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## Newsletter November 2014

SPECIALIST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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### NEW ZEALAND

#### **DUTY FREE CIGARETTE LIMIT CHANGED IN NZ**

The tobacco limits for visitors arriving into New Zealand has changed from 200 to 50. Please contact us for enquiries. Please also refer to <http://www.whatsmyduty.org.nz/>

#### **AJ HACKETT REACHES FOR THE SKY**

[AJ Hackett Bungy New Zealand](#) has acquired SkyJump and SkyWalk, at the Sky Tower in Auckland, with a change over date of November 6, 2014. The company will now have 10 adventure and personal challenge activities across New Zealand, four based in Auckland.

#### **CHANGE FOR COPTHORNE CHC**

Millennium Hotels & Resorts New Zealand will end its association with the Copthorne Hotel Commodore, Christchurch Airport effective October 31, 2014. All bookings held with the Copthorne Hotel Commodore, Christchurch Airport will be honoured up to and beyond October 31, 2014.

#### **TAIERI GORGE RAILWAY (NZ)**

After 27 years of operation, Dunedin's iconic Taieri Gorge Railway is rebranding. The company now has a new name and logo and will now be known as Dunedin Railways. The company name will still be Taieri Gorge Railway Limited.

#### **BIKE AND WALKING TOURS OFFER SENSORY EXPERIENCE**

CHRISTCHURCH Bike and Walking Tours has launched a two-hour guided experience of the city on foot.

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It gives people the opportunity to capture the creativity of the CBD rebuild, as well as enjoy the history and beautiful gardens, says owner Stephanie Fitts. It is an informative, personalised, and interactive experience. Tours are limited to eight people and cost \$35 per adult, \$20 per child. Contact: [info@chchbiketours.co.nz](mailto:info@chchbiketours.co.nz)

#### **VINCENT, HELIPRO STALLED**

VINCENT Aviation has gone into receivership, with BDO's Stephen Tubbs appointed to sort the business out. The company was started in 1990 by Peter Vincent. Its subsidiary, Vincent Aviation Australia of Darwin, collapsed in May.

\*Helipro, which had based in Wellington and Palmerston North was also placed in receivership earlier this month.

#### **WINNERS OF THE HOBBITFANCONTEST HAVE HAD A GREAT FIRST DAY IN NZ - HOME OF MIDDLE-EARTH.**

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10152371487186714>

#### **HAAST PASS (NZ) CLOSURE AT END END**

It is great to be able to report that 14 months after the Diana Falls slip site closed State Highway 6 and the Haast Pass to night-time traffic highway was opened to provide 24/7 access to the West Coast. It is pleasing that the authorities managed to get the highway re-opened in time for the busy summer tourism season. This slip has been the most significant event on the West Coast highway network for many years and one of the most challenging to find a long-term solution that makes it safe for 24/7 travel through the area.

#### **TE ANAU FAVOURITE WITH WILDERNESS READERS**

ABOUT 1,000 *Wilderness* magazine readers say the Fiordland gateway of Te Anau is the place they'd most like to move to. They voted it the best place to

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live if you love tramping and the outdoors.

Nelson was second, Wanaka third followed by Arthur's Pass, Queenstown, Hokitika, Taupo, Ohakune, Thames and Takaka.

### **GOLF TOURISM (NZ) ABOVE PAR FOR SUCCESS**

Golf Tourism New Zealand (GTNZ) has identified 12 "marquee" courses, which are of a high quality, aspirational with inherent international interest and have history and/or a particular identity. They are also open to visitors. They are Kauri Cliffs, Gulf Harbour, Titirangi, Wairakei, Kinloch, Cape Kidnappers, Paraparaumu, Royal Wellington, Clearwater, The Hills, Millbrook and Jack's Point. GTNZ, TNZ and New Zealand Golf are developing a centralised online booking tool that builds on the DotGolf technology and systems used by many New Zealand clubs. This will be live on the golf hub of newzealand.com. It will enable international visitors to sign up for a free identification number, which can be used to book tee times at Marquee and New Zealand Experience courses.

### **NEW HOTEL IN CHRISTCHURCH (NZ)**

Central Christchurch has a new luxury boutique hotel, Hotel Montreal. It has 25 rooms of 50-70sqm and a three bedroom penthouse. All rooms feature a private balcony, 50" plasma television, iPad, complimentary highspeed wifi, and art works. An onsite gym is also available to guests of Hotel Montreal. Large grass lawns at Hotel Montreal blend into the surrounding Cramner Square and Hagley Park. [www.hotelmontreal.co.nz](http://www.hotelmontreal.co.nz)

### **CITY TOUR BY VINTAGE TRAM IN CHRISTCHURCH (NZ)**

The extension from the Museum along Rolleston Avenue and down Armagh Street to link with New Regent Street has now been completed. This forms the original loop that existed in 2010/11 prior to the

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earthquakes. There will be three extra stops: at Hagley Park corner, Cramner Square and Victoria Square. The Tram Restaurant product will be running again by Xmas.

The shuttle bus service to the Gondola now operates 365 days per year.

### **NEW PRODUCT: [THE LODGE AT WALTER PEAK STATION - QUEENSTOWN](#)**

We are excited to announce this stunning NEW PRODUCT: The Lodge at Walter Peak Station – Queenstown - NZ.

With panoramic views and set in private setting, the Lodge at Walter Peak Station caters for couples, families or business groups. With access to the vast wilderness of 24,000 hectares that make up historic Walter Peak Station, almost anything is possible for giving you a memorable experience in this gorgeous part of the world. The Lodge at Walter Peak Station has a capacity to sleep up to 10 people. For day hire, the capacity is 120. It is accessible by TSS Earnslaw or helicopter.

For more information, visit: [www.thelodge.net.nz](http://www.thelodge.net.nz)

### **AIR NZ NATIONAL NETWORK 2015 OUTLOOK**

If you have not already heard, Air New Zealand has reviewed their air services regionally with the following announcement. Kaitia, Whakatane and Westport will in 2015, no longer have any air services available.

### **DOUBLETREE IN NEW ZEALAND**

DoubleTree by Hilton and Hilton Worldwide is launching the brand's first property in New Zealand – DoubleTree by Hilton Queenstown. Formerly known as the Kawarau Hotel and managed by Hilton Worldwide, the 98-room hotel is in the heart of Kawarau Village, convenient to Queenstown

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International Airport and a short drive or water taxi ride from the centre of Queenstown.

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## AUSTRALIA

### **VIRGIN AUSTRALIA BEGINS DIRECT SERVICE BETWEEN DARWIN AND ALICE SPRINGS**

Virgin Australia has announced it will begin direct services between Darwin and Alice Springs from March 2015.

### **MEET, TASTE AND DISCOVER AT AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST CELLAR DOOR**

Immersive food and wine experiences will be a key feature of the 2015 Cellar Door Wine Festival Adelaide at the Adelaide Convention Centre (February 20 – 22, 2015) with the official program launched today.

A new 'Meet, Make & Eat' experience has been added to the program with attendees invited to tour the Festival's regions, meet the producers and then select their favourite produce and wines. The multi-award winning Festival will again host an expected record number of participants with more than 170 South Australian wineries, breweries and food producers representing 15 regions showcasing their products including the newly added Yorke Peninsula and Southern Flinders regions.

### **INTERCONTINENTAL SYDNEY DOUBLE BAY CONFIRMS EARLIER OPEN**

Marking Sydney's first major hotel launch in years, InterContinental Sydney Double Bay announced opening its doors on Thursday 6 November 2014 as the only five-star luxury hotel outside the CBD. Reservations are now being taken for stays, dining experiences and events across the hotel from 6 November 2014, with locals and international visitors both showing interest.

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The ground floor retail precinct of the building will be opened at a later time, with leased offerings including Snap Fitness 24-hour gym, luxury Trumps Spa, Henley Wholefoods, and Saké Restaurant & Bar.

### **AUSTRALIA TO OPEN ABROLHOS ISLANDS FOR TOURISM**

The islands off the Mid West coast are a major rock lobster fishery and have long been mostly off limits to tourists despite their widespread appeal. The move comes amid a separate push by the Government's key marine parks adviser to create a dedicated marine reserve around the Abrolhos Islands. Scientists, conservationists and fishermen regard the islands as a WA environmental jewel with historical significance for shipwrecks including the Batavia.

### **ONE&ONLY IN WOLGAN**

One&Only Resorts, a subsidiary of Kerzner International Holdings Limited, has been appointed to manage Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa. This will be One&Only's second resort in Australia, along with One&Only Hayman Island which reopened in July 2014. The Wolgan Valley property becomes a One&Only early next year.

### **EUROPCAR AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH STAYWELL HOSPITALITY GROUP**

The mutually beneficial partnership strengthens the customer offering across both businesses, with exclusive savings for Europcar customers at Australia's Park Regis and Leisure Inn hotels and discounts at Europcar for all StayWell customers when travelling in Australia and New Zealand.

### **ACCOR OPENS A PULLMAN IN MELBOURNE CBD**

Accor has officially brought another Pullman hotel

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to Melbourne with the takeover of the current Hilton on the Park Melbourne happening in January 2015. The hotel will be named Pullman Melbourne on the Park and it will join Australia's largest 5-Star brand, complementing the existing network of 12 hotels and resorts nationally. The property will join one other Pullman in Melbourne, the Pullman Melbourne Albert Park which underwent an extensive refurbishment that was unveiled in September 2013. Accor re-launched the Pullman brand in 2007 and has since established a network of over 80 hotels in many of the world's key cities and favorite resort destinations.

#### **NEW MENU FOR QANTAS ECONOMY PASSENGERS**

Qantas, the flag carrier of Australia, has unveiled details of its new inflight dining offering, which will be rolled out to international Economy customers on November 25. Customers will enjoy a wider choice of meals, 50 per cent larger servings and faster service. "We have worked closely with Australia's leading producers and suppliers to deliver what we believe to be the best inflight economy dining experience offered by any international carrier," said Alan Joyce, Qantas Group chief executive officer.

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#### **SOUTH PACIFIC**

##### **FIJI UNVEILS AMBITIOUS TOURISM PLAN**

SUVA, Fiji - Fiji government unveiled an ambitious plan to develop tourism into a \$2 billion industry in the next few years and the creation of an additional 9,800 jobs. The plan has a primary focus on providing visitors with a quality and not quantity tourism experience.