite intense travelling, Rotorua was somewhere we could relax a bit, with visits out during the mornings and a part of our afternoons in the garden. Being able to relax in the spa of a B&B was an amazing experience.

*Buscando información sobre "Rotorua gay" llegamos enseguida a Guysers Gaystay y nos pareció un lugar perfecto para alojarnos durante nuestros días en Rotorua. Que fuera clothing optional y los comentarios tan buenos que leímos en internet nos animaron todavía más. Fue un acierto total, nuestros hosts nos ayudaron en todo momento y fue muy agradable. Después de unos días de ruta más intensa, Rotorua fue un lugar en el que pudimos relajarnos, con visitas por las mañanas y gran parte de las tardes disfrutando del jardín. Poder acabar el día en el spa del B&B fue estupendo.*

**Continued over...**



## Continued...

### *What were some of the attractions you did in Rotorua and what were the highlights?*

We had our first experience of Māori culture in Paihia, where we spent Waitangi Day a few days earlier, so we were more interested in exploring the volcanic attractions of the Rotorua area. We thoroughly enjoyed *Hell's Gate*, both for the tour itself as well as the spa. It was our first time bathing in mud! We also enjoyed visiting *Wai-O-Tapu*, a 'must see' if you're in Rotorua. Mike and Peter also took us from there out to the "secret spot" where you can bathe in a river of hot water! The evening meal at the *Skyline restaurant* (Stratosfare) at the top of the gondola we also really liked. At first we found it odd having dinner at 7 p.m., which is very early for a Spaniard, but we thoroughly enjoyed the food, and the views over the town and lake at sunset were stunning. Very worthwhile.

*Tuvimos ya un acercamiento a la cultura Maori durante la fiesta del Waitangi Day en Pahia, unos días antes de llegar a Rotorua, así que nos centramos en las atracciones volcánicas de la región. Nos encantó sobre todo el Hell's Gate, tanto la visita al parque como el spa. Fue además la primera vez que tuvimos baños de barro! También nos gustó mucho el parque Wai-O-Tapu, un lugar que hay que visitar sí o sí al ir a Rotorua, y que Mike y Peter nos guiaran para un baño en solitario en el 'lugar secreto' que conocen. La cena en el restaurante-mirador Skyline también nos encantó. Al principio nos resultaba extraño tener que cenar a las 7 p.m., que es muy pronto para un español, pero nos gustó mucho la comida y las vistas de la ciudad y el lago son impresionantes, merece la pena.*

### *Would you like to return to Rotorua someday?*

Of course we will! We really enjoyed our trip to New Zealand and it's one of those places we'll definitely come back to again. We only visited the North Island on this trip, so we'll have to come back again in order to see the South Island! We'll also come back to the North Island and will certainly stay in Rotorua at *Guysers Gaystay* again.

*Por supuesto que sí! Nos gustó muchísimo nuestro viaje a Nueva Zelanda y es uno de los lugares a los que queremos volver alguna vez. Además sólo estuvimos de ruta por la isla norte, así que nos queda la isla sur, estamos obligados a volver! Intentaremos también en ese viaje volver a la isla norte y a Rotorua y a Guysers Gaystay. ☀️*



*Sunshine and smiles at Guysers Gaystay.*





**BOYS  
WILL BE  
BOYS!**

*Enjoying the mud baths  
at Hells Gate, Rotorua.*



# Profile

## Manu Bennett

# From Rotorua to Hollywood

**Jonathan Manu Bennett was born in Rotorua, New Zealand, 10 October 1969.**

**Bennett's Scottish mother was an Australian bikini model and his Māori father was a New Zealand singer.**

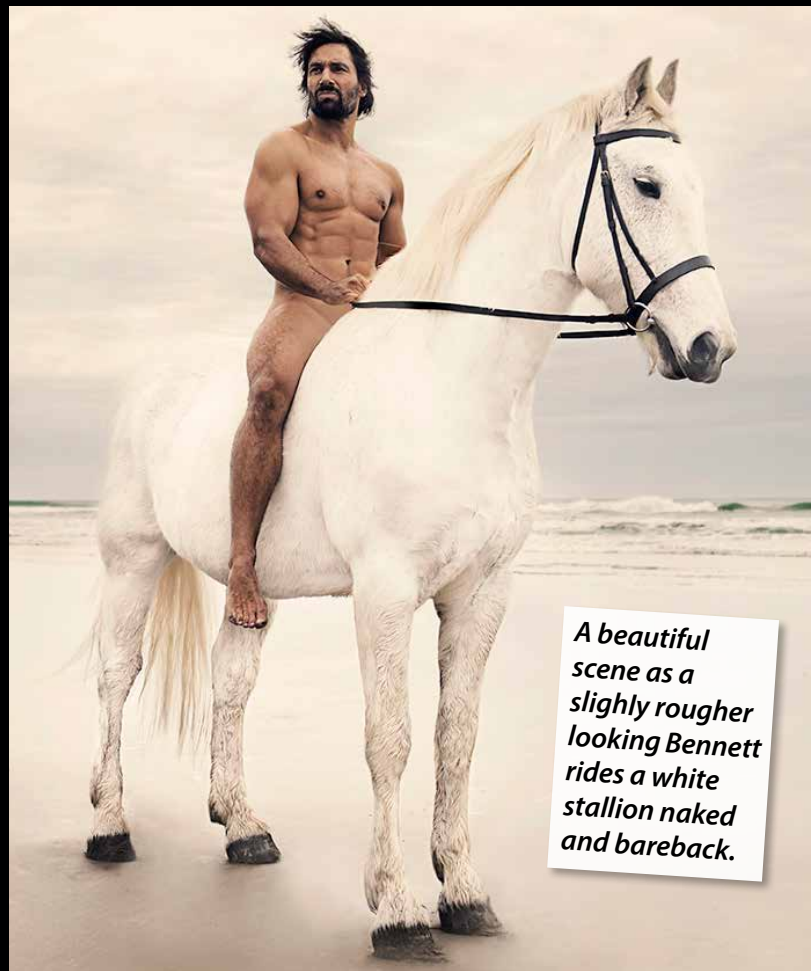
**He is best known for his portrayal as the Gallic gladiator Crixus in the Starz television series *Spartacus*. He has also appeared as the Orc commander Azog the Defiler in Peter Jackson's three-part film adaptation based on *The Hobbit*, as supervillain Slade Wilson/Deathstroke in the TV series *Arrow* and as Allanon in the MTV series *The Shannara Chronicles*.**

Bennett's professional acting career began in 1993 in the teen soap *Paradise Beach*. He then played guest roles in other Australian TV dramas, including *Water Rats*, *All Saints*, and *Beastmaster*.

In 1996, Bennett participated in live theatre. In an open-air production of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, based on D. H. Lawrence's novel, he played the title role, the gamekeeper Oliver Mellors, in which he met model/actor Darlene Rada Ford from Bondi Beach who encouraged him to pursue more serious acting roles abroad.

In 1999, Bennett landed his first leading role in a feature film named *Tomoko*, shot on location

Hunky Bennett playing Slade Wilson in the TV series 'Arrow'.



A beautiful scene as a slightly rougher looking Bennett rides a white stallion naked and bareback.

in Tokyo. In 2000, Bennett starred in *Xena: Warrior Princess* as Marc Antony.

Bennett returned to New Zealand in 2000 to appear in the popular television drama, *Shortland Street*, then went on to play a cop turned lawyer in *Street Legal* before working with his director cousin Michael Bennett on the Māori Twilight Zone-styled series *Mataku* before working with Richard Taylor from the Academy Award winning firm Weta Workshop on *Creature Quest*.

In 2003, Bennett hosted a New Zealand TV reality show called *Going Straight*.

In 2006, Bennett was cast in *The Marine* and *30 Days of Night*. In 2007 he was cast as one of ten convicts alongside Stone Cold Steve Austin and Vinnie Jones in *The Condemned*.

In 2010, Bennett co-starred in the US television series *Spartacus: Blood and Sand*, about the defiant gladiator Spartacus. Bennett played the key role of Crixus, Champion of Capua. He was the only cast member of the show who starred

on all three seasons, and the prequel *Spartacus: Gods of the Arena* as well as starring in the most episodes of this series. It was his role in these series that attracted undivided attention as several scenes contained full-frontal nudity and sex.

In 2012, he played the villain Azog the Defiler in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. In November 2012, Bennett was cast in the first season of *Arrow* as Slade Wilson, and in March 2013, he was promoted to series regular for the second season.

In December 2014, Bennett was cast as the druid Allanon in MTV's television series *The Shannara Chronicles*.

Although Manu Bennett has the entire world drooling over him (both gay and straight!), he is married to Israeli, Karin Horen, and they have three daughters. (Sorry guys!). 🌞



Azog the Defiler

Bennett playing the role of Crixus in the series *Spartacus*. His hot nude scenes sent Social Media into overload!



# History

# The flamboyant life



*Theo Schoon retained a life-long interest in Bali, which he visited on a number of occasions in later life. He himself was skilled in Javanese dancing and had learnt the subtle and rhythmic hand and finger dance movements as a young boy. These he could still demonstrate when a man in his fifties. He was photographed in 1943 in Wellington by Spencer Digby as a Javanese dancer dressed in a turban and skirt.*



# of artist Theo Schoon

**Theo Schoon was a knowledgeable, committed and technically skilled artist and photographer who spent several years living in Rotorua while studying and photographing mud pools and silica formations and learning the skills of various forms of Māori art and design.**

Theo Schoon was born at Kebumen, Java in the East Indies, the son of Dutch parents, Johannes Theodorus Schoon and his wife Barbara Isabella Maria Steegemans. Theo lived in Java with his parents and brother before being sent to the Netherlands for his education. He attended the Rotterdam Academy of Fine Arts and also travelled widely in Europe. In 1936 he returned to Java and set



*Portrait of a young charismatic Theo Schoon.*



*Theo Schoon in Indonesian Dress, 1978.*

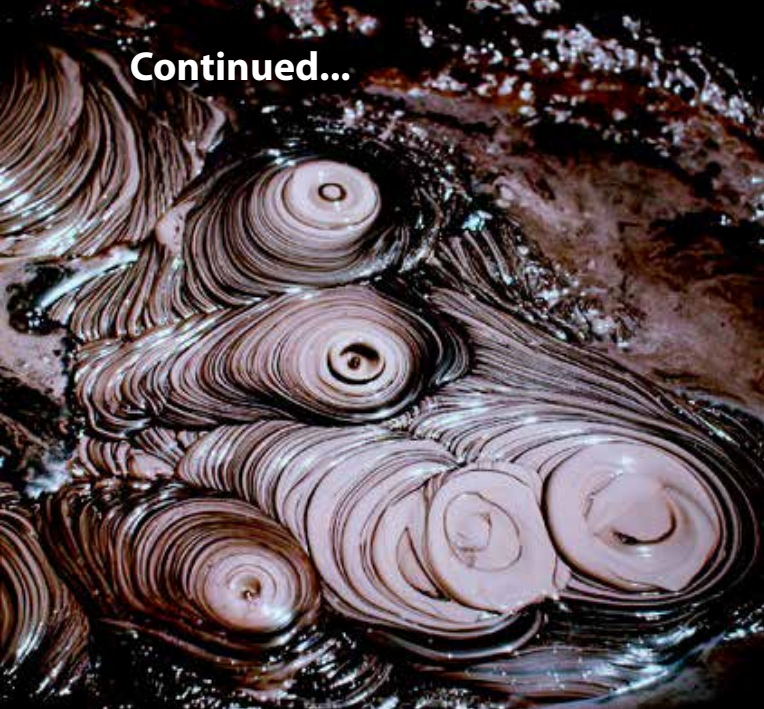
up an art studio. In 1939, with the war looming, he and his parents emigrated to New Zealand.

While his art school training was conservative, Schoon knew about the Bauhaus, a German art and design school that revolutionised twentieth-century art. The Bauhaus taught that divisions between art and craft were illusory, and both were equally valid artistic expressions. This idea influenced Schoon for his whole artistic life and gave him the freedom to experiment in many media including drawing, printmaking, painting, wood carving, potting, stone carving, jewellery-making and photography.

While Schoon was mostly unimpressed with the local art scene in New Zealand he did

**Continued over...**

Continued...



*While living in Rotorua in 1950 Theo Schoon began a series of close-up photographic studies of mudpools and silica formations around Rotorua and Taupo. Theo Schoon's charismatic personality, his desire to experiment in a range of media and to interact with Maori art and culture were a stimulus for other artists.*

briefly attend the Canterbury University College School of Art before moving to Wellington in 1941. While in Wellington he came in contact with artists whose work he approved of and influenced including Rita Angus – for whom he was one of the main sources of her interest in Buddhist art and culture; Gordon Walters – with whom he shared his interest in non-figurative painting; Dennis Knight Turner; and A.R.D. Fairburn.

Schoon, a homosexual and a foreigner in wartime New Zealand, was a misfit who struggled for acceptance while disdaining much of what he found in society around him.

Schoon was very interested in Māori art. From the mid-1940s He studied the early Māori rock drawings in Canterbury caves and was employed by the Department of Internal Affairs to record the drawings from 1945 to 1948.

He moved to Auckland in 1949 and stayed with A.R.D. Fairburn before moving on to **Rotorua** in 1950 where he began a series of photographic studies of mudpools and silica formations



*Theo Schoon took posed nude photographs of his male friends in the 1940s and 50s but they were never publicly exhibited. Te Papa Museum in Wellington obtained the images where they are now in storage. The national museum refused to allow their reproduction, hence we are unable to display Schoon's male nude photographs in the Guysers Gazette. We can only but imagine!*

around Rotorua and Taupo. He returned to Auckland in 1952 and shifted his artistic focus to Māori designs in Moko (facial tattooing), carved gourds, and kowhaiwhai (rafters of meeting houses).

He began to grow and carve his own gourds in 1956–57. He moved to the East Coast in 1961 to study traditional carving techniques with the Māori carver Pine Taiapa and was encouraged to publish an article on growing gourds in the Māori magazine *Te Ao Hou* in 1962 to accompany an article on carved gourds.

In 1963 his gourds were the only artwork by a Pakeha (non-Māori) featured in an exhibition of Māori art held at Turangawaewae marae, Ngaruawahia. Most of Schoon's gourds were sold to tourists and only a few remain in New Zealand today.

Martin Rumsby was with Schoon during some of his explorations in the Waiotapu geothermal area when it wasn't as well known, writing: *"Theo told me that nature worked in repeating cycles – that was his theory. So, if he wanted a*



*After observing a correlation between Moko (facial tattooing) and Maori carved gourds, he began to grow and carve his own gourds in 1956–57. In 1963 a selection of his decorated gourds were included in an exhibition of Maori art held at the Turangawaewae marae, Ngaruawahia; he was the only Pakeha artist invited to exhibit work.*

*particular design in the mud pools, for example, then he would wait and count them out. That is, a particular form may appear with every seventh 'plop' so, once he had seen it he would count out how many formations it would take to reappear then photograph it."*

After moving back to Auckland in 1956 Schoon continued his work until he left Auckland for **Rotorua** in late 1965 to return to photographing mudpools and other geothermal activity. He switched artistic focus again in 1968 when he began to carve greenstone (pounamu or New Zealand jade). He moved to the West Coast of New Zealand – the source of the stone – and was employed by the Westland Greenstone Company in Hokitika in 1970. He did some major research into jade carving at this time including a trip to Hong Kong but was dismissed from his employment in 1971. He moved to Sydney in 1972 where he completed a book on jade carving called *Jade Country*, published 1973. Throughout his life he took numerous jobs



*Schoon returned to New Zealand in 1982, staying in Rotorua, Tokomaru Bay and finally Auckland, but at this time he produced little art as he was seriously afflicted with emphysema. In February 1985 he made his final move to Sydney, where he died in Randwick on 14 July. He was homosexual and as such never married.*

to make ends meet while he pursued his art including working as a nurse at Auckland Mental Hospital in Avondale in 1949 and as a farm worker at the Mt Albert Plant Research Station in 1952. He also received help from many other friends and took part-time and temporary jobs to support himself. Wherever he lived, often in squalid conditions, he enjoyed creating a stir, often simply by wearing the Javanese-style clothes he made for himself. He was photographed in later life still able to demonstrate the lotus position and the intricate hand movements of the Javanese dance.

He returned to New Zealand in 1982 but went back to Sydney in 1985 where he died on 14 July aged 69. His extensive archive including sketch books, photographic negatives and correspondence was purchased by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. A further major collection of his work is part of the John Money Collection at Eastern Southland Gallery in Gore, New Zealand. Theo Schoon occupies a significant place in New Zealand's art history. 🌞

*Research: TeAra.govt.nz, wikipedia, Te Papa, thespinoff.co.nz*

# The history of segregated nude bathing in Rotorua

Between 1882 and 1972, segregated nude bathing was enjoyed in Rotorua's thermal hot pool complexes. Here is a timeline of nude segregated bath houses that were once in Rotorua. Sadly, over time, all good things come to an end.

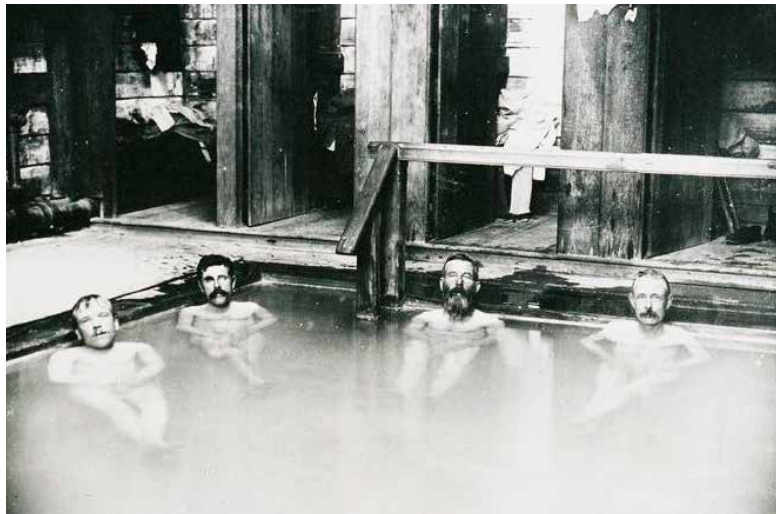


*Historic photo of nude men enjoying themselves frolicking about in the Blue Bath Sanitorium, Rotorua, 1930's.*



Segregated nude bathing was normal practise throughout early New Zealand history. Rotorua's sanitoriums became world famous for their curative thermal waters and the attraction of nude bathing.

- In **1882** the *Pavilion Bath*, the first bath building in the new Government township of Rotorua, is built on site of the Priest Spring. At this time it was a bath house for men only (nude of course). The wooden building fell down two years later but was rebuilt in 1887.
- In **1896** a separate women's swimming bath was added.



*Naked men bathing in the Pavilion Bath, Rotorua.*

*Photographic Collection, Rotorua Museum Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa*

- In **1930** the *Pavilion Bath* and the neighbouring *Duchess Bath* were demolished and the construction of the Neo-classical *Ward Baths* opens on site. The *Ward Baths* also retained a segregated nude bathing layout until their closure in 1972.
- In **1933** Rotorua's *Blue Baths* introduced for the first time mixed-sex bathing, but bathing costumes had to be worn.
- In **1972** the *Wards Baths* were taken over by a family-operated company, *Polynesian Pools Ltd*, and the site was developed with thirteen new pools. This brought an end to segregated nude bathing in Rotorua, instead catering to a swimsuit-wearing, family-friendly, mixed-sex bathing environment following the changing attitudes towards segregated bath houses and/or the gradual social conditioning of society surrounding nudity. ☀

## How to make a 'cheats hangi'

Rotorua is famous for the Māori *hangi* (food cooked in the ground over hot rocks and embers or food lowered into geothermal steam vents or placed in stainless steel steam cookers). But replicating a traditional *hangi* at home (ie, by digging a hole in the back yard and lighting a fire) is not something many people attempt. Here is a fantastic and easy 'cheats' recipe that uses an electric Slow Cooker to replicate that special *hangi* taste at home. It's healthier than a traditional roast dinner too, as there is no oil used! Give it a go sometime, it's delicious!

### STEP 1



Screw up tin foil into 1 inch balls and place in Slow Cooker. Add water to just below height of foil balls.

### STEP 2



Wash, peel and cut corn, carrot, potato, kumera and pumpkin onto chunks. Make 2 herb stuffing balls.

### STEP 3



Baste chicken drums, lamb or pork chops with Smoked Hickory Sauce (any brand will be fine).

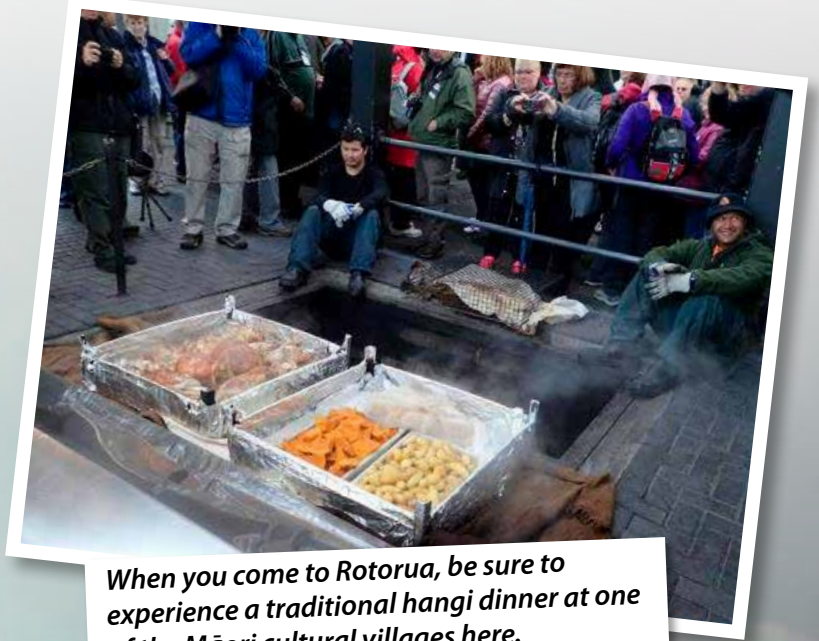
### STEP 4



Using large cabbage leaves place in meat and veges, season well and wrap up into two bundles.

## To make the 'cheats hangi' for two people you will need:

- 2 chicken drums
- 2 lamb chops (or small pork chops)
- Smoked Hickory Sauce
- A few chunks of pumpkin
- A few chunks of potato
- A few chunks of kumera (sweet potato)
- 1 large carrot cut into four slices
- 2 cut pieces of corn cobb (can use frozen)
- 2 herb stuffing balls (packet or home made)
- A few large cabbage leaves
- Salt and pepper
- And an electric Slow Cooker



*When you come to Rotorua, be sure to experience a traditional hangi dinner at one of the Māori cultural villages here. For more info on these check our website.*

### STEP 5



Wrap the parcels of food securely in tin foil. Sit the parcels of food on top of the foil balls (See step 1).

### STEP 6



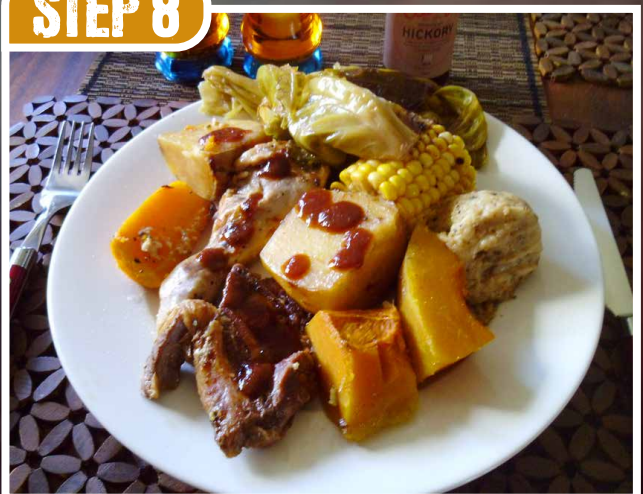
Dampen a tea towel and lay over the top of the Slow Cooker and place lid on top.

### STEP 7



Set the Slow Cooker to HIGH and cook for **6 hours**. Unravel tin foil parcels (mind the steam, it's hot!)

### STEP 8



Serve onto warmed dinner plates with some extra Smoked Hickory Sauce and enjoy! 🌞

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# RAGS

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**Rotorua Area Gay Society (RAGS)**  
**Rotorua's weekly gay men's social group**

The RAGS group meets every Wednesday evening from 5pm at a selected bar for a few drinks followed by dinner at a local restaurant. This social get-together is for both Rotorua locals and tourists/visitors alike who would like to join us.

To attend 'RAGS on Wednesdays' please email [info@gayrotorua.com](mailto:info@gayrotorua.com) with your name and mobile number and we'll be in touch with details.