



# NEW ZEALAND MAJOR EVENTS

## Major Events partners with Audi quattro Winter Games New Zealand to Deliver an Observer Programme

On: 5 September 2013

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Observer Programmes are a valuable way for those involved in the event industry to learn from other events during their live operation. It is an opportunity for key learning's and experiences to be shared across a range of event management aspects while also providing attendees with the chance to go behind the scenes of interesting event spaces.

New Zealand Major Events, in partnership with Sport New Zealand and The Audi quattro Winter Games New Zealand recently held an Observer Programme in the Queenstown Lakes District. The programme took place over two days and included a series of workshops and presentations, with a trip to Cardrona Alpine Resort to observe the on-mountain operation. Attendees came from all over the country, representing both the public and private sector with experience ranging from organising local and regional events, to national and international events.

Day one of the Audi quattro Winter Games New Zealand Observer Programme began with a seminar and workshop session on Event Governance. Brendon O'Connor from O'Connor Sinclair both facilitated the morning and presented on the latest New Zealand Major Events Resource Bank module – Event Governance “Leading Effective Decision Making”. This was followed by Sir Eion Edgar (Chairman of the Winter Games New Zealand) and Arthur Klap (Chief Executive Winter Games New Zealand) discussing what good event governance looks like, what a board expects of their management team and what the management team expects from their board.

The afternoon session saw the Winter Games Senior Management Team present to the group on their particular roles within the event delivery, examples of challenges faced in the lead-up to and during the event, and what they learnt from those challenges.

The format of the afternoon session allowed the attendees to ask some very specific questions about the delivery of the event and created some excellent knowledge transfer opportunities.

Day two saw attendees head to Cardrona Alpine Resort to see how the mountain operations in action. It provided the opportunity for attendees to see the practical side of what had been discussed in the workshop sessions the previous day.

Attendees were enthusiastic about the opportunity to attend the programme, saying “As someone relatively new to the industry I found that I learnt a lot, without it going completely over my head. In particular I found it interesting to hear about how a variety of different types and styles of events set up the governance structure and the pros and cons of the different styles.”; “Great to have presentations from the full spectrum from Governance through to delivery.”; and “A good range of attendees for those valuable networking opportunities.”