



**Rotorua designs
lead the way**

Innovation in FOREST FACILITIES

**SOME OF ROTORUA'S NEWER FACILITIES ARE NOTABLE
FOR THEIR CREATIVITY AS MUCH AS THEIR FUNCTIONALITY**

Rotorua is proof that public facilities can be innovative. The city's newest additions – at the Redwoods information centre and the main mountainbiking carpark at Waipa – have been cause for comment and are as creative as they are functional.

The Redwoods visitor centre public toilets recently won Rotorua architectural designer Darryl Church another award, winning the Commercial/Industrial Architectural Design Award and the Resene Colour in Design Award at the Bay of Plenty ADNZ Resene Architectural Design Awards.

The judges described Mr Church's winning toilets as an "artistic and sensitive response to an area of high natural beauty" with laser steel shrouds that "transform into landscape art". One judge described the design as "wildly inventive but charming". The cylindrical toilets feature Maori-inspired patterns of native birds, laser cut into the metal surrounds – an ode to the forest in which they stand.

Meanwhile, the new toilet complex at Waipa includes 12 unisex toilets, four showers, changing room space and access for disabled users. The design also features a pathway through the complex and a one-way bike track which takes riders over the top of the toilet block, leading them to the forest trails.

The bike track has been named "Gotta Go", selected from 150 suggestions via a social media campaign.

The economic value of mountainbiking in Rotorua's Whakarewarewa forest, recognised as one of the world's best mountainbike trail networks, has been estimated at five times its annual timber revenue.

Development of the Waipa complex was included in the previous district council's long-term plan for 2019 so was completed five years ahead of schedule and marks the start of planned development of the surrounding area by Red Stag to cater for Rotorua's growing mountainbiking tourism.



A bike trail runs over the top of the toilet and shower block at Waipa

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