

# APPOINTMENTS

## Crowne Plaza

Ali Mehdi and Nick Imanisani have joined Crown Plaza Auckland as front office manager and restaurant and bar manager respectively. With 12 years front office experience in large hotels in New Zealand, Ali brings a wealth of experience



Ali Mehdi

with him that includes past experience in the role of Night Audit and Reservations Manager. He has well rounded, first hand experience of every facet of this role and hotel operations at this level. Ali holds an Advanced Diploma in Hotel Management and is currently engaged in MBA studies whilst working fulltime.

Nick is responsible for the over-management of Crowne Plaza's main food and beverage outlet, Aria restaurant and Bar as well as overseeing in-room, mini bar and club lounge dining and beverages. Nick joins the Crowne Plaza from his previous position just across the road at the Crowne Plaza Auckland, managed by Peter Gordon.



Nick Imanisani

In addition to this, Nick has also managed his own restaurant. He brings an enormous amount of energy to the team along with creative flair.

## Waitakere Properties

Harry O'Rourke has been appointed to the board of Waitakere Properties Limited (WPL). He fills one of two vacancies on the board of the company, which is a wholly owned development of Waitakere City Council.

Mr O'Rourke is well known in local government circles, where he has spent the majority of his career. He is currently CEO at Waitakere City Council and retires from that position in March 2008.

"We are delighted that we can retain some of Harry's institutional knowledge of the city and its major projects," said Mayor Bob Harvey after his council unanimously endorsed the appointment. "The next few years will see Waitakere transition from a city of potential to one of huge growth and opportunity, and Harry and his fellow directors on the property company have a key role in delivering that vision."

In recent years WPL has been involved in a number of major projects, including the 41.5 hectare residential development at Harbourview (Te Atatu Peninsula) and the building of the country's largest film studio and soundstage in Henderson Valley Rd.

Mr O'Rourke helped establish Waitakere Properties Ltd (under the then Waitemata City Council). He says he is particularly looking forward to a continuing role with major infrastructure developments he has overseen in his time at Waitakere City Council, including the undergrounding of the railway corridor through New Lynn and the "massive development opportunities" that will bring.

## Crash Brokers Ltd

Auckland-based motor vehicle accident management company, Crash Brokers, has appointed Russell Griffiths to the new role of Operations Manager. Mr Griffiths has extensive experience in MV sales and service, and recently comes from the car leasing sector where he focused on large-scale refurbishment programmes.



Russell Griffiths

Mr Griffiths will be responsible for job-management, customer service, and driving increased efficiencies supported by Crash Brokers' recent move to a web-based accident management programme that allows clients and their insurance brokers to access critical information in real time.

This will allow MD Karen Knight to concentrate on developing and managing growth via the important insurance broker channel and key account management of medium to large fleets.

## CER Group

The CER Group has announced the appointment of Mr Evan Davies as chairman of the board. Dr Wayne Cartwright, former chairman, remains a non-executive director of the company.

Commenting on this development, Dr Cartwright said: "CER Group now has a strong platform for vigorous profitable growth. I look forward to contributing further, with fellow directors, to the development of the company."

## Samsung

Samsung Electronics New Zealand has appointed Craig Hastings as the new national account manager of its Vodafone relationship. Mr Hastings has more than a decade's experience in the mobile phone industry, including five years as country manager for Alcatel Mobile Phones in New Zealand. He was also sales and marketing director for satellite navigation market leaders Benefon Oyj in the United Kingdom and Europe.



Craig Hastings

Samsung New Zealand general manager marketing Jean-Philippe Diel said he was delighted to announce Mr Hastings' appointment, particularly because of his broad and extensive experience in the mobile phone industry.

"Craig has extensive industry knowledge across many areas in the technology sector, particularly with mobile phones. His understanding of the issues this sector faces, combined with his exceptional interpersonal and communications skills, makes him the ideal person for managing Samsung's Vodafone business," Mr Diel said.

Mr Hastings said it was an easy decision to accept the national Vodafone account manager role at Samsung.

## Brookfields

Brookfields Lawyers has announced the reappointment of Matthew Allan as Senior Associate. Matthew has returned to Brookfields Lawyers following five years in the United Kingdom, where he worked in the London offices of Norton Rose and Taylor Wessing, and in-house at a London Borough Council practising planning, environmental and highways law. Equipped with a BA/LLB and nine years experience, Matthew has joined the local government and resource management team. Matthew comments, "I am very pleased to return to Brookfields after practising law in the UK for several years, and to be rejoining the firm's highly regarded local government and resource management team." CEO of Brookfields Lawyers, David Graham comments: "We're absolutely delighted to have Matthew back on the team. He's incredibly talented and it's a real testament to the 'people first' culture of our firm."



Matthew Allan

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## Marketing Association

Sue McCarty is the new Chief Executive of the Association, taking over the leadership next month.

Welcoming McCarty to the role, chairman of the board of the Marketing Association Simone Iles said that the appointment heralded a new era of leadership with "focus on fostering the understanding and practice of marketing as a driver of profitable business in the New Zealand economy."

Ms McCarty joins as an experienced and highly respected marketer, having been in the industry



Sue McCarty

for over 20 years, primarily in the IT and telecommunications sector globally. She served on the senior management team with EDS in the UK and Europe, then worked for Telecom NZ and Netway, being appointed general manager of solutions, the global e-commerce alliance between Telecom NZ, EDS and Microsoft in 2002.

Her vision for the Marketing Association is for it to become a key business facilitator with an essential competitive edge for businesses of all sizes and at all stages of evolution in New Zealand, and to provide a level of leadership, education and encouragement for all members to be recognised on the world's stage as innovative marketers. She looks forward to championing the value of excellence in marketing in New Zealand.