

# ProGuides Newsletter

24 October 2024



## From the Committee

The 2024/2025 season has started, and it is expected that there will be 20 percent more visitors than in the last season. The industry is still not at full capacity, but it looks promising. The ProGuides family at the beginning of October was successful and the committee our fellow members to come up with new ideas to discover lesser-known parts of our beautiful country.

Next month, industry leaders and influencers meet at Tourism Summit Aotearoa in Auckland, where also the winner of the environmental tourism award will be announced. Get the latest information about all things DOC. Check out ideas for conservation strategies on the West

Coast as well as schedules for cruise ships in the coming months. Finally, enjoy some tips from the road from our experienced fellow tour guides.



### **Save the Date**

On December 1, 2024, the **Auckland** and **Christchurch** crew of ProGuides plans a **Welcome Summer social event**. Save the date in your calendar if you are either in Auckland or Christchurch and not on tour. Details and venues will be advised.

### **Tourism Summit Aotearoa**

On Wednesday, 6 November 2024, industry leaders and influencers will meet at the Tourism Summit Aotearoa at Auckland's Cordis Hotel. It is regarded as a key event on the annual tourism calendar, bringing together more than 300 business and industry leaders from around New Zealand. The theme for this year's Summit is Visitor Experience in a Changing

World. [Check out the programme](#). In the evening of the same day, also at the Cordis Hotel, the winner of the KiwiRail [Tourism Environment Award](#) will be announced.

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### **International Developments**

Stats NZ data released on October 11, 2024, shows international visitor arrivals are up 19.9 percent in the year to August 2024 against the same period last year. Visitor arrivals are at 83 percent to Aug 2024 of pre-COVID levels. TIA is pleased that there has been growth over the previous year, particularly from the Asian market and for holiday arrivals, but there is still a way to go. [Click here](#)

### **Everything DOC**

Rest assured: The applications for the DOC concession are being processed as soon as possible. However, if you haven't submitted the application yet and you need it for the season DO IT NOW ! The longer you wait, the longer it will take. We are talking several weeks here. Remember that there are 4 documents required: The ID card form, the agreement to be a party of the concession page (both these are to be found on the Members Portal on our website), your First Aid certificate and your Personal Liability Insurance. Applications will only proceed forward if all 4 documents are sent and up to date. Remember to let us know if you have changed address, or the ID card will be sent to the old place. Any question, you can contact [doc@proguides.co.nz](mailto:doc@proguides.co.nz).

### **West Coast Conservation Strategy**

The Department of Conservation, Poutini Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio) and the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board are working together to develop a new Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). The region has extensive and unique tracts of public conservation lands and waters. Upcoming changes through climate change, shifts in recreation and visitor flows as well as developments in technology will be factored in. The partnership encourages the public to contribute to the CMS. For more details, please contact them directly via email [wctpcms@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wctpcms@doc.govt.nz).

## Shape your ACC

Do you want to get information how ACC levies are calculated, schemes are managed as well as rates and forecast, [check it out here](#). The levy consultation feedback is now closed, but you can still get a lot of information about the topics that have been up for discussion.

## Closures and Delays

Travelling SH6 Nelson to Murchison anytime between 21 October and 6 December? Road works between Korere & Motupiko causing delays up to 15 mins from **29 October thru to 6 December** for resurfacing. In this period from **18 to 29 November** the road will also be closed and traffic will be re-routed from Belgrove via St Arnaud to Kawatiri Jn. adding 20mins to your driving time.

Plan a stop at Lake Rotoiti or visit the amazing DoC Visitor Centre with your guests for a learning and discovery experience! A great opportunity to introduce your guests to conservation efforts on the South Island . TopHouse Historic Inn is also a great stop for an afternoon tea or drink at the smallest pub in NZ. Helen & Clint are happy to tell your guests the story of a double murder and suicide that took place there over a century ago. Must be pre-arranged.

And if you are heading to/or coming from the West Coast from **Monday 21 October to Friday 22 November** there are more roadworks on SH6 near the Owen Valley Road. A daytime stop/go with a temporary speed limit of 30km/hr will be in place between 7am and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday. Plan ahead for delays of up to 15 mins during this time.

For more information, [check out NZTA website](#).

## Famil to King Country



Angela d'Aquaro organised a great famil for a small group of tour guides to the heart of the King Country, visiting Taumarunui, Te Kuiti, Waitomo and Hamilton. Educational insights by Fiona Kahukura-Chase at Morero Marae were followed by a visit to New Zealand's largest Alpaca Farm Nevalea. The next day the guides enjoyed an extensive guided walk & talk with Peter from Spellbound Waitomo before returning to Auckland via Hamilton Gardens with its new visitor centre. [Click here to read more \(https://proguides.co.nz/proguides-famils/\)](https://proguides.co.nz/proguides-famils/).



## Notes from the Road

### Tairua River Trail

Separated from the road, this trail is perfect for an easy walk or ride and offers stunning views of the estuary and nearby mountains. With 6.4km to explore, it's great for e-bikes, runners, families, and anyone looking to enjoy the peninsula. [Click here for more](#)

[info](#)



### **Ayrburn in Arrowtown**

A highly recommended visit by Sharron Hickman, who reckons this is a place with a Wow-factor. Spectacular gardens/landscaping, garden sculptures, bar, restaurants, cellar door wine tastings. If you ever have free time in Queenstown / Arrowtown [a visit to Ayrburn is a must.](#)

### **The House with No Nails**

Jen and Dewi, the owners of the house with no nails, offer guided tours through this remarkable home as well as a light lunch. The house is full of character and charm. [Located at 80 Waghorn Road, Wardville, Waikato](#) it is a 30-minute drive from Hobbiton.

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