



**Matt Ewen**

General manager, Tourism West Coast

The main focus of Matt’s work is to tell the rest of the world about the wonderful West Coast, encouraging them to visit the region. This involves using a variety of media to get the message out and dealing with Travel Wholesalers and Travel Agents throughout the world.



**Andrea Forrest**

General Manager, Shantytown  
www.shantytown.co.nz

Andrea is a relative newcomer to the tourism industry having commenced with Shantytown in 2006. Challenges for the iconic visitor destination include the tension between tourism and its museum roots, embarking on a journey of change through re-branding, re-theming and the introduction of interactive visitor experiences.



**Matt Lysaght**

Managing director, Kea Heritage Tours  
www.keatours.co.nz

Matt is a passionate advocate for the South Island’s West Coast, particularly its awesome landforms, resilient yet relaxed lifestyle and the strong character of its people. Along with running a successful West Coast-based tour company, he is also a representative of the Shantytown board.



**Peter Morrison**

Marketing consultant

Peter has 20 years’ experience as an independent consultant in marketing and business development around New Zealand, with a focus on tourism promotion. Peter lives at Greymouth where he is actively involved in local tourism.



**Hamish Reid**

Owner operator, @ Home in the Hills  
www.homeinthehills.co.nz

Hamish developed a life-long passion for hill country after growing up on Marlborough’s Molesworth Station. He has a degree in parks and recreation management from Lincoln University and in 2007 established his Arthur’s Pass guiding business @ Home in the Hills.



**David Stapleton**

David is descended from four families who arrived in Hokitika in the 1860s West Coast Gold Rushes, and grew up in Hokitika before attaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and Economics at Canterbury University. West Coast history is one of David’s strong interests and he is a founding member of Heritage Hokitika, Greymouth Heritage Trust and Heritage West Coast.



**Kerry-Jayne Wilson**

Senior lecturer in ecology, Lincoln University

Kerry-Jayne has had a lifelong fascination with nature and for almost 40 years has carried out conservation-related research on birds. She has mostly worked in New Zealand but also in Canada, Antarctica, the Southern Ocean, Mongolia, the Cook Islands, Sarawak and Indonesia. Kerry-Jayne recently retired after 23 years lecturing in ecology and conservation at Lincoln University. She now lives in Charleston where she is writing another book and undertaking research on penguins and other West Coast seabirds. Kerry-Jayne wrote the book ‘Flight of the Huia’ which describes the evolution, ecology and conservation of New Zealand’s vertebrates and she compiles the annual State of New Zealand’s Birds reports.



**Les Wright**

Historian

After an early career in radio, newspapers and television, Les now works mostly as an historian gathering and retelling West Coast stories. Gold mining is his particular interest and he has written several books on the subject. Les is a heritage adviser for Oceana Gold Limited, identifying and cataloguing relics excavated at the Globe Hill opencast gold mine near Reefton. He is also a director and guide for Green Kiwi Tours at Punakaiki where he lives in his ‘home-made’ house near the sea.

**GUIDES**



**Zane Smith**

Ecotourism operator

Zane has worked in tourism for 18 years, specialising in the adventure and ecotourism sectors. He started his first ecotourism business in 1997 and today operates an accommodation business and ecotourism guiding company, both based at Punakaiki in the Paparoa National Park.



**Bridgit Young**

Ecotourism guide

Bridgit has a degree in Physical Education from Otago University and certificates in Outdoor Recreation and Advanced Leadership and Guiding from Tai Poutini Polytechnic. She has worked as a sea kayak guide and outdoor instructor in Australia and NZ. Bridgit is passionate about educating and encouraging others to explore our natural environment in sustainable ways.