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Newsletter June 2014

SPECIALIST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

TOURISM NEW ZEALAND REBRAND

Tourism New Zealand will undergo a rebrand, with the 100% Pure New Zealand brand story to be updated to focus on Maori culture. Tourism NZ chief executive Kevin Bowler said that the bureau had been working with the Maori tourism industry on a special campaign, the New Zealand Herald reported.

REAL JOURNEYS NZ ADVISES

From 1 November 2014 - July 2015, The Manapouri Power Station will be closed to visitors so will not be a part of the Real Journeys day trips.

Meridian has proposed this timeline and will start a major ventilation refit to the entire power station. During this time there will be no tourist or vehicle access in the tunnel.

What does this mean for your clients? The Doubtful Sound Wilderness Day Excursion from Manapouri, Te Anau and Queenstown will NOT include the Power Station for the 2014/15 summer season. The 2015/16 season will resume as normal.

TRENZ 2015 TO ROTORUA

TRENZ expo is heading to Rotorua in 2015 from May 17 - 20 at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre.

The rights to host the annual international business event have been won by Explore Central North Island, a collective representing eight regions – The Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Eastland, Hawke's Bay, Ruapehu, Lake Taupo, Rotorua and Hamilton & Waikato.

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FUTURE COMMITMENTS FROM THE NZ PM

The government is committed to future investment in marketing the business events sector, Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, John Key, announced at TRENZ. Speaking at a media conference at the annual tourism industry showcase, held in Auckland, Prime Minister Key said luxury and business events were two sectors the government wanted to push harder. 'We believe it's right for New Zealand to tap into the luxury and business events end, we think (this approach) is starting to pay dividends. We intend to spend an extra \$34 million over the next four years to attract the business market and that is very much pitched around convention centres,' he said.

SOUNDS NEW IN MARLBOROUGH

Marlborough Travel is launching a new luxury cruise product that will be ideal for the incentive and corporate charter market. Scott McKenzie, sales and marketing manager with Marlborough Travel, says MV Tarquin will operate in the Marlborough Sounds from November and will be a year round product.

The company has been promoting a two night package at TRENZ, with the offer including 48 hours on board with crew and chef, cruising the Marlborough Sounds, all meals, morning and afternoon teas and pre-dinner drinks, house beverages (including Marlborough wines and boutique beers), plus fishing and kayaking. The company also has a Queen Charlotte Track package.

MAJOR CONVENTION CENTRE PROPOSED FOR WELLINGTON

A purpose-built convention centre for up to 2,500 delegates and a 165-bed five-star hotel - said to cost \$125 million and to be run by Hilton - are planned for Wellington, adjacent to Te Papa. "This conference centre and hotel will put us ahead of Christchurch

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and Auckland developments, with no need for a casino,” says mayor Celia Wade-Brown.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE SHIP BASED AT VIADUCT HARBOUR

INTERCITY'S overnight cruise ship Ipipiri, is to be based in Auckland's Viaduct Harbour, offering overnight and lunch cruises, private charters, weddings and corporate events.

The 30 ocean-view cabin GreatSights catamaran will arrive in Auckland mid-June and will begin cruising the Auckland Harbour and Hauraki Gulf from September 5. “Ipipiri is the ultimate floating venue, showcasing the sights of the stunning Hauraki Gulf,” says InterCity Group CEO John Thorburn. Spread over four levels, Ipipiri delivers theatre-style and cocktail events for up to 100 people and banquet-style event settings for up to 70. The 44.5m catamaran offers 30 ocean view cabins with ensembles sleeping 60. Onboard activities include kayaking, snorkeling and swimming or simply relaxing on the top deck. There is also a 70-seat restaurant and bar.

EXPLORE GROUP COMMITS TO AUCKLAND

Explore Group has relocated its trademark black and yellow power cat Discovery 5 vessel from its Bay of Islands operations to Auckland for daily departures to the Hauraki Gulf islands from July 2014.

AUSTRALIA

SAFARI IM STYLE AT WILPENA

A new tented safari product in the South Australian outback will appeal to the well-travelled clients, says Jane Wilson of the South Australian Tourism Commission. Ikara Safari Camp is ideal for travellers who like the idea of sleeping under a star-studded sky, but not so keen on roughing it. As part of Wilpena Pound Resort, the camp features 15 premium safari tents with ensembles and king size beds, luxury

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amenities, dining area, bar and fire pit on an isolated section of the Wilpena campground.

TOURISM AUSTRALIA SPARED BUDGET CUT

Ahead of today's budget, Federal Tourism Minister Andrew Robb has announced funding to Tourism Australia is to be increased, not cut, as advised by the Commission of Audit report earlier this month. The report recommended slashing Tourism Australia's funding as a cost saving effort for what is expected to be a harsh budget, but Mr Robb has announced otherwise at the Australia Tourism Exchange in Cairns, The Courier Mail reported. Tourism Australia currently has a budget of approximately AUD \$200 million, with most of it from the Federal Government, and around AUD \$50 million coming from the private sector.

P&O TO DOMINATE AUSTRALIAN CRUISE MARKET

P&O will add two new cruise liners to its existing fleet, making it the biggest cruising presence in the Australasian region. The addition of the two ships will bring P&O's total fleet to five ships which will help the company take advantage of the 130 per cent growth in cruising over the past five years and an anticipated 1 million passengers by 2016.

OCEANIA TOURS&SAFARIS (OZ) TWO DAY/ONE NIGHT GREAT OCEAN ROAD TOUR GAINS POPULARITY

Oceania Tours & Safaris launched last year a new unique overnight experience; Two day / one night Great Ocean Road tour staying at Great Ocean Ec lodge The new two day tour is an amazing opportunity to discover, enjoy and also help to protect this unique environment. To the usual highlights the Great Ocean Road has to offer, they now also add the opportunity to learn directly from a wildlife biologist on a guided walk through the

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bushland to see kangaroos and koalas in their natural habitat. Guests will also learn about the steps taken to study and protect koalas, tiger quolls and the local flora.

SEA SYDNEY CRUISES IN SYDNEY

is pleased to announce their new 2 hour Sydney Harbour Highlight Cruise. This new cruise, operates 4 mornings per week Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Departing from Commissioner's Steps on Calypso, on their 52' Motor Cruiser with a minimum of 2 and a maximum 16 passengers. What better way to start your day!

JETSTAR LAUNCHES MORE FLIGHT SERVICES TO AYERS ROCK(ULURU)

Jetstar will be launching a four times weekly return service between Melbourne and Ayers Rock Airport (Uluru) from 29 June 2014. The move sees Jetstar become the only scheduled carrier to offer nonstop flights between the two destinations. Jetstar will also increase frequency on the Sydney-Uluru market from four times weekly to a daily service from 28 June 2014.

SOUTH PACIFIC

SOUTHPACIFIC TOURISM EXCHANGE

The inaugural South Pacific Tourism Exchange (SPTe) was held Thursday and Friday (May 22-23) at the Pullman Auckland. SPTe attracted the participation of international wholesalers from around the world including North America, China, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, and sellers from 16 Pacific Island countries represented by national tourism offices (NTOs), airlines and private sectors operators.

THE ISLAND OF TAHITI NAMED #1 HONEYMOON

The 118 islands and atolls that make up the Islands of Tahiti were just named the top pick in the 2014

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BRIDES Best Honeymoons. This year marks the first time the Islands of Tahiti, officially known as French Polynesia, has taken the number one spot in this yearly listing.

DOMESTIC FLIGHT TO MANA (FIJI) BACK IN SERVICE

The long suspended Domestic flights to Mana Island will soon be back in service. You will be able to catch a flight with Pacific Island Air.

ANOTHER VESSEL JOINS CAPTAIN COOK CRUISES (SYDNEY) FLEET

SeaLink Travel Group has added a second state of the art \$2.6 million catamaran to its Captain Cook Cruises fleet, with the launch end of May in Sydney of Mary Reibey.

The new generation, 24metre Rocket catamaran, will join her sister vessel Elizabeth Cook, which was launched in November 2013, on Sydney harbour. Like Elizabeth Cook she is eco-friendly, fuel efficient and equipped with the latest technologies to reduce her carbon footprint. The two level catamaran has a main passenger cabin with seats for 116 passengers and a further 31 seats located on the lower outside deck. Upstairs an open upper deck has seating for 51 passengers, providing ample space for passengers to stand and view the sights.

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