Feature e Essence of Retirement

09

August 2021

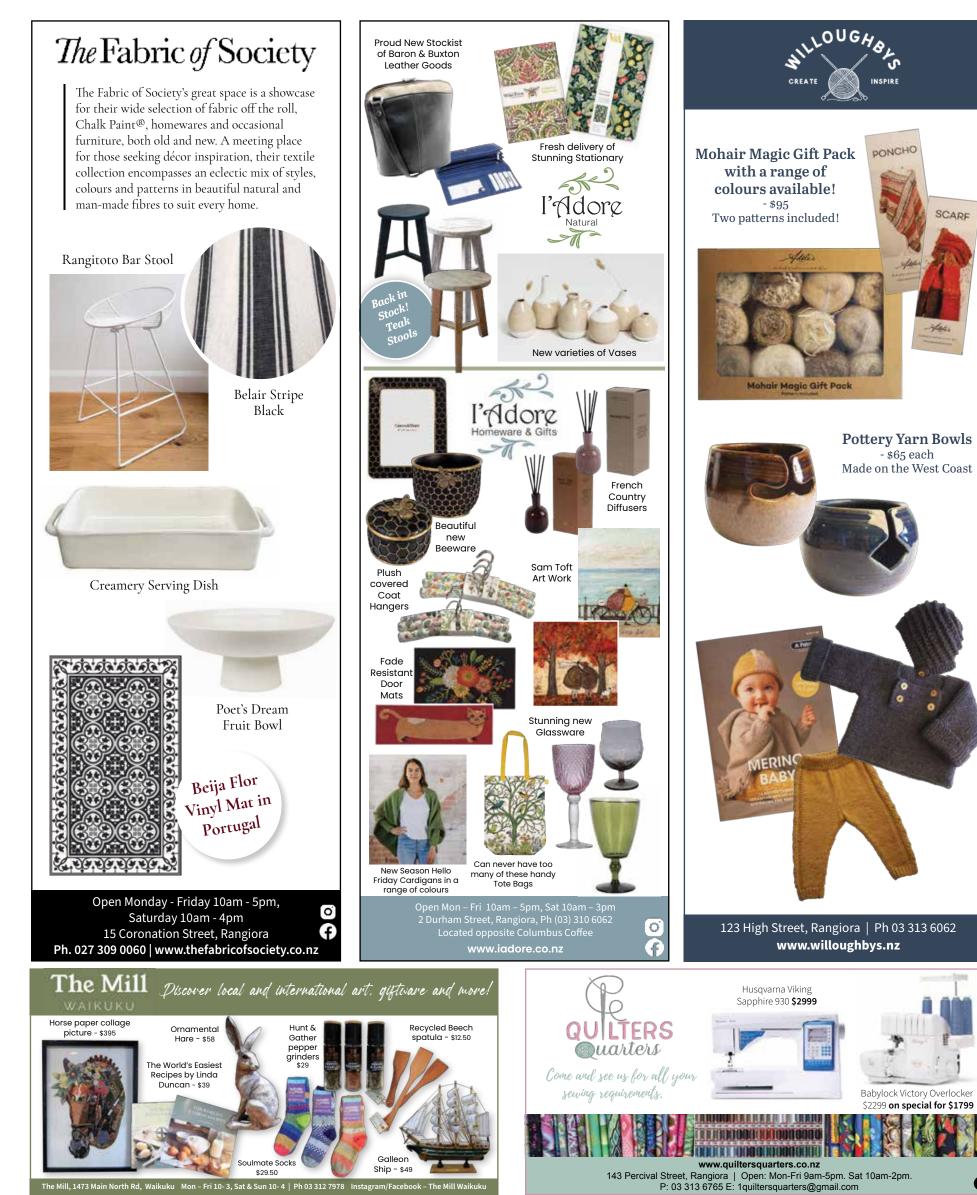
Spotlight On Coastal Towns

gazine - positive, informative, inspirational and is proud to be locally owned

rburv

# SHOP THE LOOK

Love Shopping? Our region has some superb stores, offering all sorts of unique items to generate interest and conversation. From standout trinkets to staple pieces, rugs, lamps, cushions, vases and artwork! You name it, it can be found somewhere near you.



This month we've been taking a look at retirement lifestyles. According to stats we're all living longer and that can mean more years of retirement. Or maybe not, apparently nearly a quarter of us continue working past 65. So we started to wonder whether 'retirement' is the right word anymore.

We think it's high time we came up with a more accurate way to describe life after 65. Our feature starts on page 16. Take a look and let us know what you think might be a good word to replace 'retirement'.

In other local news, this month we celebrate the 150 year anniversary of Blackwells Department Store. History, tradition and a firm commitment to deliver the highest standard of customer service has kept Blackwell's at the forefront of shoppers' minds. Page 6

We turn the spotlight on Waikuku, Pegasus, Woodend and newly established Ravenswood. Writer Michelle McCullough describes it as 'coastal North Canterbury's' ultimate quiet achiever. Page 9

On our Limelight pages we feature the annual Kaiapoi Art Show, welcome The Caci Clinic to Rangiora and showcase the opening of the Mainpower Stadium.

We bring you a mouthwatering winter recipe -

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Published by Impact Publicity 2005 Ltd of the publisher.



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**2** August 2021 | essence

# contents

Barbara's yummy Chicken and Leek Pot Pies straight from the oven. Her recipe is on page 21



I couldn't resist sharing this fabulous photo of North Canterbury in the snow last week. My friends and I enjoyed the day at Waipara Springs celebrating Karen (KP's) birthday with a glass of bubbles.

This month Essence Magazine turns 19. Wow where has the time gone? That's 19 years of showcasing local businesses, telling local stories and promoting local causes and we're still often inspired by the talented, passionate and fascinating people in our region.

Thank you for your continued support - we love putting the magazine together for you.

H&G Page 18



ngredients Page 21



Coastal Towns Page 10



ront Cover: Country Lane Image: Supplied Fabulous new season fashion instore at Country Lane!

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- Dorothy

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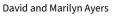
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Kaiapoi Art Expo

The very successful 2021 Corcoran French Kaiapoi Art Expo was held over the weekend of 24/25 July at the Kaiapoi Club. The Expo broke many records with over 800 artworks from 127 artists on display and over 4,000 visitors purchasing an outstanding 388 artworks totalling \$67, 699. Results proved once again the Kaiapoi Art Expo is a valued and popular event to the Waimakariri District.









Marian Brown and Mary Gerard



ssel and Christine Eastgate and Shehan and Kate de Silva

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Chris Brown, Mayor Dan Gordon, Don Robertson, Michael Sharpe and Jim Gerard



Caroline Whittake





## **Welcome Caci**

Caci Clinic Rangiora opened its doors to the public recently and welcomed guests for an evening of drinks, nibbles, goodie bags and a tour of their gorgeous new premises. When visiting Caci, be sure to check out the feature wall in the toilet - it's fab!

The Caci Team - Misty, Amanda, Brooke, Amanda, Samantha, and Kymm

#### MAINPOWER STADIUM

The North Canterbury Sport & Recreation Trust held a special preview evening for the major sponsors and funders of MAINPOWER STADIUM on Thursday 5th August. After a tour of the new four court multi-use stadium and new state-of-the-art fitness centre, guests were presented with an acknowledgement of their donation in the new on-site conference room.

mages: Richard Connelly

#### See more photo's on page 22





David Bond and Mathew Potte



Doug Parker, Jack and Mark Pringle, Barbara Peter and Ross Ditme







DEPARTMENT STORE KAIAPOI TRUSTED SINCE 1871

Celebrating 150 Years



History, tradition and a firm commitment to deliver the highest standard of customer service has kept Blackwell's at the forefront of shoppers' minds for 150 years. As the family-run business celebrates its milestone anniversary, directors Andrew and Mike Blackwell are all about the future.

"Since the earthquakes there has been lots of focus on the development of the town by the Council, which has led to lots of opportunities for retail in the town and within the store. There's still more to come in the next year so it is very exciting for the town and us as retailers." Andrew said.

As Blackwell's moves into this new era, Andrew said the company's traditional building blocks of quality goods and customer service would not be forgotten.

We want our customers to have a really good shopping experience, and we want to have a bit of fun at the same time with

A traditional department store at heart, Blackwell's Retail Sales and Marketing Manager Belinda Syme said a lot of work has been done to develop and expand key departments.

We have a lot of new brands coming in to lead us forward as vell as working with traditional brands that we have worked with for years. So, the history is still but there is still a lot of newness ing into the departments."

Leanne Durie

I have been at Blackwells for

a number of years (30ish). working different days to fit around my family life. It has

been great to be able to do.

Looking back at my time in

store I have so many great

nemories of the Blackwell

mily staff and the customers

I cant believe its been 30 years

as the saying goes "time flies when you are having fun."

Here's to another 150 years of

being Kaiapoi's best store

Words: Michelle McCullough

Seeking Lola, Billie the Label and Boho Australia are just some of the exciting new brands that have been introduced to the womenswear department. While menswear has also had a facelift with addition of Garcia. Laser and Frew to complement classic favourites RM Williams, Levi's, Artex and Swanndri. Blackwell's footwear department has also been expanded while new brands have been added to the haberdashery, babywear, giftware and home furnishing departments.

For high quality products and exceptional customer service, visit Waimakariri's favourite department store today - you won't regret

#### Andrew Blackwell

What I like about working at Blackwells Department Store over the years is the variety of work. There are many departments selling assorted merchandise. You are always kept busy, one minute you could be in the nswear department the next you are eded in the giftware or furnishings. Whether its serving customers, ordering merchandise, pricing and putting on display merchandise that has just come into store, changing shop displays or department layout theres always something that needs to be done s

the days work flies by.

## Belinda Syme

Having been originally from Kaiapoi but living n Auckland for many years, moving back to CHCH and starting at Blackwells is like coming nome – A store I grew up with - and now years later being able to use my skills to help

row and support this antastic family business has been an amazing pportunity The Blackwell brothers

Andrew and Mike) re great to work with nd mostlv let me boss nem around). The team fun, knowledge and nbracing the new inds and direction

The future is bright for ackwells and Kaiapoi nd I love being a part



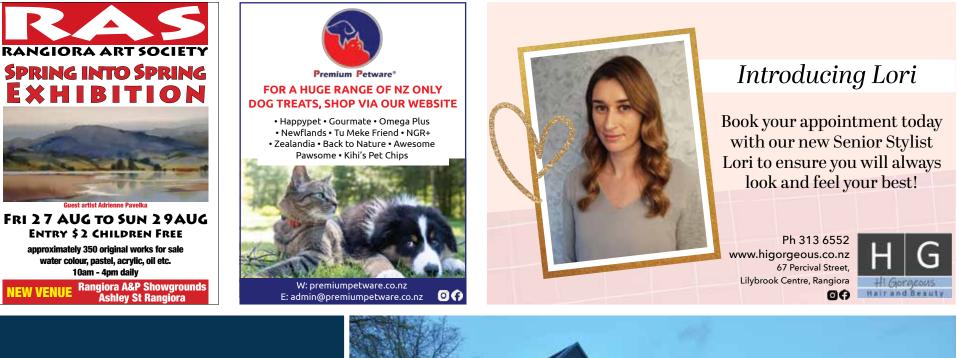
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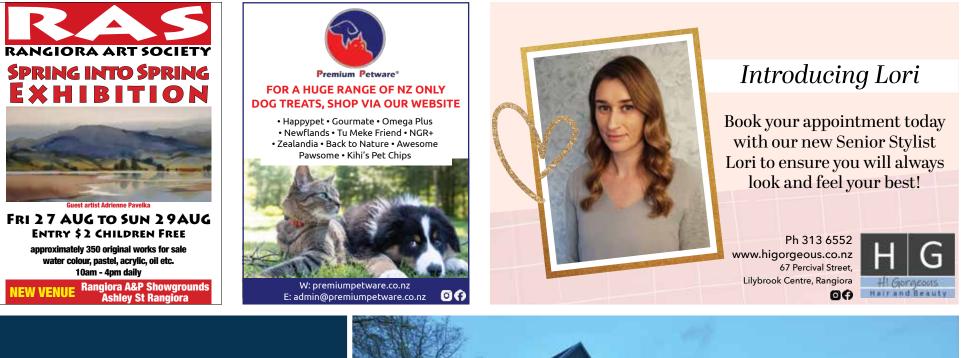
excellent customer service, not only to the community, but to many folk who travel to Kaiapoi to shop in this store. I am very Honoured and Proud to have been part of this Department Store, and wish them well for many more year



The thought of exchanging the maintenance of a larger home for a hassle-free future full of travel (local or international), friends and new found freedom is a common aspirant for downsizers on the move. Given the ideal replacement residence, more than half of Australians and New Zealanders aged over 55 are open to downsizing opportunities, according to Australian Housing and Urban Research and similar sources.

retirement









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#### The upsides of downsizing

Once the reality of the children growing up and leaving the family home starts to wear off, there are many compelling reasons favouring the move to a smaller abode. Downsizing can simplify life and also possibly free up some extra money. A smaller place is also easier to maintain and may be located closer to services, shops and public transport if or when needed in future. Typically downsizers will look for smaller sections with less maintenance, they also often want more modern homes that are comfortable and have modern conveniences like good heating.

The average New Zealand homeowner buys three to four properties in their lifetime. Traditionally, they trade up from their first home to a more substantial residence, often upgrade and then downsize upon

#### Keep a positive mindset when downsizing

More than anything, downsizing requires a shift in mindset and the need to separate your wants from your needs. Just like saving for your first home, it's

important to maintain a budget. Decluttering is an essential component of the downsizing transition. Review your belongings on a room-by-room basis and decide what to keep, discard, donate or sell.

#### Embrace the space

Given the reduced space at your new address, measure your furniture to ensure it fits the space and try to use one statement piece in each room and consider that you might need to purchase some smaller pieces more suited to your smaller home. It's also vital to make the most of storage where you find it – and there's no shortage of potential solutions under beds. in cupboards and wardrobes. Also, mount your TV on the wall, make the most of Wi-Fi technology, and utilise multi-purpose furnishings where you can.



#### Hire or ask for help if you need it

If you can afford it, consider getting help packing up, moving everything and cleaning your house. Also ask your friends, neighbours or family members if they might be free to lend a hand. This will reduce your workload and stress levels

Once you've settled into your new, streamlined space, embracing the downsizing adventure will be a joy as you embark on the next phase of your life!

Consult one of our Ray White team to explore your downsizing investment options. We'd love to help

#### **Property Management Regulation Coming Soon?**

You may be aware that a Real Estate Institute of New Zealand Sector Group, which Ray White has a representative on, has been in lengthy discussions with government officials over the last 12-18 months surrounding Property Management regulation, how this may look, and what is fair for all stakeholders.

It is very encouraging to see this recently highlighted in a parliamentary debate. It's clear the current government has this in its sights and while a lot of what they nave introduced has not been positive for investors, this is one thing that I think is long overdue in the professional property management industry.

Below are some of the comments which were made recently in parliament by the Government

"As a starting point, we are committed to ensuring that property managers comply with a mandatory code of conduct — so that is something that we are looking at - be part of a licensing regime, meet a good-character test, and follow a framework that allows tenants and landlords to resolve any issues" and "...it is our intention to do this in this term of Government "

As part of my own team's commitment to staying educated we are already working

through attaining our certificates in property management.

RayWhite.

with two down already!!! And with an audited trust account we are likely to already comply with the requirements coming our way.

Unfortunately, as I often say, 'not all property managers are created equal' and without any type of regulation for our industry, our reputation can sometimes be let down. Taking care of what is often peoples' biggest asset is a very important job and with the everchanging legislation we keep getting hit with I sometimes think I need a law degree to keep up with it all. So, "Bring it on", I say and let's ensure that New Zealand investors are getting the top-



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

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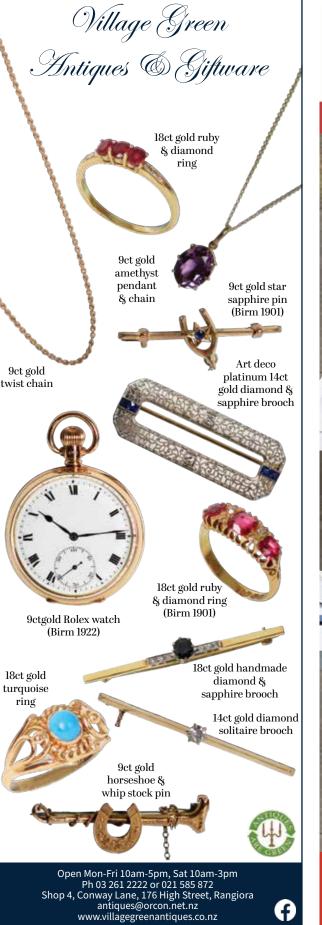


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ned indoor studio (excellent for rainy days) and a wonderful outdoor country setting allow for

Nestled between Christchurch and Amberley, coastal North Canterbury is the ultimate quiet achiever. Made up of Pegasus, Waikuku, Woodend and Ravenswood, this little corner of New Zealand is home to gorgeous scenery, beautiful wildlife, award-winning shopping and delicious cuisine.



There are two things you must do when you visit Pegasus. Take a stroll around the beautiful lake and then reward yourself with some mouth-watering waffles or a cup of coffee at Flat White Cafe. This centrally located cafe is extremely popular with locals, and also serves a wide selection of New Zealand beer and wine.

If locally brewed coffee is your thing, then Three Llamas Gourmet Coffee out their special blend of Essence coffee.

For local produce and good old Kiwi hospitality, you must visit the Brick Mill Cafe in Waikuku. Rich in history and charm, this popular family friendly cafe has something for everyone on its allday menu and has a beautiful outdoor area for al fresco dining.

something happening at The Good Home





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# A SPOTLIGHT ON... Pegasus / Waikuku / Woodend / Ravenswood

is well worth a visit. Using Peruvian Arabica beans, the team at Three Llamas produce their coffee from their roastery in Woodend, where you can enjoy a cup and a tasty bite to eat. You can also buy coffee to take home with you - make sure you check

Perched on the edge of Pegasus Lake, The Good Home gastro pub combines delicious food with outstanding views of the lake. From quiz nights to all you can eat ribs, live music every Saturday night and a kid's entertainment on Sunday evenings, there is always

Explore ... The Tūhaitara Coastal Park stretches from Kairaki at the mouth of the Waimakariri River to Waikuku

Beach and is a highlight of the area. Whatever your passion, this stretch of coastline has it all, from walking and biking tracks, horse riding trails and fantastic surf. For nature lovers there is an abundance of wildlife and fauna to discover, including a wide range of birdlife. Local photographer and avid bird watcher Jean Williams said the best spots to birdwatch included the wetlands at the back of Pegasus and Waikuku. Highlights included white faced herons, white herons, spoonbills, waxeyes and kingfishers. To check out Jean's amazing wildlife photography visit Photography by Jean on Facebook.

Pegasus town is also home to Pegasus Golf and Sports Club which is a 72 par, 18-hole championship golf course. This state-of-the-art club also features

a view from every hole and can be booked for functions and weddings. If racquet sports are more your speed, then check out the Woodend Tennis Club for both social and competitive tennis. For younger visitors, a firm favourite with local families is the playground at Pegasus Lake. Featuring a giant climbing frame, a super-fast slide and for. This modern playground is a stone's throw from Flat White Cafe which is handy if you need a coffee fix. And for those seeking more of an adrenaline rush, the flying fox at Waikuku Beach is a must do. During summer, the Waikuku Beach Paddling Pool is a great place to cool down and have a splash. Locally known as the Whale Pool, this outdoor pool is open every year from Labour Weekend to Easter.

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Culture...

collectables from yesteryear.

The 5th Pegasus Bay Art Show will be taking place on the 24th - 26th of September with over 70 artists from throughout Canterbury exhibiting a wide range of art to appeal to all art lovers, with 25% of all sales going towards an arts programme at the school.

The guest artist for 2021 is Waikuku watercolour artist Ouilliam Collister.

Tickets for the Friday opening event are available to purchase from Eventbrite. Saturday and Sunday the show will be open from 10am - 4pm and is a gold coin entry.

Follow @pegasusbayartshow on Facebook for more details

Stay ...

a more permanent move, there are lots of services to help you achieve your dream. For short-term visits, Book-A-Bach has plenty of rentals ready to accommodate you, from resort style living in Pegasus to bach rentals in Woodend and Waikuku, while the team at Ray White can assist with more long-term stays.

For those interested in a totally fresh start, Ravenswood is an emerging community between Rangiora and Pegasus. Close to Christchurch but with a more rural feel, life at Ravenswood has it all. Ravenswood's prime location makes it the perfect base to enjoy everything that Christchurch, North Canterbury and Hurunui have to offer.

The ultimate Kiwi camping experience can be found at the Waikuku Beach Holiday Park. A mere 100 metres from the beach, this fantastic family run camp features a forest to explore, tennis courts and a fantastic playground. Swimming is a popular pastime for locals and visitors alike, with Waikuku Beach patrolled by dedicated lifeguards from the Waikuku Beach Surf Lifesaving Club during the summe months

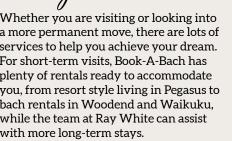


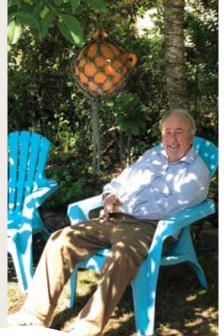


a spotlight on Pegasus / Waikuku / Woodend / Ravenswood

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the ever growing Pegasus Town. FW Dine on a FRIDAY evening. en 7 Days | Phone 03 920 4036

#### Waikuku Beach

During the summer months, Waikuku Beach is a seriously busy place with people enjoying everything that this stunning beach offers - swimming, surfing, walking or just sunbathing.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

The famous Walkuku Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, patrols the beach throughout the summer, keeping an eye on swimmers and surfers and there's even a thriving surfer's group for women - Lady Wave Tribe, which is part of the Surfwise Surf School. When the day is done, you can pop into the Waikuku Beach store for an ice cream on the way home.





**PEGASUS BAY** 

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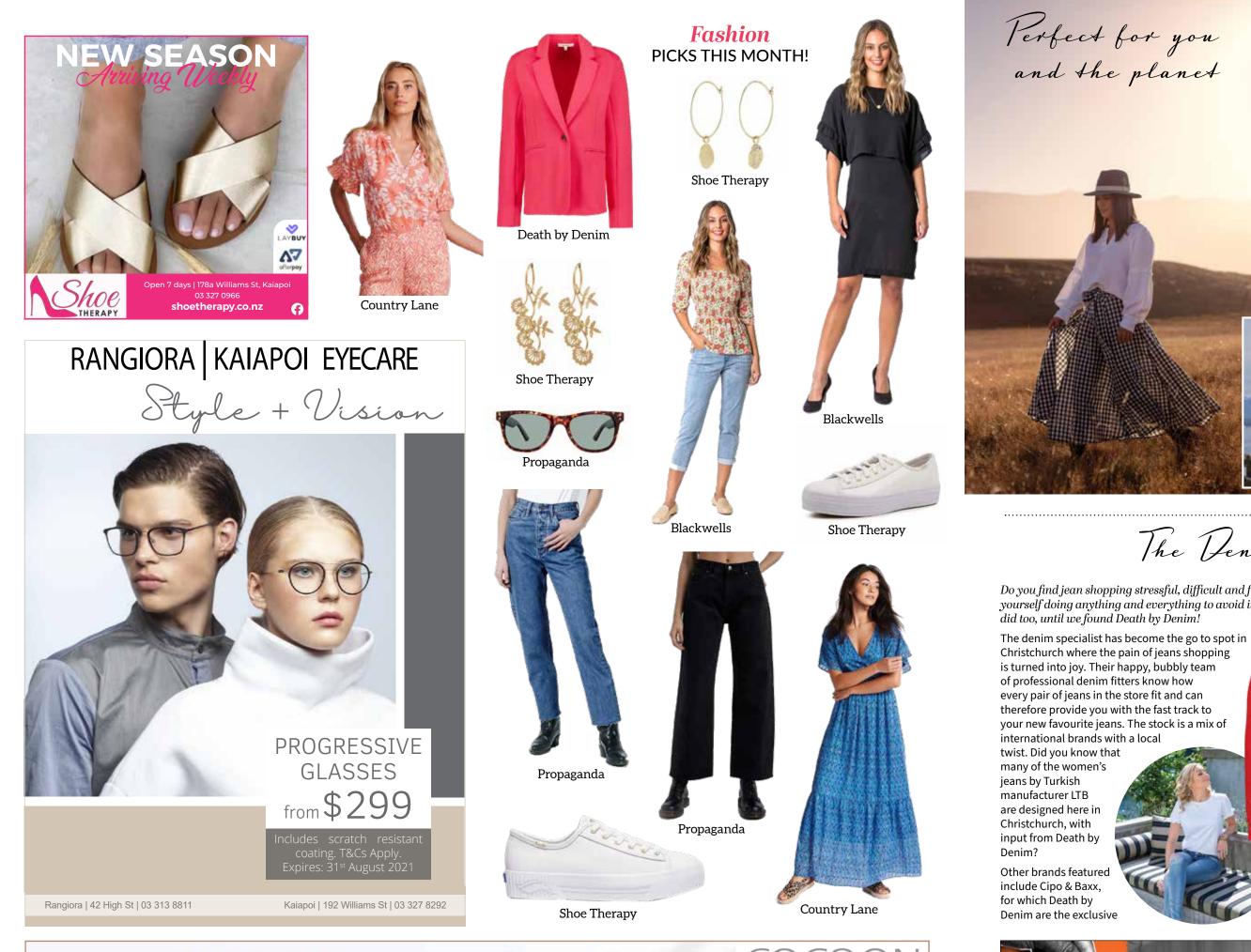
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Are you looking for everyday essentials with an edge, made from beautiful natural fabrics, that not only make you look and feel fabulous, but are good for the planet too?

Jessica Flora, has just released its stunning new collection of dresses, skirts and blouses, all made from linen and cotton fibres. The collection makes a real statement with pieces evolving from more classic tailoring, to fun, dressy and even a floaty vibe.

The designs are designed to be versatile to take you from day to night and work for all occasions, while others have been designed as real showstoppers, with dressier occasions in mind. Loop holes, frills and ties are some of the delicate and flattering details adding a bespoke touch.

At the moment each piece from Jessica Flora is made-to-order and fully customisable. Would you rather have a closed back on your new dress, or an elasticated sleeve? That's no problem for owner Jess Beachen and her team.

Jess worked in the fashion industry for a decade before starting the label, which gave her excellent grounding and established the

ethical values she carries into her business. "There is so much wastage in the fashion industry, which is why we are as regenerative and circular as possible. We produce a small run of garments a few times a year, and I compost all the fabric offcuts in my worm farm "

She is excited to be putting her own design stamp on the Jessica Flora range. "Our clothes are fun, easy to wear, and make women feel comfortable and confident that they are rocking a really great look."

The Denim Specialists

Do you find jean shopping stressful, difficult and find yourself doing anything and everything to avoid it? We

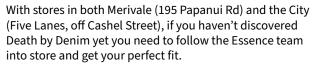
Christchurch where the pain of jeans shopping your new favourite jeans. The stock is a mix of

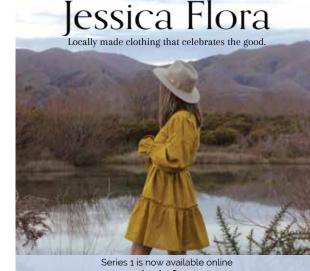


stockist in New Zealand, Zhrill, Dricoper, New London and Cult of Individuality.

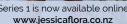
The team also know that while jeans are the base to the outfit, the shirt, tee, sweater and blazer is also key. A keen supporter of fashion as art, Death by Denim supports local and international small batch designers. From NZ Made brands such as Anyone's Daughter to new Bali based

designer Adine Undone and the casual vibe in between from Stella + Gemma and Hammill & Co, the team will help you find the complete outfit that perfectly suits your style.





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# **BAYLEYS CANS FOR A CAUSE RETURNS BIGGER AND BETTER**

#### words: Louise Leitch

Bayleys North Canterbury are partnering with Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust once again for Bayleys' Cans for a Cause food drive, to help local families struggling to put food on their table.

"Cans for a Cause was an initiative that Bayleys came up with last year, seeing the impact of Covid on local families," says Jan McCormick, Property consultant of Bayleys North Canterbury. "We got together with Community Wellbeing and said we'd really like to do something for our community and the food drive just took off from there. People were incredibly generous with their donations so we were able to help a lot of families, and this year we're building on that success."



"We've reached out to primary schools in the Waimakariri and Hurunui districts and invited them to participate." says Jan. "How they participate is up to them. The basic concept is that children exchange a can, or non-perishable food item for something like a mufti day, crazy hat day, or a wellbeing afternoon. Ashgrove Primary, in partnership with two Bayleys North Canterbury agents (both parents from the school), last year ran a sausage sizzle that raised over 500 cans. Our school communities are incredible."

This year, Ross Ditmer, Manager of Bayleys North Canterbury, is giving away \$1000 on behalf of Bayleys to a North Canterbury primary school. All participating primary schools will go in the draw to win the prize which is to be put towards sports equipment.



"The need out there is as great as it was this time last year," says Deirdre Ryan, Manager of Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust. "Many families are still recovering from the impact of drought, earthquakes, the pandemic and recent flood event and winter is especially difficult with higher energy bills and food prices. Donations to Bayleys' Cans for a Cause will help to make up food parcels to give to families in need across the Hurunui and Waimakariri using our network of North Canterbury foodbanks."

#### "Anything you'd buy in your own grocery shopping that's not perishable and has a good shelf life makes a great donation,"

says Deirdre, "like tinned fruit and veggies, beans, soup, rice, rolled oats, pasta meals, sauces for mince meals, peanut butter, jam and rice pudding. Expensive items like dishwashing liquid, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving gear and sanitary products are welcome also."

"Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated already, our volunteers and those collecting on our behalf. including North Canterbury Netball, William Pike Challenge students at Ashgrove Primary, Soroptimists International of North Canterbury, Shoe Therapy Kaiapoi and the residents of Charles Upham Retirement Village," says Jan. "If we can build on this through more clubs and businesses getting involved, we'll be able to help even more local families."

Bayleys' Cans for a Cause runs until the end of August. Donations can be dropped at Bayleys' Office at 251 High St Rangiora. If you are not able to drop your donation into the office, phone 03 311 8020 and a Bayleys agent will collect it.



Louise Leitch

Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust P: 021 454 656 E: marketing@wellbeingnc.org.nz





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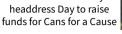
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BAYLEYS



If you've recently stopped working and have some spare time on your hands then get out there and use it! There are so many interesting and exciting opportunities in our local communities.

Time to sign up for that new hobby

Retirement is the perfect time to really get into that hobby and there are plenty of examples of late starters hitting the big time. The author of Pulitzer prize winning novel, Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt started writing at 65.

for coffee, pick up the grandchildren from school or join a club and make some new mates.

The typical retirement age in New Zealand is 65, yet nearly a quarter of people choose to continue working whether that's a part-time role or running their own business. Still others volunteer or take up new hobbies and some choose to spend more time with family and friends. There really is no one face of 'retirement'. It's absurd to suggest everyone over 65 has a particular interest or lifestyle. As people age they are as diverse as they are in their younger years and the people we spoke to and those we met whilst



Volunteer

So many local initiatives and organisations need help so why not give a little time and help out? From local op shops to meals on wheels, animal charities and community gardens - there are plenty of places where you can make a real difference



Gardening for Seniors "We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing." - George Bernard Shaw

And indeed, what better place to "play", than in the garden! Good for the body, mind and soul - gardening is beneficial at all ages, but can be an especially positive hobby for retirees and senior citizens. It keeps the body active and the mind healthy, with many research studies confirming the physical and psychological advantages for the elderly of being in nature, and specifically of tending gardens.

The wonderful thing about gardening for seniors is that it is a completely adaptable hobby and can be modified to suit a large range of abilities! Be a smart senior citizen gardener - stay sun safe, hydrate often, and rest when needed.



Keep fit

Staying physically active is key to quality of life so get moving. You just need to find something that you enjoy – from walking to playing bowls; swimming to tennis – you'll find plenty of options locally.



Get a good night's sleep To make the most of your days, you need to get a good night's sleep. So develop a healthy night routine to make sure you get those necessary hours of shut eye.

Upon doing some investigating here in the essence office around local community groups, clubs and activities we stumbled across so many options. A visit to the local Citizens Advice Bureau would be a great start if you are seeking information on how to volunteer, stay socially connected and exactly what group or club may be right for you - the ladies were so helpful, we came away with lots of brochures and booklets to peruse!



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# Doing the Resident Paperwork

#### words: Pattie Pegle

We caught up with a couple of experts to find out what you need to think about in retirement.

#### **Confront The Finances**

Tom Hartmann of Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission recognises that people often worry about retirement finances. But he's clear – fears are best confronted.

"Run your numbers as soon as you can and don't put it off," he says, "Anxiety only grows." A good starting point is the Sorted website which has a retirement calculator that allows people to look at various scenarios with different savings and retirement ages.

#### Show Me The Money

Currently, those who are eligible receive NZ Super at age 65 and 2021 rates are \$437 for a single person and \$672 for a couple where both partners gualify. You can still claim NZ Super and work, it will just contribute to your overall taxable income. KiwiSaver is a voluntary savings scheme and an excellent option advises Tom. It puts your money to work in funds that have a mix of things such as bonds, shares and property and there are employer contributions and government contributions which can help to build it up for you.

#### **Managing Savings**

Even if you have plenty of savings you still need to be proactive. "When you have a nest egg built up one of the hardest things can be to actually invest and manage it so that it gives you an income during retirement," says Tom. He says a 'bucket' system can be a good approach. Bucket one being the money you plan to spend in the short-term future. Bucket two covering the next four to nine years and bucket three the following



decade - each bucket requires a different investment management approach and that's why Tom also advises sitting down with a financial adviser who specialises in retirement planning.

"Most people have a gap between NZ Super and the lifestyle they want," says Tom. "Retirement planning is about closing that gap."

#### Write that Will

Apparently less than half of us have a Will. Yet it can make a huge difference to family and loved ones when we pass on ensuring our wishes will be made clear. Something that can be particularly important in complex family situations.

Think about things like property, shares, savings and possessions like jewellery or things in your home that may be meaningful to family members. You can find an excellent form at the website of local law firm Katherine Willmott Legal, that acts as a great starting point.

"It's important to get a Will that has been drawn up properly and is legally valid," says Katherine Willmott. "And it's about taking that thoughtful legal advice."

Websites for further information: www.sorted.org.nz www.kwlegal.nz

## Fighting For the Over 50s

On a wintry Tuesday afternoon with the rain pouring down, the meeting room at the Rangiora RSA is packed with retirees attending the North Canterbury Grey Power meeting.



plays the ukulele and a 70-year-old bursting with energy who rolls her eyes at the mention of retirement villages. The meeting covers topics from power prices to the Three Waters scheme. A man moves around the room with a microphone for those that wish to comment or question speakers. And plenty of them do.

It's all kept on track, firmly but diplomatically, by Jan Pentecost the unassuming national president of Grey Power.

"I've been with Grey Power for about 12 years. I came to one meeting and there was no secretary, so I said 'I'm happy to give it a go," she explains. The rest is history. And it's history worth noting because when she was voted in as National President for the organisation last year, she became the very first woman to hold the

position and break that grey glass ceiling

She is well-versed in how organisations work having spent many years on school committees when raising her three children. Born and brought up in Canterbury, she was living in Kaiapoi when she decided to attend university as a mature student graduating with first class honours in sociology and education and then pursuing postgrad studies.

"My impetus was that I realized there were huge inequalities in society and children were struggling. I wanted to look at why this was happening," she says of her studies.

All of which puts her in good stead as the president of Grey Power. So how is she finding the role?

"The hardest part is that struggle to be seen and respected equally as a woman, particularly at the national level where there is a different attitude from many men, and some women, in the older generation. They grew up with men as the head of the household," she says. "But I'm here for an absolute purpose and that is to help older people."

Grey Power North Canterbury meet on the first Tuesday of every month. For further information on Grey Power and the work they do check out their website at www.greypower.co.nz.

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On a typical day you could start out with a barista-made coffee and a treat at the café, get in your steps at the gym, then join neighbours for a game of pool before moving to happy hour. "The village has a feeling of a resort hotel. I thought - it reminds me of that hotel in Spain." Kate added.

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FEATURE THE ESSENCE OF RETIREMENT



# **RETIRING TO** Ravenswood

words: Pattie Pegler images: Essence

With bright, light décor and windows that look across the reserve opposite to the snow-capped mountains beyond – there's a sense of space in Brian and Elaine Phelan's Ravenswood home.

Sunlight pours in through sliders, a pop of colour comes from the mustard feature wall and gleaming green houseplants bring the outdoors in. This home might have a small footprint but it's certainly not cramped.

Brian and Elaine, both in their early 60s, decided it was time to move on from their 3-bedroom home in Kaiapoi a few years ago. The quakes had left the house largely unscathed. "But we were just about 15 metres from what

became the red zone," says Elaine. Then in the years that followed the area became increasingly industrial losing some of its charm and sense of community.

With four children and grandchildren dotted around New Zealand and Australia, they initially thought about moving to a similar sized property so that they could have family to stay. "We were going to get another 3-bedroom

house," says Elaine. "But the kids said get what you need, don't worry about us."

So that's what they did, buying a section in the conveniently located Ravenswood subdivision. And they knew what they wanted to create – a home that would work for the two of them into retirement and beyond. "We didn't want to have to move again in a few years' time," says Brian.

Brian's work as a driver for the Salvation Army sees him going into lots of homes and he was determined to avoid the issues that he frequently sees caused by cramped layout. Narrow doors: small spaces: tight corners that make it hard to move furnishings and also for those with walking frames to navigate.

So, when it was time to design their Ravenswood home they made sure the entrance hall is spacious, doorways are all wider than standard and rounded corners on walls are less prone to damage.

All features that help futureproof the home for limited mobility.

The kitchen and open plan dining can be easily opened

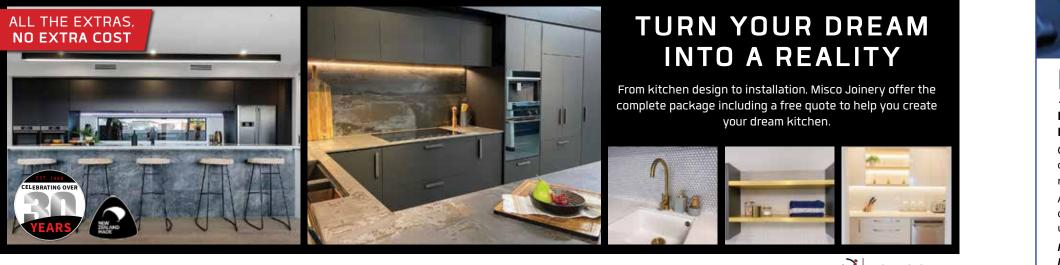
up in the summer months with sliders that lead out to a deck that runs the length of the house and provides an additional seating area, whilst a further set of sliders connects the space with the lounge, creating some great indoor/outdoor flow.

It's this central space that is most used. "We spend most of our time in this area, and even when we have people over, it never feels crowded." says Elaine.

The couple used local company Misco to design and install their kitchen and were delighted with not only the result but also the process. Mustard coloured, rustic look subway tiles add a pop of colour to white cabinetry and black tapware has a modern twist. Clever corner cabinetry ensures all storage space is utilised with shelves that swing out for easy access. "I didn't want to be hunting around in the back of the cupboard," says Elaine.

But perhaps part of this sense of space comes from everywhere being so phenomenally tidy. The kitchen counter is clear and clutter free. The pantry, normally the dumping ground for all kitchen debris, is pristine. And even the houseplants, some nestled in cute kokodama pots, look in perfect condition with their glossy green leaves. (Elaine's secret? Diluted Neem oil and a damp cloth apparently).

When the couple moved here, they thought about the future and have created a 'forever' home. Downsizing, says Brian, doesn't have to mean less space.



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they could be 1000mm.

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"It's about long-term thinking," says Mitchell. Get it right and it you'll be able to stay in your home a lot longer.



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## **THREE TIPS** FOR FUTUREPROOFING YOUR HOME

Christchurch-based architect. Mitchell Coll. believes we bury our heads in the sand when it comes to our homes and ageing.

"It's not only ageing," says Mitchell. "People get injured all the time. If you break a leg how do you get around your house? It's really worth thinking about how things will work if you lose mobility."

Consider the following if you're building or buying somewhere that you hope will be your forever home.

1. Floor levels should be a key consideration from multi-storey homes to more basic things like step heights. "Think about things like stepping down, it's

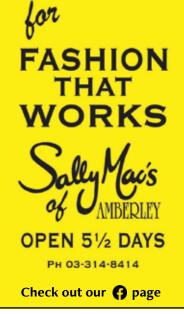
not that people can't do it as they age, but steps can become a fall hazard," he says. And, where you do need steps, don't make them too high. Front door steps are typically 1500mm says Mitchell, but they don't need to be,

2. If you are spending upwards of a million dollars on designing and building a new two or three storey home, then think about putting in a home lift. It is not as expensive as people may think he advises.

Think about turning spaces - can you easily navigate a wheelchair or walker around the bedroom or the hallway? Could you wheel into the bathroom and move around? Is there space in the shower for a seat if

Grab rails can be really useful if your mobility is impaired in some way. "If you're building you can add blocking inside walls for future grab rails," says Mitchell. Then it's just a case of marking where those points are in case you want to put in rails in the future, typically you might want them by steps or next to the toilet.







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## Your Garden this Month

Minette Tonoli is a herb enthusiast and horticulturist, a true Earth Mother, who gets excited about sharing her love for the plethora of food and medicine plants she grows and uses at her home acre in Waikuku.

Officially August is late winter, but signs of early spring are getting the gardeners among us all excited! In my garden Tarragon is the first perennial herb to show new growth, followed by a favourite tea herb of mine -Anise Hyssop. There are also some daffodils already showing their happy little yellow faces, and the bud swell of fruit trees, and new shoots on roses are all indicators that the growing season is not far off!

#### Garden tasks this month

It's about to get really busy in the garden for the main growing season, so make sure you are ready for the coming spring months by finalising planting plans, ordering seeds, clearing out beds, cutting back dead perennials, topping up with compost, and securing structures.

Get a head start - even if this month is still punctuated by bitterly cold days, gusty winds, and the daylight hours are still too short for full-out planting of everything in the garden, start summer flowers and vegetable crops that require a higher soil temperature for germinating, by sowing them under protection or starting them on a heated mat.

Top Tip: When cleaning up the garden, never compost diseased or pest-ridden plants. It's best to bin these.

*Did you know:* There's two types of artichokes that are eaten as a vegetable: Globe artichoke (Cynara scolymus), a large thistle-like plant, and it's the unopened flower buds that are eaten. Jerusalem artichoke (Helianthus *tuberosus*), is a tuberous perennial sunflower, and it is the underground tubers that are eaten.

#### Sowing and planting

The Canterbury region is rather large, with guite a few different climate zones scattered about - even the microclimate in your own

garden can make a difference, so be sure to use the following as an ideas list only, and check seed packets or seedling labels for more information specific to your exact growing conditions

#### Veggies

Sow seeds or transplant young seedlings: Beetroot and silverbeet, broad bean, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard and mizuna, parsnip, peas and snow peas, spinach, radish, rocket, shallots and spring onions.

Start seeds under cover to be transplanted in September: Cabbage, cape gooseberry\*, capsicum and chillies\*, globe artichokes, leeks, mint, thyme, tomato\* and watermelon\*. If you are brave, or growing for a greenhouse, you can also start some aubergine, beans, and zucchini.

Plant crowns of asparagus\*, rhubarb, Jerusalem artichoke tubers and start chitting your potatoes. Transplant strawberry plants. If you haven't done your garlic yet, there's still time this month \* = frost tender

#### Fruit & berries

August is brilliant for getting new fruit trees in the ground and most berries do well by being planted now too, including currants, gooseberry, blueberry, raspberry, and strawberry.

#### Flowers & Herbs

Pataka BERRIES

Many favourite culinary herbs can be sown or planted now, including chervil, chives, coriander, marjoram, parsley, rosemary, sage, and thyme.

Sow edible flower herbs such as borage, cornflower, calendula, dianthus, and violas.



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#### This month's recipe comes straight out of the oven and my goodness does it smell good, you'll definitely be making this pie, it's divine.

Our New World Chicken and Leek Pie will be one that you will be adding to your repertoire. You can make either individual pies or a large pie, whatever suits your family. The filling is so creamy and the leek and mustard complement the flayours of the pie and of course it's topped off with crusty flaky pastry. With the cooler weather hanging around still, it's perfect for a dinner or weekend lunch served up to your family and friends with a plate fill of veges and some crusty bread.

#### ngredients (Serves 4-6)

Olive oil

ARTISAN

Our Kiwiana breakfast.

eeduction bread

topped with a kumura

rosti, poached eggs,

sauteed spinach

and creamy

- 4 rashers bacon, diced
- 6 boneless skinless chicken thighs, diced
- 1 large leek, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp dried mixed herbs
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup white wine or stock
- 100g spinach, roughly chopped
- 1 Tbsp wholegrain mustard
- 200g creme fraiche
- 2 square sheets puff pastry, thawed
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 Tbsp sesame seeds, optional
- Vegetables or your choice of side, to serve

NEW WORLD

RANGIORA



Barb Palmer has beer part of the friendly team at New World Rangiora for 18 years, the last 7 as their Brand Ambassado sharing recipes and deas with customer

## Method

- Preheat your oven to 200 degrees celsius fan bake. Place a large frying pan over a medium to high heat, and drizzle with olive oil.
- Once hot, add the bacon and pan fry for 3-4 minutes or until the bacon has started to render. Add the leek, garlic and mixed herbs, then cook while stirring for another 3-4 minutes or until the leek has softened. Transfer to a bowl.
- In the same pan, pan fry the chicken thighs for 5-7 minutes or until golden and cooked through. Return the leek mixture to the pan. and stir well to combine.
- Deglaze the pan with white wine or stock, then add the spinach. Stir until the spinach has wilted, then stir through the mustard and creme fraiche. Season to taste with salt and pepper
- Spoon the mixture amongst 4-6 pie dishes or large ramekins. Cut circles from the pastry sheets, according to the size of the pie dishes: ensuring to create a circle larger in diameter than the dish. Place the circle on top of the pie filling, then crimp or tuck the edges to seal
- Brush the pastry tops with beaten egg, then sprinkle with poppy seeds. Place the pies onto a baking tray, then put into the oven and bake for 25-30 minutes or until the tops are golden brown and flaky.
- Serve the pies immediately, alongside your favourite vegetables or side dish.



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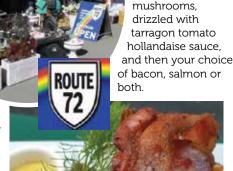
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Dermal remodelling includes micro needling, lasers and peels – they improve hydration, texture and skin quality and are also fantastic treatments for acne, blemishes and scarring. These resurfacing treatments are safe and effective ways to restore and rejuvenate your skin and I would recommend them to anyone. When combined with regular skincare creams they demonstrate impressive results after several monthly treatments.

Botox is so popular because it is highly effective and affordable: it



lasts 3-4 months and treatments three times a year refreshes our look and prevents fine lines from turning into deep furrows. It can also be a fantastic way to lift evebrows, fix droopy mouth corners, treat neck lines and correct gummy smiles. Not everyone needs Botox but most people can easily find some benefit from it

Dermal fillers have practically instant results that last about 12 months. We can enhance our cheeks, lips, chins, jawlines, temples and eyes in ways ranging from the very subtle to the bold and dramatic. Fillers aren't for everyone and can be expensive but that's because they're often worth it.



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who operate successful businesses from home.

of a local gem.

To give a bit of background, I prioritise making time to regularly check in with our local business owners, no matter how small, and value this aspect of my work. As part of my regular constituent community clinic day in Oxford, I had set up a time to meet with a small business owner called Daisy Gardiner who has quietly been making some very special bouquets for local families and community organisations to suit all budgets

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a Farmlands

As a local MP, I'm continually impressed by the ingenuity of our enterprising residents

I recently met an inspirational young mum who is regarded around Oxford as something In Daisy's own words, every floral piece that leaves her little workshop — to mark a birthday, anniversary, new arrival, or to help a local family grieve — is made with love.

It's a fantastic model that mixes a passion for flowers with a passion for our community and it's smart because it has allowed Daisy, a florist of many years' experience, to have flexibility around the needs of a young family. Daisy supports local growers, buys directly from her supplies and has built up the support of her community.

Our communities in Waimakariri are wellknown for their can-do attitude and our businesses are also not afraid of stepping out in new directions. Many businesses have approached me for a steer in the right direction to access support as they develop innovative new projects. It's important that Wellington backs our South Island regions with the infrastructure we need so that our small businesses can continue to support our regional economies but also because, like Daisy, our small businesses so very often sit right at the heart of our communities.

With Parliament resuming after the July break, I am fully engaged as one of Canterbury's MP's in bringing the voice of provincial New Zealand to Wellington.



Page Turners

words: Emmas at Oxford

## **IN OUR OWN BACK YARD**

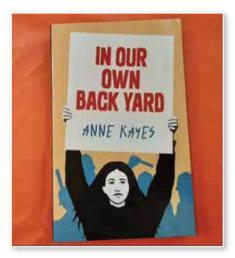
## Anne Kaves

It is hard to believe it is 40 years since the 1981 Springbok Tour and how it divided the nation.

This is a young adult novel, but it will have wide appeal to those who remember that turbulent period in our history, as well as those who have only heard about it. It is a real social history of New Zealand in 1981.

During the level 4 lockdown last year; the author draws on her own experiences as a 15 year old, to share with her own teenage children what made the tour so divisive, and how it affected the whole country. The book is framed around two key times in New Zealand's recent history – Pandemic and Tour. As well as racism; feminism, domestic violence and young love are woven into the plot, as she discusses what was going on around her; and what was going on personally.

It is an easy read, although confronting and very thought provoking. Some of



the language is shocking, but accurate to the time. I found it a hard book to put down - reading it in two sittings. The characters are totally relatable; opposing points of view are evenly presented; and it is clear the book is well researched

I absolutely recommend this book.





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