

# Inside Nigel Coventry Tourism

PO Box 100, Taumarunui, New Zealand.

Tel/Fax 64-7-8957-737.

nigel@insidetourism.com

www.insidetourism.com

Member: PATA, TIANZ, SKAL.



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## ***Van Asch and Brodie honoured***

**HENRY van Asch of AJ Hackett Bungy and New Zealand Fighter Pilots' Museum curator Ian Brodie have been made Officers of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours.**

## **Bring on the brands, says Ngan**

As hotel room rates rise - and there is evidence of this starting - investment and new hotel chains will follow, according to Horwath Asia Pacific director Terry Ngan. He says Auckland is missing out on international hotel brands, which will help to establish the city as a sophisticated international destination and gateway. "You only need to look at the four to five hotel brands operating in Sydney and Melbourne to see the potential for Auckland."

## **Hickton: we must stay ahead of trends**

**THE world is becoming increasingly aware of what New Zealand has to offer - but so are our competitors, TNZ CEO George Hickton will tell media representatives at TRENZ next week. "New Zealand continues to win awards - for its marketing, for its website - for all the tools that we are using to push the New Zealand message. But it is not enough. We must stay ahead of the trends."**

## **Tamaki to open luxury travel show**

THE inaugural New Zealand Luxury Travel Show opens at Huntley House, Christchurch, tomorrow (Saturday) and closes next day. There are 24 exhibitors and 20 buyers.

The event is to be opened by Tamaki Heritage director Mike Tamaki.

Organiser Neil Pollett says the show is filling a strong demand to offer a luxury focused product preview to overseas buyers.

## **TNZ, ITOC to help Chinese agents**

TNZ is grabbing the opportunity to talk to 20 buyers from China who are in New Zealand this week. They will meet, together with six ITOC China portfolio members.

## **Passengers say driver asleep at wheel**

POLICE, Land Transport New Zealand and his boss want to talk to a bus driver who reportedly fell asleep at the wheel with 12 passengers on board as he drove from Dunedin to Christchurch one night last week. He was woken by one passenger after what was described as "a trip from hell."

## **De Jong advised airports on service**

**AIRPORTS must embrace customer service, too, says PATA president and CEO Peter de Jong.**

## **Zooming in on zoo animals**

ZOOM is a new range of tours at Auckland Zoo, which allow groups of five to 10 visitors to get up close with the animals.

## **Routeburn in National Geo's top 10**

**THE Routeburn Track has been named as one of the top 10 hikes in the world by *National Geographic Adventure Magazine*.**

## **Lodge closes in protest at DoC poison**

TE Mahoerangi, the only backpacker lodge on the two day Nydia Track, Marlborough, has closed for six months - because DoC is placing the poison 1080 in the area this month.

## **Jasons in \$3.6M share float**

**JASONS Travel Media is seeking to raise \$3,600,000 through the offer of 7,200,000 new ordinary shares at 50 cents a share - and aims to list on the NZAX.**

## **China seminar to visit four centres**

A seminar on China is being organised by the Asia New Zealand Foundation and Export New Zealand.

## **History for sale**

**CORSTORPHINE House - Dunedin's luxury home away from home for the rich and famous - is for sale. The private hotel has been on the market for more than a year, but has not been advertised locally, confirms owner Irina Francken.**

## **Market attracts national attention**

KERIKERI'S farmers' market is attracting national attention with stories on the weekly event appearing in three national magazines.

But while some cafes and retail businesses are taking advantage of the new flow of people, there is a reluctance among some to open their shops at the weekend.

## **Southland promotes at Fieldays**

SOUTHLAND'S attractions, opportunities, lifestyle and rural strengths will feature at the New Zealand National Agricultural Fieldays at Mystery Creek from next Wednesday.

## **Minister to open bigger, better Chateau**

THE \$7 million, 39-room Bay View Chateau Tongariro extension has been completed just in time for the ski season. It's to be opened by Tourism Minister Mark Burton on July 8.

## **Coach ban could see Wanaka bypassed**

WANAKA could be left off the itinerary of hundreds of coach trips a year if the Queenstown Lakes District Council bans heavy vehicles from using the Crown Range road.

## **Mainland RTOs unite**

FOR the first time all 10 South Island RTOs have co-operated to produce a comprehensive brochure and website: [www.visitsouthisland.co.nz](http://www.visitsouthisland.co.nz).

## **CCM launches packages for Mount Hutt**

CHRISTCHURCH and Canterbury Marketing has launched two winter ski, car hire and accommodation packages for Mount Hutt.

## **It's even more relaxing at Waiwera!**

WAIWERA Infinity Thermal Spa Resort has added another relaxing dimension to Auckland's most visited water destination. Reputedly New Zealand's oldest spa, long renowned for its rejuvenating and restorative pools, on-site café, and international-standard wellness spa, it has now opened accommodation, giving visitors the opportunity to stay overnight.

## **Skyline makes yet another record profit**

SKYLINE Enterprises made a record \$17 million profit in the last March year, up 20 percent on the previous 12 months. This was on operating revenue of \$34.2 million, up 9.2 percent.

## **Concern over cableways**

IN DoC's new rules for national parks cableways are no longer allowed to "provide a suitable form of access in special circumstances" but may only be installed and used in "amenity" areas.

The Queenstown-Milford gondola proposal could therefore be stymied.

## **"Astonishing" drop in Japanese arrivals hits business**

SOUTHERN Travel Holdings warns it is unlikely to meet its prospectus forecasts because of an "astonishing" drop in Japanese arrivals. Chairman Ross Keenan says numbers have slowed significantly since October. While overall numbers are still up on a year-by-year basis the latest decrease has been "quite astonishing."

## **Northland boasts of 90 winter packages!**

NINETY special offers and winter packages are being offered by Northland operators on the region's website: [www.northlandnz.com](http://www.northlandnz.com).

## **3,000 working holidaymakers**

NEW Zealand Job Search (NZJS) - a specialist traveller's employment agency - and IEP (International Exchange Programmes) have announced a joint venture which will potentially see over 3,000 working holiday travellers placed in the workforce here.

### **Mixed opinion on government's tourism effort**

THERE'S mixed opinion on whether the present government has "put its money where its mouth is" when it comes to tourism, according to a straw poll we conducted with *IT* readers. About 34 percent of those who replied agreed with this, although 25 percent disagreed.

Labour is considered to be the most beneficial party for tourism, with National a close second.

And if an election were called today 31.25 percent of respondents indicated they would vote National, 16.6 percent Labour, and six percent NZ First.

As to who, in an ideal world, should be Minister of Tourism current incumbent Mark Burton was first choice followed equally by former minister Murray McCully, former National tourism spokeswoman Katherine Rich and former Labour tourism spokesman Damien O'Connor.

## **On the move...**

SHOTOVER Jet CEO and Ngai Tahu Tourism boss Adrian Januskiewicz has resigned after four years in the job. He's leaving in three months to start his own business locally. He'd like to remain at the helm of Destination Queenstown.

\* B.K.Chiu has been appointed MD of CDL Hotels.

\* Millbrook GM Rob House is leaving to become CEO of Terrace Downs, Christchurch. Mr House has been with Millbrook for the past two years and he leaves next month.

\* After seven years as GM of Hawke's Bay Tourism Hamish Lowry leaves at the end of the month.

\* Blair Deasy is to become manager of Skyline Gondola Restaurant and Luge, Queenstown.