

Inside Nigel Coventry Tourism



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Australasia's biggest car to be unveiled

AUSTRALASIA'S biggest car is due to be unveiled in Auckland today (Friday) by owners, Lincoln Limousines.

The 12-m Navigator Lincoln will take to the streets in a motorcade of welcome. It has 16 seats and is thus able to carry a whole rugby team!

The company also has an 11-m ultra stretch Lincoln, making that and the Navigator the longest in New Zealand.

Do we need a domestic campaign?

IS a domestic tourism campaign needed? TIANZ CEO Fiona Luhrs is not sure. "We don't have any solid information that tells us a domestic tourism campaign is needed...I'm not convinced. I have nothing against it - I've just not seen anything that says there's a need for one."

UNITEC denies plans to stop courses

THERE'S no truth in the rumour that UNITEC wants to get out of tourism, says acting programme leader Tony Ashton.

Dot travel - at last!

THE Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has announced that .travel will become a new domain later this year.

Risk management sessions popular

HAVING excellence in delivery, installing safety management systems - and being prepared. These are the best ways to manage risks, according to TIANZ. In a session on risk management in the latest round of workshops members are told that risk is inherent in everything.

TIANZ sector manager Megan Williams uses work by Horizons-Adventure/Tourism Services' MD Mark Smith. "Perfect safety is unattainable as long as we decide to participate in activity, adventure or business," she says. "In general, we take a risk in order to benefit from an opportunity." The purpose of risk management is to apply a process to identify risks, set an acceptable level for risk, and take steps to keep risk at that level.

Tie your boats properly, warns MTA

PASSENGERS are boarding and alighting from charter vessels which are not always properly tied to the wharf, notes the Marine Transport Association (MTA). It's warning members that before things "slip" further and someone is prosecuted - there's still time to tie up the loose ends.

Short break market opens in regions

RESEARCH by Achim Munz shows that buoyant domestic markets are now possible. The 30 percent of 3,000 people who responded to his survey in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch show that New Zealanders are no longer reluctant to fly to a short-break destination. But, as in Dunedin, which was chosen as the "destination", transport costs are a key factor. "Hence, the stability of airline ticket prices is a major factor for a comparatively peripheral destination to maintain viable access to key target markets."

World really is sick!

THE most comprehensive survey ever into the state of this planet concludes that human activities threaten the Earth's ability to sustain future generations.

Keeping arts, crafts and culture alive...

SO confident is Te Puia CEO Andrew Te Whaiti that the rebranded Maori Arts and Crafts Institute (MACI) will be a success that he's already invited IT to the opening of a massive new complex at the Rotorua site in October next year! Plans are for a new visitor centre, carving and weaving schools, a museum, café and 500-seat restaurant as well as interactive attractions using state of the art technology, and new viewing platforms. First part of the upgrade has already been finished: the interactive nature walk called Korero Tuku Iho, which means "stories handed down through time."

Global recognition for Dive!Tutukaka

DIVE!Tutukaka has been recognised as the most Outstanding Dive Centre in South East Asia/Pacific.

DoC gets \$24.6M more

DOC is to receive a \$24.6 million funding boost over four years in next month's Budget to bolster its core work.

TIANZ is delighted. CEO Fiona Luhrs says: "We all know they are stretched - so it's great they have this money."

Forest and Bird is hoping that the increase will allow the department to retain expert scientists.

And National's conservation spokesman Simon Power says Labour must ensure DoC gets back to its core focus of protecting and saving flora and fauna - and not just throw money at the problem.

Ride a luxury trike - just like Billy

THE trike, riding high on new-found popularity thanks to TV personality Billy Connolly, is set for a come back. In a New Zealand first, Motorcycles New Zealand has added a \$35,000, three-wheel Kawasaki Voyager II trike to its fleet of luxury motorcycles for hire.

TIANZ wants greater recognition

TIANZ CEO Fiona Luhrs says the association is working to ensure the industry is recognised by central and local government as well as business leaders for the vital role it plays in the national economy.

Popular brochure man dies

JOHN Colquhoun of Brochure Distribution Ltd, Blenheim, has died. He was working in the garden when he had a heart attack, reports ITOC CEO Peter Lowry. "A great way to go, but very sudden." Mr Colquhoun was a popular but unassuming industry personality.

Mayors worried about departure taxes

QUEENSTOWN mayor Clive Geddes, Dunedin mayor Peter Chin and Otago Regional Council chairman Stephen Cairns say they are deeply concerned government is still considering a two-tier aviation security levy.

We've turned the corner - WTTC

GLOBAL tourism turned the corner in 2004, says World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) president Jean-Claude Baumgarten. "It's full steam ahead for travel and tourism in many countries and regions around the world."

The Wellesley opens in Fiji - with IT special offer!

OWNERS of The Wellesley Hotel, Wellington, have opened a local resort, Wellesley Fiji, in what was a rundown backpacker hostel. Its' between Pacific Harbour and the Coral Coast.

Q'town airport to expand

PLANS for a \$30 million expansion of the Queenstown Airport terminal were announced after Queenstown Lakes District Council gave the expansion the go-ahead.

"Not a good look"

BOTTOM baring youths who swear at and spit on overseas visitors at Whangarei Falls is disturbing to say the least, reckons ATTTO Maori Industry Training Advisor Ron Taukamo. (IT541)

Liquidators named for tour company

WAYNE John Deuchrass and Iain Andrew Nellies of Insolvency Management Ltd, Christchurch, have been appointed liquidators of Wonderful Kiwi Tours, the Feilding-based bus tour operator that collapsed in February.

TNZ to bring 100 UK agents for famil

FOLLOWING two years of successful Kiwi Link UK events, where around 400 travel agents received specialised New Zealand tourism-training in their home market, this year TNZ plans to bring the agents here, to undertake a "hands-on" training familiarisation.

Top 10 here this month...

TEN agents from some of the most influential wholesale travel companies in North America and the UK are here this month in a bid to open their eyes to the variety and quality of New Zealand cultural tourism products available.

Beyond Backpackers

THE award winning ACB Backpacking group is undergoing some innovative changes in response to feedback from its customers. As a result of six month's research amongst travellers to New Zealand, the company has launched an 'umbrella' name - Beyond Backpackers' to jointly market its four hostels.

WTO commends Aussies

THE WTO has commended the Aussies on adoption of UN standard.

Rotorua gaining industry recognition

ROTORUA'S Pepper's on the Point has been nominated for the Australasian-wide award of Best New Hotel in the HM Awards for Hotel and Accommodation Excellence, while Lake Tarawera's Solitaire Lodge is a finalist for the New Zealand Regional Property of the Year.

Skyline, Te Puia blitz Japan

TWO of Rotorua's major tourism attractions are cementing their joint Japanese marketing collective - with a week long visit to 60 airline representatives, wholesalers and TNZ in Japan.