

# ProGuides NEW ZEALAND

The Professional Association of Tour Guides in New Zealand

NEWSLETTER | December 2023

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## From the Chair

When the nth person says “Golly that was brave” you do start to think that you have done the wrong thing. I certainly regret that I have not been able to spend as much time, or get nearly as much done on ProGuides issues as I had hoped and intended when I (bravely? Foolishly?) put up my hand, and I do sincerely apologise to members for the lack of visible action. However, things have been happening.

**Committee:** We have been delighted to welcome Marianne Brunner to the committee. Marianne responded to the plea for more members to take on a committee role, and has already proven herself invaluable. She spent time working with Angela d’Aquaro prior to taking over membership responsibility. Once again, we’d like to pay tribute to the huge contribution which Angela has made to the committee over a long time and particularly in supporting our lean team.

The committee currently exists out of 5 persons. Helen, Brian, Jennifer, Iryna, and now Marianne. Please be KIND to them and only ask questions when you absolutely cannot find the answer to your question.

**Constitution Review:** We have to review our constitution to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act. The changes needed are fairly minor, but while we are reviewing it, this seemed a good time to look at other constitutional issues, and the committee will be bringing a recommendation to the AGM that we change our financial year to 1 July - 30 June to better line up with the guiding season and with the DOC financial year for those reporting against concessions. Full details of the proposal and its implication will follow early in the new year.



### Notes from the road

#### The official opening date for the Pike29 Memorial Track is set!

On 17 Feb 2024 the Pike29 Memorial Track will officially open to the public.

This memorial track, dedicated to the memory of the 29 men who died as a result of the Pike River mine disaster in 2010, is a significant step in the staged development of the wider Pike River Mine memorial site. This will be a place for all New Zealanders to visit, to remember, reflect and pay their respects to the Pike 29. As it winds between the valley floor and the tops of the range, the Pike29 Memorial Track introduces visitors to the story of what happened at the Pike River Mine and what has been learnt from the disaster. Future development will focus on the mine portal site providing a quiet place of memorial and reflection, and an interpretation (story telling) centre in the former administration buildings for people to visit and learn about the mine and the tragedy.

#### Tracks closed.

- Blue Pool Track Haast Pass
- Cathedral Cove access track closed for the summer. Still accessible by watertaxi.

**AGM & Conference 2024:** Mark Saturday 25 May in your diaries. There will be famils on both Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> . The committee looked at Hokitika, where we had a commitment pre COVID, and at Palmerston North, which had been enthusiastically endorsed by Sharron Hickman at the last (2) conference(s), but we felt that because everyone is just getting back on their financial feet post COVID, we should make it as easy and economic as possible to attend, and this really pointed to Auckland, with the best airfares from most places, and ground travel options for the largest number of members. Venue and full details will be publicised in January, along with the registration form.

**Training and Qualifications:** I have spent a lot of time, on line and in person, with managers in Ringa Hora, the Services Workforce Development Committee, within Te Pukenga, the tertiary umbrella organisation set up by the previous government. Although this whole structure is in limbo while we wait for the new government to announce what will replace it, the time with Ringa Hora has been well spent, as, whatever the surrounding structure, the Industry Training Organisation relevant to Tourism and to ProGuides appears certain to continue, and will shortly be reviewing its Tour Guide Training module. (There will be a full report in the next newsletter once we learn more)

### **New Minister of Tourism & Hospitality**

Mat Doocey (National Member for Waimakariri) is the new Minister for Tourism and Hospitality.

He has been an MP since 2014

He is also Minister for Youth, for ACC and for Mental Health, and Assoc. Minister for Transport and for Health. He is Number 17 in the cabinet ranking - a long way from when both Helen Clark and John Key thought the portfolio important enough to be held by the PM.

**DOC Concession:** The great new DOC concession, which the previous committee saw through, is in place and both new and existing members are signing up (see article below). An added bonus is that the audited Health & Safety Plan, which DOC required as a condition of the concession is available as a model for ProGuides members to formulate their own H & S plans.

**Other:**

- **Whitestone Cheese in Oamaru** has a new Cafe ( Richard Gallagher)
- **Hokitika Waitangi weekend:**
- 100 years of Aviation ( Ann Bradley).
- Map with **Access to National Kiwi Hatchery, Rotorua.** A dedicated entrance is on Danseys Road ( Sharon Hickman)
- **call on 0800 724 626.**
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/332004233492804/permalink/7995930037100147/?mibextid=Nif5oz>
- Opening of the 25A Coromandel on 20 Dec.
- Queenstown District - Water restriction lifted per 8 Dec.

- **Welcome to our newest Members**

- Shelley Munro- Kotapu
- Valentin Puech ( MoaTours)- Akl
- Marek Stachowiak-Akl
- Gisela Craig- Timaru
- Simon Bowie-Chc
- Gareth McMillan-Dunedin
- James Beckett-Mamaku
- Vadym Oryshchuk-Akl

**ProGuides DOC Concession.**

Are you all set with your ProGuides DoC concession for the summer guiding season?

Committee member **Iryna Stewart** is looking after the administration of the DOC concession.

**Address for DOC matters:** [doc@proguides.co.nz](mailto:doc@proguides.co.nz)

**NOTE: Only write to this address or contact ProGuides AFTER you have read right through the “Everything DOC” in the Members section of the website:**

<https://proguides.co.nz/everything-doc/>

If you indicated when you paid your ProGuides 2023 subscription that you required a DoC concession, and have sent in evidence of your public liability insurance, your application will have been sent to DoC and you should have received your concession card(s) (personal and vehicle, if you applied for vehicle concession).

If you still want to apply for this season, please send a copy of your public liability insurance, and your current first aid certificate, if not already on the PG file, along with an application form

<https://proguides.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Appendix-1-ID-card-order-form.pdf> to [doc@proguides.co.nz](mailto:doc@proguides.co.nz)  
[finance@proguides.co.nz](mailto:finance@proguides.co.nz) ?????????????????????????????????

**A reminder of what the concession covers:**

<https://proguides.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Conforming-tracks-list-Proguides-DOC-concession-2023.pdf>

This is a list of 141 locations, as requested by PG Members. Many of the previous tracks are no longer included, in particular in the Central Plateau/ Northland/ Bay of Plenty where the Iwi are still discussing with DOC with regards to access to their ancestral land, but new, longer walks have been introduced in other parts of the country.

**Managing your concession:**

You will need to keep a record of all your guiding activity on the listed tracks, noting number of group members and the length of time. Different rates apply for up to an hour, 1 - 4 hours (half day) and full day, with children charged for at half price.

At the end of the season, you will be reminded of the date for sending in the season's return to ProGuides. You will then receive an invoice for payment to ProGuides, who will make a consolidated payment to DoC.

## **Health and Safety Plan**

An additional bonus from ProGuides is an updated and audited Health and Safety Plan. The audited plan was required by DoC and meets their requirements. It also provides us with an excellent H & S plan which can be used regardless of whether or not you hold the DoC concession

The draft briefing document which Tourism Industry Aoteroa prepared for the new Minister is **attached** to this newsletter.

## **From our Partner Organisations:**

### **Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA)**

TIA produces some excellent webinars. Here is a link to their webinar library.

<https://members.tia.org.nz/s/webinar-library>

Recent additions include: Tourism Industry Strategy –  
Tourism 2050,  
the Tiaki Promise,  
Milford Opportunities,  
Tourism Sustainability

### **TIA SUMMIT**

The TIA Summit this year focussed strongly on the future of tourism in an age of rapidly developing technology. What will it mean for the travellers of the future? And for the tour guides?

All very exciting and thought provoking, but, as is often the case with major gatherings, the main benefit for ProGuides was largely in the personal contacts and follow-up visits, particularly with the Chief Executives of TIA and TEC.

A brief summary of sessions is attached to the newsletter, and here is a link to the slides:

<https://www.tia.org.nz/news-and-updates/industry-news/tourism-summit-aotearoa-presentation-slides/?stage=Live>

## Message from DOC Regarding the Routeburn

As the summer season has now commenced we'd like to remind you of some of the concession conditions and standards of behaviour you are required to adhere to when guiding on the Routeburn Track.

The reminders below are also attached as a document you're welcome to print and share.

As you are all aware, our tracks get busy so we want to ensure all visitors have the same great experience:

1. Please ensure all guides carry a concession card or are able to provide the permission number as DOC staff will be checking for ID.

The form for ordering more ID cards is attached. Please fill this out and send it to [transactioncentre@doc.govt.nz](mailto:transactioncentre@doc.govt.nz) for processing.

**NB** the cards will not be sent unless there is a valid safety plan audit certificate linked to your permit. If you do not have this, you are not permitted to operate.

2. The Mount Aspiring National Park Plan and your permit clearly allows guided walkers to visit the Falls within the vicinity of the hut, but not beyond.  
The handrail at the top of the Falls is a good, well defined end point for trips.
3. Keep group sizes and frequency to the number stated in your permit and maintain a reasonable distance between groups
4. Be considerate towards other members of the public.
5. Follow the seven principles of Leave No Trace [www.leavenotrace.org.nz](http://www.leavenotrace.org.nz)
6. As rubbish is an ever-increasing problem, please ensure guides and clients dispose of all rubbish and waste appropriately
7. Check the Special Conditions outlined in Schedule 3 of the permit and ensure guides are aware of and abide by them.
8. Do not use the gas facilities inside Routeburn Flats or Routeburn Falls huts, you must provide your own gas cookers.
9. Flats and Falls huts are only to be used in exceptional circumstances or for sheltering from adverse weather, or to use the toilets. We ask that your groups give priority to paying hut users.

Any questions about this information or anything else to do with your concession please let me know.

For more info contact Fiona Peat, Supervisor Community and Visitor Centre  
Dept of Conservation  
027-212-3923/ [fpeat@doc.govt.nz](mailto:fpeat@doc.govt.nz)



In the meantime, have a great guiding season and a

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

For those doing the Mahi over the Christmas holidays we wish you a safe and rewarding trip with lovely guests.

Best Wishes from the Committee.

