

Media Release

May 2019

Real Journeys introduces innovative recyclable paper coffee cups as one of several new sustainable measures in Milford Sound

Real Journeys will introduce innovative new recyclable coffee cups on its cruises in Milford Sound next season. The takeaway cups are made from paper that can be recycled up to six times into a moulded fibre product (like cup holders or egg cartons) here in New Zealand.

In the past, takeaway coffee cups have gone straight into landfill, this initiative, with packaging supplier Huhtamaki, is believed to be the first time the cups can be recycled here in New Zealand.

The move is one of a number of new sustainable initiatives being worked on by Real Journeys. It was one of the first companies to sign the Tourism Industry Association's Sustainability Commitment which aims to lead the world in sustainable tourism. Real Journeys General Manager Paul Norris says the company had already been working on ways to reduce waste in Milford Sound.

"As part of Milford Sound Tourism we've been involved in the wastewater plant, rubbish and recycling systems for over a decade. Operating in a remote national park – everything that comes in must be taken all the way out again. Dealing with waste is a big issue for us," says Paul.

Following a packaging review in Milford Sound, the company removed plastic straws and replaced most single use condiments with large refillable bottles. Around 64,000 plastic water bottles that were automatically included in picnic lunches (over a year) have been removed and visitors are offered complimentary drinking water available from water stations around the vessels, on all Real Journeys vessels instead.

"We will be letting our international visitors know that our water is safe to drink and encouraging people to bring their own reusable water bottles. For those who still wish to purchase bottled water there will be some available - but our staff are passionate about removing plastic water bottles so they won't be encouraging bottle sales!"

Around 4000 used milk containers a year will also no longer be thrown into the general Milford Sound recycling scheme. Real Journeys' milk supplier will soon be taking the milk bottles back and delivering them to an onshore recycler where they will be turned into a customised resin for pipe and irrigation systems in New Zealand.

Real Journeys has been actively working with all its suppliers to ensure they understand its values and requirements around conservation and sustainability. It's an important criterion for awarding supply contracts. Key suppliers were recently invited to come in to Milford Sound to understand its remoteness and issues around waste removal.

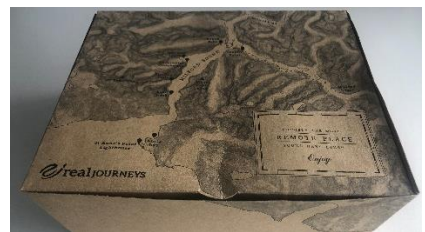
"The more people understand the more it makes a difference. The other benefit from removing our plastic drink water bottles from the lunch boxes is that they will be more compact, easier to transport and won't use as much cardboard. It's a win-win!" says Paul.



Drinking water is freely available on all Real Journeys vessels



Real Journeys MS Ops Mgr Jason Steele talks to suppliers about waste removal



Recyclable Milford Sound picnic lunch boxes no longer contain water bottles

About the Wayfare group of companies

wayfare.nz

A period of sustained growth led Real Journeys to establish the 'Wayfare' group to represent its tourism companies in the international market and provide integrated services to its trade customers. With one point of contact, Wayfare makes it easier to do business with its family of five leading experience brands; Real Journeys, Cardrona Alpine Resort, Go Orange, International Antarctic Centre and Canyon Food & Brew Co. The name Wayfare, which means 'to travel or the act of journeying', was chosen because of the link back to Real Journeys and its association with New Zealand as a nation of wayfarers and travellers.

About Real Journeys

realjourneys.co.nz

Real Journeys is a privately-owned tourism business that was founded in 1954 by tourism and conservation pioneers Les and Olive Hutchins. Today the company remains true to its founders and their guiding principles of conservation and hospitality. Based in some of the most untouched areas of New Zealand, Real Journeys has operations from Stewart Island to Queenstown - including the Te Anau Glowworm Caves, world-renowned cruises through Milford and Doubtful Sounds, multi-day Discovery Expeditions, heritage steamship TSS Earnslaw and Walter Peak High Country Farm.

About Cardrona Alpine Resort

cardrona.com

Founded in 1980, Cardrona Alpine Resort is New Zealand's most popular ski area, where everyone's a VIP - from beginners and families, to Olympic and X Games athletes. Cardrona's three vast basins are home to New Zealand's first cabin-style lift - the McDougall's Express Chondola, and the southern hemisphere's most extensive terrain parks and pipes. Wide, open trails offer some of the country's best snow conditions, thanks to high altitude and an innovative snow management system. Take an easy drive from Queenstown or Wanaka and be welcomed with genuine Kiwi hospitality.

In the summer months Cardrona is open for mountain biking, carting, conferences and other alpine adventure activities. Cardrona recently purchased the rights to the Soho Ski Area and intends to expand into the Soho Basin. With over 900ha of skiable terrain, Cardrona-Soho will become the largest single ski area in the country.

About Go Orange

goorange.co.nz

Go Orange challenges visitors to 'Go Beyond' the average tourist and make a deeper connection to New Zealand. With its suite of must-do adventure experiences, strong company culture, and led by Luke Taylor, (who received this year's Tourism New Zealand Emerging Leader Award), Go Orange (GO) is fast becoming a leading adventure tourism brand in New Zealand.

The company originated as a subsidiary of Real Journeys offering a daily cruise in Fiordland in 2012. By 2017, Go Orange had merged with iconic Queenstown brands Queenstown Rafting, and Kiwi Discovery, to offer rafting, kayaking, cruising and coach connections. The following year, GO purchased well known Queenstown business Queenstown Water Taxis and added jetboating to its growing portfolio.

About International Antarctic Centre

iceberg.co.nz

Built in 1992, the International Antarctic Centre is a tourist attraction based in Christchurch, New Zealand, offering an interactive, immersive and fun Antarctic experience. Visitors can go through an Antarctic storm simulation with real snow and ice, an indoor/outdoor penguin viewing facility and a 4D cinema as well as travel on an all-terrain amphibious Hägglund vehicle from Antarctica. For animal lovers, rescued wildlife adds to the centre's appeal. Huskies visit the centre daily and the little blue penguins in residence at the International Antarctic Centre are rescue birds that would not otherwise survive in the wild.

About Canyon Food & Brew Co.

canyonfoodandbrew.co.nz

Canyon Food & Brew Co. opened in June 2018 and has already won four national awards (Brewer's Guild NZ) for its beer brewed on site by Head Brewer Jonathan Kauri. With spectacular views over Queenstown's iconic Shotover River, the restaurant has a large outdoor deck overlooking the canyon, warm fire inside and an open kitchen and brewery. Fresh flavoursome seasonal produce is served up with hand crafted beer in a relaxed, friendly vibe that's become popular with locals and visitors alike.

For high resolution photographs click [here](#). Visit our booth number 6041 and talk to Emilie Bean or email media@wayfare.nz



