

# ProGuides Newsletter

24 November 2024



## From the Committee

This is the time of the year we want to celebrate with friends and colleagues. Although, many of you will be busy and on the road, but for those of you who are free and in **Auckland**, we have arranged to meet at **DEVON ON THE WHARF** in Devonport on **Sunday 1 Dec from 5pm**. Come for a drink or a meal, and to catch up with friends or meet new ones.

The colleagues in **Christchurch** are also planning a get-together on Sunday, December 1. Those who are in the area are invited to meet at

**Dux Central 6 Poplar Lane off Lichfield St, from 4pm onwards.** Guides pay for their own drinks and ProGuides will provide some snacks.

Let your friends know and do invite any potential members to join us, either in Christchurch or in Auckland and have a very merry Xmas.



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### **Charging International Visitors**

The Department of Conservation is considering charging visitors to access national parks and other conservation areas. Paid parking will be trialed at Punakaiki, Franz Josef Glacier and Aoraki Mount Cook National Park. DOC has released two documents for public consultation, seeking feedback on questions like who should pay visitor fees and where, and what that money should go towards. Submission will close on 28 February 2025. [Click here to find out more.](#)

### **Opposing Fees**

Tourism Export Council New Zealand (TECNZ) doesn't support the idea of charging for car parking or access to national parks. TECNZ believes extra charges will dampen demand by international visitors. International visitors do pay their way and contribute significantly to New Zealand's economy, particularly with the GST plus the IVL fee expected to generate \$150million. [Check out the arguments here.](#)

**ProGuides NZ will issue its own submission to the suggested fees, just remember it might not coincide with your personal opinion.**

### **Closures and Delays**

[SH1 between Tūrangi and Waionaru](#) will close from Monday 6 January until late February 2025. The detour is expected to add 1 ½ hours extra travel time. More information to come. Due to slip repair works, [SH 6 Haast to Lake Moeraki](#) will be closed in both directions every night between 9pm and 7am until further notice. In addition, the road will close in both directions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 12pm and 5pm. [Check out NZTA's journey planner](#).

### **Key Challenges**

Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) conducted a workforce survey to identify key challenges and opportunities in the tourism workforce. Encouragingly, 75% of organisations are optimistic about the next 12 months, although challenges such as rising costs persist, and recruitment remains a significant focus. [Check out the full report](#).

TIA also shared some ideas about the changing of visitor experience in tourism with the central idea of 'balanced growth'. Here is the [link to their White Paper](#).

### **Something to ponder**

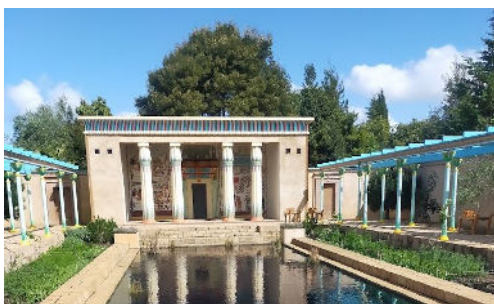
You never know what is going to happen when you are on tour. Are you prepared in case of an emergency when you as a tour guide are affected. We should make sure that we have our personal details including next of kin details with us at all times. Maybe using a sticky label put the details on the back of our ProGuides name badges? Or put details with our mobile phones or in our back packs etc. Any other ideas from any members? Feel free to contact ProGuides.

### **The History of the Milford Road**





The Milford Road was first proposed in the late 1880. The Otago Provincial Council wanted a route from Queenstown to Milford so they could send the area's gold out more easily. Mr. Henry Homer, one of the early settlers, explored the area and figured out that drilling a tunnel through a mountainous ridge, that became known as the Homer Saddle, would be possible. But it took a number of decades until the well-known tunnel was opened. [Read the story of the Milford Road development.](#)



## Notes from the Road

### Adventure Books

This store just opened recently in Christchurch. [Adventure Books](#) is located at the corner Worcester Boulevard and Oxford Terrace in one of Christchurch's red brick historic buildings. Worth a visit.

### The Art of Banksy

Following a successful exhibit in London, art works of Banksy arrives on an exclusive



summer show in Wellington.  
From [November 28 to January 20, 2025](#), the artist's most infamous works are on display in Takina.



### Spot on Dunedin

Whether the Taieri Gorge Train, the Railway Station, Olveston House or the Botanical Garden, Dunedin is humming with hidden gems. [A new website](#) claims to inform about experiences you won't find in the guidebooks.



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