

6 September 2018

## Media Release

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# Supreme Tourism Award winner amazing multinational success story

Dynamic and visionary with annual global revenue of \$426 million, multinational recreational vehicle business Tourism Holdings Ltd has won the tourism industry's highest accolade, the Air New Zealand Supreme Tourism Award.

The winners of the New Zealand Tourism Awards were announced at a gala dinner in Christchurch this evening (Thursday 6 September), attended by more than 400 industry leaders and supporters. *thl* also won the Auckland Airport Business Excellence Award - more than \$6 million annual turnover.

The Awards judges said *thl* is a global business that can hold its own on the world stage, an amazing success story and exemplar for New Zealand's tourism industry.

Listed on the New Zealand stock exchange, *thl* looks after more than 200,000 customers a year, operating a global recreational vehicle fleet of more than 6000. Alongside its RV rental and sales operations, it also operates two additional tourism businesses in New Zealand - Discover Waitomo, including Waitomo Glowworm Caves; and Kiwi Experience, a bus network aimed at young backpackers.

TIA Chief Executive Chris Roberts says creating a tremendous crew culture has been integral to *thl*'s success. Investing in sustainability and innovation are also priorities, including developing electric motorhomes.

As part of their Air New Zealand Supreme Award prize, *thl* receives a prize valued at over \$20,000, including \$10,000 international air travel and a full-page advertisement in Kia Ora magazine.

Air New Zealand Chief Executive Officer Christopher Luxon says the airline is extremely proud to partner with the event once again and to sponsor the Tourism Awards' Supreme Award for a fourth year.

### TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

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“With tourism the country’s largest export earner, it’s fantastic to be able to celebrate businesses who are providing outstanding and memorable experiences to visitors to our country and also contributing to New Zealand’s reputation overseas.”

Tourism’s most prestigious individual honour, the Horwath HTL Sir Jack Newman Award, went to Kathy Guy, a tourism industry trail-blazer who rose through the ranks from waitress to become one of the first female hotel general managers in New Zealand, successfully leading the Chateau Tongariro Hotel and the Wairakei Resort Taupo.

Chris Roberts says this year’s Awards were extremely competitive, a reflection of a thriving industry that is contributing \$36 billion to the New Zealand economy and supporting almost 400,000 jobs in communities throughout the country.

“Positively, several Award winners are from smaller communities, helping attract visitors to areas off the traditional tourist track. It’s also pleasing to see the focus our business winners are putting on environmental and host community sustainability, as well as financial performance.”

Mr Roberts thanked the Awards Partners, Air New Zealand and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for their generous support.

MBIE Chief Executive Carolyn Tremain says the Ministry’s tourism policy team works to support the industry to make the biggest contribution it can to New Zealand’s economic success.

“We are really proud to sponsor the awards and celebrate the achievements of the industry. I congratulate all the winners and finalists on their innovative ideas and hard work.”

## **The New Zealand Tourism Awards 2018 winners:**

### **Air New Zealand Supreme Tourism Award**

#### **Auckland Airport Business Excellence Award – more than \$6 million annual turnover**

- Tourism Holdings Ltd (*thl*)

### **Horwath HTL Sir Jack Newman Outstanding Industry Leader Award**

- Kathy Guy

### **PATA New Zealand Trust Emerging Tourism Leader Award**

- Luke Taylor, Go Orange, Queenstown

### **JLT & AIG Tourism Industry Champion Award**

- Les Morgan, Sudima Hotels and Resorts

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**Westpac Business Excellence Award - Less than \$6 million annual turnover**

- Owen River Lodge

**Department of Conservation Environmental Tourism Award**

- Kapiti Island Nature Tours

**Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Industry Alignment Award**

- Hawke's Bay Tourism

**He Kai Kei Aku Ringa Māori Tourism Award**

- Whale Watch Kaikoura Ltd

**The Great Journeys of New Zealand Tourism 2025 Enabler Award**

- Christchurch Airport

**epay NZ Tourism Marketing Award**

- Air New Zealand

**ServiceIQ Visitor Experience Award**

- GO Rentals

**NZME People's Choice Award**

- Forgotten World Adventures

**About the New Zealand Tourism Awards**

The 2018 New Zealand Tourism Awards are run by TIA, with Award Partners Air New Zealand and the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

**Thanks to our Award Supporters**

Auckland Airport, Department of Conservation, epay New Zealand, He Kai Kei Aku Ringa, Horwath HTL, JLT and AIG, PATA New Zealand Trust, ServiceIQ, The Great Journeys of New Zealand and Westpac.

**Thanks to our Event Supporters**

ChristchurchNZ, Air Force Museum of New Zealand and Vbase, Christchurch Casino, Hamish Fletcher Lawyers, Monteiths, Pacific Tourways, Tourism Industry New Zealand Trust and Outward Bound.

For more details, visit [www.nztourismawards.org.nz](http://www.nztourismawards.org.nz)

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**KEY FACTS**

- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$99 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$40 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$59 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$14.5 billion or 20.7% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2017).
- 14.5% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 399,150 people are working in the visitor economy.
- The [Tourism 2025](#) growth framework has a goal of growing total tourism revenue to \$41 billion a year by 2025.

Visit [www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz) for more information

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