



Thrilling water ride available for exclusive group hire

Rotorua's newest attraction nearing completion

Rotorua, 23 November, 2011 – Rainbow Springs' thrilling new water ride is on target for an early January 2012 opening and will be available for exclusive evening hire by groups.

The Big Splash will take boats of up to 8 people on a 9 minute long fun and educational journey through the ecological evolution of New Zealand with some surprises along the way, including a life-size dinosaur, animated Haast eagle attack on a moa and an adrenalin boosting plunge at the end.

Rainbow Springs General Manager Michelle Caldwell says, "The ride will be exhilarating - particularly at night with darkness adding a whole new dimension to the experience, a perfect 'wow' factor for C&I groups."

The park offers a number of function spaces, with the newly extended cafe seating up to 120 for dinner or lunch. "One group option is pre-dinner cocktails and canapés backdropped by our spring water pool and waterfall, or dessert and an after dinner ride," she says.

Construction of the multi-million dollar water ride is well underway with the Maori Pa site nearly completed, the two lift sections that will elevate riders in place and only the splash down and run-out section at the end of the 431 metre long concrete flume left to be laid.

The 10-million dollar plus ride is expected to be a major draw-card for Rotorua, giving international and local visitors an exciting insight into New Zealand history and culture.

Project Big Splash also includes construction of an outdoor 384-seat, free-flight bird show auditorium, that will be completed in the next few weeks. The development is the largest single investment made in the park since it opened in 1932.

Rainbow Springs Kiwi Wildlife Park is an icon of New Zealand tourism and has been open since 1932. Spread over 22 acres of Rotorua parkland, Rainbow Springs is a conservation and breeding haven for endangered New Zealand species such as Kiwi and tuatara. The park offers a unique wildlife experience for visitors, who can see animals in their natural environment, both during the day and night. Features of the award winning tourist attraction include New Zealand's first 'open to view' Kiwi hatchery, and a range of wildlife including trout, tuatara and native birds.

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