

Your Sri Lanka Specialists



EXOTIC HOLIDAYS  info@exotic.net.nz

FOR THE PRIDE OF OUR NATION



Allianz 

PROUD OFFICIAL PARTNER OF THE NEW ZEALAND TEAM 

TRAVELinc MEMO
Your personal magazine twice a week

FRI 9 AUG 2024
ISSUE 2506



Tourism Export Council chair Scott Mehrtens, Leisure Time Group and TEC chief executive Lynda Keene at the organisation's annual conference in Invercargill

Two-day stand-alone event for inbound trade set for AKL: Export ready product on show

A stand-alone B2B trade show for the inbound tourism sector will be held over two days in April next year at the Viaduct Events Centre in Auckland.

The development represents the evolution and the success of the well established event that has been held by the Tourism Export Council (TECNZ) for about 10 years leading into its national conference – including this week's edition at the Ascot Hotel in Invercargill.

TEC's chair Scott Mehrtens says the trade show has grown steadily in recent years and is now spread over three sessions (one and a half days). It has become more difficult to find suitable venues at regions hosting the organisation's

Continued on page 8

TRAVELinc Memo 9 August 2024 1


PONANT EXPLORATIONS

AUSTRALIA'S KIMBERLEY

THE PONANT WAY

2025 Fly, Stay & Cruise Packages Now Available!
From \$14,180 per person in a Deluxe Stateroom with balcony*

✓ 10 night luxury Kimberley expedition* ✓ Return flights & transfers** ✓ 1 night's accommodation*



DISCOVER

Chance to win a Tassie famil

AAT Kings is giving agents the chance to win a place on its special 'sneak peek' 2025-26 itinerary where they will enjoy a spectacular lunch at the Tasmanian Gourmet Sauce Company, sample lavender ice cream from the world's largest lavender farm, explore Freycinet National Park, spend a night at Iron Creek Bay Farm Stay and more.

Agents who book and deposit an Inspiring Journeys or AAT Kings Guided Holiday for travel which commences between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026

Continued on page 2

Tourism Export Council (TECNZ) Conference

Two-day stand-alone event for inbound trade set for AKL: Export ready product on show

Continued from page 1 conference.

'We are completely committed to holding our conference in the regions, but having the trade show in Auckland means we can attract more inbound companies and more members of their teams. It is about increasing engagement.'

Mehrtens emphasises that the TEC trade show is about New Zealand-based buyers connecting with New Zealand-based suppliers.

'Really the New Zealand tourism trade distribution and network starts here,

moves offshore and then comes all of the way back again.'

Lynda Keene, chief executive of TEC, says the expanded trade show on 9 and 10 April is likely to attract more than 100 suppliers.

'Whereas our inbounders send two people to conference, having an event in Auckland means many of them will be able to send four or more of their team.'

'One of our real objectives is to allow more inbound companies to attend, and have more of the staff being updated from the suppliers.'

Keene says all of the sellers will offer export ready product and experiences. She adds that to some extent the Auckland show will be a trial. However, the feedback from members is that the trade event held before conference provides excellent value for the sector and has room to grow as a business forum in its own right.

The TECNZ's next annual conference will be held on 6 and 7 August 2025 in the Bay of Islands at Copthorne Hotel & Resort near Waitangi and Paihia.



Debbie Zampien, Fiordland Discovery; Mark Rose, The Rees Hotel Queenstown; Julia Savill, Grand Pacific Tours



Karyn Brocas, AOT / ATS Pacific; Jo Van Der Linden, Larnach Castle; Kirsty Blows, AOT / ATS Pacific



Getting down to business at the Ascot Hotel... Steph James, Zorb Rotorua; Emma Bradley, First Light Travel



He's a good sort... award winner Cecil Potatau, Ngai Tahu Tourism / All Blacks Experience (centre) with TEC chief executive Lynda Keene and MC Mike McRoberts



RealNZ team members at the TECNZ awards... Cam Mitchell, Scott McNab, Steve Bruce, Dave Beeche, Collette Rogers, Fi Boffy, Claudia Yeung, Geraldine McMillan

Inbound trade recognises top achievers

Four of New Zealand's top tourism businesses, one industry leader and two promising YoungTEC individuals have been recognised as the best in the business at the Tourism Export Council of New Zealand's (TECNZ) Awards dinner.

The TECNZ Operator of the Year Awards are nominated and voted by members. They recognise excellence in terms of quality, professional development for team, health and safety, sustainability, business systems and outstanding visitor experiences.

The YoungTEC Awards recognise outstanding efforts and contribution to the development of New Zealand's tourism

industry. They are based on an application and interview process supported by Tourism New Zealand and Air New Zealand.

The winners are: Small Inbound Operator of the Year Award – New Zealand Educational Tours; Large Inbound Operator of the Year Award – Southern Crossings; Small Allied Operator of the Year Award – Gannet Safaris Overland; Large Allied Operator of the Year Award – RealNZ; Good Sort – Cecil Potatau

The winners of the 2024 YoungTEC Awards are: YoungTEC Emerging Leader – Charlotte Brady, Skyline Rotorua; YoungTEC Rising Star – William Cannon, WETA Workshop.



Rising star William Cannon, WETA Workshop (centre), Rene de Monchy, Tourism New Zealand; Lynda Keene, TECNZ



Sophie Phillips, Gannet Safaris Overland



Scott Mehrrens, TECNZ; Charlotte Brady, Skyline Rotorua; Rene de Monchy, TNZ; Lynda Keene, TECNZ

