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Shocked to find hidden camera

by Belinda Feek, New Zealand Herald

AUCKLAND — Members of a bridal party are demanding a refund from their rural Auckland accommodation after they discovered a camera hidden in a lightbulb.

Bridesmaid Sarah Muir said on discovering the 360-degree camera, which also recorded sound, they all dressed in the bathroom in the rural West Auckland property.

Muir told the NZ Herald the party arrived at the property, booked through booking.com, on Friday evening and watched the news, “weirded out” by a segment on a man who put double-sided

mirrors in his bathroom.

The group of five then joked about hidden cams in their rented house, before Muir noticed one of the living-room lightbulbs was different from the others.

“We’d set up the wedding, had dinner and were just sitting around having a wine, going over the bride’s vows, and then that came up on the news, we joked, and then we saw it.

“We searched the rest of the house and we couldn’t find anything . . . but we don’t know if they had other types of hidden cameras around. We just made sure that we got changed in the bathroom from then on, we thought that

would be the safest place.”

They were horrified: “We were pretty violated . . . we would have been getting changed in there the next day. If they have it for surveillance you need to actually advise people. We wouldn’t have booked it if we had known there was a camera there.”

She had since emailed the owner through booking.com and demanded a refund. “I’ve just sent them a strongly worded email just advising we want our money back, it’s a breach of our privacy.”

She was seeking advice from a friend who was a police officer before making an official complaint.

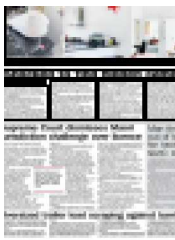
Bride Shannell Henderson and her

new husband Jimmy Fitzpatrick were annoyed by the incident.

“It was an invasion of the girls’ privacy,” Fitzpatrick told the Herald.

Michael Kouk arrived next day to take photos of the group. He was also stunned at the spy camera.

“Everyone’s jaws were just dropping about seeing this spy camera in the open living room. We didn’t take a look at the SD card, we just pulled it out and took a photo of it.” The owner responded to a Herald approach and said they would be in touch after returning from overseas. Booking.com said it was concerned by the experience reported and would investigate fully.



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SOMEBODY'S WATCHING ME: People preparing for a wedding say they discovered a spy camera in a lightbulb at an Auckland Airbnb was recording them. A buzzing sound from the lightbulb alerted them. Pictures supplied