

# Inside Nigel Coventry Tourism

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## “Sexy” regions leading growth?

PROVINCIAL New Zealand is socking it to the traditional economically-dominant big cities. That’s the view of Venture Taranaki economic development leader Campbell Woskett.

He says in almost every regard, regions are beating main cities hands down in growth, business confidence, real estate buoyancy, situations vacant - and tourism percentage increases.

Aside from GDP rises, business growth and retail trade increases in the region, a recent Ministry of Economic Development conference in the Hawke’s Bay has been told that regions outside the main centres are enjoying 23 positive consecutive quarters - with areas like Taranaki leading the way in economic trends.

“Something is definitely going on within the regions of this country,” Mr Woskett says.

“You only have to look at the indicators coming out of provincial New Zealand to realise that there’s something very ‘sexy’ about the regions and how they are appealing to a larger slice of the population keen to move away from city problems.”

The launch of Taranaki Trends, a twice-yearly economic report, says business confidence in Taranaki is the strongest in the country.

## Visitor days have levelled, says TRC

WHILE the aviation sector benefits from the inbound and outbound travel - for operators in our regions the substitution effect may be being felt as New Zealanders choose to travel off-shore rather within this country, according to the latest Tourism Research Council (TRC) leading indicators’ monitor says this

## Mainland may be first zero waste island

THE South Island should be declared the world’s first zero waste island, Zero Waste Trust New Zealand chairman Ron Riesterer said on Tuesday.

He made the call before opening the international zero waste conference in Kaikoura.

More than 130 delegates from around the world are attending the gathering, which ends today (Friday).

## Airlines to lose US\$5.5B in 2005!

THE world’s airlines will lose US\$5,500 million this year, according to IATA. Director general Giovanni Bisignani says high oil costs are crippling carriers. But he also blames government regulation of airlines and airport charges.

## Beware...

**TOURISM industry operators need to be aware that the Health in Safety and Employment Act 1992 (the HSE) will affect them in less obvious ways than they may be aware of, according to Brookfields Lawyers.**

**Operators are advised that their lease is no protection against overriding statutory obligations such as the HSE, and they should act promptly to deal with any issues.**

## Russell warns of trans Tasman fares rise

CONSUMERS Institute CEO David Russell warns that airfares will rise if AirNZ and Qantas are allowed to carry each other’s passengers trans Tasman.

## DIY holiday bookings with AirNZ

AIRNZ this week launched the next step in online travel booking providing the opportunity for customers to create their own holiday packages.

## \$\$ help Wanaka’s sustainability efforts

FOLLOWING Lake Wanaka Tourism’s (LWT) successful application for the government’s Environmentally Sustainable Tourism Project, the board has announced Sustainable Wanaka Charitable Trust will partner LWT for the three-year project.

## Has Benson-Pope seen the light?

ASSOCIATE Environment Minister David Benson-Pope is being urged to withdraw his proposed amendments to the Resource Management Act after delivering a spirited defence of the Act and public participation while criticising National’s proposals to fast track infrastructure and undermine public participation.

“The Minister’s criticism of National’s proposals is deeply ironic given the government’s efforts to do exactly the same thing,” says Forest and Bird conservation manager Kevin Hackwell.

### **WTTC to launch forecasting system**

**A new economic model that will be able to forecast the effects of crisis events on the industry is to be unveiled by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) tomorrow (Saturday).**

### **Second most popular museum**

WORK started this week on an extension to the Wellington Cable Car Museum, at the upper entrance to the Botanic Garden. It will significantly improve visitor access to what is Wellington’s busiest museum after Te Papa, with more than 200,000 visitors a year.

### **Get your signs up, advises battler**

**AFTER winning a 30 years battle against roading authorities Cassimer Lodge manager Reg Turner doesn’t want his efforts wasted. He is urging all accommodation operators to get their name on signs.**

### **CCM all out for North Island**

WITH excellent feedback from the first eight weeks of a crusade to establish Christchurch “top of mind” for North Island holidaymakers, Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing (CCM) launched a TV advertising campaign on Sunday.

### **Irish TV filming “exciting destination”**

**TARANAKI is the only region to be visited by an Irish film crew aiming to capture “exciting holiday destinations” for a high-rating travel show watched by at least half a million viewers every week.**

### **Latest on accommodation sector**

THERE has been significant growth in certain sectors of the tourism accommodation market on the back of continuing increases in overseas visitor arrivals and spending. In 2004 the number of tourism establishments grew six percent, or 210 new businesses, to 3,641, according to Bayleys Real Estate

### **AirNZ reduces commission**

**FIERCE trans-Tasman competition has forced AirNZ to reduce travel agent base commission on all its tickets sold in Australia for travel within and to New Zealand.**

**The carrier will from July 1 reduce base commission levels from five to one percent.**

### **TranzAlpine doing roaring trade!**

THE TranzAlpine has carried a record 200,000 passengers in the last 12 months.

Owners TranzScenic say there has been a steady increase over the last four years. Recent services have carried more than 600 passengers a day, with a record

698 passengers carried on February 15, breaking the previous record of 615 passengers on an individual train.

### **Parkroyal to become Crowne Plaza**

**PARKROYAL Queenstown is to be launched as the Crowne Plaza Queenstown in September, following completion of the first stage of a multi-million dollar refurbishment.**

### **Popular West Coast cafe on market**

A popular licensed stopover opposite Pancake Rocks, Punakaiki, is for sale. Wild Coast Café can seat more than 60 diners and includes a two-bedroom residential unit which could be used as owner’s accommodation or rented out.

### **DoC not brave enough?**

**DOC should have been braver and proposed a bigger marine reserve at the Nuggets, according to the Forest and Bird.**

### **China’s Golden Week will stay - for now**

CHINA National Tourism Administration (CNTA) has announced that China will continue embracing the “golden-week” long holiday system - for now.

### **Accolade for act of kindness**

**AN act of kindness from a member of the New Zealand public has given an American journalist a 100% Pure New Zealand welcome.**

### **Road and parking problems**

QUEENSTOWN will become a gridlocked and dysfunctional community if nothing is done to fix the growing traffic and parking problems, according to a new transportation and parking report.

### **Farm and Garden Restaurant for sale**

**ROSELANDS Farm and Garden Restaurant on 6.3 hectares of land just three kilometres from Waitomo Caves is for sale.**

**The 580 square metre restaurant with 137 sq m of covered decks seats up to 270 people and comes with a tourist gift shop.**

### **Free tool from Cornell**

A new free management tool now available from The Centre for Hospitality Research at Cornell is the only non-proprietary computer software designed specifically to help hospitality real estate professionals and hoteliers in the preparation of market studies, forecasts of income and expense, and valuations for lodging properties.

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