

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 7 JUNE 2018**

**HAMILTON, WAIKATO, NEW ZEALAND – 7 JUNE 2018**

**NEW ZEALAND INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR ACQUIRES SPECIALIST AGRICULTURAL TOUR OPERATOR BUSINESS**

Travel Time South Pacific announced that it has acquired AgriTravel International, a Waikato-based company which creates customised agricultural and special interest tours across New Zealand.

The purchase will strengthen Travel Time South Pacific's inbound tour operator business and enable an even broader range of specialised product offerings for their international clientele.

The purchase of the specialist agricultural tour operator fits into Travel Time South Pacific's growth and expansion strategies and will enable them to offer specialised agricultural tours both domestically and to the growing number of international clients seeking to visit one of the world's most progressive agricultural nations.

"Our acquisition of AgriTravel International complements our overall tailor-made travel offerings so we can now provide a stronger focus on these much specialised agricultural tour itineraries and agri-biz programmes." said Scott Mehrtens, Managing Director of Travel Time South Pacific.

"This investment adds to our capacity, geographic presence and enables us to support increasing numbers of requests from leisure and corporate sectors asking to include visits to our world-leading facilities, farms and companies that specialise in agricultural technologies and food production."

Karen Baldwin, who has been managing AgriTravel International for the last five years, will be joining the Travel Time South Pacific team with immediate effect. Karen said she was excited to be joining forces with an outstanding and experienced family-business that would strive to ensure the needs of all AgriTravel clients were a top priority, now and going forward.

Karen said, "AgriTravel will continue to work with its valued suppliers to offer creative tour programmes for our existing clients and new markets keen to meet the people and businesses that shape the agricultural sector in New Zealand."

"It's very exciting to be working with such a large team of experienced and passionate travel professionals at Travel Time South Pacific. Our priority will continue to be the creation and delivery of inspiring travel experiences to all our clients."

### **About AgriTravel International**

AgriTravel International is an experienced New Zealand based agricultural tour operator, planning and managing agricultural farm and technical tours, and business study tours throughout New Zealand. The company was set up over 25 years ago and has been managed by current owner Mrs Karen Baldwin since 2013. The business has strived to provide access to the country's best agri-businesses, consultants, farms, universities and more, while combining technical programmes with leisure and New Zealand's great sightseeing and natural attractions.

### **About Travel Time South Pacific**

Travel Time South Pacific are based in Hamilton, New Zealand and, along with their family-owned coach charter business run under the brand of Leisure Time Tours, have been operating for over 30 years. Time South Pacific are an Inbound Tour Operator and Destination Management Company offering a one-stop-shop to their global client base; creating and delivering tailor-made travel experiences across the group, independent travel, and M.I.C.E. markets. The company's customers include international wholesalers, travel agents, and their clients – with a large majority of business in Western Europe, the United States, Canada, and Australia.

For more information visit:

[www.traveltime.co.nz](http://www.traveltime.co.nz)

[www.leisuretimetours.co.nz](http://www.leisuretimetours.co.nz)

[www.agritravel.co.nz](http://www.agritravel.co.nz)

### **Media Contact:**

Vicki Annison

Marketing Manager

Travel Time South Pacific

231 Kahikatea Drive, PO Box 6, Hamilton, 3242

+64 7 849 3493

[vicki@ltnz.co.nz](mailto:vicki@ltnz.co.nz)

**Image attachments:**



Travel Time South Pacific Managing Director Scott Mehrtens with Karen Baldwin, AgriTours Manager



(L-R) Company Stakeholders Scott Mehrtens, Les Mehrtens and Barbara Mehrtens, with Karen Baldwin, AgriTravel Manager