

ProGuides Newsletter

21 September 2025



Chair and Committee Updates

The AGM of ProGuides NZ in Palmerston North at the end of August was an uplifting and inspiring event with a number of interesting families (picture taken at the Rugby Museum). The association welcomed a new chair and committee:

Chair: **Angela D'Aquaro-Law**

Membership: **Marianne Brunner**

Finance: **Robert Miernik**

Secretary: **Susanna Lewis**

DOC: **Brian Farrant**

Newsletter: **Doris Evans**

Web Admin: (pending confirmation)

The new line-up reflects the international nature of our industry with French, Swiss, Polish, Swedish, German being represented as well as a Kiwi. Now, we are focused on what lies ahead. In our first meeting we will discuss our purpose and focus, membership support and recruitment as well as categories and a lot more. Stay tuned, we will keep you informed.

In this Issue

The September newsletter informs you about the latest developments in the tourism industry, inspires you with interesting articles and video clips. We also introduce some of our new members. Please feel free to contact us if you have a topic of interest or would like to contribute to our monthly newsletter. Enjoy the read and have a great start to the upcoming 2025/2026 season.

Industry News



Pure Tourism buys Nomad

Pure Tourism Group has acquired Queenstown-based Nomad Safaris in a multimillion-dollar-deal. The acquisition is regarded as a strategic decision supported by Pure Tourism's shareholders – Maui Campers founder and JUCY co-founder Chris Alpe, maritime and tourism industry stalwart Craig Harris and NZ-born US-based organisational economist

TIA Summit Programme

Tourism Industry Aotearoa has released its programme for this year's summit, under the theme 'Being dynamic in a global marketplace'. [Click here to check out](#) the speakers and detailed topics of the event, which will take place from Tuesday, October 28 to Wednesday, October 29, 2025 in Wellington.

Government strengthens Tourism

In a bid to strengthen local economy and rebuild tourism infrastructure, the government has allocated NZ\$ 1.6 million to repair and reopen the [Great Taste Cycle Trail in the Tasman region](#), which was badly damaged by recent weather events. It has also launched a [targeted marketing campaign](#) to promote domestic tourism in the region.

Visitors up

International visitor arrivals to New Zealand increased by 5% in the year ending June 2025, reaching [3.38 million visitors](#). The rise in arrivals contributed to a 4.3% increase in the economic value of international tourism, totaling NZ\$ 12.1 billion for the same period.

Return of the Ferries

After a three-year hiatus the [Auckland to Coromandel ferry service is set to return](#) this summer, launching on October 24, just in time for Labour weekend. Explore Group has announced that it will operate an express service Friday evening as well as Saturday and Sunday departures with plans to increase the schedule. Over in Roturua, the [Lakeland Queen is back](#). Its new owner, Damon Hagaman, is happy to have the iconic boat back on the lake.

Nature Matters



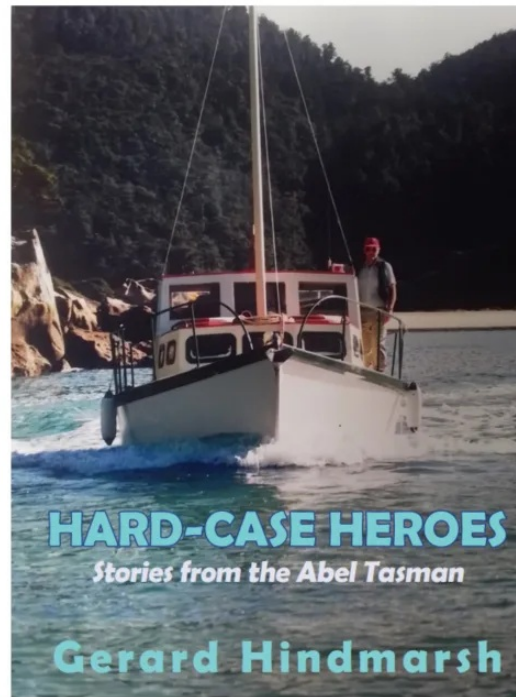
Albatros Centre Dunedin

September marks the changeover of albatross breeding seasons at Pukekura/Taiaroa Heads at the end of the Otago Peninsula — as chicks from one season fledge, adults from the next season arrive with the purpose of raising chicks of their own. [The first albatross chick](#) began her eastward journey towards South American waters in the night of the first of September. [Click here to learn more](#) about these magnificent birds (pictured above).

Predator Free Progress

New Zealand's Predator Free 2050 movement is stronger than ever with 9000+ community trapping initiatives and 20 large landscape projects. [Click here to have a look](#) at five stories from communities across the country that show the growing momentum behind Predator Free 2050.

Inspiring Reads and Clips



Abel Tasman Stories

Gerard Hindmarsh's latest book *Hard-Case Heroes* focuses on the social history of the Abel Tasman area and the stories of some of the quirky characters who lived there. [Click here to listen](#) to his interview with RNZ.

The Lady with the Lamp

Ninety years after crowds lined the streets for the largest individual funeral in the history of Christchurch, the legacy of **Nurse Maude**, New Zealand's Lady with the Lamp, is captured in a *Stories from the South*. [Click here to view it.](#)

Notes from the Road



Christchurch Cathedral

A new plan to rebuild Christ Church Cathedral in stages could see the landmark central city building [reopened by the end of 2030](#).

Geothermal Nights

Te Puia in Rotorua has



recently launched a curated night lighting experience called **Mārama – Geyser Light Trail**, within its thermal valley.

Heritage Walk

Situated on State Highway 1 near Sanson, the **Woolshed Cafe offers a slice of Kiwiana** with audio-guided walks through beautifully curated houses from past centuries, starting at 1860.



Stonehenge Aotearoa

Situated in rural Wairarapa, **Stonehenge Aotearoa** is a window into the past where the visitor can rediscover ancient knowledge, astronomy and storytelling.



Members, Associates and Mentors



The Professional Association
of Tour Guides in New Zealand

www.proguides.co.nz

A very warm welcome to all our new members (see below). We also welcome associate members and are looking for mentors who would like to support the newbies.

Jo Hutchinson (English) is already an experience tour guide with a decade of expertise leading premium group tours, creating



unforgetting guest experiences. Jo is based on **Waiheke Island** but guides throughout the country.

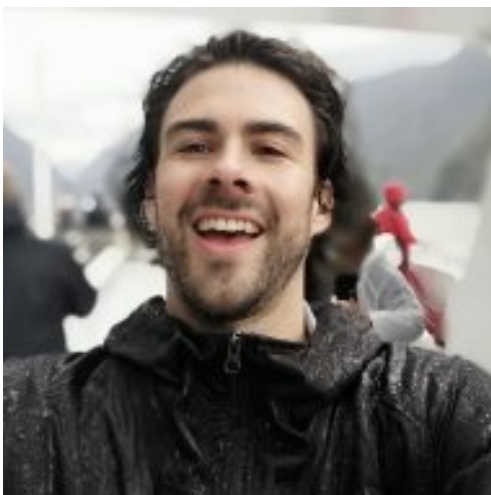
Elizaveta Romanova (Russian, English, French) has been guiding for over 15 years. Originally from Russia, she now calls New Zealand home. Based in **Wellington**, she likes to share her knowledge of history, culture, geology and nature with her guests.



Patrick Leem (Korean, English) lives in **Hamilton** and is a driver-guide. He says that he truly enjoys guiding his visitors around New Zealand and also likes to connect with people from diverse backgrounds.



Regan Williams (English, French, Spanish) grew up in Ngaruawahia and Auckland before moving to France as a teenager. He has been guiding since 2016, in New Zealand and abroad. During the low season, he lives in Mexico and works as a language tutor.



Andie/Andrea Ramage-Brown (Italian, English) has been leading tours for the past 30 years, through New Zealand, Europe, USA and Cuba. She lives in **New Plymouth**, but Italy was her home base for



many years.

Associate Member Sandy Brison, an experienced photographer, lives in **Christchurch**. She would like to explore the route of guiding and is looking for a mentor.



ProGuides New Zealand.

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