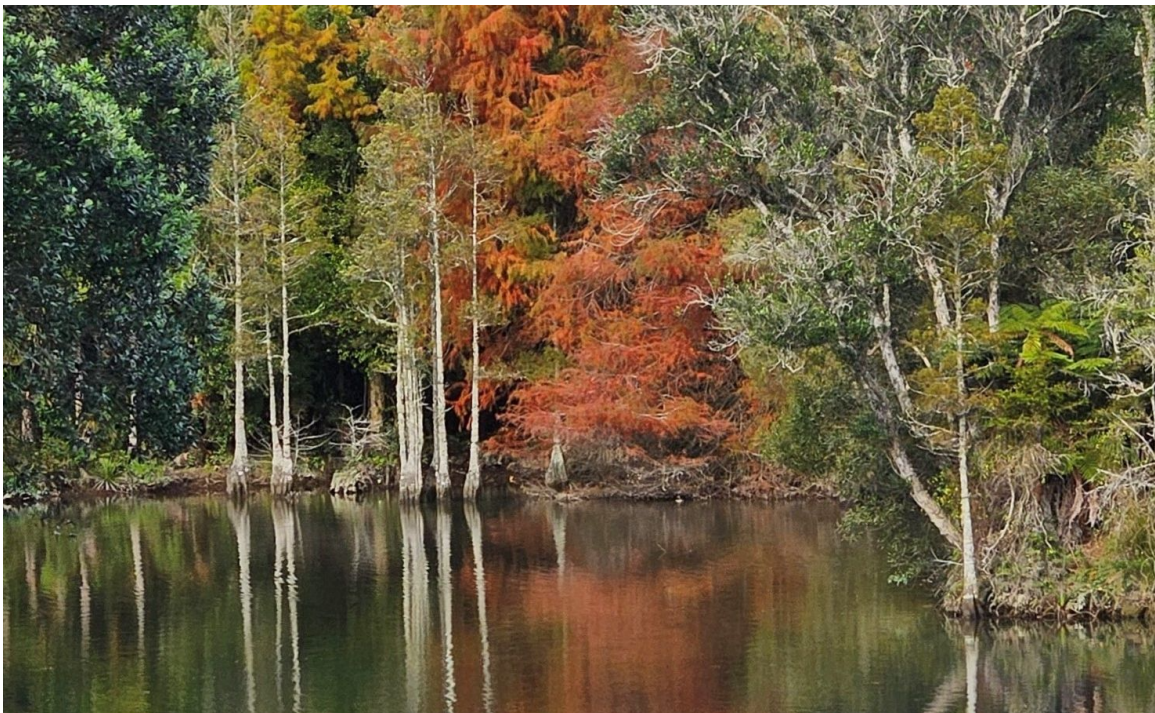


ProGuides Newsletter

25 May 2026



From the Chair

Our **"Mega-Famil"** for the **second half of June**, is well and duly underway. As it turned out, there are now three trips on offer. The first part includes Christchurch, Dunedin, Otago Peninsula, Te Anau Milford Sound and Queenstown. The second part brings us from Queenstown to the West Coast, Nelson, Abel Tasman and Picton. The third part is dedicated to the North Island and features Wellington, Rotorua, Waitomo and Auckland. This is just to give you an idea. **Bookings will close on May 30. [Please get in touch](#)** as soon as possible as seats are limited.

From the Committee

Renewal of membership (from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027) for guides and industry partners is due. [Click here to renew your membership.](#)

Once submitted, an email invoice with payment details will be sent out.

When payment is confirmed, your membership card will be posted to the address provided in the form.

And don't forget to book your stay in **Oamaru in September**, where our yearly AGM will take place on Saturday 19 **at the Brydone**. We are happy to support the local heritage precinct, which has come under pressure recently as the funding for this Whitestone gem has ended and its future hangs a bit in the balance. Locals are struggling with the rates that have been increased to a point that is no longer sustainable and places (in the historic precinct and elsewhere) are starting to close down. [Read more here.](#)

Upcoming and recent Events



ProGuides at School of Tourism

ProGuides Members Mani Fagundes dos Santos and Susanna Lewis (pictured above) had the opportunity to present our association and what it means to be a professional guide to students at the [New Zealand School of Tourism](#) at Auckland Airport. Around 60 level 3 and 4 students attended [the presentation](#) and were informed about the challenges and rewards of becoming an Ambassador for Aotearoa New

Zealand. Students and host Manuēsina Māhina-

Fujimoto were interested in having ProGuides back to present for the higher-level students. Well done!

Webinar with Bex

Mark the date: On **Wednesday, June 10, 7pm**, Ambulance Officer and First Aid Trainer Bex Hill will run a **First Aid Scene Management Webinar for Tour Guides**. The online chat is about sharpening your instincts, having a kit that is ready and making sure you're ready to step up when it counts. Because out there—you are the first responder. [Click here if you are interested.](#)



Auckland Art Gallery Tour

14 Proguides-members enjoyed a guided tour through the Maori section of the [Auckland Art Gallery. Toi o Tāmaki](#) is Aotearoa New Zealand's leading visual arts experience, with a collection of more than 18,000 artworks spanning historic, modern and contemporary art. The Gallery is committed to strengthening the stewardship of taonga Māori. Just opposite the art gallery the group enjoyed an afternoon coffee at the rooftop bar (picture above) of the newly opened [Radisson Red Hotel](#), the first of its kind in Australasia.

DOC Matters



Memo for Concessionaires

It's that time of the year again, where our members have to tell DOC where they have been for the last 12 months. Please send this return no later than June 30 or get in [touch with DOC specialist Brian](#), if you have any questions. It takes up to 6 weeks for DOC to process the applications, and they only issue them once a month, so if you miss the deadline, it could be over 2 months before you receive the DOC-card. [Check out the requirements here.](#)

Track Reviews

We are currently reviewing the tracks on the concession, and the ones that don't pop up on your returns may drop off and will be replaced with new tracks. DOC has added some to our list we can use. Tracks such as Jacks Blowhole in the Catlins, Diamond Lake near Wanaka, Lewis Pass Nature walk, Pleasant Flat Nature Walk, Kahikatea Swamp Forest Walk at Lake Kaniere, (better than Ship Ck) and more are on the list but not on our concession. **We need your feedback** regarding new tracks and what you want to be included. [Please get in touch with Brian](#) for more information.

Tongariro Northern Circuit

Construction of Oturere Hut on the Tongariro Northern Circuit is on schedule for the start of the Great Walk Season in October, but Mangatepopo Track remains closed after last year's fires. The Circuit will operate as an end-to-end tramp between the Mangatepopo Rd end and Whakapapa Village. [Click here for more information.](#)



Tourism Trade Show attracts Thousands

TRENTZ, the country's largest international tourism business event, took place from May 19 to 21 at the recently opened NZ International Convention Centre in Auckland with over 1000 tourism delegates. More than 340 buyers participated in fam programs across Auckland, as organisers sought to **position Auckland as a destination** in its own right rather than simply a gateway to other regions. Recent Stats NZ figures show visitor arrivals totalled nearly 360,000 in March, up close to 15 percent from March 2025. But fuel prices have rocketed this year due to the conflict in the Middle East, **causing airlines to cut capacity**. However, the tourism industry remains optimistic, welcoming more buyers this year than any time since 2019.

TIA Tourism Briefing

ProGuides Chair Angela D'Aquaro-Law attended the Tourism Briefing on 21 May at the Auckland Convention Centre with over a hundred of big hats from the industry. Rebecca Ingram, chief executive of TIA, opened the floor with a clear statement that **Tourism is a strategic asset for New Zealand**, and one of the country's largest employers. There is good confidence in the industry, despite the elevated running costs. Prime minister Christopher Luxon reiterated that **visitors are looking for safety, security and tranquility**, which are one of New Zealand biggest drawcard. Tourism Minister Louise Upston announced a new unified **Tourism Policy Statement** to clarify national direction, investment, and long-term coordination. With the aim to double tourism export value by 2034, the policy focuses on balanced growth, resilience, and high-value

exports, as well as providing funding and supporting vocational skills.

TEC and Malaysia join forces

Tourism New Zealand and Malaysia airlines have entered a transformative two-year partnership to boost travel demand and strengthen destination visibility through innovative marketing initiatives that aim to attract more international visitors. By joining forces, the two organisations seek to showcase New Zealand's landscapes, cultural heritage and diverse tourism experiences. [Click here for more info.](#)

Rotorua secures Upgrade

The Government has announced a major investment to restore and upgrade some of Rotorua's most popular outdoor destinations, with [NZ\\$1 million allocated to improve tracks, campgrounds, and visitor infrastructure around Lake Tarawera and Lake Ōkātina](#). The funding was sourced from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL).

Notes from the Road

City Vibe in Christchurch

There has been some progress on the new Sheraton Hotel in Christchurch city. Most of the panels have been installed, which gives it a fresh appearance. [Read more here.](#)



Worth a Stop

Housed in renovated woolsheds **near Queenstown, BuzzStop** is worth a visit. The centre aims to give visitors an opportunity to learn about Manuka honey as well as gin. They also run a lovely cafe.



Auckland Photo Festival

Zealand's premier international photography festival returns to the city centre, **from 29 May – 14 June**. It will feature a dynamic mix of existing works and newly commissioned pieces.



David and the Kākāpō

Check out how the Department of Conservation is **celebrating Sir David Attenborough's** 100th birthday. Looks like one national treasure talking about another one. Awesome!



Full Member:

Mateo Winter, Dunedin

offers wildlife, history and landscape niche trips in the lower South Island. Mateo, who started his own company in 2027, is passionate about delivering quality experience for small groups.

Affiliate Members:

Christine Asani, Auckland

is a Kiwi but grew up in the French speaking part of Switzerland, hence she is looking forward to guide mainly French visitors.

Dennis Braunert, Auckland

was born in Germany and worked in education as a teacher for English and social sciences. In 2025 he started working as a driver guide.

Andrew Gibb, Stratford

has been raised in Taranaki and has begun to use the experience he gained through his many trips on the Maunga, to guide friends and family around the area of Mt Taranaki. He is looking forward to pursuing tour guiding as a full-time career.

Véronique Guilloteau, Auckland

of French origin, Véronique moved to New Zealand in 2000, and has mostly been teaching French to adults. She loves travelling, natural and human history.

Anna Robinson, Auckland

born in Poland, Anna offers multilingual skills. She speaks English, French and Polish. Beside this, she has experience in customer service in different countries and in various roles.