

# Inside Nigel Coventry Tourism

PO Box 100, Taumarunui, New Zealand.

Tel/Fax 64-7-8957-737.

nigel@insidetourism.com

www.insidetourism.com

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## **ITOC discusses demise of TAT Travel**

ITOC board members this week discussed the demise of TAT Travel Ltd of Auckland. But CEO Peter Lowry says nothing more can be said because the matter is in the hands of liquidator Terence Hillson, who mailed out his first report to creditors on Wednesday.

## **PATA says industry at crossroads**

**AFTER the Indian Ocean tsunami the industry stands at a crossroads: does it mount another crisis management and recovery programme that will allow it to go back to business as usual? Or does it seriously reflect on the past in order to learn from its mistakes and play a more responsible role in being better prepared for future disasters?**

**PATA asks these questions in the organisation's latest *Issues and Trends*.**

**"For an industry very fond of buzzwords, here are three that may serve us well in future: prevent, prepare, pre-empt. In other words, do we keep fighting fires or shift towards fire prevention?"**

## **Govt gives \$1.2M to help operators**

A \$1.2 million project to help tourism operators tap into the rewards of smart environmental business practice has been announced by Tourism Minister Mark Burton and Environment Minister Marian Hobbs.

The funding is for six regions to take part in the three-year Environmentally Sustainable Tourism project. It is funded by the New Zealand Tourism Strategy Fund and will be managed by the

## **Figures show Milford not busy airport**

**DESPITE what DoC says Milford is not a busy airport, Wanaka Flightseeing's Andy Woods says. Mr Woods, who is spokesman for the Queenstown-Milford Users' Group, tell *IT* there are 18 regular operators with fixed wing and rotary aircraft plus up to five irregular. In total they operate about 40-45 aircraft. He says there are 18,000 - 20,000 takeoffs and landings a year.**

## **Stewart Island down under**

IN a first for southern New Zealand, tourism operator Stewart Island Experience on Saturday launched the Mollymawk, a semi-submersible submarine that allows visitors to explore Stewart Island's waters without getting wet.

## **Pacific Blue launches into Auckland**

**PACIFIC Blue is launching Brisbane and Gold Coast services to Auckland on May 12. The carrier is axing its five times a week Wellington/Sydney service and increasing its Wellington/Brisbane flights from twice to three times a week.**

## **Hawke's Bay develops**

TOURISM forecasts for Hawke's Bay point to a significant growth in visitors to the region over the next six years. Visitors are expected to spend 590,000 extra nights in 2010 compared to 2003. Much of this is expected to be due to strong growth in international visitor numbers.

The RTO has put together a Cultural Tourism Accelerator Programme that will offer local operators the chance to hear from leading New Zealand tourism agencies, learn from experienced tourism mentors, and take part in a promotional event targeting business that bring international visitors to New Zealand.

## **More women are travelling - and spending billions!**

WHILE 75 percent of women in the US take nature, adventure or cultural trips, their Asian counterparts prefer to shop and pamper themselves at spas and resorts.

MasterCard's *Asian Lifestyles Survey* shows shopping ranks a clear first in terms of preferred travel activities for women, followed by visiting places of cultural/historic interest and beach resorts.

In contrast, in Europe or the US shopping is perceived as a secondary activity and shopping lists consist of mementoes, souvenirs and locally produced crafts. Asian women concentrate on branded goods, such as apparel, shoes, handbags, accessories and toiletries.

MasterCard says that assuming conservatively that women travellers spend twice as much as men, and that the ratio between men and women travellers will be 50:50 by 2011, the report estimates that US\$13,400 million will be spent by women travellers in Seoul, Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok alone.

### **Gunn defends slimmed down board**

THE Rotorua Tourism Advisory Board has been reduced from 21 to 13 members to ensure a more streamlined organisation, says Destination Rotorua Tourism Marketing GM Don Gunn. This is so the board is better able to advise on matters relating to the activities of his organisation.

“It is purely tourism focused and that is why there is no representation from forestry or farming,” Mr Gunn tells *IT*. “The board composition has always been determined by industry.”

He was commenting on media reports that the board has been finalised without approval of or input from Rotorua District Council.

### **Q'town growth still rising!**

**FIVE years of continuous tourism growth in Queenstown looks set to continue.**

### **Accor enjoys record occupancies in NZ**

ACCOR saw record occupancies last year for its New Zealand network of 20 hotels - and is predicting continued growth in 2005, fuelled by low airfares, a buoyant economy and our positive image in key feeder markets.

In 2004, Accor's hotels increased their overall occupancy rate to 76 percent across the network, up by 5.1 percentage points.

Best performing destinations were Queenstown - where Accor's three hotels averaged 78 percent - and Auckland where the average was 77 percent.

Accor's new New Zealand GM Thomas van Vliet says the climate for the hospitality sector in New Zealand is positive, although still price-sensitive.

### **MIT to highlight NZ in Macau**

**NEW Zealand tourism will be highlighted in Macau in April at an event being organised by Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) principal lecturer Alan Collier.**

**The event is run in conjunction with a New Zealand food promotion week and will coincide with the annual PATA conference.**

### **Low unemployment - but try getting a top job, says Whybro**

ALTHOUGH New Zealand has almost record low unemployment and a good, strong labour market - jobs at a senior management level remain in short supply, high demand and very competitive!

So reports Michael Whybro, who left THL as group GM last month, after five years with the company.

### **Farewell for great woman**

**INDUSTRY colleagues from up and down the country are expected at Frederick Wallis House, Lower Hutt, on Sunday to bid farewell to Eleanor Burger who is moving to Canada due to ill health.**

### **Crazy balloonist at it again...**

DAREDEVIL balloonist Rick Walczak will make his flight from the crater of White Island over the open sea to Whakatane some time between Monday and February 28. The flight is weather dependent and the wind needs to be just right to propel him in his 'Egg Balloon' to the mainland.

### **F and B slams "dog" of a Bill**

**FOREST and Bird is welcoming the call from National Party Environment spokesman Nick Smith for government to withdraw the Resource Management and Electricity Legislation Amendment Bill. "We have thoroughly analysed the Bill and it is a dog," says conservation manager Kevin Hackwell.**

### **Four given 10 years' jail for attacking visitors**

FOUR men who attacked British tourist Paul Speakman and son Christian, 12, in their campervan near Katikati on October 12, have each been jailed for 10 years.

### **DoC to prosecute "guide"**

**DOC has decided to prosecute a Whangarei-based company, owned by a foreign businessman, for guiding tourists in Fiordland National Park without approval.**

### **Council "levelling the playing field"**

DESTINATION Queenstown CEO David Kennedy says a controversial ruling by the Queenstown Lakes District Council should be brought in to "level out the commercial accommodation playing field".

### **Auckland VIC moves**

**THE New Zealand Visitors Centre, formerly at Auckland's Viaduct Harbour, is now on Quay Street, at the entrance to Princes Wharf.**

### **Ministry studies ways gov't may help**

IF, and if so, where and what central government should be involved in improving tourism-related infrastructure is an issue the Tourism Ministry is to grapple with in the next six months.

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