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08

The Global Baker
Dean Brettschneider

11

Feature
Fashion, Food & Homewares

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contents

We are all over the place in this issue - which has been fun!

The Global baker and business magnate Dean Brettschneider chats with our writer Pattie Pegler about the secrets to his success. From his early years growing up at Waikuku Beach, attending Rangiora High School and becoming a young apprentice at the Rangiora Bakery. His story is on page 8

With a lifetime spent travelling overseas and 30 years living in the United States, North Canterbury born, Stella Robinson invites us into her award-winning home for coffee and delicious date scones. Her home is filled with memories and intriguing objects that she has collected over the years and the large garden is outstanding - I don't believe my photos or space constraints do it justice. Page 23

Rachel Vogan, The Happy Gardener joins the essence team to share her wealth of knowledge about life up the garden path. Lemons are plentiful so let's make lemoncello. She knew we

were on deadline and needed something stronger than coffee!

When it comes to summer most of us want to make the most of our outdoor space - whether that's an unruly bit of grass or an expansive deck. So how do you get started? Pattie finds the answers on page 24

If you are looking for further inspiration - the Fernside Garden Tour is coming up. Check out page 26 for details.

Our special feature in this issue is - Fashion, Food and Home. It has been a privilege for us to put this together because we believe we have the very best boutique stops and eateries right here in North Canterbury. We have increased our normal print run this issue to include an extra 10,000 copies to Christchurch homes just so we can share the excitement.

We welcome any feedback or story ideas. Please email us on: info@essencemagazine.co.nz
Have a great month, Dorothy

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Distributed monthly since 2003 to rural and urban letterboxes throughout North Canterbury. Essence Magazine is dedicated to promoting the personality, places and businesses in our unique community.
Printed copies this month - 30,000 which includes 10,000 Christchurch addresses. For further information or our print dates please get in touch.

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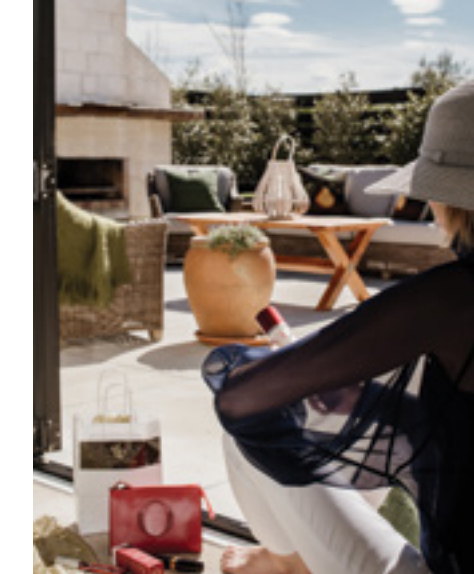
06 Business

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 Friday 6 November 2020.

Congratulations to our September winner Dairne Woods.



Cover Image: O Cosmetics have arrived in Silverstream. The dedicated team of beauty therapists and hair stylists at Le Plaisir welcome you to enjoy a relaxing experience in their boutique salon.

www.leplaisir.co.nz

Photographer; Carmen Peter

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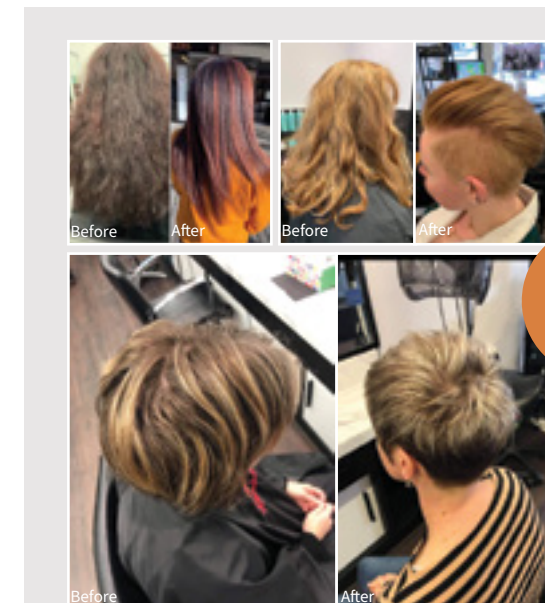
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Raising funds for youth

Corporate Chiseled Challenge

On Sunday 11 October, 10 local businesses went head to head for some great fun, team building challenges and activities. The Arlington Shopping Centre was abuzz with colourful teams, participating in fun and zany challenges, all in aid of supporting local youths in achieving their sporting dreams. Over \$9,000 was raised from this fun community event.

Photos Supplied; Mo Mac



Celebrating our WOMEN IN BUSINESS

We hosted drinks and nibbles to celebrate the Women in Business 2020.



Ingrid Gunby, Angela Searle



Andrea Robertson, Liz Ditmer



Mel Cox, Debbie Mahia, Jo Bailey



Lia Brown, Debra Tooby, Debs Taylor-Hayhurst



Jan McCormick, Suzie Power



Anette Drewery, Maria, Mandy Buchan

HAVING A BALL

The Rangiora High School year 12 formal was held at The Kaiapoi Club on Raven Quay Saturday 26 September. Photographer, Carmen Peter was along to capture the excitement.

carmenpeterphotography@gmail.com



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Rangiora Museum 2021 Calendar

The Rangiora and Districts Early Records Society Inc

2019 Calendars - \$15.00 each
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We thank two local firms, R. Grant Electrical (Alan Pethig) and Wilson Print for sponsoring this fundraising project.

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We are available for Birthday parties, Christmas work functions, weddings and more.

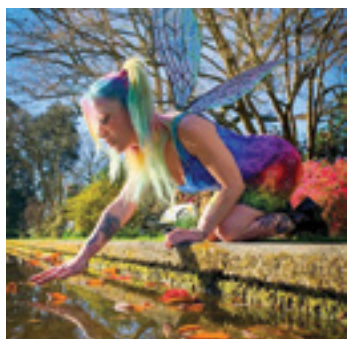
Our services:
Birthday entertainers, face painting with gems and glitter, bouncy castles and candy floss coming soon

Parties include: from 3 activities

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Turns One!

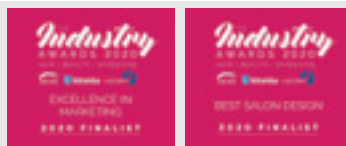


Shine celebrated their first year on 1st October and already has attracted a devoted following.

The team of fully qualified stylists are owner/operator Sandy, Senior Stylists Bernie and Julz and our Apprentice Paige with another senior stylist joining the team soon! Bernie loves creative cutting and colouring while Julz specialises in clean blonds. Client well-being and satisfaction is paramount, this extends to all our services, such as our Complementary consultations.

If you're looking to revamp your hair book now and all new clients will receive half price cut and blow wave with all colour services in Oct/Nov when you book with Bernie or Julz and mention this ad and returning clients receive a complimentary in-salon treatment and a bonus home Haircare offer.

Shine is a finalist in 2 categories at the NZ Hair Industry Awards!



Shine Hairstylists

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Follow us on Instagram - Shinehairstylistsnz | Facebook - @sandyturnerstylist



Claire and Stuart Morris

With so many buyers in the market...

Should You still Invest In A Marketing Campaign?

It's true that we are seeing more buyers active in the marketplace. We are seeing this in our online enquiry, our bidder registrations, and the number of pre-approvals at the moment. The major portals like oneroof.co.nz, realestate.co.nz and trademe.co.nz/property are also seeing a significant increase in their buyer traffic.

So, with all these buyers looking to purchase property, shouldn't it be easier to find those buyers and sell a property without having to invest in a substantial marketing campaign?

While this may seem like a logical approach, almost all our owners have an ambition to achieve not just a good price, but a premium price for their property when it sells. And so they should. Any real estate agent can sell a property for a price, however to ensure that a premium

price is achieved we must exhaust every avenue to find the buyer who will pay more than any other buyer in the market place.

In our experience, there is a considerable difference between what a premium buyer will pay and what the next best buyer will pay for any property. In some cases, the difference can amount to tens of thousands of dollars. When considering this, the investment in a complete marketing campaign can have a huge return on investment.

So how can you be confident that you have achieved the very best price for your property?



It's essential that you cover all bases to ensure you are putting your property in front of all potential buyers. Creating competition is our end game. Our ability to create competition for your property is what will ultimately obtain a premium price for you.

Marketing matters! It can elevate your property above all others. Talk to us today!

ADVICE FOR LANDLORDS

Over the past few months I have been talking about some of the anomalies which are cropping up with all of the new legislation we are dealing with in property management, and I don't think this is going to stop anytime soon.

In my 15 years working within the industry, I am finding the latest legislation, which is due to take effect in February next year, is the most complicated to date. Couple this with the 28 infringement penalties that could be incurred if you get it wrong, it has never been so important to be on top of the legislation.

But don't panic, help is on the way!! That's right, we understand that not only do these constant changes need to be implemented, but even more importantly, they need to be understood - and that's where we can help.

I am excited to announce that this year Ray White will be hosting a Landlord Academy, and we would love all investment property owners who own rentals anywhere in New Zealand to join us.

While we normally host these events in our offices throughout the country, this year we are making it even easier for landlords by using an online platform to stream this information to you in the comfort of your own home (and, of course it is in a Covid proof format!!).

The Academy will run each Thursday in November, commencing on the 5th at 7.00pm. Each week our head of Property

Management, Zac Snelling will have a guest covering a range of topics from current to upcoming legislation, even delving into the financial side of property investment. As I say, this will be live-streamed, and you will also be able to ask the experts questions on the night.

The sessions will be recorded, so if you are unable to watch them live you can watch them at a time that works best for you.

If you are interested in finding out more please let me know, or you can register at: landlordacademy.co.nz

In the meantime, if you have any questions feel free to contact me.



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



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ASK AN EXPERT



Mark O'Donnell

Mark is an Authorised Financial Adviser. He has 32 years' experience providing financial advice. We have a passion for helping people develop good financial outcomes that meet their goals and objectives.

Q. How can I invest to get a higher return than term deposit rates?

It has been signalled by the Reserve Bank that interest rates will stay low for some time to come and may even go into negative interest rates next year.

Firstly, we advocate having cash on hand for shorter term income needs, emergency fund, projects, travel, vehicle replacements, renovations etc.

You need to discuss with an authorised financial adviser longer term investment that can provide a combination of income and growth in a well-diversified portfolio designed to produce returns above bank rates over time. Typically having a minimum investment time frame of five years if you are looking at a Balanced investment approach.

Q. If I were to invest in such a portfolio would I risk losing my money.

If you are taking a balanced investment approach, there is short to medium term risks of negative returns (volatility) however the longer 5-year term risks of initial capital loss are reduced substantially.

It's about accepting the shorter-term risks to make the longer-term higher returns available through investing with a marginal bias to equities and property. Well diversified portfolios substantially reduce the risk of any specific loss over time.

Q. How would I know how my investment is tracking towards my return goal?

For us at CFS we are a licensed discretionary investment management service (DIMS).

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Supervisor each 3 months setting out what all the transactions are over the period.

We in turn provide an investment and performance report for the same 3-month period detailing any changes and actions taken over the period, plus online and full advice access.

We recommend contacting us to discuss your investment or retirement planning needs more specifically to your own circumstances.

No 2 people are the same so the advice you receive is personalised.

You can contact Mark or Hayden O'Donnell Authorised Financial Advisers.

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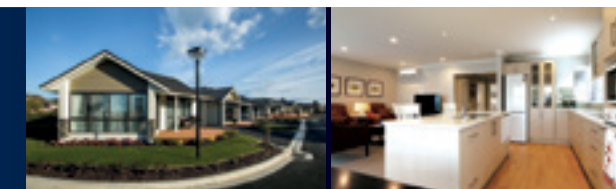
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THE GLOBAL BAKER

Words: Pattie Pegler Images: Supplied

From Rangiora High School student to baking business magnate – we caught up with Dean Brettschneider to find out the secrets of his success.

Type Dean Brettschneider into the Google search bar and the autocomplete options include 'sourdough recipe' and 'net worth'. They seem like a strange combo – but perhaps not for a man who has created his own personal brand as the Global Baker.

Today Dean owns several businesses in Singapore including an artisan bakery chain Baker & Cook, a pizza brand Plank Sourdough, Mo & Jo a burger brand, Crosstown Doughnuts and his own baking and cooking school. Oh, and he does some consultancy work around the globe. So is working non-stop basically the key to business success?

“You have to be relentless, you know,” says Dean speaking from Singapore. “Relentless on yourself, on your relationships, on your family. Relentless on yourself physically. I think that was part of the motivation to write the biography really. I felt there was a story to be told about that side of it.”

Dean's biography, Passion Is My Main Ingredient, does show behind the scenes. And it's exhausting. He's winning awards, he's buying a bakery, he's working for corporates, he's in London, he's in Shanghai, he's writing baking books, he's on television. He simply doesn't stop.

Early Years

He attributes that drive to various sources. Growing up in Waikuku Beach he recalls putting Readers Digest books down his socks as shin pads for soccer.

“I came from nothing. And so it was very important to me to be able to provide,” he says.

But he also experienced an early taste of hard work and success that spurred him on. As the only boy in the home economics group at Rangiora High School when the then owner of Rangiora Bakery, late John van Til, came looking for an apprentice Dean was chosen by default. That was in 1985.

During the early days of apprenticeship he lived with his grandmother, Nana Smith, in Rangiora and worked 16-hour days as he learnt his trade. He captained the New Zealand Baking Team to victory for Trans-Tasman Baking Trophy in 1987 and in 1988 was New Zealand Baking Apprentice of the Year – amongst many other awards. It was the sense of pride and satisfaction in his skills that rewarded him – and set him up for the future.

Meanwhile his Dutch father and a grandmother who sent gifts from Holland at Christmas gave him an interest in the

world beyond North Canterbury. “It was an intrigue. I was certainly aware that I had another culture in my life,” says Dean.

At 20 he headed overseas using money his parents had offered him in lieu of a 21st birthday party. He gained experience, worked in the



UK, met his future wife and moved back to New Zealand.

There followed a career that saw him buy and sell his own bakery in Dunedin, start writing his own baking books, work for a variety of corporates and spend several years in the dynamic city of Shanghai. There was no such thing as regular hours but he enjoyed the adrenalin of it and honed his skills.

But nobody gets to work on this basis without sacrifices and Dean has stacked up two divorces and moved around so much he seems to lack roots. He feels more European he says but business is in Singapore, for now. He has friends and family in New Zealand. His son is in London.

It's something he seems aware of but also pragmatic about. Money cannot buy happiness he is clear, but it can buy security and freedom and choice.

“I was building financial freedom and that comes at a cost...I live on my own. I spend 99% of my time on my own. I make a lot of business decisions on my own,” he says.

But he's on good terms with his first wife and has a strong relationship with his son, Jason, 24. When Dean's first marriage broke up Jason opted to stay in Shanghai with his father for a year. It was a year that cemented their relationship says Dean. And he has put a focus on maintaining that ever since.

So what next? Well he's 'semi-retired' he says. He doesn't bake anymore but he does teach occasionally. He loves

cycling and travelling and is a Netflix junkie who's been bingeing on Sons of Anarchy.

But he also likes people and is well experienced in television work having appeared as a judge on NZ's Hottest Home Baker way back in 2011. Since then he's done several television shows including most recently, The Great Kiwi Bake Off.

One of the projects he is enthusiastic about is that he has recently acquired the Singapore rights to The Great Singapore Bake Off from the BBC. “It means I own the format here and I just need to work with the TV networks to produce it,” he explains.

Embarking on producing a television series sounds like exactly the sort of semi-retirement that you'd expect from this high energy entrepreneur.



The Christmas Country Fete

We are delighted to announce that The Christmas Country Fete has a new long term home. This year, the Fete will move back to North Canterbury to the historic “Amberley House”. This event attracts over 4000 people from all over the world, eager to spend a great day out in the countryside. The Christmas Country Fête has a true Fete atmosphere. Please visit our Facebook page for updates and news.



Postponed Waikuku Exhibition rises again.

The annual exhibition of work by artists from the Waikuku area was sadly postponed in March due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Happily the group (Waikuku Artists Incorporated or WAI) is going ahead with the show on the weekend of 31 October and 1 November in the id Gallery at the Brick Mill on Highway One in Waikuku. The exhibition is open from 10am to 4pm both weekend days and adult admission is by gold coin donation.

This year's show focuses around the work of guest artist, Elisha Clarke-Jordan who is known for her animal sculptures in stainless steel, and the group is delighted that she has agreed to show her work.

WAI artists will be showing work in a range of media including; painting, sculpture, photography and pottery. A visit to the exhibition is always a delight because of the imaginative and clever work on show.

This year, once again, we are very pleased to have Totalspan, Woodend as our major sponsor and we are also very grateful for the support of all our sponsors. Without their help running our show would be much more difficult.

The opening night on Friday 30 October at 7.30pm is always a very enjoyable community event and an opportunity to be have the first chance of purchasing an artwork. Opening night tickets \$25 can be purchased from the id Gallery at the Mill or from the Waikuku Beach store and café or \$30 at the door.

HONOUR festival

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Guest Demonstrators
11am - Lynette McFadden who will talk on how to survive life in Covid-19 Times,
1.30pm - Angela Stone on styling for this summer

Tickets on sale now: www.thefete.co.nz



Honour Festival 2021

Honour Festival 2021 is the inaugural event created in honour of your mind, your body, and our planet. A yoga festival supporting New Zealand businesses who stand true to ethical and sustainable practices and those in our communities who have a desire for more - more care for our land and environment, and more peace within our minds and bodies. 27 Feb 2021, Amuri Estate, Hanmer Springs



STATION CAFÉ SHOP

Vibrant and Whimsical

The Station Café has been buzzing since it reopened under the new owners, Steve and Vivienne King. The couple are now looking forward to adding to the space for their customers – with the opening of the Station Café Shop offering gifts and fashion.

“I wanted to create a vibrant and whimsical space,” says Vivienne who is the driving force behind the shop. She has spent many hours researching items to stock and trying to create just the right blend of items, colours and pricing. Her research has paid off and the space is an appealing variety of everything. It's the sort of space that you walk around wanting to pick up every item for a closer look – colours and textures and shape draw the eye.

You'll find colourful Frida Kahlo candles, incense cones and jewellery along with homewares. And on one side of the store stylish summer fashions dominate from labels such as Bohemian Trader and colourful Australian brand Olga da Polga. All with reasonable price tags.

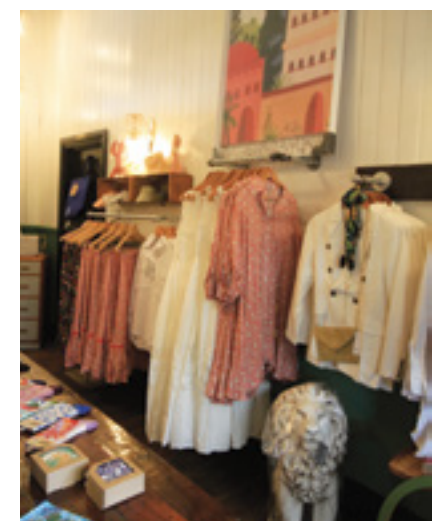
And a point of difference here say Steve and Vivienne is that “pretty much

The Station Café & Shop,
2 Blakett Street, Rangiora
Opening hours:
Tuesday – Sunday: 9.30am to 4.30pm

everything is for sale”. This includes some of the fabulous display tables and restored cabinets that are part of the furniture.

The couple aim to create an interesting destination for people at The Station Café and Shop. And now as well as enjoying a coffee or an al fresco lunch in the outdoor courtyard area – there is the chance to do a little browsing or even some early Christmas shopping.

The store opened on the 13th October so take some time to drop in for a coffee and a browse around Rangiora's newest retail offering.



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

ART EXHIBITION

OPENING
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER
7.30-10.30pm

ADVANCE TICKETS \$25
DOOR SALES \$30

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
ID GALLERY THE MILL, WAIKUKU,
WAIKUKU BEACH STORE AND CAFE

31 OCTOBER & 1 NOVEMBER 2020
THE MILL, WAIKUKU - 10am-4pm - GOLD COIN DONATION

GUEST ARTIST - ELISHA CLARKE-JORDAN

MAJOR SPONSOR **TOTALSPAN** WOODEND

THE KING FAMILY WELCOME YOU TO THE NEWLY RENOVATED STATION CAFÉ.

Be inspired by some new dishes, coupled with some old menu favourites - The Station Café has the perfect atmosphere generated by al fresco dining, great coffee, wholesome food and friendly staff who are passionate about giving excellent service.

2 Blakett Street, Rangiora Railway Station, 03 313 6018



LIVING AND BREATHING EVENTS

If you are planning a wedding, corporate event, or private function, creating a stunning environment for your guests is likely to be at the top of your to-do list.

While there are many options when it comes to marquee hire and event styling, it doesn't have to be a daunting task to come up with the perfect solution, whether your look is classic, rustic, ultra-modern, or full-on luxury, says Andy Youngman of North Canterbury company, Premium Events.

"We are passionate about event planning and management and take great pride in our friendly, personalised service. There is nothing we like more than helping clients to create their dream event."

Andy started Premium Events 18 months ago, and is well known in the marquee hire and events industry, after almost 30 years with a multi award-winning local family business (formerly known as Continental Event Hire) including 15 years as its manager. "I got into the industry straight out of school and have lived and breathed events ever since. There have been many notable highlights in my long career, including luxury weddings for American billionaires, national celebrities and sports stars, assorted large events for the Royal Family, the Dalai Lama, and Bill Clinton, and many large scale concerts, festivals, music events and sporting events, such as the Rugby and Cricket World Cups."

Premium Events can supply and source a wide range of quality marquees for hire, from large, silk-lined marquees suitable for weddings and other sizeable high-end events, to smaller marquees ideal for

corporate and private events. "One of our premium marquees is unique in appearance with a lovely curved roof and clear gable ends which really makes it stand out," says Andy.

The company has a sizeable inventory of stylish, high-end indoor and outdoor furniture to pull together beautiful spaces. "Some of our options include beautiful wicker outdoor suites, Cinder LPG fire pits, rustic wooden furniture and a fantastic range of fairy lights and festoon lighting to create a stunning festival atmosphere."

Now that he has started Premium Events, Andy is enjoying the closer contact with clients and being the 'go-to guy' with creativity and flexibility to burn when it comes to event planning, management and delivery.

His business motto is 'Anything. Anywhere. Anytime'. Although Premium Events works mainly with clients in Canterbury, he is happy to work on projects nationwide. "I have great connections up and down the country, and can easily supply and or source specific items for clients. After more than 30 years in the industry, I back myself to take the stress out of event planning and make it a fun and memorable experience, with a fantastic and striking end result."



Contact: Andy Youngman
+64 27 6454 551 | info@premiumevents.co.nz



ROBE



SHOE THERAPY



TAD



BAX AND BERG



CRAZE



MOLTO BELLA

THE LITTLE BIG TREE COMPANY

Canterbury's premier supplier of large (and smaller!) trees, we are a family owned and operated nursery, now in its second generation. With our exceptional range and knowledgeable and friendly team, we can find a solution to any garden challenge. Our services also include garden consultation and planting design, delivery (or courtesy trailers) and planting.

You'll find us at the airport end of Sawyers Arms Road, right beside the Compass Pools Christchurch Display Centre and Goom Landscapes new HQ. We're all part of the Goom Group so when it comes to creating the landscape of your dreams, we have you covered!

The Little Big Tree Company
485 Sawyers Arms Road, Christchurch
Phone 03 3597100 | www.littlebigtreecompany.co.nz



I'ADORE



DAPPERMEN



THE GOOD HOME

DISCOVER North Canterbury

HOME • FASHION • FOOD



Waimakariri Shopping: A Breath of Fresh Air

Need a day out? Look no further...

Waimakariri is a short drive north of Christchurch and is making a name for itself as the boutique shopping destination in Canterbury.

The antithesis of the big city malls, shopping in Waimakariri incorporates small, local businesses, sunshine and fresh air, and more than a few hidden gems to be found if you're willing to explore. Whether you're on the hunt for high-end fashion boutiques or top-notch preloved items, beautiful homewares and gifts or this season's must-have shoes and accessories, Waimakariri will deliver in spades.

With over 30 boutique stores to experience in and around Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Oxford, and Waikuku, the district is attracting an increasing number of in-the-know Christchurch shoppers drawn to the relaxed, friendly and quality shopping experiences on offer so close to home.

Hit the high streets of the main towns or hop in the car and cruise to a handful of out-of-the-way destinations where you can nab yourself a gorgeous antique, a unique artwork or some divine additions for your home or garden. Maybe swing by a farmers' market or two, pick up some fresh flowers and make a stop to relax and refuel at some of the many quality cafes dotted about the region.

Friendly faces, charming eateries, stunning country views and all the boutique shopping you could want: for a real breath of fresh air escape to Waimakariri, where once is never enough.

Not sure where to start on your Waimakariri shopping trip? Visit our handy boutique shopping guide for the best destinations, tips, café stops and some real hidden gems: www.visitwaimakariri.co.nz/discover/boutique-shopping.

www.visitwaimakariri.co.nz | info@visitwaimakariri.co.nz

TWINE

Twine Antiques is a treasure trove of vintage finds! You will discover an eclectic mix of antiques, collectables and furniture to all sorts of gems for your garden - a varied and ever changing array of beautiful and unusual pieces. New stock arrives daily, so there's always something to browse!

Situated in the Old School Collective, Waikuku

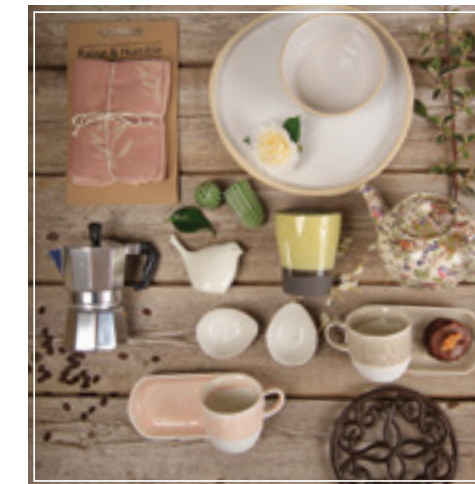
www.facebook.com/twineantiques



BLACKWELLS

With an extensive range of homewares, gifts and fashion right through to carpet, drapes and hunting and fishing supplies - Blackwells Department Store is a timeless treasure in the heart of Kaiapoi. Established in 1871 the store's long history is built on exceptional customer service and a great shopping experience for all.

www.blackwellsdeptstore.co.nz



FI'S FLOWERS 'n' ART

Fi's Flowers 'n' Art is a modern florist and art business located in Rangiora with beautiful wares and the WOW factor! Fi has a team of experienced florists, who can cater for all of your needs. Come in for a leisurely browse and view our fantastic range of flowers, gifts and art.

www.fisflowers.co.nz

FABRIC OF SOCIETY

The perfect haunt for the stylish homewares shopper The Fabric of Society carries a fabulous range of imported designer fabrics, homewares, furniture and home accessories. With a passion for all things interior design and gorgeous, Emily and her experienced team will help inspire you to find the perfect pieces for your home.

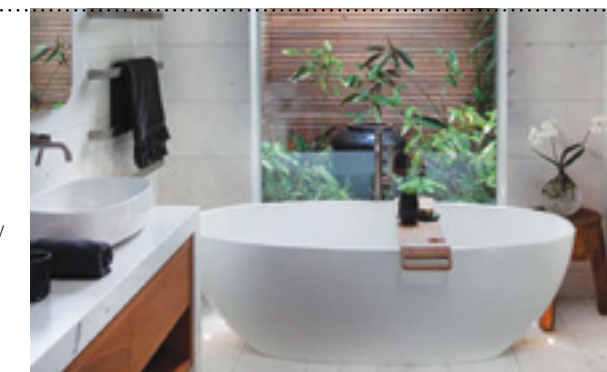
www.thefabricofsociety.co.nz



PARAMOUNT PLUMBING SUPPLIES

Renovating or building this Spring? Do you have your bathroom fittings organised? Bring your plans into our bright new showroom at 15 Station Rd, and let us help you create your dream bathroom on budget! With a wide range of products available and a team of knowledgeable, friendly staff, our promise is to provide the products you need with the service you deserve.

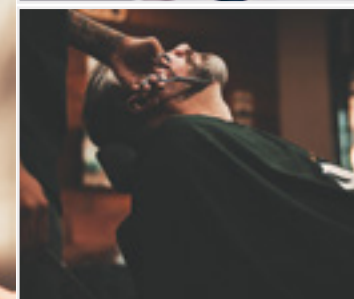
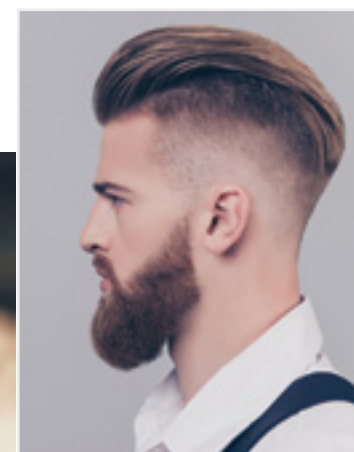
www.paramountplumbing.co.nz



DAPPERMEN BARBER SHOP

Dappermen is more than just great clothing and grooming, Dappermen provides a comforting and distinguished environment where men can relax in style and have haircut or beard trim. To make it easy, bookings can be made on online via Dappermen Facebook page.

[f Dappermen](https://www.facebook.com/Dappermen)



DAPPERMEN

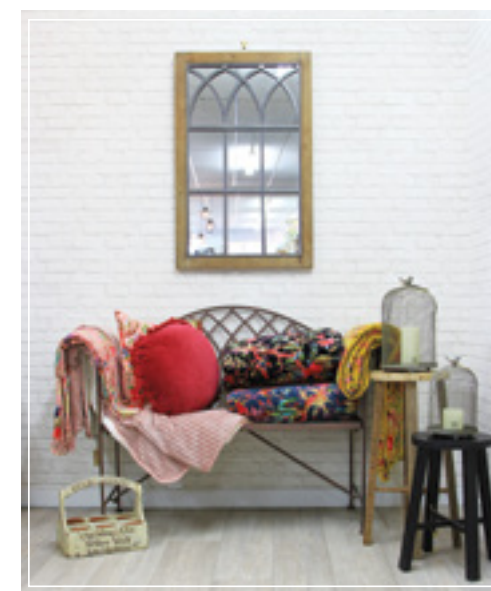
North Canterbury's one stop male shop for grooming and clothing. Based in the heart of Rangiora Dappermen has everything the modern gentlemen needs to look smart and feel good. If you are wanting to look good and feel great for this summer Dappermen is the place to go.

Unit 3, 199 High St, Rangiora,
021 778 247
www.dappermen.co.nz

I'ADORE

I'Adore is the coming together of two great passions - beautiful homewares and gifts and natural and organic beauty. Offering a huge range of high quality gifts and statement homeware pieces along with organic and toxic free beauty and lifestyle products, I'Adore has established itself as a must go to spot for Rangiora shoppers and visitors.

www.iadore.co.nz



CAMEO

Making a cameo appearance on walls throughout Canterbury and beyond is artwork professionally framed by Cameo Fine Arts. Bring in your treasured family heirlooms, priceless art pieces or your favourite prints and Kirsty will advise the best options for framing.

These gorgeous Flox prints are available in store and check out the interesting variety of giftware.

www.cameofinearts.co.nz

THE MILL

The Mill, Waikuku. Where you can discover local and international art, giftware and MORE at the iconic Brick Mill Building. Explore The Emporium of Lost Treasure, browse the range of ethical and sustainable items available at Little Bohemia, or nab some unique artwork at ID Gallery. A fabulous one-stop shop, well worth the trip!

Find us at The Mill Waikuku [f](https://www.facebook.com)



NICHE

Niche is a little something different. We are a locally owned and operated homeware, gift, art and baby store. We are continuously searching for unique and inspiring brands to bring to our customers from around New Zealand and abroad. Our aim is to spark joy and bring you products that are simple to fall in love with.

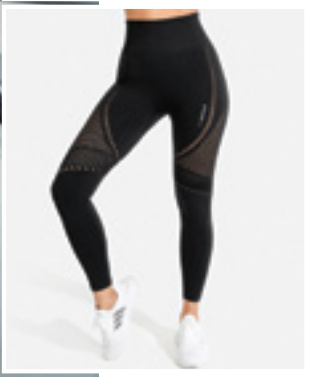
www.nichestore.co.nz



THE SPORT SHOP

The Sport Shop is family owned and operated and offers North Canterbury's largest range of quality sporting goods. Store owner Nigel with the help of his team, personally select what we stock to ensure we know how it works – and how it performs. We only sell the best tools for the job – and if we haven't got something you need, then we'll do our best to source it for you.

345A Flaxton Road, Rangiora
03 313 7983 | online@thesportshop.co.nz
www.thesportshop.co.nz



ME, NOW YOU CLOTHING

Me, Now You Clothing is a boutique shop in Amberley with a large variety of NEW and quality PRE-LOVED items, designer clothing & accessories. A pure haven for creating your own style.

2 Pound Street, Amberley
027 636 8774

Facebook: [menowyouclothing](https://www.facebook.com/menowyouclothing)



NZulu

NZulu is a culmination of life experiences - both Local and Global. It represents an alloy of African heritage, love of New Zealand and a sensibility that endorses cross-cultural design aesthetics and ideas. NZulu owner, Shirley has hand-picked select items from designers she has sourced internationally.

Limited editions enable NZulu to provide clients with unique pieces while remaining fresh and ever-changing as new designs enter the collection.

027 2066 496 | admin@nzulu.co.nz
www.nzulu.co.nz

nzulu



ROBE BOUTIQUE

If you love fashion, then you must visit Robe Boutique in Rangiora.

Located on High Street, Robe Boutique is home to some of NZ and Australia's favourite women's fashion designers including Augustine, Stella + Gemma, Tuesday and Ketz-Ke plus luxury label OnceWas.

Robe Boutique has something for everyone whether you need something special for an occasion or just want some comfy pants to relax in style.

Shop in-store or online, and get free overnight shipping on all orders.

Treat yourself at Robe Boutique today!

Our Brands include Augustine, Charlo, Amaya, Honey Denim, Hey Monday, Stella + Gemma, Silent Theory, Sass, Fate+Becker, OnceWas, Jaclyn M, Tuesday, Nude Footwear, Betty Basics, Stilen, Dricoper Denim, LTB Denim, Mavi, Standard Issue, Jorge, All About Eve, Blacklist, Thing Thing, Vash and Ketz-Ke.

125 High Street, Rangiora
03 313 0099
www.robeboutique.co.nz



THEA'S NEW & PRELOVED BOUTIQUE

Pop in and be amazed by our extensive range of beautiful fashion, accessories, gifts and lifestyle range in our little boutique.

Our hours are Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm.

102 Main Street, Oxford

+64 027 687 7219

[TheasBoutiqueoxford](https://www.facebook.com/TheasBoutiqueoxford)

14 October 2020 | essence feature

Blackwell's

DEPARTMENT STORE KAIAPOI
TRUSTED SINCE 1871



BLACKWELLS

Blackwell's Department Store is a family owned business located in Kaiapoi – known as the 'stalwart' since the late 1800's. Newly rebuilt and keeping up with the latest trends, we stock a wide range of quality NZ-made and imported products, from brand-names we trust to deliver quality and satisfaction.

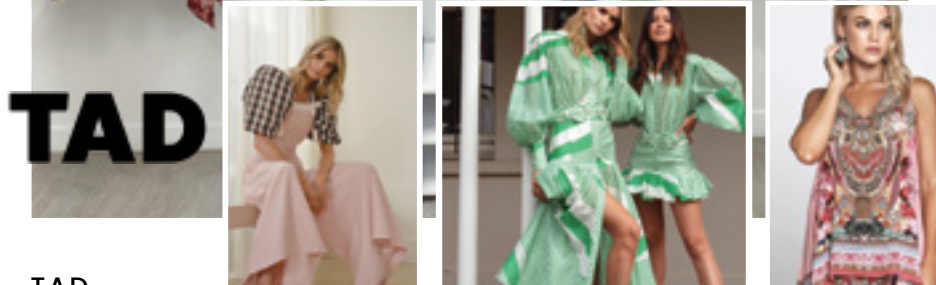
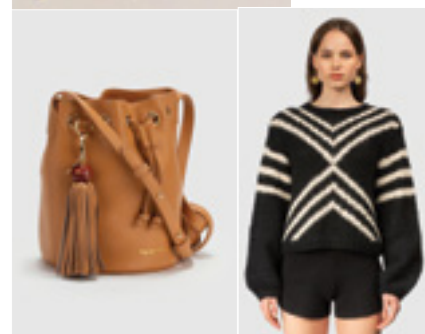
Cnr Williams Street and Raven Quay, Kaiapoi
03 327 8029 | blackwellsdeptstore@xtra.co.nz
www.blackwellsdeptstore.co.nz



LITTLE BOHEMIA

Little Bohemia is a collection of clothing, footwear, jewellery, accessories and homewares. Sourced from around the globe and locally. Ethical and sustainable items available.

Find us at The Mill Waikuku
Main North Rd, Waikuku
Mon-Fri 11-3, Sat & Sun 10-4



TAD

TAD

TAD Design is a boutique retail store – specialising in style that will make you swoon. Shop the latest on-trend fashions in store or from the comfort of home.

"People shouldn't feel intimidated by fashion," says owner Tracey. "TAD is a space that's free from judgment, and it makes my day to see women come in, feel beautiful and have a great experience."

199 High Street, Rangiora
0800 823 337 | traceyanddanieltad@gmail.com
www.taddesign.co.nz



MOLTO BELLA

Molto Bella brings the best of Italian style to New Zealand. Owner Anette Drewery has spent extensive time travelling in Italy and exploring the culture, and just had to bring the classic European styles back with her. The unique linens and silks are reminiscent of the fashions from the stunning Amalfi Coast and Florence in Italy, and complement the size and shapes of women of any age

199 High St, Rangiora
03 313 1366 | sales@moltobella.nz
www.moltobella.nz

essence feature | October 2020 15



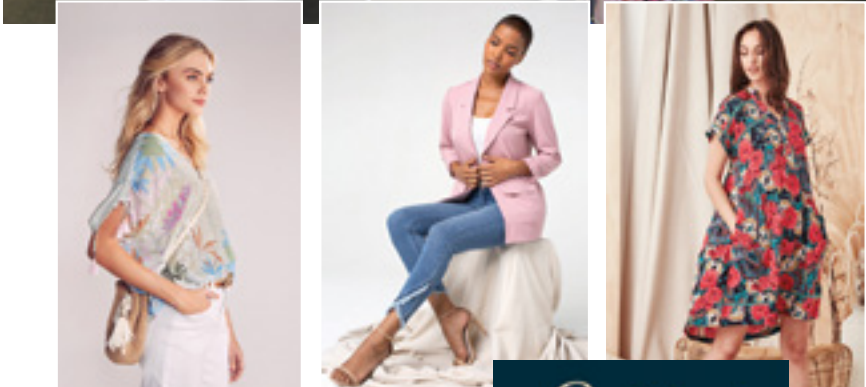
CRAZE

At CRAZE, our passion is for fashion. Owned and operated by Sherie - a style devotee who sources her collection from the hottest urban and modern brands around the world - helping you shop the look you crave. Brands include Federation, Home-Lee, Wish, Cooper, Stella & Gemma, Stitch Ministry, Eb & Ive, Minx and many more.

178 Williams Street, Kaiapoi
03 327 2157 | shop@crazefashion.co.nz
www.crazefashion.co.nz



CRAZE
KAIAPOI



So You!
WE'VE GOT STYLE

SO YOU

So You! Is a popular one-of-a-kind North Canterbury fashion destination.

Owner Debbie Albrecht, a hands-on, accredited personal image consultant, loves helping women discover their personal style and feel fabulous.

Add our legendary friendly service to the gorgeous fashion, unique range of accessories and carefully selected giftware and it's no wonder our clients 'enter as strangers and leave as friends'!

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



LORDSHIP LINENS

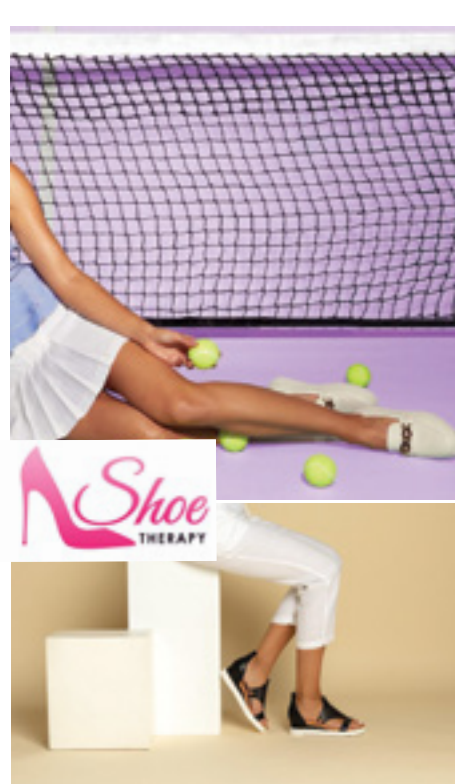
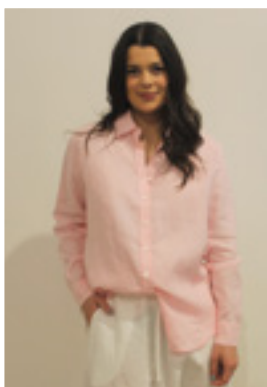
Lordship Linens is a true local business. About 80% of what we do is proudly made in North Canterbury. We use natural fabrics such as cotton, silk & mostly linen, with a little bit of 'other' thrown in.

We design our own range of garments and fashion is not really our 'thing'. We just love classic styles you'll want to wear every day and believe that smart dressing doesn't mean fancy clothes.

Honestly, we're a bit old fashioned and love great colours, the feminine form and beautiful fabrics.

We might look a bit fancy in our little store... pop in and see.

130 High Street Rangiora,
0210 800 0809 | linenywhite@gmail.com
www.lordshiplinens.com



Shoe
THERAPY

SHOE THERAPY

Shoe Therapy is the ultimate place to discover gorgeous shoes and accessories - from funky trainers to on-trend sandals and summer styles. All designs are hand selected by our resident fashion stylist and director, Debbie. Leading brands from New Zealand, Australian and European brands include Superga, Django & Juliette, Saben, and Ziera.

178a Williams Street, Kaiapoi
03 3270966
shoetherapy.kaiapoi@yahoo.com
www.shoetherapy.co.nz

SONYA LEE BAGS

Sonya designs and creates these beautiful leather bags from her home in Ohoka, where she and her husband also run a busy upholstery business. Beautifully made and reasonably priced, you can find Sonya on Facebook and at various markets in Canterbury.

03 312 0570
kentsonya@gmail.com
Sonya Lee Bags

Sonya Lee Bags



COUNTRY LANE



COUNTRY LANE

Our aim is to showcase top quality New Zealand and International brands in an environment where everyone feels welcome. By combining our talents and experience we are able to bring you timeless wardrobe staples alongside some of the latest trends. We employ passionate and experienced staff that share our vision for premium customer service in a no pressure environment. Helping you find something that not only looks fabulous but will make you feel amazing too.

144 High Street, Rangiora
03 313 4565 | shop@countrylanefashions.co.nz
www.countrylanefashions.co.nz

RANGIORA SHOE LINES

We are proud to be a little Independent Shoe Store local to North Canterbury, having been at the heart of Rangiora for 50 wonderful years.

Each and every gorgeous shoe instore has been carefully curated - meticulously handpicked for shoe uniqueness, tested for fit, quality and detail with our end goal being outstanding comfort. Shoe labels such as Alfie & Evie, Django & Juliette, Merrell, Belle Scarpe, Bresley, Minx, Kacper, Ecco and Ziera feature with many more on offer, ensuring your feet are always in impeccable hands.

We really do LOVE SHOES!! Pop in and see us!!

162 High Street, Rangiora
03 313 8444 | info@rangiorashoelines.co.nz
www.rangiorashoelines.co.nz

RANGIORA
SHOE LINES



Nice to meet you...

Hello! Katy here, founder of Feather & Oak Interiors. We are passionate about creating stylish and beautiful interiors for your home.

We would love to help with your next project.

03 313 0123 166 High Street Rangiora
featherandoak.co.nz

FEATHER & OAK
interiors



RUBY SIX

Amberley's iconic gift and design store Ruby Six offers a carefully curated range to treat yourself or that special someone. This spring, Ruby Six features clothing from Elk the Label and Coop along with a wonderful selection of accessories including Status Anxiety, Antler and Sophie Store.

6 Markham Street, Amberley
03 314 8847 | online@rubysix.co.nz
www.rubysix.co.nz



BAX & BERG
CLOTHING BOUTIQUE

BAX & BERG

Bax & Berg is a progressive designer boutique, established with intention to create confident women. Carefully curated by two New Zealand mothers, the store carries designer garments that feature purposeful tailoring and a chic, modern attitude. Bax & Berg is a home for all women to discover new pieces from the transformative world of global fashion.

88 Carters Road, Amberley
03 314 7251 | baxandberg@gmail.com
www.baxandberg.co.nz



North Canterbury
WINE & FOOD



COFFEE WORX

There is nothing more satisfying for a coffee drinker than sitting down with your favourite coffee and taking that first sip and then that feeling...aaah! Coffee is one of our favourite rituals, whether before we start our day, at mid-morning with a magazine or paper for company, or with a friend or loved one for a refreshing catch up. At Coffee Worx we are in the business of making all those moments possible by taking the time and expertise to produce award winning coffee, either at our Roastery café in Rangiora, or at your place with our retail coffee available for purchase.

Come and see for yourself why so many people from North Canterbury have made us their preferred local coffee destination, with something for everyone from our brunch menu and freshly made cabinet food, to our great range of drink options for non-coffee drinkers, all served by our friendly staff in our relaxed and welcoming retro industrial café.

13 Ashley Street, Rangiora
03 423 3243 | www.coffeeworx.co.nz



NOM NOM KITCHEN

NEW DISH ALERT

Introducing our Sticky Chicken Wings: Deep fried chicken wings caramelized with special sauce. GF and Vegan options available upon request. Experience authentic South East Asian Cuisine in a cosy, fully licensed restaurant with impressive Asian style décor.

Book 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



MAINSTREET SPORTS BAR

Celebrate the Melbourne Cup with us on Tues 3rd November and be lucky in the Mainstreet sweepstakes!! We now have full TAB facilities so be in to win, plenty of nibbles and fun... "Unlucky Punters Live Band" after the big race!

37 High Street, Rangiora
03-310 7546
Open everyday 9am-11pm



Feels boutique



Looking for a unique shopping experience? Hurunui will surprise and delight.

Designer fashion and accessories, must have homewares, artisan goods and original work from established and emerging artists all feature in beautifully presented stores and galleries dotted throughout the region. Add in the picturesque Hurunui backdrop and you've got the perfect destination for a day out. Plan your trip to the region today!

VISITHURUNUI.CO.NZ



Bax and Berg



Kjole Style



Ruby Six



Tait Gallery

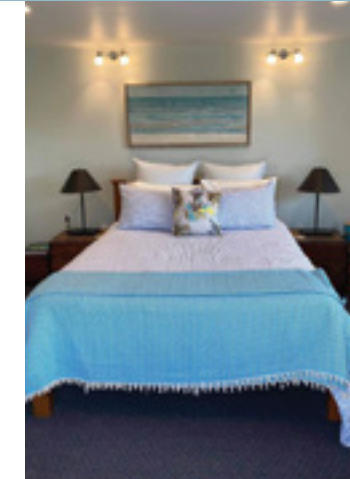
THE GOOD HOME



Overlooking Lake Pegasus, our purpose built boat sheds are designed to reflect the nautical and coastal life of the area. The Good Home Pegasus has a flavour all of its own, when you visit us you'll notice the enticing array of drinks at the bar, the tempting treats on the menu and the smiles of the friendly folk who'll serve them to you.

62 Pegasus Main St, Pegasus
03 967 6891
Open daily from 10am

ROUTE 72



Treat yourself with a visit to Route 72 Café Bar Emporium in Cust.

The "Route 72" lunching and brunching experience will be a day to remember

with friends, family or an escape on your own. With an eclectic array of fashion, homeand gardening delights there really is something for everyone. Now with private accommodation available you can stay in the picturesque village and explore the local scenery.

1697 Cust Rd, Cust | Ph 03 312 5595

KINGSFORD KITCHEN

Nestled in the bustling business district of Rangiora, North Canterbury, Kingsford Kitchen is a daytime eatery offering fresh, creative, flavoursome, New Zealand eats. Open Monday to Friday, Kingsford, a hidden gem, offers an eclectic sundries section, perfect for Christmas or thank you gifts. Their Instagram is also a worthy follow.

6 Kingsford Smith Drive, Rangiora
03-313 2190



MILLY'S FUDGE AND CHOCOLATES

Milly's Fudge and Chocolates started in the beautiful North Canterbury area of Waikuku in early September 2020.

Our fudge is made locally and we source and use local suppliers and products where possible to support Canterbury and NZ. We have fudge tastings and really enjoy our customers delight with our range of flavours.

The Old School Collective
1429 Main North Road
0273817718





GRACEBROOK

Welcome to Gracebrook. We love good fresh food!

Visit our Country store... we stock a range of quality products, including honey, pickles, sauces, jams, eggs, nuts, fresh fruit and our delicious spicy cherry sauce!

We love good food and quality products, and you can rest assured that your purchases from Gracebrook will be the best in quality and in service.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CBK CRAFT BAR & KITCHEN?

It's all about the kids down at CBK the next couple of months!

- We will be running our famous food drive during November & December. Bring in 3 cans and receive a FREE skillet cookie in return – bonus!**
- Come in from 11 November – 11 December and the kids can write a letter to Santa – and wait for a response in the letterbox in the lead up to Christmas!**
- 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@cbkkaipoi.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 10th November 2020.
One FREE Dessert per voucher.



Chicken Pesto Filo Parcels

Our successful Little Garden Promotion is coming to an end. It been very popular and a great way to encourage gardening with the younger members of your family. This month's recipe is from Our Little Garden Recipe Collection, Chicken Pesto Filo Parcels. This recipe is full of fresh flavours and is certainly easy to make and it will certainly impress your hungry dinner guests.

A couple of pointers to make your job easier, if you are pushed for time you can use one of our readymade Pesto's available in the chilled dairy section of our store. Keep an eye on the parcels as they can easily burn especially if you are reheating them up later and if you don't have any spinach you can substitute silver beet.

Until next time happy cooking.

Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 3 cups fresh basil
- 1/4 cup pistachios, deshelled!
- 1 Tbsp. vinegar or lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, peeled
- 1/3 cup Pams Cold Pressed Extra Virgin Olive Oil plus extra for brushing
- 2 cups chopped cooked chicken
- 100g ricotta cheese
- 2 cups spinach, roughly chopped
- 8 rectangular sheets filo pastry
- Green salad to serve

Prep time 30 mins | Cook time: 20 mins

- In a food processor, blend the basil, pistachios, vinegar, garlic and olive oil until smooth. Season to taste with salt and pepper, then place 1/3 cup into a large mixing bowl and set the rest aside.
- Preheat your oven to 200 degrees Celsius fan bake. To the mixing bowl, add the cooked chicken, ricotta and spinach. Mix well to combine, then season to taste with salt and pepper.
- Take one sheet of filo and brush it lightly with olive oil. Top with another filo sheet, then fold in half lengthways. Spoon 1/4 of the chicken mixture into the centre of the filo rectangle, and use your hands to bring together into a money/parcel shape.
- Place onto a lined baking tray, and repeat with the remaining pastry and chicken filling. Once all four parcels are made, place into the oven and bake for 15-20 minutes or until the parcels are golden brown and crisp.
- Serve the parcels alongside the remaining pesto and side salad of your choice.



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.



FIVE STAGS

New Look Menu ... Book Your Work Function

Time to welcome in the summer at Rangiora's popular family favourite, Five Stags. The new menu includes plenty of dishes inspired by the change of seasons and includes dishes to suit all like the delicious Blue Cod and the ever popular Popcorn Chicken.

And with party season fast approaching why not get your work do booked in? Five Stags offer the perfect setting for group bookings - with menus priced for all budgets, dishes include grazing platters and set menus as well as dishes to suit all tastes from good old fashioned pork belly to lighter options such as salmon. So if you're thinking of a family gathering, birthday or work do then get in touch with the team at Five Stags and get booked in for the perfect group dinner.

3/29 Huntingdon Drive, Arlington
03 313 7871 | www.fivestagsrangiora.co.nz



BETTER HALF CAFE & BAR

We opened our new kitchen and Bar in March 2020, with a new rustic interior design and bar, with plenty of seating, perfect for larger groups and functions, but cosy booth seating and quiet corners for those who want a more intimate dining experience. Our covered outdoor area is perfect for those sunny summer days and evenings and over the summer months, we will have bands playing every Sunday, while every Wed will hold our Quiz evenings.

We have a fabulous new menu, offering great food and our on site smoker provides a "low and slow" BBQ spin on the menu. We offer friendly service and pride ourselves on our hospitality. With plenty of off street carparking, there is plenty of room for everyone and ideal for car/bike rallies.

Open Wed to Sunday 11.30 - late (9am to late on weekends - breakfast)
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THREE LLAMAS GOURMET COFFEE

Woodend is lucky enough to have its very own spot to indulge in some seriously good java - Three Llamas Coffee House and Roastery! Not only do they pride themselves on superb coffee, they are also proud to source all their beans from a small mountainous region in northern Peru. Their selection is so good it doesn't need to be blended with coffees from other countries, no blends, no confusion - just the finest Arabica coffee from the best growing regions in Peru.

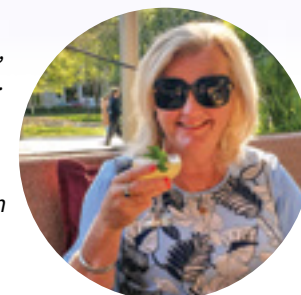
The café along the Main North Rd has some quaint tables on a small veranda where you can enjoy an espresso, have a bite to eat and take home some freshly roasted specialty beans to brew your own at home. If you are lucky you may even be able to watch them in-store, in action while they are roasting!

Three Llamas Coffee House and Roastery
65A Main North Road, Woodend
www.threellamascoffee.com Ph 03 310 0632



A taste of LEMONS

Rachel Vogan, *The Happy Gardener* has plenty of soil under her fingernails, with over 30 years in the garden game. Rachel joins the *Essence* team to share her wealth of knowledge about life up the garden path. Rachel is an acclaimed writer, *International Garden Judge*, *Radio host* and has published many books, she offers advice on gardens and is a serious plant lover.



CITRUS on my mind

With an abundance of Lemons about and with Christmas just around the corner it seems timely that my first story with *Essence* be about (Booze) and making the most of Lemons.

LIMONCELLO

This is an incredibly easy recipe, and I can tell you it will put a smile on the face of anyone who samples it. This makes a wonderful gift.

- A good bag full of ripe juicy ripe Lemons 20 - 30
- 2 bottles of vodka
- 4 cups of water
- Juice from all the lemons
- 2-3 cups of sugar.
- 2 - 3 large bottles (you can use the vodka bottles) or if you are like me you may have some empty wine bottles.

1. Peel the yellow skins, avoiding the pith
2. Place peel, lemon juice, water in a pot, add sugar and heat to dissolve sugar, then allow to cool.
3. Add vodka and mix, pour into bottles, place in a dark cupboard (hide it from yourself)
4. The colour will start to change from cloudy to bright yellow once ready. Allow 6 to 9 weeks. This recipe was adapted to suit my taste.

Top Tips for Citrus:

- Full sun, the hotter the better, nestle them up close to the house, wine barrels make great containers for Citrus.
- Protect from frost
- Feed twice a year with citrus fertiliser once now and again in autumn. Avoid using Epsom Salts too often
- Water deeply once a week from now until Autumn, half a bucket of water once a week will do it
- Prune to allow air movement through the plant, this aids in fruit production and helps prevent a build-up of black sooty mould



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We cater for large groups - specialising in car and motorbike clubs, through to casual diners and live bands play once a month with a courtesy bus to take you home.

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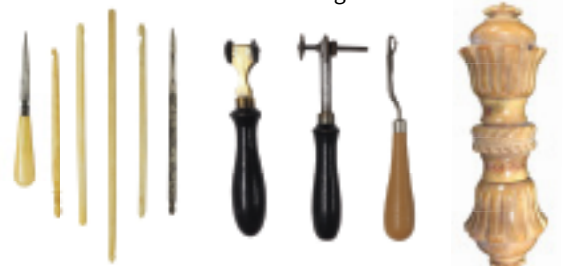
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THE Colourful COLLECTOR

Words: Pattie Pegler Images: Dorothy - Essence

Step into the entrance hall of this award-winning renovation and you're greeted with an eclectic riot of colours and objects.

There's a neat row of miniature Dutch pottery buildings in blue and white – they are given to business travellers on Dutch airline KLM. There's a glorious red and gold camel standing on the corner and a collection of old-style kettles climb the staircase.

With a lifetime spent travelling overseas and 30 years living in the United States, this space houses the memories and the intriguing objects that Stella Robinson has collected over the years.

Stella moved into this home with her husband, Ashley some twenty years ago. At the time they were still to-ing and fro-ing between their life in the US, where Ashley was a professor in public health and veterinary science at the University of Minnesota, and life back here in their native New Zealand. But this didn't stop them embarking on a full-scale renovation of the house. It's a renovation that won awards – and not surprisingly.

The double-storey home is light and bright with the rich tones of rimu on door and window frames. In the living room a rimu clad ceiling is punctured by four skylights where sunshine pours in by the fireplace. Glass doors lead through to the open plan kitchen and a dining

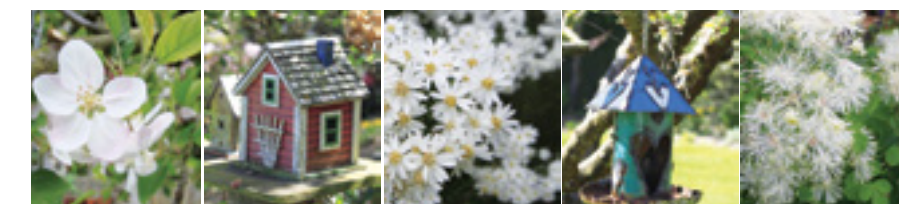
area where beams soar skywards above the dinner table into a dome ceiling.

In the adjoining lounge area a vaulted ceiling is marked by rimu cross beams and a large picture window that looks over a garden swaying with spring colour. It's in clear view from all the living areas and pale blossoms jostle for attention with pastel pink magnolias and vibrant coloured rhodos. The garden is very much part of this house with its light, bright aspect.

"I've always been interested in interiors and designs," says Stella. But she's also not afraid of hard work – she did all the oiling of every piece of rimu in this home herself she says and still mows the lawns herself in the 5-acre garden.

The light, bright space provides the perfect backdrop for the unique and unusual things she has brought back from as far afield as Thailand and Palestine.

"I loved shopping at the markets and the souks," recalls Stella. "I would often go off there when Ashley was working and I loved looking at all the bits and pieces." Her finds include some beautiful glass painted balls from Amman in Jordan and a set of elephants of varying sizes – opium weights from Thailand.



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“
It’s a renovation that won awards – and not surprisingly.

But there’s a clear kiwi influence here too. And somehow the two worlds blend seamlessly. Some Beatrix Potter figurines stand on a painted, wooden shelf from Morocco.

On one wall there is a photograph of a group of young ladies in Palestinian national dress.

“It was on the wall in a hotel we stayed at in Ramallah,” says Stella. “Ashley asked the hotel manager where we could get one and he just took it off the wall and gave it to us.”

On an adjoining wall is a very kiwi water painting of the archetypal rural red shed. After spending 30 years in the US

however, Stella has found it hard in some ways to leave her life there behind entirely. Her daughter, currently recovering from Covid, remains living in Minnesota with her own family and Stella also misses friends she has left behind. And she confesses to being transfixed by the unfolding dramas of US politics – spending much of her time watching CNN in the peaceful, bright lounge area.

“It’s the same language but a different culture. I do miss my friends,” she says, reflecting on her time overseas. But she has made new friends and reconnected with old ones back in North Canterbury.

“I think I just fit in wherever I am”, she says.

Planning The Outdoor Room

Words: **Pattie Pegler** Images: **Dorothy - Essence**

When it comes to summer most of us want to make the most of our outdoor space – whether that’s an unruly bit of grass or an expansive deck. So how do you get started?

“Think about what you actually like,” says Dan. “A lot of people I see really struggle with visualising.” To help overcome this he recommends collecting images of outdoor spaces or things you like on your phone and then scrolling through your gallery whilst holding the phone up to your garden space.

Look at the space in real life and take note of how the natural elements affect it. There’s no point in creating an outdoor dining space where prevailing winds are going to whip away your paper plates unless you’ve got some plans to block out the wind. Whether you block it out with modern glass panels or sturdy trellis covered in lush climbing green is up to your personal taste.

And, of course, you’re going to need some flat ground to work with before you start laying out decks or tiles or courtyards. Typically you will want three main spaces in the outdoor area. One for eating with a table and seats; one for relaxing with comfy chairs or outdoor couches and one for cooking – where you will probably have your barbecue.

It’s important to have a space either around the barbecue or nearby where people can stand says Dan, “blokes like standing around with a beer in hand while one of them cooks”. With some idea of the style you want it also helps to mark out the areas of your outdoor space, you can use stakes and string or marking spray paint - it’s another great way to visualise your ideas before you start building.

“With decks people often think they don’t need as much space,” says Dan. “But when they’re built they never think they are too big.”

Think about your budget and your priorities. If you want a small cosy space cascading with greenery you may want to spend up on plants first – get feature trees in as soon as possible says Dan.



“blokes like standing around with a beer in hand while one of them cooks”



“blokes like standing around with a beer in hand while one of them cooks”

But if outdoor entertaining is your favourite pastime then you may want to divide up your spending differently and splash out on some statement pieces.

A lot of people like the concrete look and it doesn’t need the same degree of maintenance as wood furnishings. “You can leave these outside year in and year out and they still look good,” says Shane Kirwan, of In Situ GRC, who advises customers on creating outdoor kitchens featuring a special form of concrete that is both stronger and lighter than the traditional. It can be used for everything from tables to countertops and outdoor fire-places.

And again, get back to basics with planning says Shane. “Think about how many people you might want to seat in your outdoor room and think about what you want to cook on.” Shane helps people design areas that incorporate anything from basic barbecues to full on kitchens with under bench fridges, pizza ovens and all manner of cooking facilities from smokers to braai – the choices are endless. “The barbecue is usually a social point for guys so make sure it’s not facing a wall,” advises Shane.

If you already have an outdoor spot but just want to give it a revamp then there are plenty of ways to get inspired. Try some new outdoor chairs – at the time of writing you can pick up some gorgeous retro rattan on TradeMe for a song. Repurpose old items – large wooden cable reels can make great outdoor drinks tables for instance. Grab some cheap and cheerful accessories to colour up a small drab space – you could throw down some fake turf on a dull concrete patch and invest in a couple of colourful deckchairs. Or keep an eye out for fabulous aged plant pots of all shapes and sizes that can be stuffed with lush greens and pops of colour.

The choices are endless so sit down, make a plan and start pulling together your perfect outdoor room. Summer is coming.



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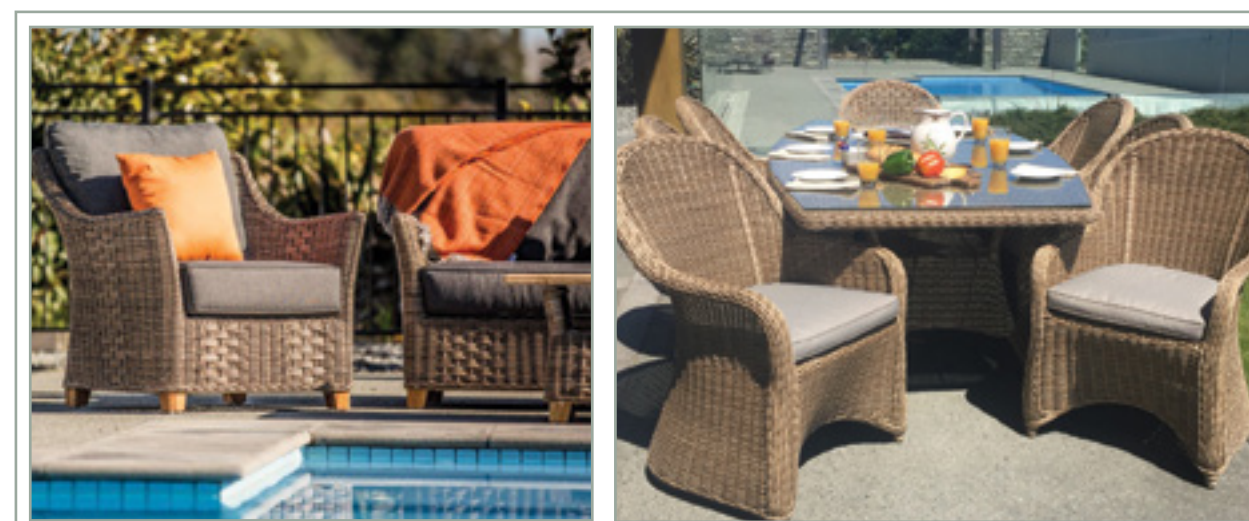
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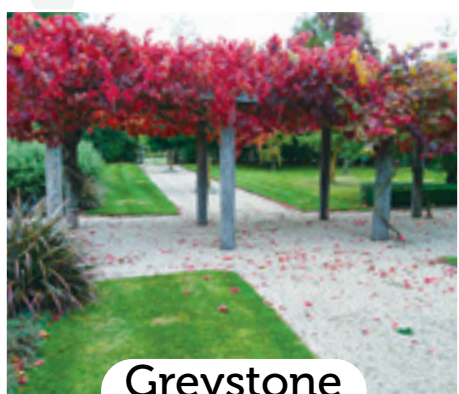
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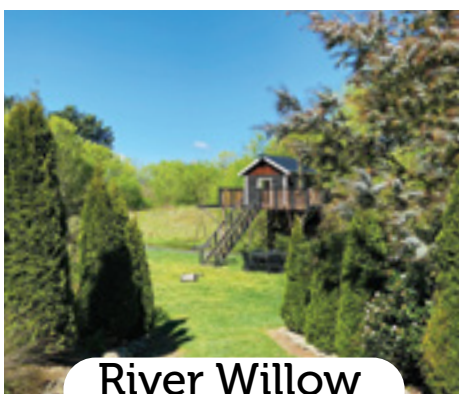


Greystone

This well established, perfectly manicured garden is a delight.

Influenced by English gardens, the owners wanted a formal layout. The feature of the garden is the 120 long lime-chipped broad walk with avenues of Robinias. As you wander you will come across a sunken garden, a pond with a jetty and mosaic sculptures created by the owner.

With an abundance of buxus hedging framing 80 rhododendrons, roses, peonies and lilies, this garden is to be both enjoyed and admired.



River Willow

Hard to believe this garden was just gorse and broom 7 years ago when the owners brought the property after losing their house in the earthquakes.

The owner has been creating a master piece with different pathways to explore with luscious lawns, fruit trees, vegetable beds and a gorgeous outdoor bath with a candle chandelier!

Be sure to check out "The She Shed" which was nominated highly commended in 2017 in New Zealand Gardener Magazine and the chook house where the hens lay in luxury.



Doberman House

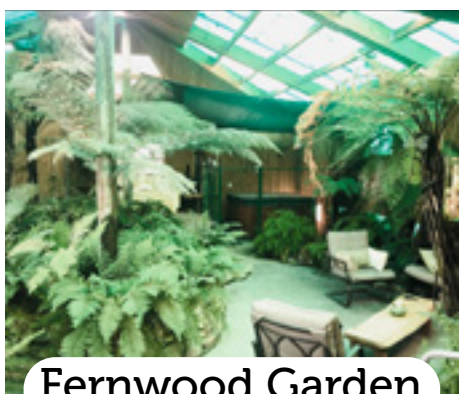
Homely, functional and over 100 years old, this quaint house features an easy-care cottage garden with informal design and dense planting. A lot of love and care has gone into this garden and it is bursting with character, there are many pathways leading you through the garden. A feature not to miss is the bridge that leads you on a walk over the pond.

Fondly the owners tell the story of when they first viewed the property they found a cow walking out of the front door!



Fernside School Garden & Market Day

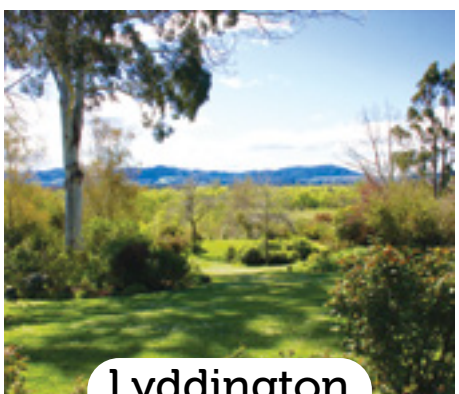
Come along to the free bustling market day at Fernside School. There will be a variety of quality market stalls, a busy kids market, children's entertainment, coffee cart, cake stall, sausage sizzle and a variety of other food options. Fernside School are proud of their gardens which have become an outdoor classroom. With 10 raised beds, a large communal garden, glasshouse, fruit trees and more - it is worth checking out their incredible space!



Fernwood Garden

Purchased in 1993 as a 16 acre bare block, this garden was first planted with trees, perennials borders and shady woodland areas. The house was originally a 1940's Station Masters home, which was moved in 2000 from Kaiapoi.

The Fernery is a must see - the owner has created a great space for social gatherings and a relaxing spa can be found amongst the ferns. The vegetable garden includes a bird proof tunnel house and Peonies that were originally planted as a commercial venture have now made their way into the main garden.



Lyddington

What a spot to have your picnic lunch and enjoy the views with a Pimms or two! What is now a spectacular hillside garden with glorious views to Mount Grey and Mount Thomas was on a wilderness of broom and gorse 62 years ago.

Now covering 10 acres, Lyddington features stunning vistas, old roses, rhododendrons, clematis, fruit trees, ponds, herbaceous borders, trees and shrubs.

Be sure to check out the gorgeous cottage that was built by Mr Allison using mud bricks and wood that was milled from the farm.

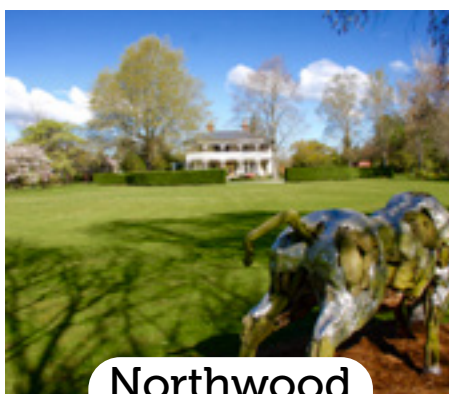


Native Garden

Only 5 years old, this garden is a great way to see what you can do with a bare paddock area! Having their own Landscape Contracting Business, the owners have, and are still in the process of creating a fantastic garden and entertainment area around their house.

A planted bank has many different varieties of native trees and shrubs - which has produced a beautiful forest of shelter and the birdlife love it too.

Planting lots of hedging plants such as pittosporum and photinias has been an excellent way to define areas around the property.



Northwood

Our stunning lunch garden built in 1886 for the Chapman brothers. This grand old dame is undergoing a revitalisation of both home and garden. It is the new owner's intention to develop the gardens for others to enjoy too, offering a venue for garden tours, high teas, weddings, photographic shoots, celebrations and events.

A huge array of different trees and established rhododendrons form the bones for this country garden with a Japanese tea house, a formal rose garden, a circular garden and a silo bar where you can purchase tea and coffee to enjoy alongside your gourmet lunch.

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 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.

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