

The Nelson Mail - July 2001 The Mudcastle - a magnificent venue

Ten thousand hand-made, sun-dried clay bricks are now what is The Mudcastle on the Neudorf to Dovedale road. Even more impressive when you consider Kevin and Glenys Johnston made them all - from clay dug out of their property.

What a WOW factor on first sight, as you drive through gentle, undulating rural land. Turn off and follow the red-hot poker lined driveway up to the house and wait for the pleasure as you experience this labour of love - a personal, intimate, unique bed and breakfast, honeymoon destination extraordinaire, intimate wedding and function venue, private restaurant and most of all - the home of this enterprising couple who have worked extremely hard to present a magnificent venue.

Because it is their home, and to protect the privacy of their guests, they ask people to phone first for an appointment to view it when planning a private function or considering discerning accommodation. Alternatively, have a look at their website www.themudcastle.onlinebiz.co.nz. Casual sightseers are discouraged.

The Mudcastle has actually been taking guests for five years now, since they were approached by 15 local Thorp women to do a luncheon. They told their husbands and the ripple effect took off from there.

The decor is superb, the attention to detail and the welcoming nature of the hosts commented on repeatedly in their visitors' book. Some guests come back regularly just to see the progress because it is a continual, on-going creation for Kevin and Glenys.

A peek into the pantry is awe-inspiring. It's not only laid out for easy access but it is a picture of home-made pickles, chutneys, preserves and jams.

Look down at the bright red floor and wonder - it's a special old technique where they used bull's blood to seal the clay and it looks just right in this olde-look food storage room.

Every nook and cranny is inspired with novel decorating ideas - the Teal bathroom is unbelievable.

The large adobe brick

room makes a spacious environment for the in-house goldfish who live in two tanks beside the bath!

Stunning stained glass windows in the house are the work of Glenys - when she has the spare time! Along with Kevin, she runs the busy and now well-known Creative Occasions party decoration business which they are now selling in order to re-focus their energies on the next phase for The Mudcastle.

The Mudcastle is a presentation of perfection. The six guest bedrooms all have a decor to suit different ages and interests, there are five bathrooms and a new bar with the most stunning peacock stained glass window as its feature, along with a spa pool!

Kevin and Glenys say they are privileged to share their home with guests - it is most definitely a privilege to be a visitor there!

