



SUPER SERVICE: Waitomo's The Legendary Black Water Rafting Co was named the 'Best Activity' in New Zealand at the Golden Backpack Awards in Sydney on November 5. PHOTO SUPPLIED

BWR voted the best NZ activity

WAITOMO'S famous underground adventure company – The Legendary Black Water Rafting Co – has been crowned the 'best activity' in New Zealand.

The company was awarded the honour at the Golden Backpack Awards in Sydney on November 5.

Held as part of the Independent Travel Exchange, a networking day for Australasian tourism businesses, the Golden Backpacks are an international awards event dedicated to the independent travel sector, acknowledging companies who make backpacking in Australia and NZ a memorable experience.

The Legendary Black Water Rafting Co, a subsidiary brand of Tourism Holdings Ltd, is Waitomo's original black water rafting adventure established in 1987. Visitors can tube, walk and float through the Ruakuri Cave in three different caving and rafting tours – Black Abyss, Black Labyrinth and the Black Odyssey.

Discover Waitomo Group operations manager Gordon Hewston says the awards are determined by the backpackers themselves who vote on customer service and experience across numerous operators in New Zealand and Australia.

"Stoked is probably the best way to describe our

reaction," he says.

"We are also really pleased in terms of the recognition that this award has given our whole crew, and those that came before us, for their dedication over the years.

"We've been going for 28 years now which is a very long time in adventure tourism so it's great to get this recognition that everyone's hard work deserves."

Mr Hewston says backpackers are an important market for The Legendary Black Water Rafting Co and to have their stamp of approval is very satisfying.

"This year there were more than 80,000 votes so it's not just one or two people who say we're good – thousands of people voted for us to win best activity – and that's awesome," he says.

"What makes this company so special is the culture and the values that have been established in the team.

"They always go that extra mile helping each other out and working together as a team to make sure every customer has a great experience.

"It's a very special place and people really seem to love it."

Mr Hewston says the award is a great boost for staff who are now gearing up for a busy summer.

IN BRIEF

Correction

IN the article published in the *North King Country Farmer* on November 10, regarding the Armer-Gent proposal to reduce Fonterra's board, comments were incorrectly attributed to Rangitoto farmer Sam Duder. The comments should have been attributed to Aria farmer Peter Darke.

Te Kuiti fieldday today

A FIELDDAY focussing on the economics of grazing heifers will be held in Te Kuiti today. Supported by Beef + Lamb NZ, the fieldday, at Murray and Janet Easton's property on SH4, will compare heifer grazing to other grazing enterprises; the benefit/value to dairy

farmers, and fair prices for grazing for graziers and farmers. The fieldday is from 11am-1.30pm.

For more information contact DairyNZ.

YFC competition

THE Waipa/King Country district final of the FMG Young Farmer of the Year competition will be held this month. On November 28, practical modules will be contested at St Peter's School's 'Owl Farm' in Cambridge starting at 9.30am, with quiz and speech rounds to be held at Stables on Alpha (Cambridge) at 7.30pm. Entries close on November 23. Winners go on to compete at the regional finals, with the grand final in Timaru in July. To enter visit the website – youngfarmerscontest.co.nz

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- Family pass to Waitomo Glowworm Caves
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