

Redwood loos win top award

The Redwood Forest visitor centre toilets, designed by Rotorua architectural designer Darryl Church, have won a national award for best commercial and industrial designs in New Zealand.

Mr Church, of Darryl Church Architecture, won the commercial/industrial architectural design award at the National ADNZ/ Resene Architectural Design Awards held in the Bay of Islands.

The awards recognised the best architectural designs in the country across the commercial and residential sectors.

Mr Church was commissioned to design the public toilets for the Redwood Visitor Centre by Rotorua District Council.

The Redwood Forest is internationally recognised and attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Mr Church's design brief required that no redwood trees be removed or damaged.

The toilets are randomly placed among the redwoods, and shrouded with Maori-inspired laser cut steel depicting native birds designed by local contemporary Maori artist Kereama Taepa.

The design was a piece of art as well as a functioning public facility, the judges said.

Mr Church's wildly inventive and charming response to a very ordinary brief was highlighted



INSPIRATIONAL: Truly amazing — that's how judges described the Redwood Forest visitor centre toilets.

PHOTO/SUPPLIED

by the judges, together with his integration of architecture and art, vivid use of colour, form and light within the forest environment. Judges said the unique design would become a future tourist attraction in its own right.

ADNZ general manager Astrid Andersen said Mr Church's design was inspirational.

Mr Church had created something amazing out of what was traditionally quite a mundane structure, she said.

"This design blends seamlessly into its natural environment and is a real

inspiration for how we should tackle the issue of placing public facilities in natural spaces."

Eight designers won national awards, including the highly sought after supreme award won by Tane Cox, for a Waikato barn-style home titled Modern Barn Form.

Award winners:

(Supreme winner): Modern Barn Form in the Waikato, by Tane Cox of Red Architecture. Norton House in the Waikato, by Kris Wilson of Design House Architecture Ltd. SoYo in Christchurch designed by Chris Wheeler of Hierarchy Ltd. Marina Point in Fiji designed by Greg Young of Life Style Architecture. Il Viaggio in Shotover River by Gary Todd of Gary

Todd Architecture. Heritage View Townhouses in Dunedin by Brent Alexander of The Design Studio. SiloStay in Little River by Pippin Wright-Stow of F3 Design. Redwood Visitors Centre — Public Toilets in Rotorua by Darryl Church of Darryl Church Architecture Ltd. Duncansby Road in Auckland by David Maurice of Ltd Architectural.

What do you think?



Email
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Write to
PO Box 1442, Rotorua
Text DP (message)
to 021 242 4568

Deadline looms for requests

Applications for an increasing number of Geyser Community Foundation funds close at 5pm on September 30.

Chairman Joe La Grouw said the foundation was pleased to have been chosen by a wide range of people and organisations in the Rotorua and Taupo district communities to manage funds on their behalf.

"The availability of these gifts has been made possible by an increasing number of generous people, who enjoy giving back to their local community."

Applications can be made for gifts from these funds:

- Geyser Arts Fund
- Geyser Development Awards
- Kaingaroa Rooding Scholarship
- Rotorua Community Fund
- Rotorua District Council Sister Cities Scholarship

More information, criteria and application forms are available at www.geyseref.org.nz.



Joe La Grouw

Kayaker talks about 83-day Tasman attempt

There was an impressive turnout at Rotorua's Sudima Hotel as locals flocked to hear transtasman kayaker Scott Donaldson and see his kayak.

Mr Donaldson held a talk last night to discuss his intrepid journey across the Tasman and share some of his experiences.

The former Rotorua athlete started his journey at Coffs Harbour and aimed to be the first person to kayak solo across the Tasman Sea.

Mr Donaldson was at sea for 84 days before being rescued on July 14, 90km short of the Taranaki coast, due to worsening weather conditions.

He paddled more than 2200km in his cramped purpose-built kayak and faced a number of obstacles during his journey.

Mr Donaldson said it was hard deciding to call off the trip, just shy of the finish line, but it was "the right decision".

"I needed to think logically about my situation at that point, not think about how far away the finish line was. With the weather conditions worsening by the second, my team on the land and I made the right decision to call it off."

Mr Donaldson said crossing the Tasman Sea was "one of the few feats left undone".

"You can get over a lot of large mountains and seas but the Tasman remains a challenge — especially for me."

The Rotorua audience was also among the first to see footage taken by Mr Donaldson while out at sea.

The footage showed the small cabin where he slept while he talked on camera.

Mr Donaldson spoke about finding funding, dealing with unpredictable weather conditions, problems with his kayak while out at sea, and the end result which saw him plucked from his vessel.

"Every day for the five years I prepared for this journey, I asked myself 'why am I doing this' and that was what motivated me to keep going."

"I have been developing a passion for this for my whole life. When I go on holiday, I don't sit in a cafe and drink coffee, I find a mountain and say 'let's run up it'. You can motivate yourself to do anything if you develop a passion for it."



BIG CROWD: Hundreds paid to hear Scott Donaldson talk about his ill-fated journey across the Tasman Sea.

PHOTO/FILE



Cancer Society
Te Kāhui Matopukupuku o Aotearoa

Cancer diagnosis? We can help.

The Cancer Society's Living Well programme offers practical ways of living well through your cancer journey. This free programme is suitable for anyone with any type and stage of cancer, as well as their family/whanau and carers. The programme is run over two days and looks at understanding cancer, managing the side effects of cancer treatment and building self-confidence and self-help skills.

When: Tuesday 7 October and Wednesday 8 October 2014, 10.00am to 2.30pm
Where: Cancer Society rooms, 1235 Ranolf St, Rotorua
Cost: Free with a light lunch provided

For more information or to register, phone 07 920 4302 or email leanneparr@cancersociety.org.nz

Hon Todd McClay
MP FOR ROTORUA



Thank you Rotorua.

I am grateful for your support and will continue to work hard and deliver for you and your family.

Contact Todd:
07 3485871

Funded by Parliamentary Services and authorised by
Todd McClay,
1241 Amohau St, Rotorua



Girl guides called upon to lend a crafty hand for good cause

By Rebecca Malcolm
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Take dozens of girl guides, 24 hours and dozens of community projects and you get the first ever "service-a-thon" being held in Rotorua.

More than 80 girls from across Pippins, Brownies, Girl Guides and Rangers have been invited to take part in the event which will see them collecting and making items to help out the community.

The event begins at 5pm today and runs for 24 hours at the Guide Hall in Pererika St.

Girl Guides Rotorua District coordinator Debbie Cobby said girls involved could head along any time during the 24 hours to do their bit for the

community.

Mrs Cobby said they'd be collecting food items for the Salvation Army and SPCA at the hall during the event. Other projects included knitting blankets for Plunket, making up packs for children in hospital and making beanies for premature babies.

She said anyone was welcome to head along and lend a hand during the event.

"We'd love for people to help out. You don't even have to be crafty. We can teach them to knit or sew."

Mrs Cobby said the event was an opportunity for the organisation to show their community spirit and get together to help out in a fun way.

"There's the novelty factor of it being 24 hours. I hope that we can contribute a huge amount of service in that time."