

# ***Impacts of Tourism in Waitomo***

## ◆ ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Low unemployment
- 170 permanent jobs in tourist operations in Waitomo
- 100 seasonal workers employed over the summer
- extensive benefits for the service industries in the neighbouring towns and the Waitomo District

## ◆ SOCIAL

- Stable population of 300-350 residents
- Mix of farming community, tourist operators & tourists
- Money to send teenagers on to boarding schools and tertiary training – some scope for them to resettle as adults in the Village
- More outward looking pro-active community

## ◆ ENVIRONMENTAL

- Road clearance leading to increased run off resulting in flooding (introduction of the catchment scheme)
- Damage to caves and karst through increased CO<sub>2</sub>, vandalism/souvenir hunters, accidental damage, changes in cave climate, lampenflora.
- Conservation of karst and native forest areas.