

ProGuides Newsletter

28 May 2025



From the Committee

A very warm welcome to our new members. It would be great to see you at our annual AGM, which is shaping up. Our very own Sharron Hickman will be organising more of her famous inspiring families. One starts prior to our AGM on Thursday. The conference itself will take place in Palmerston North on August 30. Mark the date. We are looking forward to seeing you there. Our current newsletter also informs you about

tourism's most important trade show, TRENZ, which took place in Rotorua this year. Last but not least, have a look at an informative webinar at the beginning of June. Enjoy the read!



Famils in August

Sharron Hickman (pictured above) has organised a famil in Wellington prior to our AGM. Starting at 9 am on August 28, the tour includes exciting visits such as Weta Workshop, a Heritage Centre, several LOTR filming sites and a space place. **Check out details here.** Those who are not able to take part in the pre-conference famil have the opportunity to travel to Palmerston North by bus from Auckland. There are more famils around Palmerston North planned after the conference. Watch the space.

AGM Update

The conference day on Saturday, August 30, and the Sunday famil are free to members. Evening social gatherings are at own expense. Accommodation in Palmerston North and Wellington is up to members to arrange. Activities before and after the conference are optional. The **AGM takes place at Copthorne Hotel**, ending with a group dinner. A bus is scheduled to take members back to Auckland on Monday. **Click here for an overview.**

DOC Matters

DOC concessionaires must submit the return form **before the end of June**, even if it is NIL. You also need understand that our concession is not a blanket one that covers all places DOC, but only the sites listed on our agreement with DOC, 40 of them in total. Our Web-Administrator received a return with tracks that were not on the list and will check all submitted to make sure that ProGuide members are within our concession (otherwise there might trouble).

Prompt Payment Discount

Did you know if you pay your renewal membership fee prior 31 May that you pay less? For those who have paid recently, the membership cards will be sent out in bulk at the end of May, early June, mid/end of June. Have you signed up for a **First Aid Refresher Course**? Please send a copy of your new First Aid Certificate to admin@proguides.co.nz.

Your Profile on our Website

It is important that you revisit your profile regularly and make changes yourself. If you are unable to login at the **Members Only** Section or if you have any enquiry regarding our website, please contact admin@proguides.co.nz. If you haven't done so yet, please do join our closed [Facebook-Group](#) for news, updates, photos and meetings.

New Zealand History Lesson

Dr Tanja Schubert-McArthur, a Learning Facilitator at the National Library, has offered to give PG-members a presentation about three founding documents of New Zealand and their historical context. The webinar will take place on Monday, June 9 at 7.00 pm.

Meeting ID: 464404365797

Passcode: Bv6Ud3nq.

Recap: Culinary Highlights

A number of guides joined Sharron Hickman on a culinary trip through Auckland's CBD on May 2. The famil included Ima Cuisine in Fort Street, Kingi at Britomart, Queenstop Bar, Bellini Bar at Hilton Hotel and more. It was informative, entertaining and very inspiring. [Click here to read a](#)

recap.

Industry News



TRENZ in Rotorua

One of the major events of the tourism industry took place at the beginning of this month in Rotorua. This year's TRENZ saw around 16,000 meetings across three days, with 1,200 delegates. The [government announced](#) that it will make it easier for overseas visitors to enter the country. Rebecca Ingram, TIA's chief executive, said, that this year's theme was about connecting people. To compete globally, tourism must invest, evolve and be seen. [Click here for her ideas to tourism's path forward.](#)

Workforce crisis

There is a downside to the optimism of executives at TRENZ. Who wants to work in tourism? A looming workforce crisis threatens the industry growth plan. The focus on bringing more visitors to New Zealand is understandable, given the sector accounts for 7,5% of GDP and international tourism injected NZ\$ 16.9 billion into the economy in

the year to March 2024. [But how can the industry handle the challenges.](#)



Trip Ideas

For decades, generations of New Zealanders have been embarking on road trips across the country.

But even if you think you know what's out there, there are plenty of destinations even the most knowledgeable of locals may have missed. Author [Peter Janssen knows a lot](#) about the country's hidden tourist spot. His [podcast is worth listening](#) as it gives you a lot of information for commentary.

Notes from the Road



Christchurch Transformation

The CBD of Christchurch is about to be transformed by bold new multi-million-dollar precinct. [Watch the early plans here!](#)



Hobbiton wins Award

Hobbiton has scooped up a world record and been crowned by Guinness World Records as the largest purpose-built movie set. [Click here for more information.](#)



Conservation Milestone

In a major conservation milestone Kiwi birds were released in Waiheke Island. The hope is that they will start to establish a island-wide population. [Read more here.](#)

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