

the West Coast of the Southern Alps

Tourism West Coast

Media & Trade Update – 30 October 2011

Kia ora!

It has been a busy few months at Tourism West Coast with attendance at a variety of trade events and the culmination of a very successful West Coast Whitebait Festival which has been running over the past 6 weeks during Rugby World Cup.

We are very excited to have won the bid to host the 2012 ITOC conference in Greymouth from the 21-24 August next year, planning is already underway and this will definitely be an ITOC conference to remember!

Tourism West Coast team member Anita Gillespie is leaving at the end of this week however we are currently recruiting for a Manager and should you have any enquiries in the interim you can contact Glenda Lee at glenda@westcoastnz.com or 03 768 6633.

Please don't hesitate to contact Glenda if you require any assistance with your West Coast itineraries, image requests or should you have any media or trade famil enquiries.

Tourism West Coast represents tourism activities and operators in the Buller, Grey and Westland District areas of the South Island of New Zealand (from Karamea in the north to Haast/Jackson Bay in the south).

We hope you enjoy reading our latest product update!

Kind Regards

The Tourism West Coast team



Whitebait Festival Photography Competition Winner – by Stephen Rawlison, Omeoroa Lagoon Camp in front of Mts Cook and Tasman.

Accommodation update:

- **AWATUNA HOMESTEAD** has been awarded an Enviro Gold award from Qualmark. Read the attached media result for further information. To contact Hemi and Pauline rest@awatunahomestead.co.nz.
- **BIRDS FERRY LODGE** has been awarded a “Certificate of Excellence” from Trip Advisor. They also have TWIN garden baths. For further information contact Alison info@birdsferrylodge.co.nz.



- **FIVE STAR GOLD FOR TE WAONUI FOREST RETREAT** Te Waonui Forest Retreat in Franz Josef Glacier is proud to announce renewed accreditation to the Qualmark Five-Star standard with a Gold Enviro award. The luxurious hotel is proudly 100% New Zealand owned. Architecturally designed and constructed to leave the lightest possible footprint on the environment, Te Waonui maintains the highest service and accommodation standards. For further information contact
- **MORE BYTE FOR LESS BUCK AT HEARTLAND & SCENIC HOTELS** Scenic Hotel Group has announced a revolution in guest internet services. From the end of November, the Group is slashing by two-thirds its standard cost of wireless and fixed wire internet plans in all 17 Heartland and Scenic Hotels. It’s also introducing uncapped data at faster download speeds with as many as four devices per room, making for huge improvements in the way guests interact globally as they travel, says IT Manager Piers Hutchings.

Activity / Attractions update:

- **WHANAKE GALLERY** Staci Offwood has just launched a new website and post card range. The post cards were produced to highlight the West Coast’s beauty and places and to help encourage visitors to our wonderful Coast. All post cards have descriptions on the back to tell you all about the area or place on the front of the card. The Native NZ fauna descriptions include the uses the Maori used to use the likes of the Nikau palm for. For further information visit www.whanake.co.nz or contact Staci staci@whanake.co.nz.

- **WEST COAST WILDLIFE CENTRE**

At 5.58am on Sunday 23rd of October, our very own little All Black supporter kicked its way into the world. Just in time for the historic event of a little rugby game, and what a spirited chick it is too! WebbEllis’s egg was rescued from the Haast tokoeka kiwi sanctuary on 2nd of August 2011 and was incubated at the West Coast Wildlife Centre for the remaining 50 days of its 80 day incubation period.

WebbEllis will be onsite at the West Coast Wildlife Centre for 3-4 weeks until it is putting on weight nicely and has learnt how to eat by itself. WebbEllis will then be transferred to a predator free island on Lakes Manapouri or Te Anau until it reaches a hefty stoat-proof 1kg in body weight. WebbEllis will then make its final journey to be released back into the Haast tokoeka kiwi sanctuary.

WebbEllis can be viewed 4 times daily at the West Coast Wildlife Centre on one of our Backstage Pass tours.

Currently the Wildlife centre has 9 chicks on site and another one due in the next few days! For further information contact Lisa info@wildkiwi.co.nz.



- **WAITOTO RIVER SAFARI** John Duberly formerly of Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki has taken over Waitoto River Safari.

“Following intensive training I now have over 200 hours in my log book, with quite a few commercial trips already done. Whilst the Waitototo River Safari has always been conducted with more of an accent on the nature I have taken my passion for the outdoors and nature, particularly honed at Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki of the New Zealand Rain Forest (Te-Wahipounamu) Flora and Fauna to the River trip. We go past the Tokoeka Haast Kiwi reserve and I deliver an upbeat, enthusiastic, fun filled 2 ½ + hours. I aim to have Waitototo guests leaving with my infectious passion for a truly stunning region that is comparable with anywhere in the world.” For further information and to contact John info@riversafaris.co.nz.



West Coast Official Visitor guide

The 2012 West Coast visitor guide is now available from orders@jasons.co.nz.

Need more information?

For more information on what we've been up to please don't hesitate to contact our office on 03 768 6633 or info@westcoastnz.com.

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