



Tracey Collins: After 111 days the ethereal restaurant is finished and Tracey is finally able to relax at the 'roof shout'.

A table for tree

By Delwyn Dickey

A restaurant in a tree at Warkworth will open to the public for a limited time from January 9.

The restaurant built in a stand of redwoods just south of Warkworth is an advertising campaign for the Yellow Pages Group, but people will be able to take advantage of it during summer, with lunch and dinner reservations being taken.

Initially, it was uncertain if it would open to diners. Opening to the public depended to a large degree on how well the project was able to keep to deadlines.

At one stage there was a fortnight's holdup which Paul Courtney of advertising company Colenso says nearly caused a meltdown. With only 111 days from confirmation of the project to completion on Friday, December 12, there was little room for manoeuvring, he says.

The 'roof shout' on Friday afternoon marked the end of the building part of the project for all the workers. They were joined by many others involved, including the architect Peter Eising from Pacific Environments, which specialises in sustainable design, as well as Gareth Skirrow and Joe Holden from the Build-



Tree folk: Rodney business people involved with the project at the roof shout are, from left, Joe Holden, Gareth Skirrow, David Taylor, Vaughan Taylor, Rodney mayor Penny Webster, Malcolm Wakefield, Tracey Collins, John Worth, Dan Wood, Jason Capstick and Bevan Wech.

ing Intelligence Group who brought the final group of contractors together and also worked with the Rodney District Council to get the necessary consents through in just a few days. Tracey Collins of Silverdale is the public face of the project and there were

many other locals involved in both the construction and media production. Most of the construction materials came from TimberWorld in Warkworth.

The building is 10 metres wide, more than 12 metres high and the floor level sits 10 metres off the ground. The curved exterior shape is made from glue-laminated pine fins and poplar slats. Acrylic sheeting fixed to the roof will provide shelter from most of the weather. The kitchen will be housed in a marquee at the end of the 60 metre elevated walkway – a legal requirement for wheelchair access.

Alex Ross of Dawson Catering, who will be sending a chef each day, says this won't be as challenging for them as it might seem. He says it's a walk in the park compared to catering for America's Cup events where they had to be on the water for eight or nine hours at a time.

The restaurant, which seats up to 18 at a time, will open for lunch and dinner from January 9 to February 9.

The limitations and novelty value mean it won't be cheap – lunch is expected to cost about \$95 a head and dinner \$125. Bookings essential, visit www.yellowtreehouse.co.nz.