

TIA Board Nominees

General Sector

- Dr Anthony (Tony) Brien
- Richard Lauder
- Grant Lilly

Dr Anthony (Tony) Brien

Dr Anthony (Tony) Brien is a Senior Lecturer in Business and Hotel Management at Lincoln University. He is the Programme Director for Commerce Degrees and in particular oversees the Bachelor of Commerce – Hotel and Tourism Management.



With an operational background in the hotel industry, a past board member and Chair of a Regional Tourism Organisation, having recently spent time as an elected Local Government Councillor and for many years an educator at polytechnic and university level, I bring a diverse and senior set of experience, competencies and skills to the Board.

The TIA Board needs a diverse set of talents that understands the many facets of the industry and adds value; what is presently missing from the Board table is a representative linkage to the training and education sector – a sector focused on human capital – the people and skills for the tourism industry.

There needs to be a much clearer directive for a whole-of-industry human capital strategic plan that ensures and reports on the sustainability of an available workforce for this service intensive industry – this is something TIA needs to urgently push for. My connections across the training and education and tourism landscape will add value to the Board.

In terms of the governance role of the TIA, as a Chartered Member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors I am very familiar with the roles and responsibility of a Director. I bring the skill and experience of strategic thinking and planning and financial acumen, important aspects that will assist the development of the TIA strategy beyond 2018 and will ensure that the Tourism 2025 delivers tangible outcomes.

Richard Lauder

Richard Lauder is Chief Executive of Real Journeys – one of New Zealand’s largest privately-owned tourism companies, which hosts 1.5 million visitors a year in some of the spectacular wilderness areas of the South Island.

Before joining Real Journeys in 2012, Richard held chief executive positions at five successful companies in manufacturing, infrastructure contracting and aviation over a 20-year period.



In the last five years at the helm of Real Journeys, Richard has almost tripled the size of the company by growing the core Real Journeys business and at the same time acquiring other iconic tourism businesses like Cardrona Alpine Resort, the International Antarctic Centre, Queenstown Rafting and Kiwi Discovery. Go Orange was recently relaunched merging Go Orange, Queenstown Rafting and Kiwi Discovery as a new active value brand to complement Real Journeys premium passive brand.

As well as enjoying huge growth, under Richard’s stewardship the company has increased and changed the way it contributes to conservation and gives back to the communities it operates in.

Richard believes in contributing to the leadership of the sector he is involved in and has actively participated on the boards of three other industry organisations to advance those industries.

Since 2014, Richard has served on the TIA Board as a co-opted member, most recently as Deputy Chair. He has used his experience at industry level to refocus the role TIA can play in the sector, and is active in steering the TIA sustainability project. Richard is keen to continue to contribute at the highest level to the advancement of tourism in Aotearoa, New Zealand. He seeks election to gain endorsement from the general membership to his ongoing commitment to TIA, and to free up his co-opted position to enable more diversity on the TIA board.

Grant Lilly

Grant Lilly is an existing and long serving board member, and former Chairman of Tourism Industry Aotearoa, elected in the General Industry category. He is well known to many in the tourism industry.

Following a long career in senior executive role with airlines (Air New Zealand, then Qantas Airways) Grant now works with the Automobile Association, developing their ‘AA Traveller’ capabilities across a range of ‘drive tourism’ initiatives, an area that is of core importance to our tourism industry infrastructure and



product. Grant also works as an independent Board Director on the Boards of a range of aviation and tourism companies, including Queenstown Airport, the Civil Aviation Authority, Rainbows End Theme Park, and he is Chairman of the Hanmer Springs Pools and Spa complex.

Grant has extensive knowledge and experience in wider tourism industry affairs, and is a strong advocate within TIA for the value of domestic travel and tourism, for the needs of small and medium sized tourism businesses, for TIA's role as a member association and as a voice for private sector tourism operators, and for the people and employment challenges that face tourism.