

The Solstice Spammer



November 2009. The Official Newsletter of Hulmes Court Bed and Breakfast's Jimmy and Solstice Cats

I think it should be called the Jimmy Junkmailer

Hulmes Booking Schedule Goes Live Online

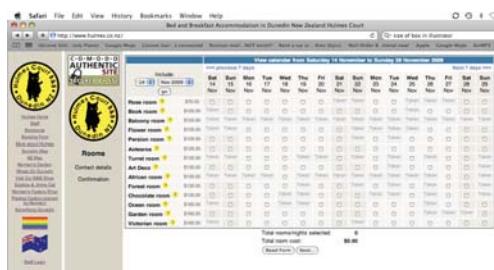
Norman Wood, the managing director and friendly host of Hulmes Court Bed and Breakfast said today, "our booking schedule is now live online, guests now don't need to phone up and see if we have rooms available, they can book themselves in.

room you want, click next and fill in all your details.

You then get a message to your email account that you have a confirmed booking. As simple as that.

The system was designed by Norman Wood and Jeffrey Vaughan of Solstice Software. Guests are still most welcome to phone up and chat with the friendly co-hosts and make there booking the old fashioned way.

Below is a screen shot in an internet browser. All you need to do is go to www.hulmes.co.nz and click on the booking icon. See when you want to stay, choose the



Screenshot of the live online reservation system



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The Morning Rumble

If you've stayed at Hulmes Court you'll probably have witnessed the morning rumble. Although great friends, each morning Solstice and Jimmy Cat fight rolling down the hallway. I thought I'd take a count on who gives up

first. Last week Jimmy won 3 out of 5. However, Solstice continues to torment Jimmy and almost always starts the fight.



No More Massages at Hulmes

Sadly, Hulmes Court does not offer in-house massages. However, we know of a number of good

massage therapists in town. So just let us know and we can book you in.

Solstice Cat on facebook

Yes, as crazy as it sounds our cat Solstice has his very own Facebook page.

This is a new page for him on Facebook so at the moment there isn't too much content but keep an eye on it.

So if you want to be friends with Solstice go to www.facebook.com and type in his name, ask to be his friend and join his growing community of fans.



Norm's View: Latest GDP Figures Released

The other day I was asked to explain why so many NZers move overseas, especially to Australia. Coincidentally the latest GDP figures are available on the BBC website (country profiles). Is Australia more successful? Its per capita GDP of \$40,000 USD compared to NZ's \$28,000 USD is a start. The USA has a GDP per capita of \$48,000 USD.

have a total GDP the same as NZ's, but instead of sharing it amongst 4 million people (NZ), it must cover 46 million. However, they have good roads, good public transport, they make fighter jets, have a large military, nice restaurants, lovely parks for people to walk through on warm days, beautiful opera houses and shopping malls as glamorous as I've seen.

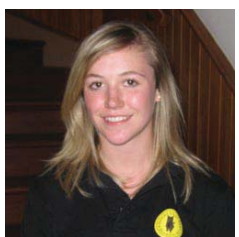
In saying all this about GDP, I believe it isn't a great measure of standard of living. For instance, a truly third world country, Fiji, has a GDP of \$4,000 USD per person, possibly accurate about its standard of living. In contrast, when you look at a country like the Ukraine, which has a GDP of \$3,000 USD per person you'd think they'd be living in grass huts. I spent the summer there this year. There certainly is some bad aspects to the country. Officially, they

We could all go and move to Luxembourg where I also spent sometime this year for a family reunion. They are the richest country in the world with a GDP per person of nearly \$85,000 USD per person, plus things seemed relatively cheap there too, so money goes a long way. We don't see everyone jumping in their RV and driving to Luxembourg, which every citizen in the EU (all 300 million) are most welcome to do. Has me thinking.

95% of Guests Say Fantastic

When asked, "please rate our staff (friendly, helpful, easy to find)," our Guest Satisfaction Survey, 95% rated our staff 9 or 10 out of 10. The other 5% either ranked us 8 out of 10 or 11 out of 10!

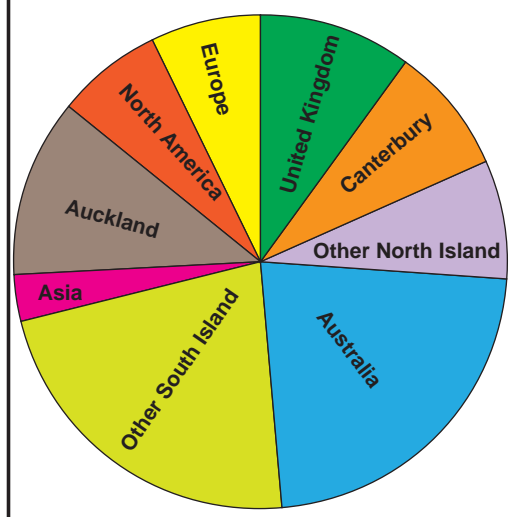
Hulmes Court to their friends. We'll keep you posted about future results.



Alice, one of the friendly co-hosts.

100% of guests in this same survey said they will recommend

Swing Towards New Zealand Guests



October Hulmes Court Guest Arrivals by Origin

Traditionally Hulmes Court's most important source of guests is the international market. Although during the six winter months (May through October), New Zealanders tend to keep coming in the same numbers.

half of all our guests came from New Zealand.

This was no exception during October 2009 where nearly

We continue to attract people from "unusual" (not to them) places. The best of the past have been: Antarctica; Kodiak Island, Alaska, Wallace and Fortuna Islands, Botswana and Namibia. Just to name a few.

Norm's Recent Travels

This year I have travelled a great deal around New Zealand and overseas. This was my normal habit in the past, but the last 6 years have seen me working very hard on my business acquisitions, particularly a large plastics factory. It is good to be back to exploring.

After a while in Russia I travelled to the ex Soviet republic and now independent Ukraine. Both Russia and the Ukraine are



not for the unseasoned traveller. They are tough going. However, they are also extremely interesting, and the Ukraine more than Russia, beautiful. I've fallen in love with these two countries and the people. I'll be back and have now started to learn Russian again. There isn't enough time to talk about my next journey - a quest to find my war hero uncle's first grave on the Luxembourg boarder. That will be in the next edition, so.... yes, European.

First up was Australia. I lived in Sydney for a while. Seoul Korea was next. Interesting to see how Americanized it has become. Plenty of Starbucks, Pizza Huts, McDonalds for those so inclined. Not me.

Then a short 1 hour hop to Vladivostok in Russia's Far East. Very few Asian people or culture to be seen. I don't know what I was expecting, but given how much NZ has changed over the last few years to become a very Asian - Pacific nation, Vladivostok and the whole area we would think of as Siberia, so far from Europe, but so.... yes, European.



Vladivostok, home of the Russian Pacific Fleet. Awesome.



Hulmes Court Host Norman Wood exploring Sandfly Bay Recently



Danielle



positive ambitious people.

She says, "the best thing about working at Hulmes Court is learning from our guests all about their home country."

She grew up in Oamaru, which is a small city about 90 minutes drive north of Dunedin. Oamaru is famous for its Victorian Festival and its Little Blue Penguins.

Her favourite foods are pastries and chocolates. She loves travel, summer, Europe and her friends and family.

If you stay over summer you will probably meet Danielle as she will be coming on full time during the university summer holidays.

Danielle has been with us for a year. She is studying Tourism, French and German at The University of Otago. Danielle is half Kiwi half French, visiting France three times.

I employ young women from the university because they are hardworking, intelligent, friendly, and interested in people. They are full of life as they have their whole future ahead of them and it is nice to be surrounded by such



There are many reasons to stay, here are just a few

Books, videos, TV, intelligent staff, fascinating house and contents. You won't be bored.

Heater, extra blankets in all rooms, friendly staff. Your stay will be warm.

Central location, use of fax, photocopier, phone in all rooms, wireless internet, laundry. We take the hassle out of travel.

Cats and Garden. You'll feel at home and relaxed.

Quite and comfortable beds. You'll get a great nights sleep.

Guests and staff to talk to. Open fire in winter. You won't be lonely at Hulmes Court.

Healthy breakfast. A great energized start to the day.

A Sample of Events

Ongoing

Morning, Otago Farmers Market, Every week on Saturday, Dunedin Railway Station

Hall McAndrew Rd
8:00pm, Larnach Castle
Masquerade, Price: \$90.00,
www.larnachcastle.co.nz

Sunday 29 November 2009

10am. Service at First Church to celebrate The Scottish Festival. 9.00am to 4pm. Come to The Scottish Highland Games for a great family day out. Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing and Marching. Tossing The Sheaf, Caber Tossing, Deadweight Carry plus Carrying The Stones. Events for Children with Gumboot Throwing, Egg and Spoon Races and plenty more. Caledonian Ground, Logan Park.

Monday 30 November 2009

Noon. St Andrews Day, Patron Saint of Scotland. Lunch at Robbies. MacAndrew Rd.

Sunday 6th December 2009

Dunedin Santa Parade, George & Princes Street.

Tuesday 8th December 2009

7.30pm Messiah, Dunedin Town Hall.

Wednesday 9th December 2009

Evening. B52s, The Proclaimers. Edgar Sports Centre

Saturday 19th December 2009

6:00pm-8:30pm, Community Christmas Carols & Variety Concert. Mornington Presbyterian Community Centre 16 Maryhill Terrace.

Sunday 20th December 2009

Carols @ Bathgate Park, Bathgate Park, South Dunedin

Thursday 31st December 2009 - 1st January 2010

2009 Octagon New Year's Eve Concert

Friday 20th November 2009

Lunchtime Organ Concert, St Paul's Cathedral, Octagon

Saturday 21 November 09

Caversham Presbyterian Church Fair, 61 Thorn St, Caversham. 12.30pm-1pm Piper in the Octagon to celebrate The Scottish Festival.

2.30pm. Opening of The Scottish Festival and presentation of Queen O' The Heather contestants at the Wall St Mall. 7.30pm Christmas Variety Night, Fire Station Theatre, Cargill St, Mosgjel 8:00pm Social ballroom dancing with the Dunedin Scottish Soc., Fairfield Community Hall,

Sunday 22 November 2009

7:00pm. Old Time Sequence Dancing. Taieri Scottish Dance Club. Methodist Hall, Wickliffe St, Mosgjel.

Monday 23 November 2009

7.30pm Scottish Country Dancing provided by the Burns Scottish Country Dance Club. Queen O' The Heather contestants will be present. Dunedin South Presbyterian Church in Chalmers Hall, King Edward St.

Tuesday 24 November 2009

7.30pm.Ceilidh (musical evening) at The Robert Burns Pub, George St.

Wednesday 25 November

2.30-4.30pm. Afternoon tea at The Savoy presented by the Southern Heritage Trust. An afternoon with Scottish entertainment of dancing, bagpipes and poetry. 7.30pm. Dunedin Town Hall. A celebration of 90 years with the Dunedin RSA choir and guests.

Thursday 26 November

12.30pm - 1pm Piper in the Octagon. 7.30pm Whisky tasting at The Otago Polytechnic Restaurant, Harbour Terrace.

Friday 27 November 2009

2.30-3.30pm. Tour of Scottish ancestors in the Northern Cemetery. 5.30pm History of the bagpipes at the Otago Settlers Museum hosted by Aelred Edmunds.

Saturday 28 November

All day, and Sunday. Plastic Model Display Competition, St Patricks School MacAndrew Rd 12.30 - 1pm, Piper in the Octagon. Saturday 28th Nov Continued - 8:00pm, Social ballroom dancing McAndrew Intermediate School

