



SKÅL INTERNATIONAL

International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals

Founded 1934

WELLINGTON #162

NEWSLETTER

SEPT 2015

Michael's Musings

"It was fantastic to see those who attended the August lunch at Rydges. Those of you who were there, I am sure will agree, that Pania is an amazing asset to the Tourism sector in New Zealand and we are lucky to get a bit of her time. More is reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

To those who didn't attend you missed a great lunch and a great address.

I would like to thank John Ainsworth. He is tireless, ringing and cajoling you all to attend and pay. Clearly, the earlier we receive confirmations for each of the events the easier we make it for the poor old fella (just kidding John)!"

You too are a master!

Michael Baines President Skål Wellington

A BIT of HISTORY

Present day SKÅL is a far cry from the organisation I first joined so many years ago. Then it was regarded as somewhat remote from all but the most senior executives within the travel industry.

In the 1960's and 70's SKÅL Wellington was especially protective of its role. It had assumed the mantle of the original SKÅL Club of New Zealand and pursued quite a formal and conservative approach to membership. New entrants were screened very thoroughly, yes very thoroughly indeed! You had to be invited to join SKÅL - you NEVER applied to join or ASKED to join. You were never even likely to be aware that you were being considered for membership - until a formal invitation was extended to attend 'the next SKÅL luncheon' - at that time you would be invited to join and most likely all the paper work had been completed for you to be inducted.

Invitations to join were never turned down, such was the mana attached to SKÅL membership.

Generally only one person from any travel organisation could be a member. This ruling applied even to the larger organisations such as NZ Tourist & Publicity (Government Tourist Bureau); National Airways Corporation (NAC); Tasman Empire Airways Ltd. (TEAL); Union Steamship Company; and a number of Travel Agents, Shipping Companies, New Zealand Railways; Hotels; Rental Car Companies and Airlines.

(Thanks to John Hanning and the archives)

WELCOME TRACY SCOTT TO SKÅL

National Operations Manager, Hospitality New Zealand

Tracy is a trained Chef having studied at the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago gaining an Associate Degree in the Applied Science of Culinary Arts. She has worked overseas and NZ as a Chef before leaving the kitchen to venture into Sales and Marketing within the Food Industry. Tracy is a professional member of NZ Chefs and a professional member of the NZ Guild of Foodwriters, having never lost her passion for food.

Her most favourite tippie is a pint of Guinness and swears it is the best tonic for body and soul. Her most treasured, never fail kitchen appliance is solid extra-long Totara rolling pin that was hand carved by Bruce Robertson. When her nose is not in a cookbook it will be in a history book, preferably the history of pubs, restaurants and cafes.



NZ MAORI TOURISM HE TOA TAKITINI

Pania Tyson-Nathan, Chief Executive of NZ Maori Tourism joined Wellington Skålleagues at Ridges Hotel for our September luncheon

"We have evolved from showing culture to sharing culture" The organisation that represents Māori tourism operators says visitors to Aotearoa want more than just a "haka, hongi and hāngi" experience and are now looking something more meaningful and authentic.

According to a recent tourism industry report, New Zealand is on the verge of a tourism boom with overseas visitor numbers expected to increase over the next 10 years. Pania indicates that many Māori tourism operators are taking an innovative approach and offering manuhiri more activity choices. "We have a huge variety of Māori experiences, including fly fishing, diving, hunting, rongoā (traditional medicine/therapies) and we've got Māori-themed restaurants and accommodation." In Rotorua, they have home-hosted dinners which are very successful, so it's the way we think about selling Māori tourism experiences".

Ms Tyson-Nathan said many middle-aged and elderly overseas tourists did not mind parting with their cash to go on guided walks, for instance, to learn about more about the Māori history that is attached to places.

Challenges in the future will be how we confront "Culture to culture " as our visitor mix continues to change. And how do we cater for this mix...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 October

James Cook

Grand Chancellor Hotel

Speaker: Paul Yeo

12 November

IBIS Hotel

Past Presidents Luncheon

Meet new GM Jade Stunden

10 December

Christmas

West Plaza Hotel

Julie always has surprises!