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Northland spin-off for Campbell win

MICHAEL Campbell's US Open win has the potential to create spin-off benefits for Northland tourism. He is the touring professional for the Kauri Cliffs Golf Course in Matauri Bay, carrying out promotional activities for the course and his golf bag bears the Kauri Cliffs name and logo. Destination Northland manager Robyn Bolton says Mr Campbell's success will raise the international profile of Kauri Cliffs, hopefully bringing more visitors to the region.

Industry entering new phase - Luhrs

WE are entering a new phase in the industry's development, TIANZ CEO Fiona Luhrs told a media briefing at TRENZ.

We are half way through our 10 years strategy - and at first glance we are on track.

"We are seeing more focus on destination management...particularly by local authorities who took time to be convinced that really they are, or should be, in the tourism business."

Government is investing in infrastructure and there are increasing public/private partnerships included in research.

Ms Luhrs said it was good to see big players like Ngai Tahu taking over smaller companies. "It's good in that it provides career paths for people and ups the professionalism. One of the challenges is a lack of skills and places for people to go once they are trained. So the more the larger companies develop the industry the better it is as it does give people somewhere to go. They can stay in the industry."

She noted that global destinations which are competing against us are India, Vietnam, Cambodia, South America, Africa and China.

Australia also has big marketing budgets and we are working hard to be smarter. But the NZD exchange rate makes us dearer and the weakening US dollar has made America more affordable worldwide.

Ms Luhrs said we will always be longhaul and never mass market. "So we have to focus on yield and ensure businesses are sustainable and we have to deliver good holiday experiences."

QF denies SQ merger

QANTAS and Singapore Airlines have denied talks of a merger, after remarks by Australian trade minister Mark Vaile that he would back such a move.

Butt out, DoC told

DOC should keep its nose out of areas where tourism operators are protecting the environment and focus on its own performance targets, says National Party conservation spokesman Simon Power.

Maori to be industry cornerstone?

MAORI product will be the cornerstone of the industry in Taranaki by 2010, according to local Maori RTO Maori Tourism Taranaki

TEC to decimate staffing?

THE industry is at risk of losing up to 2,000 tourism graduates annually as a result of the Tertiary Education Commission's "Assessment of Strategic Relevance" of courses offered by private training establishments, writes ATTTO CEO Gayle Sheridan in *Speakers' Corner*.

Moose Lodge for sale

MOOSE Lodge and Golf Resort, overlooking Lake Rotoiti is for sale for only the third time in its 70-year history. It is famous for the royalty and celebrities who have stayed at the property.

Ferry master suspended:

A Bluebridge ferry master has been suspended for at least two weeks after a near grounding in the Marlborough Sounds.

Apprenticeships still available

MODERN apprenticeships are still available in the industry, says ATTTO. They provide opportunities for anyone 16 to 22 to gain employment and nationally recognised qualifications on the job - without incurring a student loan.

DM continues to rebuild

DESTINATION Marlborough chairman Trevor Hook says his board is disappointed to be losing the services of Paul Yeo, who was on Friday named successor to Peter Lowry as CEO of ITOC and TAANZ.

Rotorua launches major NZ campaign

UNDER the banner of *There you are Rotorua!* the city's \$265,000 media campaign was due to kick off on TV2 on Wednesday - during the high rating *Friends* sitcom.

Hickton: quality is no longer an option

QUALITY is not an option for operators, TNZ CEO George Hickton told a media conference at TRENZ. "We are not the only NTO (national travel organisation) focusing on quality."

Visitors "sick of buffets", says Callesen

JAPANESE visitors are tired of buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner. And *The Hermitage at Mount Cook* is doing something about it, according to GM Denis Callesen.

Queenstown is putting clients off

QUEENSTOWN is being overbuilt and is no longer as charming as it was, says Michael McClelland, who owns The Best Of New Zealand Fly Fishing. As a result, fewer clients want to stay so long in the resort. Mr McClelland, whose company specialises only in New Zealand fishing and is the largest company of its kind, says the balloting system for anglers wanting to use South Island rivers is silly.

Steam train trips planned

MONTHLY steam train trips for up to 100 passengers at a time through the North and South islands are planned by Great New Zealand Train Journeys from January.

MD Paul Hashfield says six, seven and 14 day trips will take visitors from Auckland to Wellington via Ruapehu and Wairarapa and then Picton-Queenstown. Historic carriages will be pulled by engines build in the 1920s and 1950s.

Tamaki Hikoi highlighted

A new cultural walking tour is available in Auckland, allowing visitors to learn about the city's landscape, culture and heritage.

NZLA will grow slowly and carefully

THE New Zealand Lodge Association (NZLA) has 22 members but that could rise to 30 if the right properties qualify, says director Garrick Emms.

Everyone loves nature, says Furhana

NATURE appeals to everyone, whatever their race, reckons Ruggedy Range owner Furhana Ahmad of Stewart Island.

Wanaka coming of age

WANAKA is at least coming of age and having its place in the sun, reckons Mount Aspiring Hotel owner operator Robbie Quinn.

Paddling a Maori canoe...

PADDLING a Maori canoe is the highlight of trips with the aptly named Abel Tasman Waka Tours of Marahau, near Nelson.

Motels well placed

MOTELS are ideally placed around the country to appeal to the interactive traveller, says MANZ CEO Michael Baines. Campervans are no longer considered to be in competition to motels. In fact, he adds, they complement each other. New properties being built must take them into consideration with adequate parking outside each unit.

Accor reports record occupancies

ACCOR Asia Pacific saw record occupancies in its 20 New Zealand hotels last year - and expects more of the same in 2005, fuelled by low airfares, a buoyant economy and the country's positive image in main feeder markets.

Support world class programmes

HOTELIERS are being urged to take advantage of world-class management programmes, being offered in Queenstown Resort College's executive education series, which will provide an international perspective on the industry along with innovative concepts in training.

Petition protests at Japan's plans

A petition launched in Kaikoura opposing Japanese government plans to expand its slaughter of whales, which opposers claim will hurt the town's whale watching industry, has well over 1,200 signatures already.

Aussies confident!

TOURISM Australia MD Scott Morrison describes his organisation as one that can "chew gum and walk at the same time."

May growth is good sign

THERE were 135,708 visitor arrivals in May and 2.38 million for the year-ended May, representing increases of 2.3 percent and 6.9 percent respectively.

No support for luxury travel show

UP to 70 international buyers and top end sellers apparently want last week's New Zealand Luxury Travel Show to be held again next year. But TIANZ, TNZ and AirNZ will not support it.