



Welcome to the very first edition of the AITT eNewsletter! You will be kept informed on a regular basis on the latest industry developments, special offers for members and upcoming events.

The future of the Travel and Tourism Industry is at stake

From the 1st January 2006, licensing regulations in Australia will be at their lowest levels ever.

Businesses only selling domestic travel will NOT NEED to have any qualifications.

Businesses selling domestic and international travel (whether by air or not) will ONLY NEED:

- Unit of competency THTSOP20A (Previously known as Fares and Ticketing 1),

OR

- To have accumulated in the last five years the equivalent of 1 year's experience directly selling international travel, or as a manager of a business selling international travel in the ACT, or any State (except the Northern Territory).

The AITT released a statement to the travel papers several months ago suggesting that these changes would lead to a lowering of tourism

education funding as well as make tourism training redundant.

We wish we'd been wrong. However, now we can say, we told you so! TAFE and educational funding IS dropping and tourism funding HAS been decreased. We are on a downward spiral that only we in the industry can stop.

Take the hospitality industry. It has risen to the occasion and self regulated with industry personnel at the helm. In contrast, the travel and tourism industry is still trying to find its way, and is losing itself in the forest.

Enough is enough

The AITT says enough is enough. Professional travel and tourism industry staff from all levels must take a stand. The AITT has launched into talks with worldwide industry colleagues to tackle issues that the INDIVIDUAL currently faces.

The first stage has begun with discussions in the

USA for joint industry education. Next we will be exploring opportunities to work with other world tourism institutes such as the United Kingdom and New Zealand. This is the beginning of a worldwide effort to create a professional Travel and Tourism industry.

Our aims will encompass:

- Professional travel and tourism staff
- Staff with an international work ethic
- Possibility of student interchange services between different countries

AITT members and non members alike must remember that the Institute stands for the individual. It is the ONLY cross-sectoral Institute of its kind.

Inside this issue:

<i>The future of the Travel and Tourism Industry is at stake</i>	1
<i>Why Should I Do Business with You?</i>	2
<i>Member's Handbook</i>	2
<i>New Membership Card / Industry ID</i>	2
<i>Congratulations to Wyvern Parsons and Clíodhna Rae</i>	2
<i>Note from the President: Exciting changes ahead</i>	3

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Why should I do business with you?



Become a member of a professional organisation

New clients sometimes ask the question, "Why should I do business with you? What makes you better than the discount flight place at the nearby shopping centre?" As a professional travel agent, you will stand out from the crowd if you are a member of a professional organisation like The Australian Institute of Travel

and Tourism. Being able to have the letters MAITT, AFAITT or FAITT after your name in all correspondence and business cards will show just how professional your business really is.

Member's Handbook

The second Edition of the AITT Members Handbook and Directory is being prepared for release in the first quarter of 2006. This edition is to be bigger and better than our first edition of 200 pages. The AITT invites all members to contact us with suggested inclusions and/or advertising.

Distribution is expected to be in excess of 10,000 copies. All members (financial or not) will be sent a copy to the last address supplied to the AITT Secretariat. The remainder of copies will be distributed throughout the travel and tourism industry including training institutions.



New Membership Card / Industry ID



All AITT members renewing this year's current membership will have access to an ISE (International Student Exchange) card. ISE have graciously donated this to all AITT members.

You need to supply a recent passport size photo, along with your name and membership designation.

We thank Graham Piercey, AFAITT, and Managing Director of ISE Cards, Australia for this most kind offer.

Today the ISE Card is sold in over 50 countries worldwide. It provides a great range of benefits at thousands of locations both in Australia and New Zealand as well as internationally.

Congratulations to Wyvern Parsons and Cliodhna Rae

Sincerest thanks go to Wyvern Parsons and Cliodhna Rae for their vast input, ongoing dedication and enthusiasm for all things associated with AITT. Their many hours of work for and on behalf of our members over many years is very much appreciated.

At a recent meeting of the Federal Council of the AITT, it was agreed by

unanimous acclaim that both Wyvern Parsons and Cliodhna Rae be raised to the highest level of membership that can be bestowed on a member: Honorary Life Fellow.

There will be a presentation in honour of both members.



Congratulations!

Note from the President: Exciting changes ahead

In the coming months, the AITT will be undergoing some exciting changes.

We will be creating a new website and keeping in touch with regular eNewsletters. Special benefits will be available for all former and current individuals in the travel and tourism industry. Pricing of new memberships will be restructured. The AITT will embrace past members of the industry and ask them to help make the industry strong and viable again.

Keep an eye out for our eNewsletters and visit our website for the latest information. Be part of our ongoing functions and forums! Make YOUR voice heard:

Join the Institute now!



**James Pegum, J.P. T.M. AFAITT
President, AITT**



"The AITT will be undergoing some exciting changes....."

About the AITT

The Australian Institute of Travel & Tourism was established in 1966 by a number of Travel Industry leaders. It was born out of AFTA and was the initiative of Stewart Moffat who for many years was its patron. The concept was that, while AFTA represented the employers in the industry concerned with industrial issues, AITT would become a forum for individuals, with no hierarchy, focusing on professional development.

Over the years, AITT has developed into the only cross-sector industry association, allowing great networking opportunities and enhancing career management.

Today, AITT members are drawn from the full range of the travel & tourism industries, firms and organisations, including, hotels, tour wholesalers & operators, agencies, airlines, state tourism bodies, education & training institutions, personnel agencies and many more.

The Institute operates at a Chapter level, usually within a State or Territory. Its committee members are all volunteers as are those who make up the Federal Council. As a not-for-profit organisation, members support activities by subscription and fund raising events. All monies are returned to the industry in one way or another.



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