

In brief...

Whiting Power Systems in the south

The marine engineering company Whiting Power Systems has appointed Peter Panfilov as its new sales engineer for the South Island.

Peter has more than 25 years experience with Yanmar, most recently with Power and Marine and Blue Pacific Yanmar. He will be based in Christchurch and will support the boating industry throughout the South Island.

Whiting Power says the move is in response to additional demand for its products. See www.whitingpower.com

Maori fishing company names new chief

Jeremy Fleming is the new chief executive of Aotearoa Fisheries Limited. He took up his position on October 1.

Robin Hapi, who recently stood down as chief executive to become chairman, said Fleming had direct experience in managing a large primary products business in New Zealand. "We believe he is well placed to continue the current earnings trajectory of AFL," Hapi said.

Fleming has had a career in the forestry industry for over 25 years. He was formerly chief executive of Carter Holt Harvey Forests. He had been an independent forestry consultant since mid-2006.

"AFL has gone from a tough first year to a \$4.6 million profit in the last financial year. We are expecting to improve considerably on last year's profit in the current financial year."

New branch office opens

Lusty and Blundell Ltd opened its new Bay of Plenty branch by hosting a Marine Industry Association After 5 function on September 13.

The opening of the new branch in Totara St, Mt Maunganui, provided an opportunity for local marine businesses to view the new showroom and meet the branch manager, Mark Findlay, and sales representative David Booth.

The chief executive, Garry Stone, said the branch would be a support and supply centre for the fast-growing Bay of Plenty and Coromandel regions.

All of Lusty and Blundell's brands will be on display in the new branch.

A keen yacht racer and a qualified rigger, Mark Findlay was until recently a member of the BMW Oracle support crew, and has raced and sailed on large yachts all over the world.

David Booth is a former senior crew member on a number of luxury superyachts, and has also been involved in building and refitting a number of large vessels.

NEW RULES FOR FERRIES AFTER HORROR CROSSING

MARITIME NEW ZEALAND has overhauled the way Cook Strait ferries operate in heavy weather after an horrific sailing that damaged railway wagons, smashed cars and injured passengers.

The changes follow the Interisland line ship *Aratere's* gruelling journey between Wellington and Picton on March 3 last year.

The ferry, with 391 people on board, was hit by waves up to 14m high. The *Aratere* twice slewed violently and heeled over an estimated 50 degrees. Experienced crew thought the ship was about to capsize, according to a Maritime New Zealand report made public on August 23.

The measures, as recommended by the Transport Accident Investigation Commission in its report on the incident (see this issue), include random checks on the competence of the ship's masters, a review of the decision-making regarding whether ferries should sail, and a new cargo lashing system on the *Aratere*. Maritime NZ director Catherine Taylor said the recommendations were all now in place.

New chief for Coastguard

COASTGUARD NEW ZEALAND has selected Bruce Reid as its new chief executive to lead it into the next phase of its restructuring, designed to complete a unification process.

Coastguard New Zealand president, Steve Cruickshank, says Reid is "A man of inestimable energy, with an appetite for ongoing challenges."

The move to regionalisation three years ago brought 67 independent units together under the administrative umbrella of four regional offices and the national office, which has also been restructured.

This move will provide the cohesion that Coastguard believes will assist in its evolution to a fully integrated, commercially responsive entity.

Bruce Reid brings to Coastguard a wealth of experience in managing such challenges. He was formerly executive director of New Zealand's largest trucking association, National Road Carriers, and is well positioned to move Coastguard in similar directions. Prior to this role he spent two years doing project work with the Automobile Association and 12 years in the Whitcoulls Retail Group.

"The opportunity of running and managing the change of an iconic organisation such as Coastguard was too tempting an offer to let pass," says Reid. "When I reviewed the proposed future strategy for the organisation and the complexity of the challenge, it raised similar levels of excitement I felt when initially taking on the role at NRC".

He said the organisation had an excellent base structure in place and was well supported by the units and volunteers.



Bruce Reid

"My job is to implement the changes and provide a structure at the national level that delivers on the expected value to all involved with Coastguard."

He says one of his first challenges will be to lift the national profile of the organisation.

Bruce enjoys a number of recreational activities, including coaching and umpiring netball at representative and senior levels, and competitive tennis. He is also chairman of the Performing Arts Trust in the Kaipara area, and for peace and quiet he sculpts with his chainsaw.

Inquiry launched on night-vision goggles

THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY launched an inquiry on September 3 tracking sophisticated night-vision goggles used by helicopter operators, amid allegations that some were stolen from the United States military. The goggles were seized in Northland, Taranaki, Auckland and Wellington, and the CAA ordered helicopter operators to disclose the serial numbers on their equipment.

The goggles are also supplied to the US military, so they are a restricted export, with strict conditions on who can buy them. A US Air Force sergeant, Leonard Schenk, aged 26, allegedly stole the AVS-9 OMNI 6 aviator's night-vision imaging systems from the Florida Army base he worked at, and shipped them to New Zealand buyers. Schenk and his mother, Jerri Stringer, face charges of selling the goggles, flight helmets and global positioning equipment over the past two years to buyers in New

Zealand, Belgium and Germany.

The Northland Emergency Services' Trust chairman, John Bain, says he initially bought two sets of the goggles for his pilots from an Auckland entrepreneur, Will Jeffery, who was led to believe that the goggles were from a training school in Miami and were surplus to their requirements.

CAA's rotary wing manager, John Fogden, said he was aware of 13 or 14 companies in New Zealand using the technology. Each probably had about two sets of goggles. He was unsure if the 12 stolen sets entered the country through the auction site eBay, or were imported through a third party. "Our main concern is the integrity of the goggles – we want to make sure the ones in use are safe," he said.

A set of the goggles costs between \$14,475 and \$17,370, with companies paying a similar amount to fly trainers out to teach their pilots.

FERRET GOES FREE

A FERRET SPOTTED relaxing in the sun on a private deck in Oneroa, Waiheke Island, had defied traps set to try to catch it by September 21.

The property owners, Liz and Jeff Mitchell, said the ferret appeared tame, and came up on to their deck to sun itself. It disappeared when they went to get their camera.

"Ferrets may seem cute and cuddly, but they are sly, sneaky animals and a major threat to New Zealand's native wildlife," says Andy Spence, the Auckland Regional Council's biosecurity officer on the island.

The breeding, sale and distribution of ferrets is prohibited throughout Auckland, although existing pets are allowed to live. But no pet ferrets should now exist on Waiheke, Spence said.

Anyone seeing a ferret on the island should call him on (09) 372 5647 or 0274 519 951.



Seafood company sale will help iwi

THE MAORI FISHERIES company Aotearoa Fisheries Limited has sold its Moana Pacific wholesale and retail seafood business to Ngati Porou Seafoods Ltd.

Ngati Porou Seafoods will also lease from AFL the offices and fish shop in Gisborne from where it will run the business. Under the arrangement, announced on August 9, AFL has a three-year contract to lease Ngati Porou Seafood's annual catch entitlements, and has guaranteed to supply the iwi's business with its seafood requirements.

"We offer iwi good opportunities for leasing their annual catch entitlement," said AFL's executive chairman, Robin Hapi. The arrangement fitted with the company's desire to build long-term commercial partnerships with iwi to ensure they get the best return for their fisheries quota.

"The advantage for Ngati Porou Seafoods is that AFL will supply them with a variety of fish and shellfish to meet their seafood requirements." AFL has entered into agreements with 13 iwi.



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