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NEW ZEALAND DIGITAL

August 2011 www.micenz.net

- ▶ NZ's Queen
- ▶ Golf & spas
- ▶ Heading South
- ▶ Christchurch update



Turning Orange with Excitement

By Edwina Storie

The Orange Group is working closely with international and local clients on unique projects for the Rugby World Cup 2011.

When the Rugby World Cup kicks off this year the teams won't be the only ones who have worked hard in the lead up. The Orange Group has been working on major projects for the games with both international and local clients to ensure the event

is an unforgettable experience for all sponsors and partners. The company has taken on the concept, design and delivery of more than 50 corporate boxes; the hospitality spaces and audiovisual requirements for the sponsor and partner areas in the Auckland and Wellington stadiums; non-mass media marketing and branded experiences in the Auckland and Christchurch fan zones; and a major component of Auckland's fan zone, The Cloud. "It's all on at Orange!" says Anne Wentworth of The Orange Group. "Since last year, Orange

Productions has won multiple highly contested tenders including the IMG contract for The Rugby World Cup 2011. This involves the design and construction of all elements for the hospitality sector for worldwide partners at the Auckland and Wellington stadiums. "Orange is working directly with worldwide partners DHL, MasterCard, Heineken and ANZ to provide for their Rugby World Cup events and brand activations including the design and delivery of hospitality spaces."

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New Viaduct Events Centre enters the Auckland market

The Viaduct Events Centre will become a new premier venue as part of the Wynyard Quarter precinct.

The Viaduct Events Centre officially opened on July 13 and celebrated its first event on August 3 with the Auckland Art Fair - New Zealand's premier contemporary art exhibition. The centre hosted the stalls of 41 galleries from New Zealand and Auckland with 10,000 attendees. "We are delighted to have opened the doors of Auckland Conventions' newest offering. To do so for such a prestigious event has made it all the more memorable," says Mohamed Mansour, director of Auckland Conventions.

The versatile new centre has 6000 square metres of exhibition, meeting and hospitality space which can comfortably accommodate up to 3600 people. It also has a dedicated top-spec boardroom and one of the largest banquet spaces in the Auckland CBD that can seat up to 1200 people banquet style. Service doors that reach 10 metres by eight metres allow for easy access for large vehicles and

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Support from the bureau includes: sourcing conference services, venue recommendations, co-ordinated site visits, promotional material, partner programmes, and pre and post tour itinerary options.

Southland is home to many unique attractions and activities that will be the highlight of any incentive or conference tour.

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Southland's natural beauty - coupled with our world class facilities makes the region a very viable destination for any conference or event."

- *Tim Shadbolt,*
Mayor of Invercargill



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NEW ZEALAND DIGITAL

August 2011 www.micenz.net

► Click here for page 1 - contents



New Zealand's Queen

Photo courtesy of Destination Queenstown.

By Edwina Storie

Beautiful scenery and an abundance of things to do – Queenstown is New Zealand's crowning glory.

Have you ever hosted a conference on the top of a mountain? Or a meeting in an historic village? Queenstown is a destination of unique settings that make for brilliant events – from Alpine views to cultural experiences. While its environment is one of its best characteristics, Queenstown's natural attractions have been working against the community recently. "Mother Nature has thrown a few challenges our way this year with volcanic ash, effects of the Christchurch earthquake and later than usual snowfall," explains Kylie Brittain, manager of Queenstown Convention Bureau. Now it's a matter of reminding previous and new visitors of the

many benefits of Queenstown, such as its international airport that receives direct flights from Australian and New Zealand main centres, its variety of food and wine experiences, its skiing opportunities and its beauty. "Destination Queenstown and Queenstown operators have worked hard to get the message out that Queenstown is open for business," Ms Brittain says.

Not only is it open for business but it has welcomed a new addition to its hotel scene. The Hilton Queenstown is set on the shores of Lake Wakatipu with each suite featuring fireplaces and lakeside views. The hotel also owns the largest spa in town, eforea, that focuses on natural treatments. Being only five minutes from the airport and a 15 minute drive or 10 minute water taxi ride from the city,

the new hotel is a wonderful new option for both work and leisure. "Queenstown is a fantastic year round proposition for MICE groups. Our amazing scenery, majestic mountains and crystal clear lake combined with our cosmopolitan town, award-winning food and wine, buzzing nightlife, wide range of accommodation and activities makes Queenstown a motivational ► [Click here for more info](#)

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August 2011 www.micenz.net

▶ Click here for [page 1 - contents](#)



Millbrook

By Brad Foster

Mixing business with pleasure is easy in New Zealand. micenz DIGITAL tracked down some of the best properties in the country for events where the focus is as much on team recreation as it is on conference perspiration.

Terrace Downs

Around 60 minutes from Christchurch International Airport, Terrace Downs is described as “New Zealand’s premier high country resort”. Perched on the edge of the stunning Rakaia River, Terrace Downs boasts stunning views up to Mt Hutt, and offers everything the conference delegate or planner could want. It offers a range of accommodation from one to four bedrooms, with a maximum capacity for up to 200 guests, and a number of meeting rooms, the largest of which can seat up to 200 delegates theatre-style. The property offers three on-site licensed restaurants, and can also provide off-site catering options for groups that want to get into the great outdoors. Terrace Downs was voted as New Zealand’s leading golf resort in 2010 in the World Travel Awards and it’s not hard to see why when you look

at its golf course. But that’s not all it has. The Discovery Jet Boat, archery, clay pigeon shooting, horse safaris, tennis, nature walks, croquet, and soccer/rugby field, fishing and stunning spa facilities ensure that any stay at Terrace Downs can be as action-packed or relaxed as your group desires. To learn more visit www.terracedowns.co.nz.

Millbrook

Further south, in Queenstown, is the stunning Millbrook Resort which combines a 175-room hotel with a 27-hole golf course, an award-winning day spa and a 200-seat conference centre into a destination in its own right perfectly suited to the meetings and incentive travel market. Recently refurbished by acclaimed New Zealand interior designer, Virginia Fisher and White Interiors, the accommodation reflects the charm of the surrounds and French history of the resort. Accommodation includes studio rooms, one-bedroom suites, two-bedroom villas, two, three and four-bedroom fully equipped cottages and exclusive three and four-bedroom Fairway Homes, totalling 170 rooms making it well suited to the medium-sized conference market. Dining is well catered for in the Hole in One Cafe & Bar, The Millhouse Restaurant, Sala Sala Japanese

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Terrace Downs



Kauri Cliffs



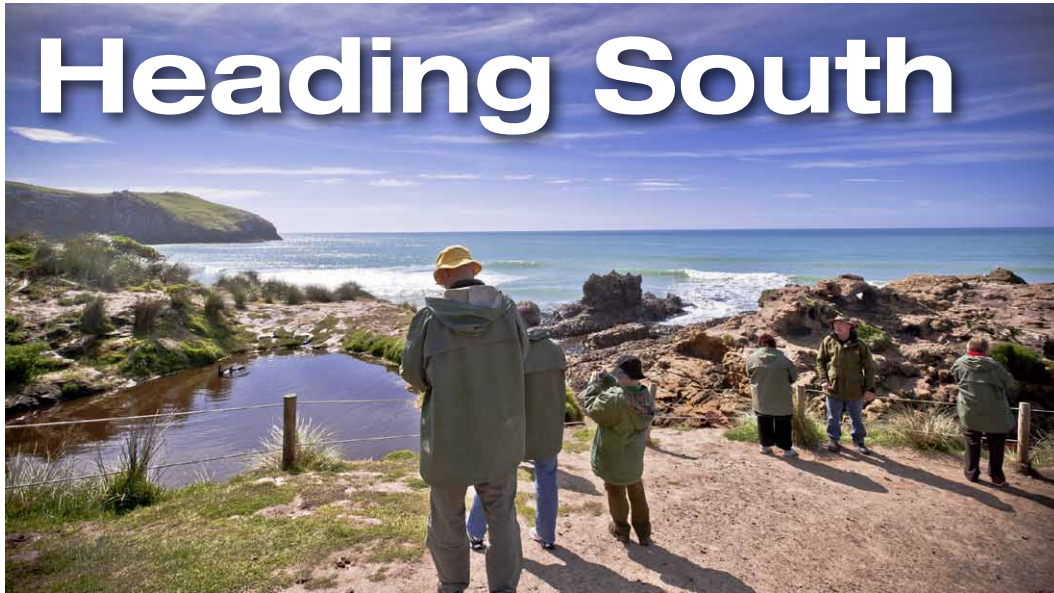
Cape Kidnappers

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NEW ZEALAND DIGITAL

August 2011 www.micenz.net

► [Click here for page 1 - contents](#)



Heading South

By Edwina Storie

Dunedin and Southland might not be at the top of every event planner's wish list, but with so many impressive new venues and updates, they soon will be.

While they miss the shine of the spotlight that the more popular New Zealand destinations receive, the regions of Dunedin and Southland have just as much to show off to the MICE market. Sitting at the bottom of the South Island, the areas enjoy seclusion and a real point of difference from New Zealand's more high-profile event destinations. The Dunedin and Southland regions are both strongly defined by their environment and a vibrant eco-tourism market has been established. Dunedin is home to the world's rarest penguin – the Hoiho or yellow-eyed penguin; is also home to the only mainland breeding colony of the royal albatross which can be seen at The Royal Albatross Centre; and is a playground for seals and sea lions. The waters of Southland are abundant with seafood, blue cod, Bluff oysters, and crayfish. While their wildlife have always been attractive reasons to visit and host conferences in these destinations, new and updated venues seal the deal.

Dunedin

Dunedin is located on the Otago Peninsula and is surrounded by a beautiful harbour with many venues perched on the water's edge. Its rugged landscape of tree-clad hills is nestled into the remnants of an extinct volcano. The early settlers, the Scots, and the gold rush which drew in the Chinese, each contributed to the wealth of culture and prosperity that flourished in Dunedin and now strongly defines its identity. "The legacy that remains is the

finest collection of Victorian and Edwardian architecture in the southern hemisphere," explains Michelle Jack, conference marketing manager of Tourism Dunedin.

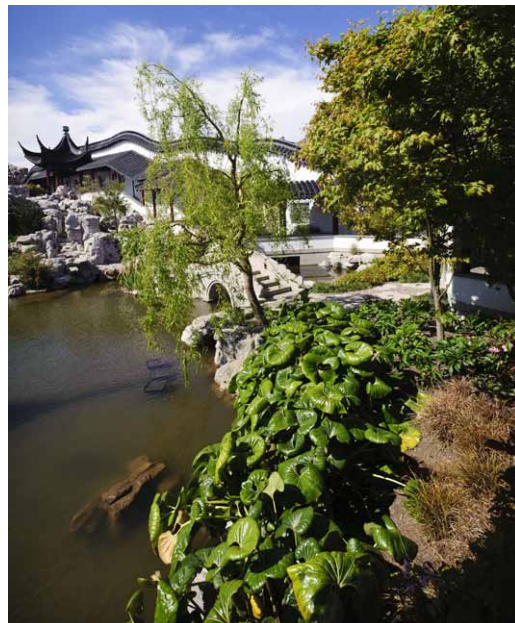
"The legacy from the Scottish is a strong emphasis and pride in education with the Otago University making Dunedin 'the Edinburgh of the South' while the Chinese have created magical Chinese Gardens." These historical landmarks are great settings for events, especially with so many unique sites to choose

from. These include Larnach Castle – New Zealand's oldest castle; The University of Otago – the country's oldest university; New Zealand's first botanical garden; and a wealth of beautiful Chinese gardens. Previously the area has had limitations of size with business events due to the facilities available, Ms Jack explains. But not any more.

"We have had a limited number of venues in which to host large conferences, but the Dunedin Centre refurbishment and the Forsyth Barr Stadium will help overcome this."

The Forsyth Barr Stadium opened on August 5 and is now New Zealand's largest indoor arena capable of accommodating up to 30,000 attendees. It is the country's only fully roofed stadium and has the ability to host events of all shapes, sizes and styles. Only five minutes from the CBD or 40 minutes from the airport, it sits next to the prestigious University of Otago and has a fresh feel with a real grass pitch underneath a transparent roof. The design focused on making it easily accessible with all details, major and minor, taken care of. It has 335 parking spaces, five lounges, four stands and 12

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NEW ZEALAND DIGITAL

August 2011 www.micenz.net

► [Click here for page 1 - contents](#)



Christchurch centre to be demolished

Damage sustained to the Christchurch Convention Centre in the February 22 earthquake has now been confirmed as so extensive that the building will have to be demolished.

Engineers for the Christchurch City Council are also recommending the Hadlee Stand at AMI Stadium also be demolished. Additional

evaluations are continuing at AMI Stadium and the Christchurch Town Hall for the Performing Arts. Christchurch councillor Sue Wells says the assessment process is a huge undertaking and it is likely to be some months before final decisions are made. "The council is working closely with insurers as these evaluations progress, and while our engineers have indicated their recommendations for some of the

buildings involved, decisions on the future of the facilities are still some months away," she said. "I understand that our community is eager to find out more about the future of our event facilities and we want to ensure they are part of the process of moving our city forward. We have promised to keep residents informed as the work progresses." Last week's update outlined the latest information on the

Christchurch Convention Centre, AMI Stadium and the Christchurch Town Hall for the Performing Arts.

Christchurch Convention Centre

Engineers for the council believe the Christchurch Convention Centre has suffered so much damage that it should be demolished. The outcome for the building has not yet been settled with insurers but discussions are progressing and an agreement expected soon.

AMI Stadium

The Hadlee Stand has suffered severe earthquake damage and engineers for the council are recommending it be demolished. Re-levelling and other repairs are required on the Tui Stand at the southern end of the stadium. More work is required to establish the best outcomes for the Paul Kelly Stand and the Deans Stand. Both have dropped around 300-400mm as a result of the earthquakes. The floors of both stands are uneven, with the floor height of the Paul Kelly Stand varying up to 70mm and the floor height of the Deans Stand varying up to 300mm. Engineers are still working to establish what the most appropriate repair method would be. One method of repair, if it is possible, could require driving piles down 25 metres to reach solid ground. Assessments on what is required to repair the turf and associated stormwater and irrigation are ongoing.

Christchurch Town Hall for the Performing Arts

The main damage to the Town Hall has been caused by land movement rather than structural problems as a result of shaking during the earthquake. The ground has settled and lateral spread has shifted the foundations of the building, with some parts of the building moving 150mm toward the river. The level of the floor in the auditorium now varies by up to 450mm. Assessments into what is required to repair the building are ongoing, with outcomes expected in November this year.