

Tourism - Conservation Forum Mon 9 Oct 06

The three main components of this were

1 Launch of "Explore NZ: Interpretation resource for tourism concessionaires":

A biodiversity packed Loose-leaf of 2-300 pages of indexed DOC pamphlets. Also available on CD. Impressive. Nothing on recreation, except as part of each national park pamphlet. Very little on Forest parks or Conservation parks - they are for recreation, and are so avoided. Molesworth gets a column on recreation – mountain biking, tramping, fishing; better than most.

Rimutaka Forest Park has a pamphlet. But very little about its recreation. Bouldering gets a mention for Castle Hill. Lots on historic buildings, even 4 Canterbury historic huts get a mention. Little mention of tramping, recreational hunting, canoeing mountain biking etc.

Clarifies why DOC's statement of intent was changed so that "Recreation" became "Converting visitors to preservation". DOC sees itself as there to abolish evil thoughts of recreation. Astounding. There should be a section on outdoor recreation. But it is not there. There is a pic of a tramping party in the South Wye - the only one of a recreational activity I could see. One of kids crossing a bridge in the Orongorongo Valley. And a pamphlet on "why DOC manages the Trout fishery. Pic of a woman, dog and trout.

A very straightforward statement of where DOC sees itself. DOP Department of Preservation. Beautifully presented though. Not particularly subtle propaganda when one looks at it carefully. Amazing the tourist industry isn't interested in recreating on public conservation land. Obviously the tourists the industry caters for aren't very energetic.

Action: Needs an article in the media.

2 Discussion of the Review of the Tourism 2010 Strategy: The Forum had 90 minutes to address a series of questions on this. At least they tried. Something no doubt the Tourism industry will shape to its requirements. Anyone can send their comments to etc, etc. Don't hold your breath.

3 Review of the Rec Summit: DOC had Herb Christophers and Dave Jane give their take on the Summit. Both were in a state of angry denial for a number of reasons see below. They explained that they had tried to invite more tourism and City Council managers. The Tourism Industry thought many more tourism people should have been there. I had asked about 3 times previously that the Forum discuss the difference between recreation and tourism. But no success so far. Sharon Flood thought maybe the Forum should.

I said that by a small miracle the recommendations from the 3 recreation focused groups were reasonably sane. So the Summit had produced a worthwhile output. And it was important to move on.

DOC is hell bent on destroying any useful Summit outputs. Their recommendation is that the 2 most anti recreation government agencies I know, DOC and SPARC should get together to write a Recreation Strategy. The Minister got the DOC Report last Friday. I will ask his Office for a copy tomorrow.

FMC was to give a presentation on what they did. But they weren't able to show. DOC's leader of the Forum Andy Thompson has recently left to join a Tourism Agency. Bit of a laugh all round really. Forest & Bird sensibly doesn't waste its time. Probably better spent its time lobbying on what brochures went into "Explore NZ"

Sharon Flood, at the Ministry of Tourism, or Dave Jane at DOC should have copies of DOC's "Explore NZ" if anyone wants to look at them. A wondrous work of preservation advocacy.

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