

14 November 2010

18th Rotorua Walking Festival in March 2011

Have you been looking for a reason to visit steaming, boiling, scenic Rotorua? The Rotary Club of Rotorua West is providing the perfect reason for you to visit in March 2011. The Club is organising, for the 18th time, the Rotorua Walking Festival between 11 and 20 March. Over ten days there will be 18 different walks, from easy strolls through the city to a Marathon Walk in Whakarewarewa Forest.

The walks are non-competitive with levels of difficulty to suit all ages and degrees of fitness. The highlight of the Festival is over the final Saturday and Sunday when walks that are recognised by the international IML Walking Association take place. On the Saturday there are walks of 10 km, a half-marathon, and a marathon along spectacular tracks in Whakarewarewa Forest that let you explore some of New Zealand's finest forest scenery with majestic trees and ferns. On the Sunday, the walkers head into Rotorua city on routes of 10, 20 or 30 km, through an active geothermal reserve with boardwalks to get over boiling mud, past a bird sanctuary, and on to the lake and city parks.

Earlier in the week there will be a nocturnal forest walk to see glow worms and opportunities to join the Rotorua Cross Country Walking Group.

Further information on the routes, registration fees and the one-week tour to Rotorua as well as a registration form are on www.rotoruwalkingfestival.org.nz or email Margriet Theron on theronm@yahoo.com. Proceeds from the event go to Rotary projects and charities.