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May 17, 2024

AGM Outlook

Still haven't got your registration in? **Do it now.** Just go to the registration form in the AGM & Conference section of the Member's Portal on the PG Website. There is **no late entry fee.** It's a perfect chance to mix and mingle and discuss matters that are close to our industry. On Saturday, we will start with an overview of the sector from Tourism NZ, future plans and strategies. Pippa Saxon from Service IQ will give an update. Legal responsibilities, health and safety are also part of the morning agenda.

After the AGM, we will discuss the future of ProGuides New Zealand. Your ideas and options are more than welcome. During the whole weekend, you have the opportunity to share professional tips that you have found useful. This could be a favourite location, restaurant, activity, service provider or another treasure which has delighted your travellers.

Programme Update

So far 30+ guides have enrolled to the **AGM & Conference 2024, Saturday 24th of May.** Check out the additional programme around this year's conference. It includes an exclusive preview of the Auckland City Rail Link, where staff will give a picture of how the link will operate in the future and an insight into how it can be used for city tours. Furthermore, we will have a tour 'behind the scenes' at Auckland Museum and a casual gathering at Elliott Stables on Friday night. On Sunday, we will head out West to learn about Kauri trees with the chance to walk amongst these giants. Chocolate and wine tasting and a lot more is also on the menu. Back in the City of Sails we can enjoy the All Black Experience. Transport will be provided by **Moa Tours**, a family-owned business for more than four decades.



Snippets from the road

- Milford Sound: The new **Avalanche Shelter** for the **Homer Tunnel** on State Highway 94 in Shouthland is about to be finished.
- The **chasm walk** was a popular track in the Cleddau valley, Fjordland, on the way to Milford Sound until it was badly damaged by a storm in 2020. Now it has been largely repaired.
- The Department of Conservation has announced the options to reinstate walking access to **Cathedral Cove** in the Coromandel.
- The re-opening of State Highway 1 over the **Brynderwyns** has been pushed back to the end of June - adding more weeks to the closure.
- A 100-metre-long suspension bridge has opened in Taranaki. The NZ\$ 1,2 million **Manganui Gorge Bridge** is a striking piece of infrastructure, likely to become a destination itself, because from the bridge one can look up and see Mt. Taranaki.

Membership matters

Membership invoices were sent out at the beginning of April. There are still a number of members who haven't paid yet. In case you haven't received an invoice, please contact the **ProGuides secretary**. Thanks to those members who have already paid for your loyal support.

Message from TIA

In response to a call from tourism operators to build capability around sustainability, Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) has launched a new online programme for businesses, which is a great background for our conference discussion on the future. Check out their 30-year- industry strategy, which was launched last year and named a **Blueprint for Impact**.

Message from MBIE

Led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Department of Conservation (DOC), the government is seeking feedback on whether to increase the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). Since 2019 most international visitors have paid a \$35.00 levy which has helped to fund important initiatives like kakapo recovery, tourism and data insights and more. The government believes the \$ 35.00 does not cover the costs anymore. **Click here to have your say**. In addition to that, MBIE is holding two public webinars on proposed changes to the levy as well as information sessions for tourism and conservation organization. **Just check out their website**.

Figures from TRENZ

Tourism is back and set to boom. One of the major events of the industry, **TRENZ**, which took place recently in Wellington, was living proof. Over 1,000 delegates from 25 countries gathered to buy and sell tourism-related products, services, and trade ideas. The figures behind tourism's ongoing recovery, and its accompanying mood, are solid.

Before the pandemic, tourism was New Zealand's largest export earner, generating NZ\$ 41.4 billion annually and accounting for 9.1 percent of the economy. That fell to NZ\$ 26.6 billion, and just 5.1 percent of the economy in the year to March 2022. International visitor numbers over the three months to February were at 87 percent of those over the 2019-2020 summer, according to Tourism NZ.



Introducing our Partners

Pacific Cycle Tours

Pacific Cycle Tours is a family-owned New Zealand tour company providing outstanding hiking and cycling tours for the past 30 years.

We focus on small groups, excellent value tours with personalized service. Specialists in multi-day, multi-trail, guided E-bike tours, and German speaking hiking tours across Aotearoa. **[Check out our website.](#)**

Intrepid DMC NZ

Our expert team in New Zealand pride themselves on their alignment with the Tiaki Promise, focusing on the people, places, Māori culture and the connection of their manuhiri (guests) with the whenua (our land).

We offer scheduled small group guided experiences with passionate guides, as well as working with an array of external brands to act as their Destination Management Company (DMC) on the ground. **[Check out our offers.](#)**