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AGM 2025 – Save the Date

As a result of the decision at AGM 2023, our AGM will now be at the start of the season, rather than the end.

ProGuides AGM & Conference 2025 will be Saturday 30 August in Palmerston North, venue is still to be confirmed. There will be famils before and after the conference, organised by our very own Sharron Hickman. Now is a great time to make super cheap travel plans. **Moa Tours**, our generous industry partner member, offered to provide bus transport. The bus will travel **Auckland to Wellington Thursday 28 August** then be the transport for the Friday famil. **Bus returns to Auckland Monday 1 September.**

For members flying in from other parts of the country book an early flight to Wellington on Friday 29 th (or stay in Wellington the night before) Or fly into Auckland early on 28th and join the road trip to Wellington + the Friday famil. Train or bus travel to/from Palmerston North to various North Island destinations. Further details will follow in coming newsletters, but get those dates locked in now.

Famil Offer

Angela D'Aquaro's offers to organise a 2-3 day **Taumarunui/Waikato famil** in early October. It includes a meeting with Ngāti Hauaroa Kuia at Morero Marae to learn about Maori tikanga. Also considered is visiting Nevalea Alpacas and Te Kuiti as well as Glowworm + Cave of the Spirits with Spellbound (small group tour).

Next stop would be Kiwi House at Otorohanga and stop at Hamilton Gardens on the way back to Auckland.

While the exact dates are still to be announced, the famil should be between 3 and 10 Oct. **Please contact Angela** if you are keen.



Notes from the Road

The **Invercargill Public Art Trail Trust** unveiled the first piece of a planned art trail around the city. The trustees hope to add vibrancy and interest for both locals and tourists with the creation of the art trail. They encourage businesses to help with funding.

The Fjordland Military Museum, located between Mossburn and Te Anau, is an impressive privately owned collection and display of military vehicles and memorabilia set up and developed by Duncan & Tina McGregor. **Viewing by appointment**, groups preferred, catering could be arranged.

Edgewater Wanaka Hotel is currently undergoing a full refurbishment. By December 2023 30 rooms were completed. An additional 10 were refurbished in August 2024 and another 30 will be available by January 2025. Full room inventory will be available throughout the summer.

Meetings off season

ProGuides are still working on arrangements for monthly meetings of members in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Nelson with the idea to discuss a relevant industry-related topic at the catch-up. Watch the space!

Tour Guide Training

A reminder from Pippa Saxon for those interested in doing Tour Guide Savvy or the New Zealand certificate in tour guiding. Check out their **revamped newsletter**. Service IQ has remained constant through the recent and ongoing changes. PG Chair Helen Tait has signed up for the NZ Certificate in Tour Guiding, with the Tour Guide Savvy course as a first step of reviewing and assessing the training programmes. If you are also interested, please contact **Service IQ-manager Pippa Saxon, ph. 0274300485**.

Government Tourism Levy

Members will be aware that, following consultation, **the levy has been raised from NZ\$ 35 to NZ\$ 100**. Some tourist organisations complained against the increase. ProGuides NZ was invited to support a TIA submission against the increase, but declined, as we felt that it is still a modest sum, which will not deter visitors to NZ, but can help to improve the quality of infrastructure used by tourists and contribute to DOC costs. We did submit that the expenditure should be transparent and reported back to the industry as well as to the paying travellers.

ProGuides DOC Concession

Full details of how to apply for the concession were sent to all members in the July newsletter. Instructions are on the PG website under “Everything DOC”. Please read the instructions carefully and send your applications in as soon as possible. The very small committee had numerous members complaining that they did not receive the concession when they hadn’t applied. Literally hours of (unavailable) time have been spent trawling through emails and files for documents which were not sent.

It’s not enough to indicate that you wish to renew the concession, a signed application and other documents have to be returned to **DOC@proguides.co.nz**.

PG finance officer Brian Farrant, who is dealing with the DOC-concessions, urged members to log in to the new PG-website when they need more information, not only about DOC, but also to check contact details.

The PG-committee is looking for someone, who could deal with all things regarding DOC.

Please consider if you would like to join the PG-team.



Tipps and Treasures

Want to handle your tips without cash, think about installing this app: **Dosh is a New Zealand mobile wallet** and financial services provider that offers a Visa debit card and digital wallet service. Users can transfer money from their bank account into their Dosh account and use the money to make purchases and send/receive payments with other Dosh users.

We all know that New Zealand is the land of pies in all shapes and forms, sweet or savory. Every year we hear about the best pies awards. What a brilliant idea to compile a website that deals exactly with this topic. **Check out the pie reviews** about New Zealand's best pies.

Tourism Export Council has published the latest arrival numbers and revealed that there is a slower recovery from Germany and many European markets. China and Asian markets still soft rebound compared to Western markets. By May 2025 TECNZ forecasts 85% of pre-Covid arrivals, based on May 2024 arrivals.

Sustainability Matters

Some of you may have seen the Facebook postings from PG member Kirsten about TIA's new initiative AkiAki, which is an online, educational programme. For an overview, check out this **YouTube webinar**, which will support tourism businesses turn their sustainability aspirations into practical acts. Online learning modules can be accessed free through the ProGuides TIA membership. Go to www.akiaki.nz, click on the registration button for TIA members, and enter ProGuides company number where requested (11247). **Click here for more information**. So far 250 people have registered and the feedback is positive.

Predator-free New Zealand

DOC's predator control programme has been achieving its best results ever due in part to improved timing for operations. Over the last year, DOC has delivered 24 aerial predator control operations across 735,000 ha of public conservation land. DOC controls predators on a sustained, rotational basis at 67 forest sites across Aotearoa over about 1.8 million ha or 20% of public conservation land – on average over about 600,000 ha per year. Some of the many endangered species such as the Kiwi and Weta benefit from predator control. **Read more about the results here**.

West Coasts New Manager



Development West Coast (DWC) has appointed Andrew Aitken as the new Destination and Tourism Manager, starting on 23 September. Experienced in the tourism and hospitality industry, Aitken has held various leadership positions with Air New Zealand, Skyline and Ngāi Tahu Tourism. He will be responsible for leading initiatives that enhance the West Coast's tourism offerings, fostering sustainable tourism growth, and strengthening the region's brand presence in the competitive tourism market.