



## YHA Rotorua Fact Sheet for Sustainability in Action function September 2009



### Product Offering

YHA Rotorua is a new facility purpose built as a backpackers accommodation with comfort and security in mind. There are 186 beds in a wide range of accommodation options including 4 bed share rooms, 6 bed bunk rooms, triple rooms, standard double rooms, twin/double ensuite rooms and the recently (2008) added group facility which offers independent accommodation units for sports teams, schools and other such groups. All beds are fully made up with sheets, pillow and a duvet.

Other features include:

- Modern self-catering kitchen as well as outdoor BBQ area and sun deck.
- Plenty of on-site parking.
- Separate lounge and TV room with free DVD collection.
- Centrally heated throughout.
- High speed internet access.
- Plenty of separate male and female bathrooms.
- Personal safes.
- A travel desk which can organise a range of activities for guests.

### Examples of Sustainable Actions

#### Waste

- Office paper is put into a holding tray and then reused in the printer. Reused paper is then cut into squares for use as note paper before being recycled. Communications with local operators encourage them to email rather than fax documents and YHA Rotorua practises this policy internally. Every email sent has a note at the bottom asking recipients to consider the environment before printing the email.
- The following wastes are recycled:
  - Glass bottles
  - Cans
  - Plastic bottles
  - Plastic containers
  - Plastic bags
  - Cardboard
  - Paper
  - Batteries
  - Fabric and clothing
  - Ink cartridges
  - Light bulbs
  - Food waste (picked up by local pig farmer)
- Provide free food shelves for guests to reduce food waste.
- All cleaning/chemical containers are returned to the supplier to reuse (picked up by Corporate Express).
- All other recyclables are taken to the recycling centre.
- *Urba* recycle bins are located in all walkways, communal areas, both units and in dormitories.
- Food waste bins are located in all three kitchen areas, signage is displayed throughout the hostel asking guests to recycle.
- All landfill rubbish is monitored, weighed and recorded with regular waste audits performed (ie. emptying rubbish bags to check what recycling is in each bag and work to reduce this).
- Avoid packaging of shop and cleaning products.
- The hostel's vending suppliers provide products without additional packaging such as plastic wrap etc.
- Cleaning suppliers take back and reuse their plastic containers.
- Provide refillable dispenser for hand soap and dishwashing detergent which reduces packaging and the products can be bought in bulk.
- Operate a book exchange which encourages guests to recycle books that have often been read only once.
- Courier Post supply a bag in which all used courier bags are collected and which they collect for recycling.
- We use carbon neutral suppliers when possible and generally consider the sustainable practices of suppliers before using them. Ricoh NZ, a carbonZero certified business, is used for printing, and stationary is sourced from Corporate Express, an SBN business, who has a strong environmental and community policy as well as a wide range of recycled products.
- We buy at least 50% recycled printer paper and always seek to find recycled products when ever possible. When sourcing new products, manufacturers' information is sourced so that we can make an educated decision on the impact this product has on the environment.

#### Energy & Water

- We have increased our lighting efficiency through energy efficient light bulbs. Slim-line fluorescent tubes used in high use areas to save electricity and energy efficient eco bulbs in all other areas.
- We have increased lighting efficiency by ensuring we have effective timers and sensors. All outdoor and indoor lighting where possible are either on sensors or timers.
- Gas is used to heat water which in turn is used in ground floor under floor heating and first floor radiators and gas for cooking.
- Rinnai gas califont on demand water heaters are installed around the site and heat water at 23L/min to 55°C. Hot water arrives at the tap within a maximum of 30 seconds, is instantly hot and loses only 1/4°C between the heater and the destination. These heaters work so efficiently that all of the 47 showers can be turned on at once throughout the building with no decline in performance.
- Shower heads throughout the backpackers have been fitted with flow restrictors which restrict the water use to 8L/min or 64L/ per shower for an 8 minute shower. Water reducing shower heads save up to 50% of the normal water flow per shower.
- All 52 toilets are dual flush.
- Only cold washes available in guest laundry.
- To minimise energy use we always purchase appliances with energy efficient ratings when buying new.
- All hoses fitted with trigger nozzles.
- Increased energy efficiency by maintaining laundry machines and through regular/daily cleaning of dryer lint filters.
- Storm water generated on site is either discharged via land soakage or to the council drainage system. There are no chemicals stored in storm water catchments and a high level of housekeeping is maintained at all times.
- All washing machines and dryers are run off gas and serviced by PC electricians.
- All heating at YHA Rotorua is on timers programmed to switch on only when needed.
- YHA Rotorua's exterior walls and roof have been painted in Resene's cool colour pigment technology which allows dark coatings to reflect heat away from the surface, reducing stress on the coating and substrate, and limiting subsequent heat related damage. The technology also minimizes the build-up of unwanted heat in the building which for YHA Rotorua means there is no need for air conditioning in the building.
- We record and monitor all water, power, gas use etc on a national level and at in individual hostel level. (This is important in seeing the difference that can be made by other initiatives which are introduced).
- We are involving our guests in trying to reduce power wastage by asking the guests to switch off lights and power points when not in use. Switch of stickers have been placed on all light and plug outlets.
- Set computers, monitors, printers, copiers and other business equipment to their energy saving feature and turn them off at the end of the day.
- The front of YHA Rotorua was designed to allow natural rain water to distribute along the garden. Gardens are situated in open areas to ensure they catch rain and gardens are planted out in low maintenance native plants to reduce watering and the need for chemical sprays.

## Community

- YHA Rotorua supports local community events
  - sponsor the local Multi-Sport weekend at the Blue Lake
  - sponsor the local Single Speed Champs at the Whakarewarewa Forest
- We have an environmental notice board in the main dining area, which is used to inform guests of progress in environmental projects the hostel is involved in and to encourage environmental and sustainable awareness.
- We support the green foot print project by informing and encouraging guests to get involved via our website, environmental board and staff. The Green Footprint Project is all about giving travellers using our network the opportunity to offset their impact on the environment. You can do this by purchasing native flora which is then planted at Coes Ford, a recreational reserve on the Selwyn River near Christchurch. For a project with such long-lasting positive effects it's very simple. Advertising within the hostels encourages guests to purchase either a native shrub for \$10 or a native tree for \$20. All money received through the year is held by YHANZ until September when we bulk purchase all the native plants. Then on a spring weekend YHANZ branch members, hostel staff and volunteer backpackers plant all the trees and shrubs at our annual planting day. In the past four years over 3500 native plants have been planted in Coes Ford, helping to increase biodiversity in the area, improve water quality and encourage the bellbirds to come back. YHANZ has been working on The Green Footprint Project since 2004 in partnership with Landcare Research, Selwyn District Council and Waihora Ellesmere Trust. All our guests can now buy trees online via our secure donation page. Also YHA has successfully attained funding through the Ministry for the Environment Sustainable Management Fund allowing us to employ a part-time Green Footprint Coordinator based in Wellington to develop further North Island planting sites.
- YHA Rotorua staff, friends & family along with a few members from YHA Rotorua branch headed over to collect rubbish from Kuirau Park on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 at 1:00pm. We collected 5 bags of rubbish & 3 bags of recyclables.
- YHA Rotorua Supporting Schools:
  - 26 March 09 The Manager of YHA Rotorua gave a presentation to the Year 13 Tourism class at Rotorua Girls High School on the tourism sector, explaining what the different roles and responsibilities are. She also gave the class an update on YHA's Environmental/Sustainable practices and what initiatives we have in place and what future initiatives we are planning at YHA

- Rotorua.
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> April 09 The Assistant Manager of YHA Rotorua gave Western Heights High School - Year 12 tourism classes (96 Students) a tour of YHA Rotorua to look at the variety of work roles within the tourism industry and the requirements and personal attributes needed for those jobs. He also gave the class in update on YHA's environmental/sustainable practices and what initiatives we have in place and what future initiatives we are planning at YHA Rotorua.
  - YHA Rotorua Management give Sir George Seymour College tourism classes regular site inspections for their students to look at the variety of work roles within the tourism industry and the requirements and personal attributes needed for those jobs. We also give the classes an update on YHA's environmental/sustainable practices and what initiatives we have in place and what future initiatives we are planning at YHA Rotorua.

### **Further Information**

For further information on sustainable practices at YHA Rotorua contact:

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