

TIAKI IN WAITOMO

Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park

Spirit of sustainability hidden in plain sight at Waitomo holiday park

Nestled in the heart of Waitomo Caves Village and resting gently on the land it cares for, Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park welcomes visitors wishing to explore the spectacular attractions around it – above and below ground.

Recognising the importance of caring for its guests, staff and the local environment, the award-winning holiday park distinguishes itself with a spirit of sustainability that underpins its holistic approach to providing accommodation.

Park managers Phil and Bow Trevelyan says the values of New Zealand's Tiaki Promise are central to the way park operates, from the tree plantings on the park's grounds to the care taken to look after staff and ensure they are well versed in Waitomo's cultural stories.



“If we look after the people, they’ll look after the land”, he says. “What we’re doing here isn’t just for our generation, it’s for future generations.”

Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park owner Peter Crawford says when it comes to sustainability, it’s often the things people don’t notice that have the most powerful effect.

“Guests say it feels so peaceful and they love the environment, the scenery and the beautiful bird life.

“The birds are here because they’re not being attacked by predators and there’s trees for them to nest in – we’ve worked behind the scenes to plant hundreds of trees over the last three years and we’re pretty good at predator control.”

Peter says his team has been caring for the environment and following the ethos of the Tiaki Promise for many years.

“It doesn’t take a lot of intelligence to realise it’s a special place here.”

He regards kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and manaakitanga (looking after others) as being the bedrock of the hospitality industry and a guiding principle for the way Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park cares for its guests.

“When the Tiaki Promise was developed by the tourism industry it was quite an easy thing to align with as it resonated so well with the team here. For us it’s about the basics: we look after our people and we look after our place and we want to share it in a responsible way.”



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The diversity and multi-cultural mix of the holiday park's team is embraced and celebrated and staff are taught the traditions and legends of the area in their initial training. They often help holiday park guests fill in gaps or deepen their understanding of local knowledge provided by the tour guides who take them through the many caves and outdoor experiences in the region – a touch that adds a lot of value, Peter says.

Dual signage throughout the park, in te reo Māori as well as English, pays respect to and acknowledges the original language of the tangata whenua (people of the land).

The holiday park's dedication to sustainability has become so embedded it's now second nature Peter says.

“We don't have to put on a different lens to consider sustainability – it's part of every decision we make.”

Peter has just invested in fitting modern efficient heat pumps throughout the park to improve efficiency long term with solar heating for their swimming pool as the next energy saving tool in the pipeline.

A serious dedication to waste minimisation means all energy and water use are monitored, especially because the park manages its own water supplies. Peter is also focussed on trying to support local businesses, as a way to give back to the Waitomo community and local deliveries reduce emissions and save time.

Waitomo Top 10 Holiday Park aims to give people on all budgets the opportunity to enjoy the area's attractions by offering a wide range of accommodation options, which range from motel units and cabins to powered caravan and campervan sites and tent sites.



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