

**Hello and greetings to the Board, Full and Allied members**



**West Coast Board meeting and famil:**

As you can see by the above photos ITOC Full members have been out and about in the past month. The photo on the left is the Hilton Hotel & Brancott Estate Rugby World Cup breakfast with Stuart Neels, Tim Reid, Stephen Ecclestone and myself attending, being photographed with the Webb Ellis Cup.

The photo on the right are members of the Board at Monteiths Brewing Company. The Board was hosted by Tourism West Coast early May for their meeting and 2 day famil of the region. The Board thoroughly enjoyed their whirlwind couple of days visiting numerous operators and in particular meeting with our Allied members. Many thanks to Tourism West Coast for their hospitality!

**Visit to Taupo, Ruapehu and Hawkes Bay Expo**

On the 4 May I attended in Wellington the above Regions's product supplier Expo. It was a great opportunity to meet with our Central North Island members and also be introduced to new product that is available. The Expo is a good example of how you can host a successful Trade function outside your own region so well done to those regions and organisers.

**DoC 'guiding' Concessions:**

No new 'news' about the guiding concessions but another meeting is planned with DoC representatives and the Advocacy sub-committee after Trenz.

**UK – Long Haul Air Passenger Departure Tax (UK-APD)**

One issue that ITOC are working on at the moment with TIA, TAANZ and Airports of New Zealand is the departure tax for passengers leaving the UK. Last year the UK government imposed a £85 departure tax without consultation which is included in the ticket price, so not transparent. It was introduced as a 'green carbon emission type tax' to long haul destinations but there is no evidence that any funds are going towards mitigating carbon emissions. The main groups affected are UK residents travelling to New Zealand, expat Kiwis and UK family visiting New Zealand and New Zealanders wishing to travel to the UK as holidaymakers. With the UK visitor arrivals down 11.2% to date, it is our intention to put our case forward to lowering the tax and/or at least prevent it from being increased any further. We will keep you informed re this issue in future newsletters.

### **NZ Hotel Conference:**

The NZ Hotel Conference 12 May was a great opportunity to meet with some of our Allied hotel members and was an informative day of what is happening in the hotel sector. ITOC hosted a breakout session on “do NZ hotels stack up for the Indian and Chinese markets” with panellists Matt Brady - Pan Pacific Group, Lisa Li - China Travel Service, Trish Abrahamson - Naturally New Zealand Holidays and Anna Black from General Travel representing the ITOC team very well. The day ended with the NZ Hotel Executive and Young Hotel Executive of the Year awards with Lynne McVicar from Hotel St Moritz, Queenstown and Alison Shirley from Corporate Heritage Hotel Management winning respectively. Congratulations to Lynne and Alison!

### **Upcoming events:**

- **ATEC 18-21 May**

This week I am attending The “Australian Tourism Export Council” (ATEC) Conference being held at Hamilton Island, Queensland. Yes, it’s a tough job but somebody has to do it... We have enjoyed a long and close association with ATEC and look forward to further developing that relationship and bring back news of how things are faring with Australian operators.

- **TRENZ 22-26 May, Queenstown**

ITOC has a booth at TRENZ this year once again so if you have a few spare minutes between appointments, please come and visit Booth **2102** near the morning tea area

- **ProGuides Conference 27-29 May, Auckland**

For members who contract tour guides and driver/guides, this is a great opportunity to recommend guides to join the national organisation of professional tour guides. For more information visit their website at: [www.proguides.co.nz](http://www.proguides.co.nz)

- **ITOC Conference 15-17 August, Tauranga**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference programme is currently being finalised and registrations for the ‘number one event of the year’ will be available from mid June via the ITOC website. For those members who love to dress up, I can confirm that the welcome function theme is “Disco 70’s” so start thinking about your costumes and favourite disco songs.

**We enthusiastically welcome the following new members:** Great to have you join the ITOC family and I do hope that other Allied and Full members extend a warm welcome to you.

Moatrek, Auckland

Miles Clark

[www.moatrek.co.nz](http://www.moatrek.co.nz)

Sealink, Auckland

Jeff Hunter

[www.sealink.co.nz](http://www.sealink.co.nz)

Although I am out of the office until Monday 30 May, I will endeavour to communicate via email where possible. For members who have any issues, challenges or good news stories that we can share, please contact me by:

DDI: 04 495 0810

Lesley mobile: 027 6644 836

Email: [Lesley@itoc.org.nz](mailto:Lesley@itoc.org.nz)

*Quote: Learn to listen. Sometimes opportunity knocks very softly...*