

«Pref_Name» «Surname»
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Hi «Pref_Name»

Welcome to our final Australian Contingent Newsletter – the last update before we depart. For those on the pre tour its just 11 days until we hit Queenstown, and for those joining us at the Venture we'll see you all in just 17 days! Hope you're as excited as we are - its all starting to feel real 😊.

Before we jet off, there are a final few details that you need to be aware of.

Pre Tour Manual

Our pre tour manual for both Venturers and Leaders is now available. In the manual you will find all the details on where we are staying, where you'll be eating, where you need to go for activities along with lots more. Its basically a 'How To' guide to the NZV2016.

You don't need to print it; we will provide everyone with a printed copy when you arrive in Queenstown. Please read through it online before you arrive, this will save you some time in Queenstown and mean you know all the secrets as well before we hit the ground.

[Download the youth manual here.](#)

Leaders will be sent a separate Leader Manual shortly.

[Download the Queenstown locations map here.](#)

Travel

Last week you would have received your final flight details by email. Remember to check the difference between your departure time, and the time you need to arrive at the airport before that listed departure time. Each flight has a travel coordinator who will organise your group from check-in to touchdown. If you are sick, running late, or are going to miss your flight you need to contact them as soon as you know there is an issue (and also contact Phil if you're going to miss the flight).

Your travel coordinator is:

«Travel_Coordinator» - Phone «Phone»

Passports & Travel Money Cards

Please remember to bring your passport and leave the additional information booklet that comes with them at home. We only need your passport and the sleeve that it comes in. When you hand in your passport would like the book and the sleeve, not any fancy travel document wallets, as they are too bulky for us to store. 661 passports take up a lot of space and weight!

If would like us to store an additional travel money card for you, it should be included with the passport when you hand it in.

We will collect your passports as you board the bus from the airport.

Hike Packs

There are a number of Phase One expeditions that require hike packs. We are talking packs for overnight or multi night hikes, not your daypacks which should be taken on to the plane as hand luggage.

Based on the data we have we are expecting that you **«Hike Pack»** be bringing a hike pack. If this is incorrect, please let us know immediately.

We are organising additional baggage based on this information. If you do need to bring one, its needs to be completely empty with all the straps done up tightly and we will add it in with a number of other packs to a single Contingent bag. You will not be charged for this.

If you are doing the pre tour we will store your hike pack during the pre tour as well, and give it to you at the start of Phase One.

Dilly Bags

A number of Phase Two expeditions require a dilly bag (or in kiwi a ditty bag – just of their weird phrases you will get used to). We have not been able to make alternative arrangements for this so if your expedition needs one, you need to bring one or make other arrangements. You won't need them at any other stage during the trip.

If you are on the Pre tour you have an opportunity to purchase items for a dilly bag during your free time on 1 January in Auckland from the local supermarkets/discount stores that will be open. Alternatively you might be able to come to an arrangement with some of the Kiwi Venturers in your unit to help you out and bring two of everything.

Gear Lists

These have been emailed to everyone by Inferno Admin, but they are also available on the NZ website [here](#). We recommend that you check the gear list to make sure you have everything – they are expedition specific. There is also a generic gear list in our Newsletter 4, which you can download [here](#).

One piece of advice – the geo-thermal pools and mud-baths in the North Island contain plenty of sulphur. This can be damaging to clothes, and can even ruin them. Washing is almost more trouble than it is worth, and you have to be careful not to get the rest of your gear dirty in your bag. We recommend bringing an old pair(s) of clothes that you can wear and throw out along the way – making more room for tents and souvenirs on the way back!

Theme Nights

During Phase Two of the Venture there will be theme nights that we encourage everyone to get in the theme of. They include **Beach Party** (think boardies, grass skirts etc), **Pirates** (channel your inner Jack Sparrow), and **007** (dress to impress).

The NZ theme nights are always a lot of fun and we encourage you to either bring a few items with you or hit up some of the local op shops during Phase Two to get into the theme. There will also be **Region vs Region** in a series of challenges, so make sure you have something Aussie with you as well.

Don't forget, we will be building the best nightclub in NZ with one of the top DJ's in the country. With the Rio Olympics coming later in the year, we will be the first in the world to welcome in 2016 – in the theme of **Olympics!**

Spreading the Word

We want you to share your excitement in the build-up and as we go. That means photos of you packing, at the airport and beyond. For any posts to Facebook or Instagram, make sure you include the #FIREUP and #NZV2016. That way, everyone back in Australia can follow along, and you can share your journey with the rest of the Contingent. The Contingent will be featuring the best pictures, posts and videos on our pages and blog too!

If you or your folks are not following us, get across to www.facebook.com/nzv2016. It is even worth creating an account for!

Following Our Adventures

We are sure that jealous family and friends will want to follow our adventures from Australia. The Contingent Team knows from experience that most Venturers are too busy having fun to check in with home – remember: no news is good news!

The Contingent will be posting a blog for daily updates, photos, stories and much more. We would love for you to follow along at home. <http://blog.nzv2016.com> It will almost feel like you are travelling along with us – giving everyone a holiday for the price of just one!

Last Minute Questions

If you have any last minute questions, now is the time to raise them. Please ensure you have read [newsletter 4](#), and looked at the [O Day slides](#) before asking, most of the answers are in those and it should be the first place you look before reaching out to us.

Keep in mind that the Contingent Team will be departing earlier than you and will be on the pre tour. Phil and Kusi will be unavailable by phone and on a plane between 9am to 1:30pm EDST on 26 December 2015. Leave a message if needed.

Emergency Contact Numbers

As a reminder the Contingent Hotline number is +64 21 028 929 59 and Phil Britt's NZ number is +64 21 024 024 66. These two numbers will be operational from

1:30pm on 26/12/2015. For calls prior to our departure, Phil Britt's Australian number is 0418 528 521.

The Wrap Up

So this is it. 2.5 years of planning comes down to 3 weeks of adventure, adrenaline, friends and fun. This is Scouting at its best, and it is what International Scouting is all about. We are pumped to have you joining us on the journey, and can't wait to get stuck in and enjoy everything that is in store. Get ready for what we hope will be the most amazing few weeks abroad. See you in New Zealand!

Yours in Scouting,
The Australian Contingent Team