



Press Release
17 December 2008

Gold for Millennium Hotel Rotorua's Green Practices

Millennium Hotel Rotorua has once again achieved a high scoring Four Star Plus Hotel rating as well as an 'Enviro-Gold' status from Qualmark, maintaining its premier position in Hotel accommodation providers in the city. As New Zealand's official mark of quality for tourism, Qualmark has extended its environmental and social assessment criteria. For tourism businesses, this means meeting requirements and actively participating in the areas of energy efficiency, waste management, community activities and water conservation. For visitors, it means that the Qualmark® represents an environmental and social commitment from the hotel, as well as general quality indicators.

General Manager, Pipiana Whiston acknowledges the team effort, saying "I am delighted with all staff and their contribution to the hotel's environmental commitment which has played a significant role in our resulting Enviro Gold rating. Having had many green initiatives in place for some time, it is rewarding to see these have now become second nature in our day to day operations. Monitoring is also a key component in ensuring we are achieving improvement and efficiencies in areas of sustainability. I am proud that we have achieved this milestone. Our commitment does not stop here, we will continue to find further ways to enhance our business practices to protect the environment for the future."

As well as having in room recycling, the hotel has introduced a guest recycling area outside the hotel, is growing herbs for the Kitchen in the internal garden courtyard, and has removed all plastic bags from guest rubbish bins and bathrooms. Locally, many community groups are supported by the hotel from the Women's Refuge to the Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust, where the hotel sponsors a NZ Falcon or Karearea, a native bird with more danger of extinction than the Kiwi.

As a founding member of the Rotorua Sustainable Tourism Charter for the last seven years, Millennium Hotel Rotorua has been continually working towards best practice in this regard and is proud to be the first accommodation provider in the Central North Island to receive the Enviro-Gold status. The recognition illustrates how the hotel's environmental vision aligns with the global consciousness as more and more travellers are making their accommodation decisions based on a hotel's eco-friendly operations.

Millennium Hotels and Resorts New Zealand has 30 hotels in 21 locations nationwide, and is a member of the Millennium and Copthorne Group with more than 100 hotels in 15 countries worldwide. See www.millenniumhotels.co.nz. Qualmark is a joint venture of Tourism New Zealand and New Zealand Automobile Association and is backed as New Zealand's official mark of quality by the New Zealand Tourism Industry Association and other leading industry organisations. See www.qualmark.co.nz.

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