

essence

essentially...north canterbury

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Local
Christmas Wishes

09

Home and Garden
Becky Lee

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contents

If, like me you start out with the best intentions to give handcrafted gifts wrapped in trendy recycled paper with a perfectly tied natural string bow but end up leaving everything to the last minute and not achieving anything, then I sympathise with you. Christmas can be a crazy and stressful time for the unorganised! If you happened to be at the Rangiora Post Shop when I was there on the last possible day for sending overseas - I need to apologise. Christmas was not all fun, tinsel and baubles in there. I was one of so many sent to the naughty chair (3 times) to redo the customs' declaration form. Maddix, Lacey, Sam - you don't know how seriously lucky you are to have presents on the way.

It has, however been fun putting together our last issue together for the year. When it comes to adding colour into our homes most of us are nervous about going further than the odd turquoise cushion. Writer, Pattie chats with interior designer, Becky Lee about living in a home that really reflects your personal style - Page 9. Photographer Carmen Peter and I took a drive north to visit

Karetu Downs Homestay. The stunning home and garden of Karen and Bruce Forrester is part of a 2000-hectare, third-generation farm. *Story page 21.*

We wanted to do something special for our proofreader, Helen. As a way of saying 'thanks' for all her hard work. We asked her if she might like a day of pampering. Check out her makeover on page 17.

I would also like to thank everyone who makes it possible to get the magazine to print each month - Mandy, Mel, Johanna and Pattie. Our behind the scenes stars - Kay (delivery) Helen (proofreader) and Andrew (accounts, gardener, landlord and sober driver) and thank you Carmen from Carmen Peter's photography for capturing the essence of our Christmas photo. Probably one of the hardest tasks you have had this year. If you are wondering what we are drinking - it's a bit of smoke and mirrors - we forgot the wine so it's bubbly water and red food colouring!

Have a fabulous holiday break from all of us at Essence Magazine!



Pattie, Mel, Dorothy, Johanna and Mandy

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Front Cover: You need to have a bigger picture in mind to go confidently with colour says interior designer Becky Lee. *Story page 9*

Cover image supplied by: Becky Lee
Thank you Becky for putting up your tree in time for our front cover. It looks stunning.

WIN A \$50 FOOD/BEVERAGE VOUCHER

To be in the draw to WIN a \$50 food/beverage voucher, jump on our Facebook page to our competition, tag who you would bring with you and ensure you are both following our page. You can also enter via email info@essencemagazine.co.nz. Competition ends Thursday 21 January 2020.

WE'RE HIRING

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We are looking for a passionate new team member to join us at Essence Magazine.

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The person we are searching for is an energetic, organised and mature-thinking individual who will be responsible for looking after our existing advertisers and coming up with creative and successful ideas for new business. The position is Monday - Thursday and we would envisage a start date of mid-January 2021.

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- Ability to learn quickly, manage change, multi-task and meet deadlines
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Did you know ...

The North Canterbury Sunday Market survived Covid!

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This year our special Xmas Market will be held on Saturday, 19 December, so come along for a fun family day and enjoy some outdoor Xmas shopping.

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(Note: Market closed from 20 December re-opening 10 January 2021)

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Judges: Mark Prosser, Mandy Buchan, Scott Bishell and Greg Stevenson

Annual Mint Lamb Competition

Essence Magazine were invited by Canterbury A&P Association committee member Graham Sidey to attend the taste testing for the annual Mint Lamb competition. As you can imagine it was hotly debated as to who would attend. They required a judge and a photographer. You will see in the photos who grabbed the top spot!

Normally held in conjunction with the Agricultural Show, the popular competition had a change of format this year, a new "ram breeders' class" added and a change of venue with the results announced at the Sheep Breeders' Club at Canterbury Agricultural Park on Friday November 27.

The competition is judged in three stages - Overall Carcass Yield and Hook, a combination of Overall Carcass Yield and Hook plus Tender Test, and a combination of stage one and two and the Taste Test.

52 lamb entries from as far south as Cave and as far north as Marlborough were

narrowed down to a top 12. There are three classes so it's the top four in each class that go through. They are then sent to Lincoln University to be 'tender tested' and then it was up to the panel of five judges to decide on taste. The Winner is decided based on an accumulation of points from stage one and two and the taste test to decide the winner of class three, then the overall Winner.

... and the winners were:

Class Three – Paul and Kay Gardner from Ashburton – with a Texel lamb

Overall Winner – Stu Campbell from Seddon – with a Longdown lamb

Interestingly enough three of the five Judges picked both of the winners!

Judges:

- Scott Bishell – Caythorpe Family Wines
- Mandy Buchan – Essence Magazine
- Greg Martin – Chef – Native Kitchen
- Greg Stevenson – South Pacific Meats
- Mark Prosser – Guest Judge



Chef: Greg Martin

'O' What a Night!

Aniko and her team hosted a beautiful O Cosmetics launch party at Le Plaisir recently. Guests were treated to beautiful bubbles and nibbles, an O Cosmetics overview and even a facial demonstration!



Le Plaisir Staff - Pru Murray, Aniko Chahine and Sarah Hazeldine



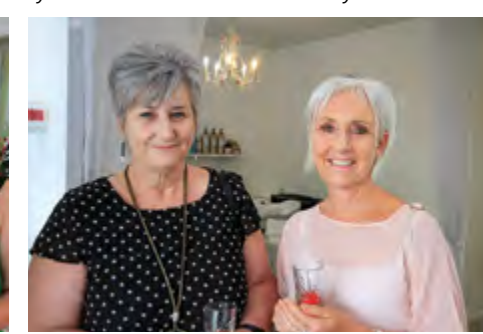
Tracey Cooper and Jude Hutchinson



Jessica Newsome, Aniko Chahine and Leanne Newsome Lynne Hazeldine and Natasha Murray



Jo Bailey, Mel Cox and Pamela Richards



Lynne Hazeldine and Jo Bailey



Jill Denham, Sue Aitken and Aniko Chahine



Tracy Littlewood and Julie Adams

KAIAPOI CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS



The Kaiapoi Christmas Carnival and Santa Parade was held on Sat 5 December, with thousands in attendance enjoying a typical December Summer's day - great work by Martyn and his team at Kaiapoi Promotions Association!



"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air"
W T Ellis

The Team from Le Plaisir would like to thank all our wonderful clients for their ongoing support and we wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday season.

We will start celebrating on 24 December, 1pm onwards and we look forward to seeing you again on 5 January 2021.



www.leplaisir.co.nz | Tel: 03 327 2404*
42 Silverstream Boulevard, Shop 3, Kaiapoi

MERRY & BRIGHT



Have a wonderful Christmas!
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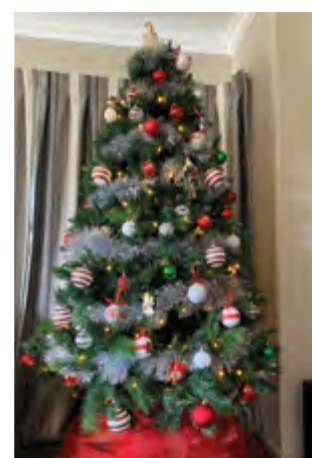
275 Flaxton Road, Rangiora | Ph 313 6640
Trading Hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm, Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm, Sun Closed

Lighting up Christmas

We take Christmas tree decorating seriously at Essence. This year we asked our Facebook followers to submit a photo of their special tree. All entries went in to the draw to win a \$50 meal voucher from CBK in Kaiapoi, and the winner is **Jay Shadforth** with her interesting trees made from vintage jewellery!



Mel Kelly - Christchurch.



Liz Ditmer - Rangiora.



Amy Schouten - Eyrewell Homestead.



Noah Morrison - Fernside.



Jay Shadforth.



Amy Schouten - Eyrewell Homestead.



Stephanie Wood - Christchurch.



Juliet Hunter - Amberley.



Karin McKay - Rangiora.



Lynda Salt - Woodend.



Claire and Stuart Morris

Where to from here?

Looking back to this time last year none of us had any idea of the chaos that would be 2020. However, as we near the end of the year, and with the likelihood of some COVID19 vaccines being available, 2021 is looking a whole lot brighter.

There has been a lot of commentary in the media of late about the change in market conditions, with almost every article or headline pointing to increasing prices and competition for a comparatively low supply of property. However, we are seeing a slight supply increase at the moment with the traditional spring surge of listings even though it is later than normal. This means that those that were feeling despondent about their chances to buy a home can now start looking again meaning we will probably see the volume of transactions staying high between now and the end of the year, crossing over into the new year.

Because the factors influencing the market at the moment are unlike anything we've experienced in recent memory, it is much harder to predict where the market may head next. What is occurring at present though is the fundamental supply and

demand dynamic. It's not generally typical for both of these drivers to increase at the same time and the result is the increasing transaction numbers that are currently being seen.

Short term, all indicators suggest that there will be a continuation of these listing levels as we progress through summer, but this will be accompanied by the banks voluntary tightening of the LVR restrictions which could well slow the price increases we have been seeing throughout the country. Certainly, the Government and the Reserve Bank are joining forces to curb this. With North Canterbury still having potential for growth and the new motorway infrastructure, we are still a popular option offering so many benefits to those who live here. Based on these assumptions, to those of you who are thinking of selling we ask "Why wait?" Give us a call and get the ball rolling!

We have a team working over the holiday season, contact us at one of our four offices in Rangiora, Pegasus, Kaiapoi and Papanui for Sales and Property Management services.

Have a fantastic Christmas! Enjoy some downtime if you can and remember the importance of family, and resting up. We'll see you all again next year to get into it again!



Are You Aware Of This?

Did you know that if you have your rental property owned under a company or family trust, then you are not legally allowed to give tenants notice that you require vacant possession of the property for the purpose of you or a family member requiring the property to live in?

Chances are, you didn't!

Now this won't be a problem for a lot of rental property owners as they never intend to either move into the property themselves, or have family move in. However, there are a lot of New Zealand landlords who intend to rent their home out for a shorter period of time. Historically, this could have been because they intended to live overseas for a while (not so common just now), but of course there are many other reasons for wanting to do this.

Currently the legislation states that the owner of a property, or a family member, can give 42 days notice to a tenant on a periodic tenancy. From 11th February 2021, this notice period will increase to 63 days, however it will still be legal to give this notice.

But, and it is a big but, if the property is owned under a company, or a family trust, then these entities are not recognised as "humans" so they can't physically move into the home, therefore this notice would not be permitted.

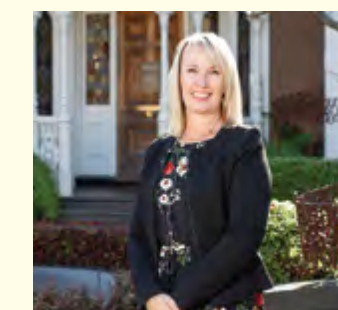
I am in no way qualified to go into the pros and cons of property ownership under companies or trusts, but I definitely recommend that if you have investment

properties under this form of ownership, and if there is even a slim chance that you or family may at some point need to move into it, that you speak to your lawyer or accountant and look at changing this, before you need to!

This is yet another of those anomalies which are popping up under the residential tenancies act, and with even more legislation coming into effect next year, it has reminded me of how much we need to be aware of when owning rental properties.

Having said that, our Landlord Academy which has been running each Thursday evening in November, is a fabulous resource to help you understand the changes that are coming into force and it is not too late - we have recordings.

If you would like access to these, or any of the many resources we have, please just ask, I would love to help.



Katrina Green
Operations Manager
Property Management
E katrina.green@raywhite.com

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Anne-Kathrin Bretzke, our Site Manager, would love to take you on a personalised tour, answer any questions you have and introduce you to our vibrant, ever-growing community. Give us a call to make an appointment.

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Our Village sales office has more information and is open from Monday to Thursday. Bookings for tours are essential.



JUMPSTART YOUR WORKING DAY WITH A HOT DESK

According to Stats NZ 40% of kiwis did some work from home during the lockdown. It's been a tipping point for the flexible work movement – and that's a good thing because working from home can make life easier sometimes. You don't spend time spent commuting, you save on fuel, you don't have to pack a lunch or rush out of the door in the morning. And there are plenty of studies suggesting that those working from home are more productive.

But any seasoned home worker will tell you there is a serious flipside. Patchy broadband, children barging in with interruptions, somebody at the front door, the dog barking. And even if you have the perfect home office and everyone else is out all day – by Wednesday you're starting to crave a little human company.

The answer of course – is a little balance. And that's where Kaiapoi's Dynamic Coworking space comes in. The space provides individual offices and hot desk options to North Canterbury's entrepreneurs; small business owners; consultants and contractors.

With a bright, light and modern refurbished interior – it's the perfect spot for anyone who needs to escape the distractions or the isolation of the home desk. A hot desk basically means you can sit down, open up your laptop, tap into the free fibre broadband and get to work. Whilst a shared kitchen and breakout spaces mean you can also kick back with a coffee and connect with other business people.

Conveniently located for both Christchurch and the rest of North Canterbury with quick and easy motorway



access – Dynamic Coworking also makes a great spot for client meetings. A compact meeting room is ideal for those quick one-on-one meetings. Whilst the large 10-person boardroom projects a professional image you just can't get from a coffee shop or home office catch up with a potential client or supplier.

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Get in touch with owners Geoff and Bridget Barclay at:
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 tel: 027 523 9953

NZ FARMERS' CO-OP ASSN RANGIORA REUNION

Sunday 22 November 2020

Over 80 ex staff members of The Farmers Co-op attended a get together at Rosssburn Receptions on Sunday 22 November.

We were privileged to have our oldest living ex staff member Mary Ager in attendance to cut the reunion cake. Also in attendance were two other ex staff members, Helen Hirst and Raelene Turner, both in their 90's.

Our Mayor Dan Gordon was MC for the afternoon and welcomed everyone including some who had travelled long distances to attend.

Raymond Blank first instigated this occasion some months ago and formed a committee who began contacting names of ex staff who had worked at The Farmers throughout the years. The response was pleasing with so many comments of commendation to have the opportunity to attend.

The Farmers was an icon in the town for more than one hundred years, which served both the local and rural communities. All staff agreed this was a happy place to be part of and have many wonderful memories of the years they worked at The Farmers.



1. Group Committee: Tom McLaren, Raymond Blank, Angela Blank, Dianne Steele, Norma McLaren, Jenny McCartney, Wayne McCartney, Murray Powell
2. Raelene Turner, Dan Gordon, Mary Ager and Helen Hirst



3. Wayne and Jenny McCartney, Wayne and Jenny Jackson, Jan and Adrian Bliss
4. Grain and Stock Representatives: Back Row: John Maynard, Wayne McCartney, Rod McKenzie, Wayne Jackson, Adrian Bliss, Rob Yates, Paul Gnad and Dan Gordon (Mayor)
 Front Row: Paul O'Donnell, David White, Doug McQueen, John Chatterton and Tim Dale



5. Office Staff: Back Row: Jenny McCartney, Dianne Steele, Patricia Gray, Pam Pearson, Trish Riddle, Megan Nicholls and Barbara Pettigrew
 Front Row: Elaine Purvis, Alison Lilley, Norma McLaren and Shirley McDonald



PUTTING SOME COLOUR IN THE HOME

Words: Pattie Pegler | Images: Supplied by Becky Lee

When it comes to adding colour into our homes most of us are nervous about going further than the odd turquoise cushion. Understandably so. Opting for neutral off-whites feels easy and safe and we're so used to it.

"We've been so indoctrinated about moving up the property ladder and resale value that we think more about that than living in a house that really reflects our personal style," says Christchurch-based interior designer Becky Lee.

Becky's home, a 1950s bungalow, was firmly in the neutrally coloured camp when she bought it several years ago. She set about addressing that and the house is now a vibrant kaleidoscope

of textures, patterns and colours. A recent Instagram video sees Becky transform her living room walls from vivid pink to turquoise. And it looks great – bold and fun. It also looks super easy.

Honestly, it makes me want to head straight to Resene and get some paint. But as with most things in life, it turns out that colour works better with a little bit of planning.



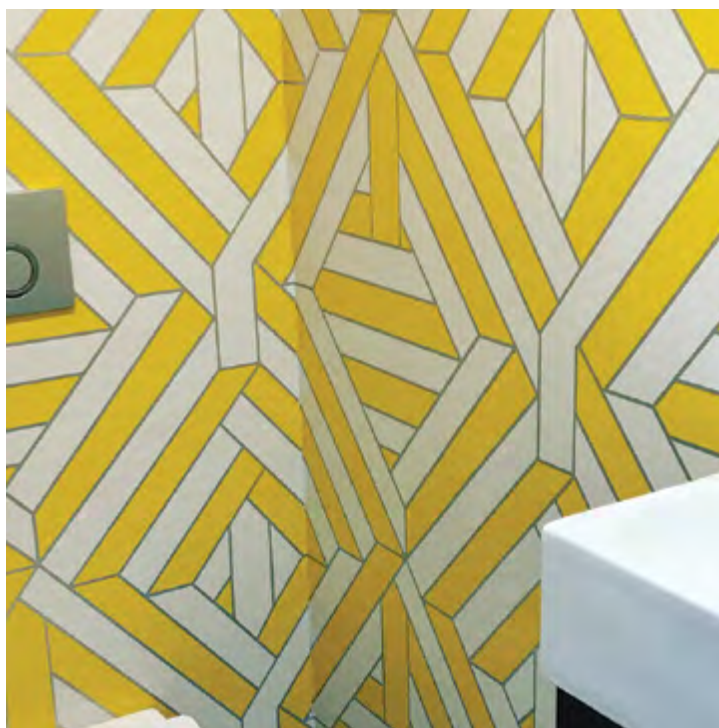
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“YOU NEED TO HAVE A BIGGER PICTURE IN MIND TO GO CONFIDENTLY WITH COLOUR”

GET A PLAN

“My house has a lot of colour but there is a consistent colour palette – the colours all twine together,” says Becky. “With the change to turquoise in the living room I had dropdowns [A4 printed colour samples] on the wall for about two months before we did any work on it.” This means you can look at your proposed colours at different times of day, see how the light works on them and how they work with other things like your curtains, carpet and artworks she advises.

It can be hard to envisage how something will look over an entire wall – so if you’re committed to change then crack out a test pot. The more paint you get up the easier it is to decide whether you like it.

Depth of colour is also an important factor she explains. All colours have a light reflectant value (LRV) from 0% to 100% with 0 being black that reflects nothing and 100 being white that reflects pretty much all light. A trick if looking for several colours to use across a home is to look for colours with a similar depth, or LRV. And be careful as some colours have ‘sneaky little things’ that they do, says Becky – for example, a grey might have a pink hue, in certain lights.

BUT WHERE TO START?

“You need to have a bigger picture in mind to go confidently with colour,” says Becky. That means it’s not just a case of going wild with the pink paint in one room and splashing colourful wallpaper around in another. Try to establish a palette of colours for your home and then weave those through your rooms.

If you have an existing wallpaper you love then use it as a starting point for a more widespread colour scheme says Becky.

Identify some of the colours within it and weave those through the rest of the house – whether in paint or artworks or soft furnishings.

Pinterest can also be a great source of colour palette inspiration. Scroll through the images and check the ones that jump out at you.

From there – experiment a little. Soft furnishings, cushions, throws and even rugs are an easy way to try colours, patterns and textures. If you have colours you love in your wardrobe – then try bringing out that clothing item, drape it over a couch – as if it were a throw. Get a feel for how the colours work with other things in the room, advises Becky.

THE WONDER OF WALLPAPER

Wallpapers can be a great way to add some colour, texture and pattern to your home and there are so many beautiful examples available – from on-trend botanicals to geometric patterns. They can make a great feature wall for a bedroom or even in hallways where the length of space can often be a good spot to try wall panels that make up one, large single picture.

Different rooms lend themselves to different approaches. “In small spaces, like toilets, people are in and out and you can be more adventurous – you could just paper one wall but why wouldn’t you do them all? It’s a case of go hard or go home,” says Becky.

There’s a lot to think about with colour and it can “trip you up” sometimes says Becky. So if you have the budget it’s worth getting a professional to help you out.

But ultimately – if you want to embrace colour in your home – get a plan and start experimenting.



OUTSTANDING Views

An exceptional outlook, beautiful gently rolling downs and absolute privacy await you at this superb Summerhill lifestyle property.

The home is perfectly positioned to capture lots of sunshine as well as the views to the hills and mountains beyond.

Appealing and well presented with two living areas, a well appointed kitchen, five bedrooms with one presently set up as an office. The master suite has an ensuite bathroom, walk in wardrobe and doors opening out to the patio. Outdoor living is a feature of the home, easy to see why the present owners have enjoyed so many wonderful evenings on the patio looking out over the land with the horses grazing.

There is a three bay barn as well as a four bay shed. The property is fenced into 11 paddocks all with troughs, there are five units of water

available from the West Eyreton scheme. The land, barn and shed and the property overall has been developed with care and is very well maintained.

Equestrian enthusiasts would be impressed with the two stables, yards, tack room and round pen. The riding in this area is ideal with wide verges and little traffic.

A chance here to secure a well established 25 acre landholding, a wonderful home and all within a few minutes’ drive from the lovely community of Cust.

Contact Richard to arrange a viewing or for more information.



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Merry Christmas!

Mark and Hayden O'Donnell and the team at Canterbury Financial Services thank you for your loyalty and business over the years and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Our office will be closed from Tuesday 22 December 2020 and will reopen again on Monday 11 January 2021.

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Merry Christmas!

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www.patakaberries.co.nz



We appreciate your business and support throughout the year. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a safe and enjoyable festive season, from the Team at Burbidge Automotive Limited.

We will be closed from 5pm, 22 December 2020 and will reopen 8am, Tuesday 5 January 2021.

BURBRIDGE AUTOMOTIVE
Rangiora
325 Flaxton Rd, Rangiora. Ph (03) 313 3344



Merry Christmas!

GraceStone
GRANITE & MARBLE LTD
126 Courtenay Drive, Kaiapoi
www.gracestone.co.nz | 03 327 8577



Merry Christmas!

Pauline and her team from Quilters Quarters would like to take this opportunity to wish all their customers a very happy Christmas, and good health and prosperity for 2021.

This year has been challenging for many people, but moving forward into 2021 we can only hope for a more settled world.

We are settling into the old Courthouse and love being in the centre of town.

143 Percival Street, Rangiora
We will be closed on the stat days, and open in between from 10-4pm
P: 03 313 6765 | E: 1quiltersquarters@gmail.com
www.quiltersquarters.co.nz



Merry Christmas!

BAYLEYS
Michelle Nelson
Residential
Rangiora Whalan and Partners Ltd
Mobile: +64 21 280 8011 | Office: +64 3 311 8020
michelle.nelson@bayleys.co.nz



Merry Christmas!

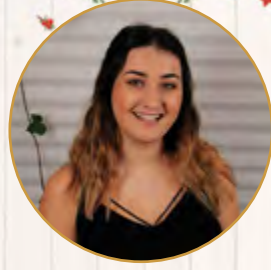
We wish all our wonderful customers a very Merry Christmas and the best New Year. Thank you all for your amazing support over the past year.

WILLOUGHBY'S
CREATE INSPIRE
123 High Street, Rangiora | Ph 03 313 6062
www.willoughbys.nz

Matt Doocoy
MP for Waimakariri

From my family to yours, I wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and a peaceful new year

Authorised by Matt Doocoy, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Merry Christmas!

Bombshell Beauty
64 Barron Ave, Ashley Forest, Rangiora
www.bombshellbeauty.nz | 027 292 1925

Happy Holidays

It has been an extraordinary year – one unlike any of us have ever experienced. Despite this, it's important that we make time to reflect on what Christmas is about in our own individual way.

For me, Christmas is about spending time with my family and seeing people in the community connect and share joy.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Mayor Dan Gordon and Rupert



“May you and your family treasure the wonderful memories of love, care and hope. May you live life in joy and peace”

Happy Christmas and all the best for 2021

Mayor Marie Black
Hurunui District



lime REAL ESTATE

Merry Christmas

Thank you for supporting us in our first year!

We wish you a wonderful holiday season.

0508 call lime | limerealestate.co.nz
Free call 0508 2255 5463 | Lime Real Estate Ltd Licensed REAA 2008



OLD SCHOOL COLLECTIVE
O.S.C.

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday to all our wonderful customers!

Twine Antiques
The Office Cafe
Out of the Box Hair
Studio Dexterity

Good Dirt Flowers
Louis Who?
Woven Veranda
Millies Fudge and Chocolates

Holiday Hours
We are closed from the 25th December and reopen on the 6th January 2021.
Opening hours: 10-4 Wednesday to Sunday
Cafe open 7 days.

OLD SCHOOL COLLECTIVE
1429 Main North Road, Waikuku



Merry Christmas!

The team at Amberley Pharmacy and Gifts would like to sincerely thank you for your support over the past year and to wish all our valued customers a very happy, relaxed and safe Christmas holiday.

Amberley PHARMACY
127a Carters Road, Amberley
03-314 8211
Mon - Fri: 8.45am - 5.30pm | Saturday 9am - 2pm



The team at Hi Gorgeous wish you all the very best for Christmas and New Year. Keep safe, have fun and enjoy time with your family and friends.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- We survived post lock down madness.
- Lauren welcomed gorgeous baby, Jack.
- Jodie gained her qualification in Hairdressing.
- Kayla and Donna joined the team.
- We created an online shop.

Your Quote of the Year: “Life's not perfect, but your hair can be”

Holiday hours:
Closed Dec 25th - Jan 5th
Book now for the New Year!

H G 67 Percival Street, Lilybrook Centre, Rangiora
www.higorgeous.co.nz | Ph: 313 6552

Merry Christmas

Richard wishes to thank all his clients for their support over the past year and to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season.

The workshop will close from 23rd December & reopen 18th January 2021.

PLUMBING PRO
Richard Lovell
027 223 6606



As Christmas approaches this is a special time to remember those who have left us. We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Gulliver & Tyler
Rangiora Office - 37 Blackett Street Rangiora
Ph: 03 313 8222
Kaiapoi Office - 55 Charles St Kaiapoi
Ph: 03 327 7249 (part of the Post Office Building)

Handcrafted Glass Tea Light Holders - \$45

LED Electric Lamp - \$325

Cookbook With FREE Cookie Cutter - \$31.50

Placemats x6 - \$57.50

Puzzle - \$32.50

Local Artist Ron Mackie Cards - \$5 each

CAMEO
Fine Arts

Specialist custom picture framing & giftware

10 Cone Street, Rangiora
P: 03 313 5474
www.cameofinearts.co.nz

Pets are family They need a Christmas gift too!

- Click and Collect
- New location
- Nutritional specialists (Cat & dog food)
- Shop locally owned
- Free delivery over \$49*

Join the Furbaby Club for discounts

Feed my Pet
co.nz

Or shop inside at The Feedshack
03 313 3016
4 Good Street Rangiora

*Delivery free to non-rural address in Oxtord, Amberley, Kaiapoi, Rangiora or Christchurch over \$49

DANCE SOCK ACADEMY LTD

Single Packs \$27.00 (\$38 value)

Double Pack \$50.00 (\$70 value)

This Christmas, give the gift of Dance

Dance socks like no other!

Christmas Gift Packs Include:
Dance Socks that have 10 features to assist learning and improve technique
Cotton Carry Bag
Unicorn Hair Bow
Academy Badge
A password to access our "Secret Academy" training videos

TO ORDER VISIT dancesock.co.nz

Living Light Icicle Candles

Metal Giraffe

Mandala Wallet

Tribal White Vase

Tribal Bracelets

Card Storage Box

Stoneleigh & Roberson Picture Frame

Tea Light Holders

Tribal Wooden Dish

Classic Candle Holders

Thea's
NEW & PRELOVED BOUTIQUE

102 Main Street, Oxtord
P. 03 312 4509
30th November - 24th December
Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Pataka Xmas

So You

I'Adore

So You

I'Adore

Karetu Downs

Pataka Xmas

Fabric of Society

Shop Local For Your Christmas Decorations

Aerobie Rocket Football \$26.00

Aerobie Skylihter \$50.00

Squatwolf Holdall Bag \$85

Vionic Mens Flip Flops \$60

Birkenstock Birko Flor \$150

Cricket Net V Pro from \$200.00

Nike Slides \$55

Deluxe Pole Tennis Set \$109.99

Renegade Dart Board \$120

Rose Road Bag \$75

the Sport shop

345a FLAXTON RD, RANGIORA | P: 03 313 7983
E: online@thesportshop.co.nz
thesportshop.co.nz

LAYBUY

Blackwell's
DEPARTMENT STORE KAIAPOI
TRUSTED SINCE 1871

Cnr. Williams Street & Raven Quay
Ph 03 327 8029
www.blackwellsdeptstore.co.nz

Men's Handkerchiefs \$16.90

O'Neill Navy Wedge Cap \$34.99

RM Williams Green/Charcoal Sock \$30.00

O'Neill Profile Thong \$29.99

Ben Sherman Tee \$55.99

RM Williams Parson Stripe T-Shirt \$70.00

Berlin Stone Shorts \$109.90

Eskay Black & White Hat \$39.90

RM Williams Rod Polo \$99.00

New to Blackwells! GUIDE LONDON

STATION
CAFE & SHOP

A visit to The Station Café and Store in Rangiora is a must!

There are tons of cute ideas for Christmas gifts including antler scarves and belts, beautiful designer jewellery, and a great selection of unique homewares and beautiful clothes including Olga Polga, Orlando and Antler brands.

2 Blckett Street, Rangiora Railway Station, 03 313 6018

WILLOUGHBYS
CREATE INSPIRE

Creative Gift Ideas for Christmas

Give the gift of Creativity

V&A Tapestries A timeless favourite

A Box full of super soft Merino yarn

KnitPro Symfonie Knitting Needles in case

3 skeins of exquisite yarns to create gorgeous shawls

V&A Tapestry Bookmarks

V&A William Morris Strawberry Thief Tapestry

Big selection of knitting and crochet books

Laminated wood shawl pins

Knitting bags in 2 designs

Super soft Merino Knitting Knits from The Woven Co

123 High Street, Rangiora | Ph 03 313 6062
www.willoughbys.nz

What are some of the key trends we'll be seeing in footwear this summer?

Rope detailing is in the spotlight with casual beach vibes that pair well with those gorgeous boho style dresses we're seeing everywhere. Wedges are definitely back in vogue and I'm not upset about it! For us shorties we get that extra height with comfort reigning supreme. Mules are effortlessly elegant.

When it comes to summer a lot of us worry about getting our legs and feet 'out'! What footwear styles are most flattering for those worried about ankles, legs, etc?

The classic court style will elongate the leg to create a long lean line. At 5 ft 2 I should be worried about cutting my legs short with an ankle strap but I'm really not. Is it comfortable? Does it make you feel good? If you have a skinny ankle (and most of us do) it will draw attention to the smallest part. Sometimes as women we can be so hard on ourselves!



Sneakers seem to be big this summer - but how can you wear them apart from with jeans?

My favourite look is a crisp pair of white sneakers with a skirt or dress. We have one of the largest selections of sneakers in Canterbury.

What sandal styles are the most versatile for summer?

I do love wedges for good reason - comfort and versatility! My favourites instore also combine that rope

trend! The cushioning is next level, the shape on the foot is so flattering. This style can be worn with - well everything!



Summer is also often party and wedding season - what do you recommend for formal occasions footwear this summer?

I take my cues from the location, dress code and weather. Stilettos can be really classy and are always in the background of fashion but if it's an outdoor event on grass it's not going to be much fun! I always start with the outfit and if it's multicoloured like a floral I pull one of those colours out to highlight with shoes. If the dress is a single colour and it's a garden event a bright coloured shoe can be super fun! Heels are no longer sky high and cushioning underfoot is a dream. I love seeing non heel wearers dipping their toes in.



Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!

Shoe THERAPY

Open 7 Days
178a Williams St, Kaiapoi
shoetherapy.co.nz

Dresses are always an easy summer go to. What can we expect to see in store in terms of on trend summer dresses this year?

For summer dresses anything goes but be sure the style flatters you. Maxi dresses, for example, are better for the taller lady whilst those on the smaller side are more suited to knee length dresses. Look out for natural fibres this summer - including viscose, rayon and cupro, a lovely, flowing recycled cotton that has the bonus of washing very well.

Many feel that dresses are 'dressy' - can you give us some tips on getting a more 'casual' look with a dress?



If you're really not a dress person then the right pair of pants and a floaty top can look smart and feminine for any occasion.

For a laid-back look with that summer dress pair it with sneakers or other casual flats. Drop the jewellery and stick with just earrings. Add a denim jacket. You're set to go.

Everybody loves a summer short but if you're not

confident getting all that leg out - what other options are there in terms of cool, flattering bottoms for the warmer weather?

Not keen on exposing all that leg with summer shorts? Then opt for a 3/4 or 7/8 pant or even a skirt. Many cropped summer pants combine comfort and style with no buttons or zips and a bit of stretch in breathable cotton fabric that means you can eat your Christmas dinner without popping a button.

What, in your opinion, is the 'must have' for any summer wardrobe? (e.g. linen classics? a versatile dress? etc.)

Whatever your lifestyle for a versatile wardrobe you want enough tops with a good blend of casual and dressy to see you through summer.

And beware when it comes to colours - summer might see us all gravitate to white but it's not a colour that suits everyone. Look instead at the fantastic, on-trend colours around this summer that all women can wear well -



watermelon; turquoise; periwinkle blue and off-white.



Our special wishes to you and all those close to you.

May this Christmas season be filled with warmth and special moments.

Debbie & Team So You! x

So You!
WE'VE GOT STYLE

Shop 3, 188 High Street (Ground Floor)
Conway Building, Rangiora
03 313 1720 | debbie@soyouboutique.co.nz
www.soyouboutique.co.nz

Making Over Helen Walker

Our proofreader Helen Walker comes in every month to check the magazine before it goes to print. She's eagle-eyed when it comes to letters and she always fixes up anything we've not got quite right in the rush to get to print.

We wanted to do something special for her as a way of saying 'thanks' for all her hard work.



So we asked Helen if she might like a day of pampering and could we set it up for her. She said yes and we got to work. First up we took Helen to see the team at Vogue in Kaiapoi. Senior stylist Jaimee talked Helen through how they could brighten and fresh her look. Helen is already naturally grey so they didn't want to colour all of Helen's hair, as it would be higher maintenance for her and require regular touch ups. So Jaimee decided to add in some dark foils (low lights) and a few caramel foils to give a soft natural look that would be easy to manage. The warmer colour really suited Helen's tones and it added an instant brightness to her look. The team then added volume and shine to Helen's naturally curly hair with a blowwave.

Next it was on to Fenwicks Unichem Pharmacy in Kaiapoi where the fabulous makeup lady Tracey King used Revlon products to freshen Helen's look, give her a hint of colour and also contour. Dorothy couldn't hold herself back and got hold of a mascara which she used to emphasise Helen's eyes.

Then it was on to Blackwells for a little new style. Helen has a slender figure (but she doesn't think so!) and the navy ¾ pants and navy jacket emphasise that but she also needed a pop of colour to lift the look. The coral pink top really suited her and with the subtly patterned scarf breaks up the solid colours. We think you'll agree Helen looks totally stylish.

And Helen's own verdict? "It was a special morning. Thank you so much." She thought the hairdresser in particular was wonderful and loved her highlights. But she didn't much like having lots of photos taken - so she'll be sticking to the proofreading rather than modelling.



Blackwells Clothing featured:
Shoes Bella Scarpe - \$179.00
Hat - \$33.90
Necklace - \$34.90
Scarve - \$29.90
Women's Top Orientique - \$99.90
Jacket Orientique - \$129.90

Thank you to Vogue Hair, Blackwells and Fenwicks Unichem Pharmacy for making Helen's day.

VOGUE IS EXPANDING IN 2021!

Vogue Barbers will have it's very own HQ next year, taking on a space dedicated just for them.

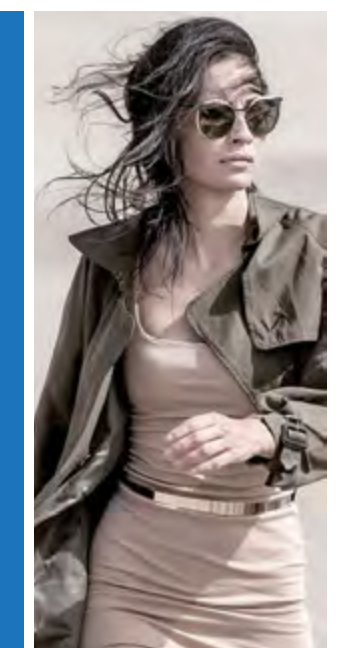
Our Barber Team has grown so we will be able to accommodate the lads with 3 late nights and open from 8am on Saturdays - appointments and walk-ins welcome.

Vogue Kaiapoi Hair and Barbers
156 Williams Street, Kaiapoi
03 327 6904

PREMIER PACKAGE DEALS
\$395

PROGRESSIVE LENSES & TITANIUM FRAME
INCLUDES EYE TEST & WIDE ANGLE RETINAL SCAN.

APPOINTMENTS ESSENTIAL
T'S & C'S APPLY. EXPIRES: 31ST DEC 2020



SUPPORT A LOCAL Shop LOCAL.

RANGIORA | KAIAPOI EYECare

RANGIORA | 42 HIGH ST | 03 313 8811
KAIAPOI | 192 WILLIAMS ST | 03 327 8292

COCOON BEAUTY & DAY SPA

Cocoon will close for our annual Christmas break at 3pm Thursday 24th December. Our team have worked extremely hard this year, and will be taking a well deserved holiday until Monday 11th January. We are looking forward to seeing you all in 2021!

Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year to you all.

160 High Street, Rangiora | Phone: 03 313 5552 | www.cocoonbeautyanddayspa.co.nz

CLOSING DOWN SALE

PATAKA CHRISTMAS SHOP

CLOSING DOWN DUE TO ILLNESS

Open 7 days a week 10am-4.30pm | 768 Marshland Road, (North End) | Phone 03 323 8915



NOM NOM KITCHEN

Call us to book your Christmas function.

Experience authentic South East Asian Cuisine in a cosy, fully licensed restaurant with impressive Asian style décor. Gluten free & vegetarian meals a speciality

Order online or call (03) 313 4276
257 High Street, Rangiora



LITTLE VINTAGE ESPRESSO

Fabulous food, great coffee and amazing service!

Little Vintage Espresso Café
20 Markham St, Amberley



On State Highway 1, set amongst the vineyards, is the iconic stone building that is home to Waipara Hills.

Here you'll discover our cellar door, seasonal café and an operating winery.

Wine Recommendations

Saving Grace Dry Riesling – a perfect aperitif, or enjoy with the Deconstructed platter. Precision and poise, great words for Riesling.

Waipara Hills Pinot Gris – to be shared with friends a versatile style suited to foods from spicy chicken to food platters.

Waipara Hills Pinot Noir Rosé – perfect for Christmas celebrations. Crisp, bright and juicy – enjoy with salmon, salads, anything, or absolutely nothing, just celebrating!

Come on up and enjoy creating your own wine and food match!

780 Glasnevin Road, SH1, Waipara
cellardoor@waiparahills.co.nz
03 314 6900

Book online at our website or on facebook:
www.waiparahills.co.nz
www.facebook.com/WaiparaHillsWine



SUMMER'S HERE!

Two much loved local businesses have teamed up to bring a new licensed Al Fresco dining experience to Rangiora. Gourmet burger legends "ALT Kitchen" and craft beer maestros "The Good Drop" offer amazing food paired with delicious local craft beer, cider and boutique wines.

A relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, 7 Durham Street

has become a great meeting place for families and friends. Both businesses have always placed a huge emphasis on "local" – being owned by local families, using local produce, and supporting the local community.

ALT Kitchen's menu has expanded to include tasty snacks, baskets and salad options for all burgers, and keeps it fresh with a weekly burger special too! The Good Drop features 21 taps with an ever changing selection that's unsurpassed in North Canterbury. Always expect a smile and a good yarn too!

Burgers and beers – the way they're meant to be!

See you at 7 Durham Street, Rangiora
www.altkitchen.co.nz
www.thegooddrop.co.nz



DELHI KITCHEN

At Delhi Kitchen, we will take you on a culinary adventure of authentic mouth-watering Indian cuisine paired with our fine selection of wines, spirits, beers & non-alcoholic beverages with a truly memorable service every time.

Ph 03 352 9133
Order: menulog.co.nz
Sun- Thurs: 12- 2pm | 4.30- 9pm
Fri-Sat: 12- 2pm, 4.30-9.30pm
5/478 Cranford St, Christchurch



GRACEBROOK

Welcome to Gracebrook. We love good fresh food!

Hostas, Hydrangeas and Honey... and don't forget our cherries!

156 Ashworth Rd Amberley | Ph 033147076
www.gracebrook.co.nz



Festive Fig, Walnut and Fennel Log

Christmas to me is all about spending time with family and friends over fabulous food. It's nice to relax after what has been a hectic year.

This month's recipe is from Alison's Pantry, a Festive Fig Walnut and Fennel Log. If you're planning a Christmas Cheeseboard this would be ideal to complement your platter. The flavours are very festive and it's so easy to make and the good thing is you can make it ahead and keep it in the fridge and take out on Christmas Day. The log is very versatile, you can also add it to your baking, stuffing and Moroccan meat dishes. Don't forget Alison's Pantry has an extensive range of dried and packed products for your Christmas Baking.

From our New World Family to yours, wishing you all a Safe Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

alison's pantry

Ingredients

- 2 t fennel seeds
- ¼ c sesame seeds
- 1 ¼ c dried figs, roughly chopped
- 1 c walnuts
- 2 T balsamic vinegar
- 1 orange, zested

Method

- Heat a small frypan over a medium heat. Add fennel, sesame seeds and stir for two minutes until sesame seeds are golden.
- Process seeds, figs, walnuts, vinegar and zest in food processor to a coarse paste.
- Spoon onto a piece of glad wrap in an 18cm line, roll up tightly, and twist the ends of the glad wrap to form a 16cm log.
- Refrigerate overnight until firm.
- Cut log into slices and serve on your Christmas Cheeseboard with Blue Cheese and crackers.



Barbara Palmer has worked at New World Rangiora for 17 years, the last six as their New World Brand Ambassador during which time she has created many striking recipes.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & SAFE HOLIDAYS

Enjoy this summer at CBK Kaiapoi with friends & family. We are OPEN every day except Christmas Day & Boxing Day, FREE of any Surcharge & will be offering ALL our GREAT deals & offers on all public holidays. www.cbk.nz/kaiapoideals

From 8th - 24th December we will be gifting EVERY child (under 12) a Christmas gift (T&C's apply).

Keep your eyes peeled for our NEW summer menu – coming soon!

WWW.CBK.NZ - ITS A LOCAL THING!
4/77 Hilton Street Kaiapoi P. 03 327 9224 | hamish@cbkkaiapoi.co.nz
Open 7 days a week, Monday to Friday from 11am to late
Weekends from 9am to late

Tear this off for a FREE Famous CBK Skillet Cookie.
Available when dining in, Mon - Thurs until 15th January 2021.
One FREE Dessert per voucher.

BRUNCH | LUNCH | DINNER | COFFEE | DRINKS
OPEN DAILY FROM 10AM - 62 PEGASUS MAIN ST, PEGASUS - 03 967 6891

Matt Doocey

MP for Waimakariri



Town centres thronged with Santa Parades, floats and lolly scrambles, and Christmas carols playing in all the shops – it's that time of the year again as Waimakariri once again winds down into Christmas.

This time of year reminds me how lucky we are to be living in Waimakariri.

As we look back over the last 12 months, with the pressures put on us by the Covid-19 pandemic, we can still count our blessings for being able to call this corner of the world home. I'm proud of our businesses that have kept local residents in jobs, of our community for getting behind our businesses, and I'm proud of our community organisations who are helping our communities to recover.

Over the past year we have celebrated some major wins for our community. The signing of the lease for our seven-day family health centre has been welcomed by young families and our elderly who need greater after-hours healthcare cover closer to home. I'm looking forward to the opening next year – it will make a real difference to the lives of our residents. We've also got the signalled

crossing at Woodend ahead of us for the new school year – bringing NZTA on board with this after my Rally for Woodend was a great win for our residents. And, of course, saving our Waikuku bus service was a great example of what we can do through working together.

It's been a full year, indeed, and I'm looking forward to spending some time with my family enjoying Waimakariri's wonderful recreational spaces. As a parent with a young family, I've always been in favour of a summer staycation and this year, as we continue our fight against the pandemic, my family and I will again be celebrating some of the exceptional recreational opportunities on our doorstep. Whether it's a cooling dip at Ashley Gorge, building sandcastles at Waikuku Beach, enjoying a kayak down the Kaiapoi River or settling in to storytime at one of our libraries, the Doocey family will be spoilt for choice.

Please drive safely and take care over the holidays. From my family to yours, I wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and a peaceful new year.



Funded by the Parliamentary Service. Authorised by Matt Doocey, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

Christmas Gift Idea

HOMECOMING TOUR

Join us for a special afternoon at the Rangiora RSA.

Local superstar Jenny Hantler a.k.a. 'The Matriarch' is returning home with her family band 'The Harmonic Resonators' who have achieved internet fame that saw thousands through lockdown, and has seen the band touring the North Island festival circuit, and Matariki in Melbourne.

Led by front-man and son, Jeremy Hantler, let the Resonators treat you to an unforgettable evening of

entertainment; Waiata Māori and Kiwi favourites are re-invigorated through glorious country harmonies and soaring yodels and heart-warming stage presence. Laugh, sing, and clap along to your new favourite band.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

We have 4 tickets to giveaway. The draw will be made on the 28th of December. Please email ros.steans@gmail.com with your name, phone number, or email address.

10 JANUARY 2021

2.30pm - 5pm

Rangiora RSA 82 Victoria Street Rangiora

Tickets \$20 available from the Rangiora RSA or Ros Steans 0274 390903

Proceeds to Breast Cancer NZ.

20 December 2020 | essence

Luca's Charred Peppers & Goat's Cheese Crostini

Makes about 20 slices

There's nothing quite like the sweet connotation of the words 'charred' and 'pepper'...

Wait! There is! Add 'cheese', 'goats cheese' even, and 'sourdough'!



Ingredients

Goat's Cheese Crostini

- 1 French stick, sourdough or walnut loaf
- 1 peeled clove of garlic (optional)
- 100 g (3-4 oz) soft goat's cheese
- Good-quality extra virgin olive oil, for drizzling
- Balsamic vinegar for drizzling (optional)
- Dukkah to sprinkle (optional)

Charred Peppers

- 1 each large red and yellow peppers (capsicums / bell peppers)
- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- Flaky sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

Method

- To make the Charred Peppers: You can do these hours ahead if you like. Cut peppers in half, remove cores and seeds and cut into chunks. Toss them in olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Char-grill them on a heated barbecue hot plate (cast-iron griddle) or cook them in a hot medium-sized frying pan (skillet). Cook for about 10 minutes, turning frequently, until they are just starting to wilt and take on some colour.
- To make the Goat's Cheese Crostini: Slice the bread and grill it – if I'm in a hurry (usually) I just wack it in the toaster. Yeah, well, it's Luca here, not Julie! If you want to give the crostini some punch, rub the toasted bread with a clove of garlic. The coarse crumb of the bread picks up little bits of garlic and gives the crostini a hot bite. I like it like that. Next, spread crostini with a thin coating of goat's cheese.
- Arrange crostini on a board and top with peppers. The juices are pretty tasty so pour those over too. Sprinkle with flaky sea salt, grind on plenty of pepper and drizzle with some good-quality olive oil. Add a drizzle of balsamic vinegar if you like and, if you've got a ma like mine who comes bearing gifts of homemade dukkah, sprinkle the hell out of it. Gobble up!

Recipe Notes

Chargrilling peppers (bell peppers / capsicums) enhances their flavour as the heat caramelises the sugars. Using tongs, put peppers directly over the flames of a gas hob or barbecue grill and cook until charred, turning regularly with tongs. Avoid piercing the skin if possible. When completely blackened, transfer to a plate, cover with paper towels and leave until cool. Slip off blackened skin – easily done using paper towels – cut peppers in half and remove core and seeds, conserving any juices. It sure would be easier to wash off the blackened skin under running water but doing this will wash away valuable flavour. Instead, wash your fingers from time to time to remove the build-up of sticky blackened skin.

Dukkah is a ground mixture of fragrant spices, nuts and seeds that can be used as a dry 'dunk' with bread and oil, as well as a flavouring and as a sprinkle.



SHARED KITCHEN

Real Food From Scratch

Julie Biuso & Ilaria Biuso

Photography by Manja Wachsmuth
RRP: \$39.99, Publisher: Bateman Books



A Country Experience at Karetu Downs

The Farm Stay

It maybe just 25 minutes from Amberley but getting to Karetu Downs farm is an experience in itself. On the South branch of the Waipara River with stunning views of the Waipara Gorge, winding hills and a gravelled road - the approach to this spot is something special.



Karetu Downs
FARMSTAY - B & B
A UNIQUE COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

So they realised they needed extra accommodation. The Louisa Suite and Musterers' Studio, two boutique rooms in the homestead were then created. Both have their own unique charm.

The Louisa Suite is English luxury with its own private lounge and ensuite bathroom, whilst the Musterers' Studio is modern colonial, with a super king bed, ensuite bathroom and kitchenette. Both rooms have garden views and outside spaces to sit back, relax and enjoy the rural setting.

"The farm stay started off slowly with the farm cottage being repainted," says Karen. "But soon we had families booking for the school holidays, groups of friends coming to escape the pace of town life and horse riders coming up to trek the hills."

In 2012 Karen decided to start a farm stay on the property and for the past 8 years the couple have hosted visitors from all around the world. And they've made a lot of friends along the way – sometimes even staying with their ex-visitors on their own overseas trips. It's a testament to the warm and friendly nature of the farm stay experience at Karetu Downs.

The farm is just under 2000 hectares of flat to rolling hills and hill county land where Karen and Bruce graze Romney sheep and Angus beef cattle.

The Gift Shop

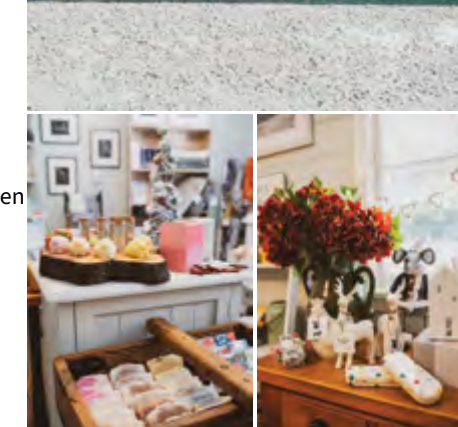
Guests would often ask Karen if they could buy farm produce or gifts to take home and the idea of a gift shop seemed natural.

"I had been thinking about setting up the gift shop in our old shearers quarters which Bruce had been using as a workshop for the past 40 years you can imagine what it was like inside," says Karen. But they set to work - cleaned and painted the inside and the outside and it was soon transformed. "Bruce did not put up too much of a fight he ended up with a brand new workshop in the newly restored stables. I was happy with my new venture and he was happy with his new premise."

The gift shop stocks all sorts of beautiful goodies. From giftware to gardening gloves to ceramic jugs and urns. There are candles, woollen knits and cushions - a little something for everyone.

Karetu was one of the gardens featured in the recent Hurunui garden festival and the garden is now open for visitors to have a wander and to explore the gift shop. The garden and shop is open by appointment only so call Karen to arrange a day.

Morning or afternoon teas and lunches can be provided depending on numbers otherwise visitors are welcome to enjoy a packed lunch of their own and eat in the garden or by the river.



If you want a longer stay then the two boutique guest rooms in the homestead are currently available for bookings.

Escape the city and enjoy a real farm stay getaway at the beautiful Karetu Downs.

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Book Club

NEEDING A GOOD READ?

words: **Gilly Oppenheim**

Boy Swallows Universe

Trent Dalton

A novel of love, crime, magic, fate and coming of age, set in Brisbane's violent working class suburban fringe in 1983. Twelve year old Eli Bell lives with his mum Frances and stepdad Lyle in the Brisbane suburbs. He seemingly has a normal Aussie childhood, tearing off on his bike, playing in the streets and worshipping the Parramatta Eels. Except for the fact that his older brother Gus is mute, having elected to give up speaking some years ago (after a traumatic event), his parents are drug dealers and his babysitter is a notorious ex-crim called Slim (based on a real life character also known as the Houdini of Boggo Road). That all changes when Lyle is caught out by his boss doing a bit of extracurricular dealing and is dragged off by his brutal henchman never to be seen again, Eli's Mum is sent to jail and Eli and Gus go to live with their depressed, drunken father.

Despite all the violence and crime around him, Eli wants to grow up to be a good person and become a journalist, providing he can navigate his way through warring street gangs and heroin dealers, somehow survive school and find a paper willing to take him on. His love for his mother, stepfather Lyle, his father and brother shines out.

Trent Dalton has somehow managed to spin a yarn about a Brisbane boy growing up amidst poverty, violence and crime while infusing it with love, joy and humour. The little bluebird in the centre on the cover has a significant meaning for Eli, and the three word title and chapter headings reflect advice given to Eli when he meets his future news editor - that a story should be able to be summed up in three words! Not an easy read but I couldn't put it down!



War Gardens

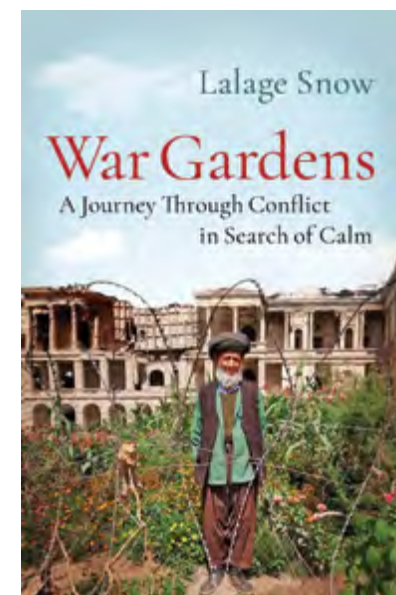
Lalage Snow

A journey through the most unlikely of gardens: the oases of peace people create in the midst of war.

This is a beautiful book. Working in the world's most dangerous war zones, freelance war correspondent and photographer Lalage Snow has often chanced across a very moving sight, a testimony to the triumph of the human spirit in adversity, a celebration of hope and beauty: a war garden. Against a landscape of horror and violence it is up to the gardeners to maintain a modicum of normality and colour. For some, gardening is the way to achieve this.

In Kabul, the royal gardens are tended by a centenarian gardener, though the king is long gone; in Camp Bastion, bored soldiers improvise tiny gardens to give themselves a moment's peace and remind them of home; on both sides of the dividing line in Jerusalem families tend groves of olives and raise beautiful plants from the unforgiving, disputed landscape; in Ukraine, families tend their gardens in the middle of a surreal, frozen war.

War Gardens is a surprising, tragic and beautiful journey through the darkest places of the modern world, revealing the ways people make time and space for themselves and for nature even in the middle of destruction. Illustrated with Lalage Snow's own award-winning photography, this is a book to treasure.



Our NETFLIX Picks This Month

According to some research last year in the US, the average adult spends 7 minutes choosing what to watch on streaming services like Netflix. All that choice is making it harder to choose.

So we thought we'd start sharing our top picks with you – it just might save you a little time when you sit down on the couch.

Johanna is enjoying **Virgin River** an American series where a nurse leaves LA for a fresh start in a small town. Johanna's verdict: It's an easy, girlie watch with a little bit of drama – slightly emotional, and stars Martin Henderson, kiwi actor.

Mel is watching **White Lines** a British/Spanish drama series. Zoe heads to Ibiza to try to find out what has happened to her brother. Mel's verdict: It's a great story, set in Ibiza – orgies, cocaine, sunshine, music and a murder mystery with many twists along the way!

Dorothy has been really enjoying the royal goings on in **The Crown**. She only reads English history she says so this series is just her kind of thing. Her husband is telling her the new season is not available till 2025 – we sense he's not quite as enthusiastic about it.

Pattie has been loving **The Queen's Gambit**. Set in the 1960s it's a great story about a young woman who goes from an orphanage to chess championships. Who knew chess could make such a great drama?

And Mandy is too busy gardening. Netflix - what is that??!

The Motion Of The Body Through Space

Lionel Shriver

words: **Pattie Pegler**

Serenata and Remington Alabaster have been married for over 30 years. But life is becoming less pleasant for them – their professional worlds are moving on without them and Serenata is awaiting knee replacement surgery. She's appalled by the disloyal deterioration of her own body after a lifetime of slavish devotion to exercise. And to make it more annoying her husband, never much of an exerciser, has decided that he is going to compete in a triathlon, Mettle Man, egged on by a personal trainer called Bambi Buffer.

All of which sounds a little like the light fluffiness of ageing chick lit and there are plenty of jibes at the universal unattractiveness of lycra clothing and Remington's triathlon training buddies. Serenata grimly puts up with the "tri club" invading her kitchen and talking hamstrings and titanium bikes.

But this is a story with a darker edge. Serenata is snarky and prickly and seems largely unwilling to understand any life but her own. And Remington's focus on fitness seems selfishly single-minded. This is not a particularly likeable couple behind closed doors and whilst there's a sense of the world moving on without them, they also don't seem to want to move with it – railing against anything slightly 'politically correct' and things they feel they are not allowed to say.

"I check everything I plan to say three times before I allow it out," says Remington at one point.

Sometimes the characters might feel a little too much like they are mouthpieces for a particular world view. But predominantly this is a comment on the cult of exercise and ageing with some dark humour and thoughtful insights along the way.

Shriver is a superb writer and manages to make this readable and leave you thinking long after you put the book down. And that's a pretty good combo.



The End is Nigh Update from Hank

The year is finally coming to an end, and what a year it's been.

Highlighted, or for some lowlighted, by the pandemic Covid 19. But, the reality is we coped very well. We can all pat ourselves on the back for the effort we all made to enter into the spirit of eliminating the virus from our shores. And to be fair the lockdown, better known as a "staycation", wasn't too much of a hardship. What better opportunity to spend quality time with our partners and children? Afterall, there wasn't much else to do. My garden shed has never been so tidy and well organised!!

My year has been further complicated by a full hip replacement at the end of June. Thank god for Private Medical Cover, otherwise I'd still be waiting... in pain!! The cost was \$25,000, a lot of money that I certainly didn't have sitting around doing nothing. I've had medical insurance for years and never had a claim, that is until now. I've paid premiums for a long time, and I'm Dutch, I don't like paying for anything I don't have to! However, I look at this as having my hip replacement on layby... When I needed my insurance it was there for me.

Christmas is now just a couple of weeks away. I hope you've all read my last column and heeding my advice to not let Christmas day take over as a deadline. It's not. If it can't be done, then so be it. And, the reality is no one really cares, except you.

It's also a time for many of sadness as we reflect on those family members and friends that are no longer with us. It can be a very lonely time for friends and neighbours who are on their own. I urge you to take a moment to reflect on anyone you may know who is on their own or who has lost a loved one. Take a moment on Christmas day to perhaps touch base. A phone call or a simple invite for quick drink Christmas Day afternoon can help to ease the pain.

With just a few days to go there's now also plenty of eating and drinking to be done. Probably too much if we were honest with ourselves. Just remember, overindulgence has its consequences. Extra pounds around the middle, too many hangers, a time where regretful actions are far too common. Take it easy. You don't have to go to every function. Say "no" to a couple. Prioritise. Go to those that are important to you, not others.

Finally, it's also a time of relaxation where many of us take at least a couple of weeks off. We can't go overseas, well we can but with great difficulty, so remember your staycation earlier this year. Enjoy your own back yard. Do some of the things locally you've never done. We have a wonderful city, region, in fact, whole country well worth taking the time to explore.



Jill and I are around over the Christmas and holiday period. We're not going too far. If you do have an insurance issue, or you have time to consider your insurances over the next few weeks while time is more readily available and you would some advice, give us a call. If you do need to make a claim, whether you're a client or not and need some help, then give us a call. After all it's what we do!!

Jill and I, and all of us here at PPNZL wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas with family and friends, and, all the very best for the New Year. Let's hope it's a better and more prosperous one than the year just gone.

Thank you, cheers Hank.

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Wishing you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year

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