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Subscription rates on application.

ISSN 1176-3574

ISSUE 535/Executive Summary

February 25th, 2005

Aviation faces skills shortage - report

AVIATION industry leaders are calling on young people and others to consider jobs as pilots, flight attendants and avionic technicians following the release of a report highlighting the need for significant increases in the aviation workforce.

The report shows that more than 1,400 new people are needed each year to cover growth and replace those leaving.

ATTTO CEO Gayle Sheridan says there is a challenge ahead for the sector to meet the predicted large number of new entrants required.

"Jobs in the airline industry are challenging and hold great opportunities for young people going out into the world," she adds.

"ATTTO and the wider aviation and tourism industries need to get this message out to the workforce."

But the immediate priority for ATTTO is to work with employers to ensure that training programmes are fit for purpose and to improve efficiency of the workforce.

Many SMEs do survive...

ONLY a quarter of small businesses go under in their first five years, according to research on 1,514 of them. Massey University management lecturer David Tweed says it's just not true that 80 percent of small firms are high risk ventures.

TAT owed \$2.6 million

TRANS Air Travel Ltd - or TAT Travel - which went into liquidation last month, has debts of \$2,696,882. Liquidator Terence Hillson has released a report which shows the company has a realisable value of \$997,736. Preferential creditors are employees, who are owed a total \$14,736, and IRD with \$82,980 owing on PAYE. Assets available for secured creditors are \$900,020 while there's \$264,305 for unsecured creditors. The Bank of NZ is owed \$13,588 and trade creditors \$1,587,390.

There are also unsecured loans of \$786,536.

The company was an inbound and outbound business - dealing mainly with China and Taiwan.

Qantas: world's most profitable airline?

QANTAS established its credentials as the world's most profitable airline after its domestic strength and improving international performance delivered a 28 percent increase in net profit for the six months to December 31.

Asia Pacific Aviation MD Peter Harbison says the A\$458.4 million reflects the value that can be extracted from a good strategic model moulded to market conditions. "Qantas has become a benchmark for what most other operators aspire to, and sadly do not achieve. It has evolved a structure that seemingly can cope with whatever the market throws at it, and still grow profitability," he adds.

NZ spas are tops

NEW Zealand's spa and luxury lodges have been voted amongst the best in the world, with awards for three lodges and two of our spas in the latest edition of the UK travel magazine *Condé Nast Traveller*.

Peppers - in the Oscars bag

JOHNNY Depp, Leonardo DiCaprio, Clint Eastwood, Jamie Foxx and 21 other Oscar nominees could soon be enjoying the pleasures of Peppers on the Point - Lake Rotorua. The luxury lodge has been selected to be included in this year's luxury gift baskets at the 77th Academy Awards.

More than 10 million visits to Te Papa

MORE than 10 million people have visited Te Papa since it opened on February 14, 1998. That's more than 390 visitors a day. Numbers have jumped to 1.3 million visitors a year.

CDL has record profit and occupancies

CDL Hotels this week announced a 36.1 percent jump in after-tax profit to a record \$23.2 million for the year ended December 31.

MD Tsang Jat Meng, says the company has made enormous strides in the past five years. "You just need to look back to our earnings in the 2000 financial year when we reported a \$1.5 million profit to see where we have come from."

Survey participants win top prizes...

WE had a great response to our readers' survey late last year.

Some good ideas were put forward including: a section where readers can pose questions; stories on developments in the museum and heritage sector; articles on new regulations; views and experiences of host communities and/or visitors; and a column on smart and effective campaigns started by operators. Overall, readers find *IT* "very" relevant to their businesses. Keep on in the same format is the general opinion!

Those who replied to our questions had their names put in a draw for various prizes. Winners in full issue.

Largest data-base of its kind

IN its four years' existence, www.seasonalwork.co.nz has reportedly become the largest data-base of seasonal work in the world.

THL earns slightly more than last year

THL should earn an unaudited net profit after tax (NPAT) of \$12.5 million to \$13.5 million in 2004/5 - compared to \$12.5 million the previous year.

When taking into account Oz Experience combined trading losses and anticipated sale costs of potentially \$2 million tax paid, the reported NPAT for the June 30 year is expected to be between \$10.5 million and \$11.5 million which compares to the NPAT of \$11.2 million in 2003/4.

The profit was achieved on a turnover of \$85.2 million, itself up five percent with the New Zealand revenue up 12 percent - and Australia down seven percent due mainly to entering into a third party arrangement for car rentals and the lower volumes of Oz Experience. Major cost efficiencies were achieved in the Rentals division where EBITA increased 37 percent to \$15.1 million on a revenue increase of six percent.

Retailing down in Q'town

QUEENSTOWN Chamber of Commerce CEO Nick Lambert says many of his members are concerned revenue did not come up to expectations for December and January. Some say their takings were down 25 percent in December and 10 percent in January.

Use more energy efficient equipment

THE industry should introduce more energy efficient equipment or vehicles, or reduce energy consumption drawing on initiatives and incentives available through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) if it wants to avoid the effects of the now operational Kyota protocol, says TIANZ.

F and B warns of acid rain

ACID rain and toxic waste from the proposed conversion of the Marsden B power station to coal could damage an important forest reserve and nearby marine ecosystem, warns Forest and Bird.

SkyCity results hit by smoking laws - but still "comfortable"

SKYCITY Entertainment Group had a \$57.1 million net profit for the half year ended December 31, up four percent over the same period in 2004.

Changes to New Zealand legislation and the gaming industry's regulatory framework, with regards to the Smokefree Environments Act and Gambling Act, have affected operations and financial results. But the company is comfortable with current analyst net surplus after tax expectations for this year of \$114 million - \$119 million.

Industry upset at Milford proposals

OPERATORS are deeply concerned at DoC proposals for Milford Sound, which TIANZ CEO Fiona Luhrs says are not based on enough research or consideration of tourism businesses operating there. She says tourism and conservation must work together to resolve differences.

DoC "sorry" for pursuing operator

DOC has admitted it was wrong in pursuing a year-long case against New Plymouth tourist operator Dave Chadfield, who owns Chaddy's Charters. The department has scrapped plans to enforce a passenger levy on his business.

Decline in numbers to Abel Tasman park

DOC Motueka area manager Colin Wishart says he's unsure why there has been a decline in the number of visitors to Abel Tasman National Park -

Kirkland slams "Clayton's revamp"

WHY has Taupo's promised tourism revamp been a major flop, wonders Taupo Hot Springs and Spa MD Barry Kirkland.

"It's because a real revamp never occurred. It was a Clayton's revamp, lip service paid an ever growing problem, which is resulting in Taupo slipping behind its major tourism competitors, classic examples being our neighbours Bay of Plenty and Hawke's Bay."

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Huka Lodge made the Gold List for its ambience and design; Kauri Cliffs for its facilities, and Blanket Bay for its food.

The Polynesian Spa in Rotorua has been voted the seventh-best spa medical and thermal resort in the world - up two places on last year.

Newcomer to the list, La Spa Naturale in Paihia, made it to number 10 on the list of Australian and South Pacific Spas.