

MEDIA RELEASE

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Change of Helm at Cruise New Zealand

Having experienced New Zealand's largest cruise season yet and the opening of Auckland's Shed 10 Cruise Terminal, Cruise New Zealand's founding Chairperson, Captain Craig Harris is stepping down on a high.

At the Cruise New Zealand Annual General Meeting and Conference held earlier this week, Captain Craig Harris formally stepped down as Chairperson. Port of Tauranga's Commercial Manager, Graeme Marshall was elected in his place. Graeme will be supported by Kevin O'Sullivan, Environment Southland's Maritime Manger as Deputy Chair.

Captain Harris steps down after having founded Cruise New Zealand in 1994, where cruise arrivals to New Zealand grew by more than ten times over the two decades. Today, cruise passenger arrivals to New Zealand is bigger than New Zealand's third largest inbound market, behind Australia and China, and the cruise sector is worth NZD 310.3 million to the economy, accounting for 5,330 jobs.

During his time as Chairperson, Captain Harris lobbied tirelessly for a cruise-dedicated terminal on Auckland's Queens Wharf to sustain the growing cruise industry to New Zealand, ensured policies and regulations were cruise-friendly, and encouraged the growth of cruise ports and the corresponding breadth of tour products. Captain Harris' goodwill and passion for the industry was recognised and acknowledged over the years, culminating in being made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit earlier this year.

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