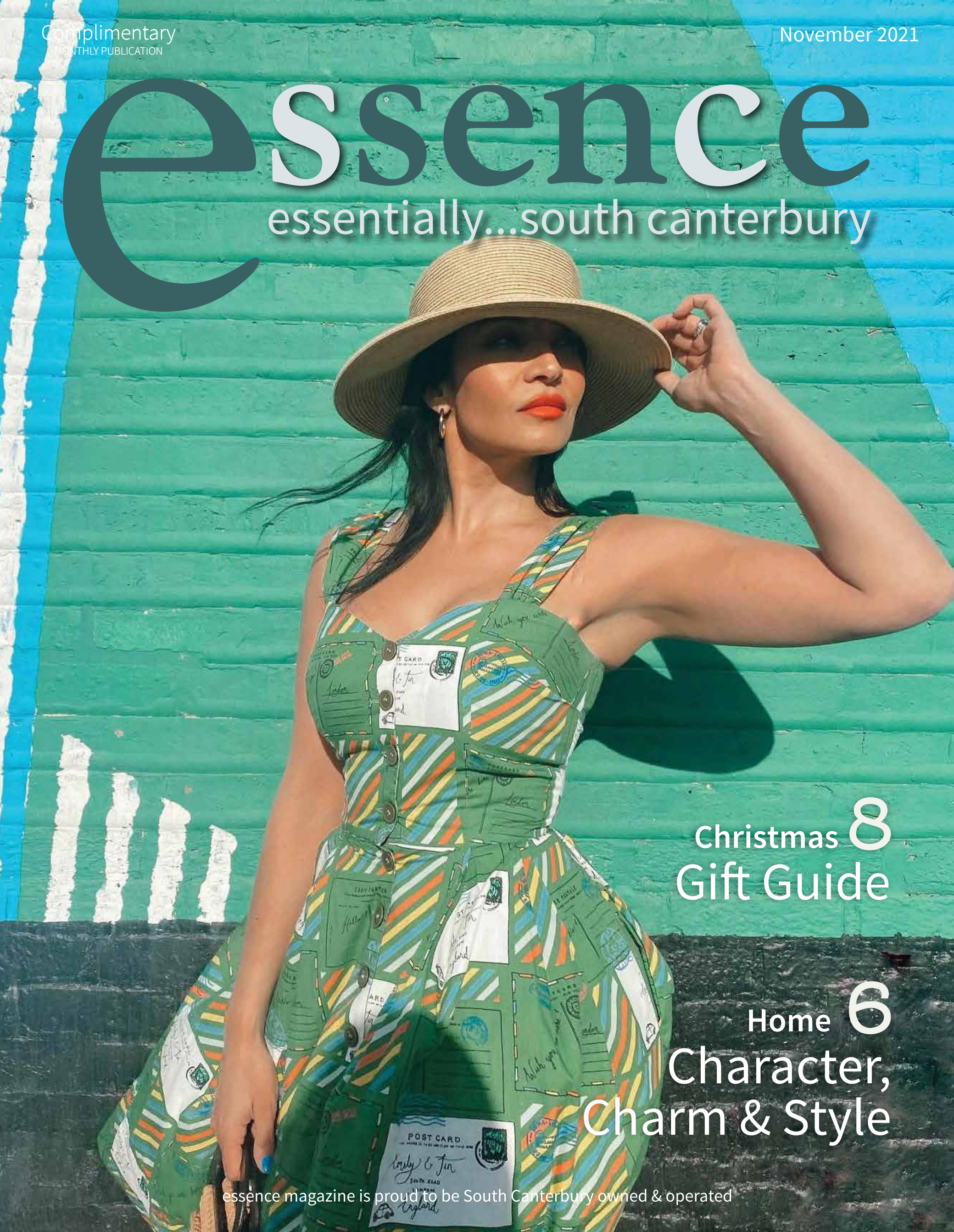


essence

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Christmas **8**
Gift Guide

Home **6**
Character,
Charm & Style

GET THE LOOK

Love Shopping? Then Shop Local for the greatest benefit. 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.

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contents

The Christmas parade may have been cancelled this year and that is extremely upsetting for our small folk and the large group of sponsors and volunteers that put so much time, effort and financial support into organising such events. Let's try and stay positive and think of other inventive ways to add some joy to the season. There are still plenty of things we can do and go to for now - fingers crossed!

One option, if it fits within your budget, is to get involved with Christmas Angels. This innovative organisation is helping South Canterbury families survive the stress and struggles that often come to the fore at Christmas. We have details of how you can get involved on page 23.

Nestled among the new and old of one of Timaru's most popular streets, sits a mid-century gem that oozes character, charm and style. Built in 1964, the Māori Hill property has been well-loved and cared for over the last 57 years and is now being lovingly restored by its current owner Sally. Story page 6.

As you know we are all about promoting local. Shop local, stay local and discover local, so we are thrilled to once again put together our Christmas Gift Guide which showcases all that's great about South Canterbury. Check out our feature pages 8-12.

While we try our hardest to get things right - we do make mistakes. We would like to apologise to any readers that may have been offended with our misuse of 'Ohau Perfect' as a headline last month. We are all trying to embrace Te Reo Māori more but unfortunately we don't always get it right as a reader quite rightly pointed out. It's no excuse and we sincerely apologise.

Enjoy your month - Dorothy

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This month's cover is from Amanda's Bridal in Waimate. Check out her fantastic summer range in store.



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Multiple Sclerosis Garden Walk

The Multiple Sclerosis South Canterbury fundraiser showcased five beautiful gardens in the Pleasant Point on Saturday 2nd of October. This event was filled with locals enjoying a fantastic community event and the work that had been put into each garden!

Good morning team,
I am writing to you to say thank you for the fantastic photos and editorial that you provided for us in your October edition. It was great coverage and we are so grateful.
Please pass on our gratitude to your photographer and Gilly.
Our garden walk was extremely successful and we have raised with your help just under \$7000.00
These funds will benefit those in South Canterbury living with Multiple Sclerosis
Yours sincerely,
Rose Davidson - Volunteer for M.S.



What's on

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

Geraldine Lioness Lions Club presents an

Geraldine Academy of Performance and Art (Talbot St, Geraldine - Opposite Cinema)
Sunday 14th November, 10am - 4pm. Entry fee \$5, children free
Professional appraisals of your items and jewellery - no furniture (\$5 per item).
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WOODBURY HILL COUNTRY CHALLENGE

Orari Gorge Station, 1021 Tripp Settlement Rd, Geraldine. Saturday 6 November, 8am - 3pm.
Trail run and Mountain bike event held at historic Orari Gorge Station as a main fundraiser for Woodbury School.
This event allows access to Orari Gorge Station which offers a challenging course with amazing scenery.
The Woodbury Hill Country Challenge offers events that allow the whole family to get involved.

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words: Michelle McCullough

Character, charm and style

Nestled among the new and old of one of Timaru's most popular streets sits a mid-century gem that oozes character, charm and style.

Built in 1964, the Māori Hill property has been well-loved and cared for over the last 57 years and is now being lovingly restored by its current owner Sally. Sally purchased the architecturally designed home in late 2020 and knew immediately it was the home for her.

"I was looking for a retirement property and it was just so lovely, warm and comfortable. With banks of windows and doors opening to sunny courtyard areas, the light and brightness of the house was outstanding. I was determined to maintain the integrity of the building and its mid-century styling."

The home has been built using quality timbers and features an abundance of windows and doors, allowing light to stream into the home from all angles. The living room of the home opens to a sunny and sheltered courtyard which is the perfect spot to relax and watch the world go by.



"After many years of doing everything ourselves, we employed some very good tradesmen which is the key to doing anything. I'm also proud to say that I have been able to source all products and fittings in Timaru."

"The house is a pleasure to live in, with light and sun flooding into every room. The courtyard gardens are calm and restful, with just a little bit of replanting planned for over summer."

A focal point of Sally's home is the gallery-style kitchen which has been beautifully restored, with special attention taken to ensure the kitchen cabinets reflect the style of the 1960s.

"This was possible because some of the original cupboards had been hung in the garage for storage. This allowed the joiners at Gale Builders to replicate the style perfectly."

The kitchen features a Formica bench that has been constructed by Blacks Fabricators which Sally described as "understated but perfect".

Complementing the cabinetry and bench are gorgeous green kitchen tiles from Fine Floors. The North Street business also supplied the home's luxurious pure wool soft green carpet. This green tone correlates perfectly with the cream walls that extend throughout the beautiful home. As for the home's soft furnishings, Sally enlisted the help of Timaru interior designer Deborah Still.

"The windows are a real feature in this house and require many metres of curtaining. The brief was for something understated in the large lounge, but a splash of colour in the reading room. Deborah came up with the perfect fabrics for the whole house and arranged everything from the making through to the hanging."

"Ashley Milliken Furniture were able to supply a dining suite in a light natural timber, with clean lines that suit the house. Also in a style that complements the house are the light fittings supplied by Timaru Lighthouse."

Dotted around the home are trinkets and treasures from the past 50 years, including a stunning collection of vintage Hamner Pottery.

This restoration project has been made possible thanks to some of Timaru's best tradespeople, Sally said.

"After many years of doing everything ourselves, we employed some very good tradesmen which is the key to doing anything. I'm also proud to say that I have been able to source all products and fittings in Timaru."



Deborah Still
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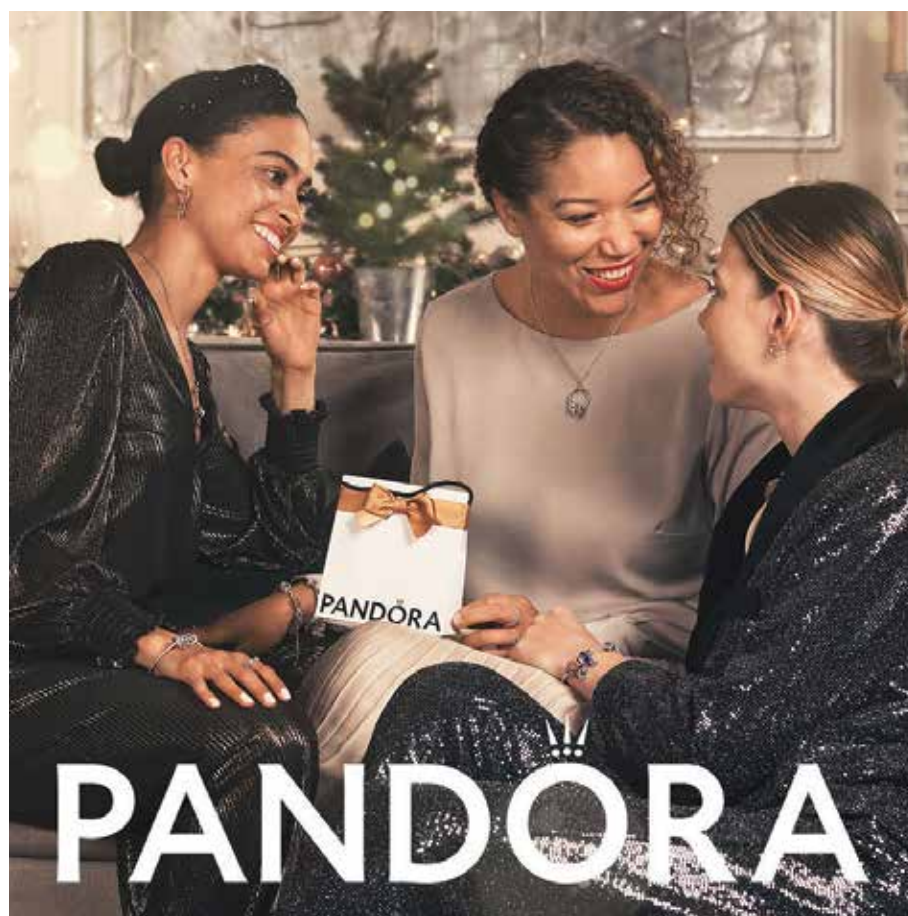
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Passionate about *Nursing*

words: Gilly Oppenheim



Running a general practice is busy, complex and increasingly hard work and our local doctors are run off their feet. I had a chat at one of Timaru's newest practices, Medi Clinic, where two delightful young women are training as nurse practitioner interns. Caroline Gander comes from Malaysia and Tabitha Kahwema from Zimbabwe.

Tell me a little about your backgrounds?

Caroline: I was brought up in Kuala Lumpur and came to New Zealand as a registered nurse after graduating in 2010. I lived in Auckland for 1 1/2 years and worked in a rest home delivering rest home and hospital level care for six months. I came to Timaru in 2012 to work in AT&R for two years at the Timaru Hospital, followed by work in the Emergency Department. I started work at the Medi Clinic in April this year.

Tabitha: My family came to Auckland from Harare as missionaries in 2003 when I was just five and then we moved to Vancouver in Canada where I completed secondary school. In 2014 we moved to Dunedin where I did my nursing training. I graduated in 2017 and worked in a rest home and then for the SDHB in Dunedin. I also started work at the Medi Clinic this year.

What attracted you to New Zealand?

Caroline: I wanted to practice outside Malaysia and I had family already living in New Zealand. As a city girl who grew up in the rat race in Kuala Lumpur, the quality of life appealed here where people seem to enjoy the more relaxed lifestyle. I even became a ballroom and Latin dancing "junkie" after moving to Timaru. I have married a good kiwi man and we now have two young daughters aged five and three.

Tabitha: I came with my parents and although we moved to Canada in 2008, I consider New Zealand to be my home. In 2020

I married another Zimbabwean who followed me out here and we love the laidback lifestyle which offers so many opportunities. We love how New Zealand is a multicultural country and we feel a sense of belonging here in Aotearoa. I love to serve my whanau and my community, whether it is through cooking a meal, entertaining, or even using my skills and knowledge to empower others around me. I love children and I am looking forward to having children of my own with my husband in beautiful Timaru.

Tell me about your study?

Both women are completing their studies to become qualified nurse practitioners. Caroline is completing her Masters in Advanced Nursing Practice from the University of Otago and Tabitha is doing her Masters in Clinical Nursing through Massey. This year has been a challenging one with the various study requirements and the effects of Covid. The different alert levels and having to complete their placements in different practice areas has not always been easy.

They both acknowledged the shortage of doctors and subsequent burnout in New Zealand. A lot of older doctors are retiring and locums are not always easy to find. Most Timaru practices seem to be able to retain their staff and New Zealand is an attractive destination if overseas doctors can get their residency. Caroline and Tabitha see their role as filling the gaps in primary healthcare to make healthcare accessible to the community, and delivering

healthcare with a fusion of the nursing and medical models of care. The Medi Clinic is lucky to have these two!

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New Café Open

If eating cheesecake in a beautiful setting is your thing, then you need to get yourself down to the Timaru Town and Country Club.

After more than two years of preparation, the popular club's new cafe is officially open and ready for business. With barista coffee, cabinet food and a menu full of options to suit every taste bud, the cafe is an exciting addition to the family-friendly club.

The menu has been carefully put together by Timaru Town and Country Club Catering Manager / Head Chef Conrad Amaru and Sous Chef and baker Brienne Wilson. It caters for different dietary requirements including gluten-free, vegetarian and Keto.

The catering team have spent the last few months fine-tuning the menu with the help of club staff including general manager Vince Gardner who has added chief taster to his list of duties.

"It's been a fantastic time but I've actually had to ask my team to stop giving me things to try. When you go up one and a half kgs you



have to think now hang on, I'm not doing things right here. So we've been getting other staff members to try the menu, and they've been speaking very highly of the food. And of course, they're all complaining about putting on weight."

Like the rest of the club, the cafe is open to members, non-members and their children, Vince said.

"Everyone is welcome to come to the cafe and make use of it. There is no requirement to be a member. It's a great place to be, we have such beautiful green vistas out the front windows, otherwise known as the Highfield Golf Course. We're away from the main road and we have ample car parking."

The club now boasts a popular family restaurant and a function area for special occasions and conferences. Twenty-eight different sporting and special interest groups call the club home, and it is also utilised by various service groups including the Returned Services Association, Zonta, and the Timaru Rotary and Lions Clubs.

From September 30, every member who orders something from the cafe menu will go into a draw to win one of two \$250 Membership Card Loads to use at the club.

The Timaru Town and Country Club cafe opens seven days a week at 9.30am.



Phone 03 688 0025

99 Douglas Street, Timaru | www.timaruclubs.co.nz



FROM THE Mayors Desk

"I want to congratulate the Mackenzie communities for the love and care that Mackenzie folk generously give to one another. Delta's effect has been felt across our district even further but I'd like to think that we as a community have a focus on buying local and supporting local. It's important I encourage as many residents as possible to have the Covid vaccine and ask those who have doubts to talk to your doctor to understand what's best for you. As Mayor, it's my priority to ensure the district's safety and I'm concerned that medical facilities will not cope if Delta was to gain a hold in our region. It would be great to see the rate of vaccination at 95% in Mackenzie which would give confidence to those wanting to holiday here and in turn, our economy will strengthen again. We've been speaking with South Canterbury DHB who is bringing the vaccination to our people by running clinics in Braemar, Mt. Cook, Grays Hills etc. and in fact will come to any location or organisation to help where it's needed. We need to act quickly for our own protection as Central Governments easing of restrictions may see it reaching the South Island.



The Mackenzie District is currently experiencing a critical labour shortage and our businesses are struggling to fill vacancies particularly as we head towards the busy summer season.

If you are looking for a change of pace, or a new adventure, please consider the Mackenzie District as your next home. Contact Leanne Rush, MTFJ Co-ordinator on 0210 554 844 to discuss the opportunities that are waiting for you. If you have lost your job because of COVID or receive financial assistance from MSD, you may be eligible for a grant to assist with the cost of relocating.

Despite all of the hard work and hurdles above, the Mackenzie has moved into spring. We are lucky to have our 4 distinct seasons. Spring with its changing colours brings new life in animals, birds and plants and as a farmer it's a season that I always look forward to. The Mackenzie welcomes you. Breathe some high-country air and appreciate our unique beauty and become inspired to enjoy life. It's the little things.

Graham Smith
Mackenzie District Council

TIMARU Christmas Lights

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Enter the Timaru Xmas Lights Competition by registering at www.Timarusantaparade.co.nz by Monday 6th December 2021
Competition Details on Website/Facebook

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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.

There has been a phenomenal burst of growth in the garden recently, and with the lovely warm weather, and rain, I expect a lush garden this summer.

Garden tasks this month

It's all systems go for gardening at the moment – you can plant nearly anything and everything in November, but be aware of late frosts and cold winds. With the variable weather you have to be ready with frost coverings and make sure all your plans are staked and tied down well, and for those sweltering and dry days, water and shade should be priorities.

As always, when sowing or transplanting take care to note the regional climate zone and the specific microclimates you have in your own garden to ensure the right growing conditions are present for the plants you want to grow.



Early to mid-season is also an excellent time to be vigilant for any bug infestations. When you walk around your garden, take note of which plants show pest damage, and see about finding eco-friendly solutions before it becomes serious enough to inhibit your plant's performance. Sometimes all you need though is a bit of patience as nature often "rights itself" and balance gets restored, especially if you have a natural and organic approach to gardening: e.g., ladybugs coming into the garden just as aphids seem to get out of control.

Sowing and planting

The Canterbury region is rather large, with quite 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

Pretty much anything from A-Z can be sown or planted late spring. Here's a few ideas:

Sow seed of amaranth, artichoke (globe), beans, beetroot, silverbeet, chicory, carrot, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, lettuce, radish, pumpkin, spring onion and sweet corn.

Plant asparagus crowns, Jerusalem artichoke tubers, kumara slips, and seed potato. Seedlings of brassicas like broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower be planted, as well as warm season crops such as eggplant, capsicums, chillies, tomatoes, squash, tomatillo, watermelon and zucchini. Also onion, NZ spinach, Florence fennel, and leek seedlings.

Herbs

Sow herbs like chervil, chives, coriander, lemon balm, oregano and marjoram, rosemary, sage, and savory.

Transplant seedlings of basil, tarragon, mint, parsley, thyme, and rocket. Plant crowns of horseradish and rhubarb. Plant comfrey.

Fruit and Flowers

Sow Cape gooseberry seeds, plant raspberry, strawberry and passionfruit plants, and citrus.

Sow or plant calendula, cleome, cornflower, marigold,



gaillardia, cosmos, dahlia, nasturtium, sunflower, sweetpea, coreopsis, snapdragon, zinnia...and many more!

Tomato Thoughts

Late October to mid-November is tomato planting time, and as a crazy tomato lady with seeds for hundreds of varieties of heirloom tomatoes, I share a few of my tomato thoughts.

When to plant:

Some say Labour Day and others say no earlier than Christchurch Show Day, but there's no "one size fits all" - every year is a bit different weather wise as is each garden. What is important is that tomatoes are warm season croppers that don't like frosts or cold wind. There's an old wives' tale that says that you can plant them when you can sit with your bare bum on the soil comfortably!

Heirloom vs Hybrids:

Heirloom tomatoes have stood the test of time for their exquisite taste and interesting colours and shapes. They are easy to save seed from too, coming true to type, meaning your future tomatoes will be the same as the parent.

Hybrid tomatoes are great too, they are often bred to produce abundantly, generally have crops of uniform tomatoes, and have other special traits like being good for pots or showing specific disease resistance. While you can save seed from hybrid tomatoes, your resulting plants very likely will not produce a tomato similar to the parent.

How to plant:

Plant deep (include most of the stem underground) to ensure your tomato develops a good root system.

Add amendments (optional) - you can add a cocktail of interesting things like fish heads, blood and bone, horse manure, eggshells, even Epsom salts and milk powder. But, if you did your groundwork, and your soil is good, your plants won't need more than seaweed conditioner and some fertilizer through the season.

- Stake and support growing plants well.
- Mulch to retain moisture.
- Companion plant with marigold, calendula, basil, borage, marjoram, chives, or parsley.
- Check regularly for pests and diseases.
- Enjoy your harvest!



Stephen & Diana Retire

For more than 40 years Stephen Brown has been helping Kiwis make Christmas special for their loved ones, but this year he will be treating himself to a well-earned holiday with his wife Diana.

Stephen and Diana own popular Timaru business Ron Brown Jewellers, and after many successful years they have decided that the time is right to retire with a plan to close the business at the end of November.

"We can't wait to have a Christmas to ourselves. It'll be the first time in about 40 years. I'm 69, I work six days a week and I've struggled to take a holiday. My wife and I, inevitably when we take a break, we take it separately because one of us has to be at the business."

The couple plan to split their time between Timaru, Twizel and Nelson and have plans to do more gardening, fishing, gold-panning, and hanging out with their three grandchildren and their daughters Julie and Rebecca.

"We're really looking forward to having time to ourselves, enjoying the holiday home and spending time with our grandchildren who we just love to bits."

Ron Brown Jewellers was established in 1949 by Stephen's father, Ronald Orbell Brown. After leaving school at 17 years old Stephen followed his dad into the jewellery business but the timing was not right.

"It didn't work out with my dad. I was young and had my own ideas on how a business should be run. I think I needed to do a bit of maturing so I went out into the big wide world and did a couple of jobs and got married."

Stephen eventually returned to the family business, and alongside Diana took over ownership of the business in 1981 before relocating it in 1988 to a purpose-built facility with an office, workroom and retail store at 304 Stafford Street.

For me, my customers are the highlight. Diana and I have met so many wonderful people through our work and made lifelong friends. I would just like to thank everyone for their support.

For Stephen, the success of Ron Brown Jewellers came down to one thing: great staff.

"The key to any successful business is good, loyal staff members. We've been extremely lucky and would like to thank all of our past and present staff members from the last 40 years."

Building trust with his customers has also played an important role in the success of the business.

"Jewellery is a deeply personal thing for people. We've kept all our sales private, and we would never tell other people that someone has bought a large piece of jewellery. That's been very important in the running of this business."

Stephen said owning the business has had its fair share of highlights but none more so than the relationships he has made over the years.

"For me, my customers are the highlight. Diana and I have met so many wonderful people through our work and made lifelong friends. I would just like to thank everyone for their support."

Another key highlight for the couple was their ability to give back to the South Canterbury community. In 2019, in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the business, the couple gave away ten \$800 watches. Stephen and Diana



have also given away multiple diamond rings and made countless donations to schools and organisations over the years.

"It was just our way to show our appreciation for all the support we received from the local community."

While it is the end of an era for Ron Brown Jewellers, Stephen is not completely walking away from the jewellery business.

"I've started another business called The Mobile Gold Buyer where I buy and sell gold. It's my little retirement business."

Make sure you pop in and see Stephen and Diana before they begin their next adventure.

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HEARTFELT THANKS

Steve and Diana would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to all staff that have worked for Ron Brown Jewellers over the 42 years and Steve and Diana recognize their contribution to the running and success of the business also a heartfelt thanks to all clients past and present for their support and loyalty over the years.

Thank you all for your help and dedication it will be sad to close the doors at the end of November (or sooner if stocks are sold out!) however with family and grandchildren spread over the country, as well as new caravan adventures beckoning, Diana and Steve anticipate their retirement will be just as busy as their working life has been!

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The Croft Retirement Village

New modern apartments

words: Michelle McCullough

After three years of planning and one year of construction, Presbyterian Support South Canterbury is excited to announce the opening of their new modern apartments at The Croft Retirement Village.

The nine new apartments are self-contained with a modern kitchen, laundry and dining area as well as having access to a communal living and dining space. These beautiful ground-floor apartments are north-facing and will be available for occupancy in November.

Presbyterian Support South Canterbury Enliven Liaison Manager, Caro Sexton-Phillips, said the apartments would cater for people who are in need of some assistance in order to remain independent and in their own home.

"They will also meet the needs of people who have limited family support with families living out of town who are not always able to get home in times of need. This will give families security to know their loved ones will have daily contact and assistance in a safe and caring environment."

The apartments, which are available for people over the age of 65, come with a range of services including midday meals, morning and afternoon tea and a weekly laundry and cleaning service. Residents will also have access to a registered nurse, a medication delivery service and emergency call bell.

"The supported living package has been carefully designed to provide sufficient assistance to keep our residents healthy and safe but still allows for individuals to



create living environments that nurture and celebrate companionship, spontaneity, enjoyment, choice, meaningful activity, and a balance between the giving and receiving of care. In keeping with these principles, apartment residents will have access to other facilities located within the village's picturesque setting including full use of the parklike grounds, scenic walkways, a daily activity programme and organised events and entertainment. They would also be able to use the apartments communal areas where they could make new friends and entertain guests.

maintain maximum levels of independence. Extra services can be added either from the suite of services available through Presbyterian Support or via community services and chosen providers."

The Croft Retirement Village operates under The Eden Alternative® model which is a philosophy that promotes health, wellbeing, and growth to ward off loneliness, helplessness and boredom. The ten core principles

"Family members and friends are all welcome to visit and spend time with the residents. Short stays can be arranged with management approval. We ask potential and new residents to talk to us about pets. We welcome pets to visit and there are some that live on site," Caro said.

Presbyterian Support South Canterbury will be holding an open day on Saturday 13th of November from 1.00pm-3.30pm for potential residents and families to

view the new apartments. Interest is already high with some exclusive viewings already planned before going to market. If you are interested, contact Caro Sexton-Phillips on 03 687 1120 or email: Caroly.Sexton-Phillips@pssc.co.nz to arrange a visit before they all sell.

The Croft Retirement Village is situated at 12 Park Lane in Timaru and is conveniently located a short walk from the Highfield Village Mall, which includes a supermarket, shops, and a café.



Presbyterian Support South Canterbury Enliven provides a range of agedcare and retirement options under Enliven Services, including:

Residential rest home care:

- The Croft, Margaret Wilson & Wallingford
- Hospital level care
- Independent and supported retirement living options
- Specialist dementia care
- Respite care
- Palliative care
- Too Easy Frozen Meals

Community based care includes:

- CommunityFIRST
- HomeFIRST
- Home Support
- Saturday Club
- Te Pokapū (The Hub)

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Haydon is a local here in South Canterbury, although our community share him with the rest of the world. He got stuck in New Zealand due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on international travel. So, he thought this would be a perfect opportunity to give something back to the community for all their support.

Even though he has many world class achievements, he is still humble and that is what makes it great to work on a road safety campaign with him. He is mentally and physically on top of his game, but he is also a regular guy, a road user like the rest of us. As a driver on public roads, he is as calm as you can get because he able to distinguish between Hayden in a race and Hayden on the road.

Haydon's standards are high. He would not put himself in a predicament because he knows better. And that is

the message he helps to promote. When on the road, you are not in a race. In a race they control the environment. The public has no vehicle access to the route, every driver heads in the same direction, the cars and drivers are top spec, and the drivers all have navigators telling them every moment what to expect.

"Our aim is to make drivers aware of the risks involved when entering bends too fast."

On public roads, its different. There are none of these helps a rally driver has available except his or her sound decision-making skills. People can learn that too, but at the end it is still a conscious decision the driver makes.

Our aim is to make drivers aware of the risks involved when entering bends too fast. You may be travelling within the speed limit but approaching most bends at that speed is extremely risky. The crash data shows that losing control at bends are one of the three most dangerous crash types.

Head-on crashes and loss of control on straight roads are the other two.

The safest choice is to slow down enough before entering the bend so that you do not have to brake hard in the bend. Most crashes happen because drivers go in too fast and hit the brakes hard causing the vehicle to become unstable and go out of control.

You can help us by sharing this message with your family and friends. Slow down before entering bends.

Scan this QR code with your phone to view the video.



"Slow down BEFORE entering bends"

– HAYDEN PADDON

Photos: Stu Jackson



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words: Gilly Oppenheim

The Magic of Christmas Angels

While Christmas can be a joyous time, it can also be a time of extreme struggle and stress for some South Canterbury families. Hence the gift of giving this Christmas. With your help these families can have a magical Christmas.

How does the Christmas Angel Project work?

Family Works will identify the families most in need in our community and will give you a profile of this family, including their ages and interests. You and your staff then shop for the family based on their profile, often for something that the family couldn't otherwise afford. It could be supermarket or petrol vouchers, Warehouse vouchers, movie tickets, edible treats, books, swim vouchers, board games or puzzles or even clothes, shoes or a voucher for toiletries or the hairdresser. Family Works will collect the gifts from you or you can drop them off on the designated delivery dates. Your gifts will then be delivered to your family just before Christmas. Anonymity is the key to this project and everyone's privacy is protected.

Jan Hide, the programme co-ordinator, got involved three years ago and said she really liked the idea that this project matches the specific wants of each family.



"With your help these families can have a magical Christmas."

Many of us who live in South Canterbury are not aware of some families with massive needs – many children have special needs or are traumatized by circumstances beyond their control. Grandparents supporting grandchildren are often financially stretched, as their

benefit only stretches so far, but they want their grandchildren to experience the magic of Christmas. Jan is passionate about the Christmas Angel project and said she often wonders how she herself would cope with many of the problems faced by these families.

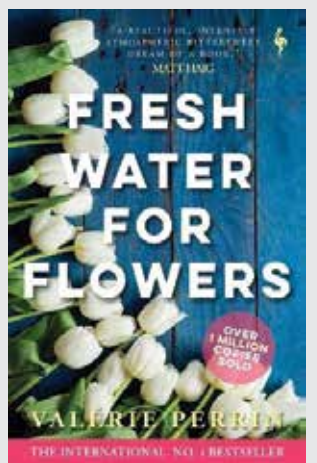
You can decide how this would work best for your individual family, business group or school and how involved you will become in the project. Last year over 90 families in our region were supported by this wonderful project. The families were so grateful and overwhelmed by the generosity of their Christmas Angel and the Christmas Angels said it felt really good to be able to help a family in need. If you would like to support some of South Canterbury's most vulnerable families you can go online to register at: pssc.org.nz/the-christmas-angel-project or email ChristmasAngels@pssc.co.nz

Off the Book Shelf

words: Gilly Oppenheim

Fresh Water for Flowers VALÉRIE PERRIN

Violette Toussaint is the caretaker at a cemetery in a small town in Bourgogne. Random visitors, regulars, and, most notably, her colleagues—three gravediggers, three groundskeepers and a priest visit her as often as possible to warm themselves in her lodge, where laughter, companionship, and occasional tears mix with the coffee that she offers them. Her daily life is lived to the rhythms of their hilarious and touching confidences. A cast of characters cross Violette's path and their stories are revealed as the novel progresses. Her missing husband Philippe, his mean-spirited mother and father, her dearest friends Celia and Sasha, the former caretaker of the cemetery who makes her laugh. She hasn't had a happy life, with exception of the years with her daughter Léonine. Abandoned at birth, moving from foster home to foster home, she seeks solace in a marriage which isn't a happy one. Her life, though, will be changed forever when Julien Seul shows up at her door bringing with him the story of his mother Irene Fayolle, whose ashes he wishes to bury at the gravesite of a man buried there. The plot becomes a little more complicated as the stories entwine. This is a beautifully written story of tragic loss and grief, but it is tempered by friendship and beautiful memories and love. It is translated from the French and I loved it!



Wild KRISTIN HANNAH

Dr. Julia Cates was one of the country's pre-eminent child psychiatrists until a shocking tragedy ruined her career. She retreats to her small western Washington hometown of Rain Valley, having been asked to return by Police Chief Ellie Cates, her sister. Ellie needs a professional to work with an extraordinary six-year-old feral girl who has inexplicably emerged from the deep woods nearby. She is unable to speak, is carrying a wolf pup and is alone. It is evident that she has been surviving in the wild—locked in a world of unimaginable fear and isolation—and Ellie hopes that Julia will be able to help her to speak, calm her fear and discover the truth about her past and who she is.

To Julia, nothing is more important than saving the girl she now calls Alice. But Julia will need help from others, including the sister she barely knows, and a handsome doctor with secrets of his own. What follows will test the limits of Julia's faith and strength, as she struggles to find a home for Alice... and for herself. I really enjoyed this book





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*Prices listed are for Next Generation Outlander 2WD LS, 4WD LS and 4WD VRX. Prices exclude On Road Costs of up to \$600, which includes Wof, registration and a full tank of fuel. Visit mitsubishi.co.nz for full Diamond Advantage terms & conditions. Red Diamond, Black Diamond and White Diamond colours are available for an additional \$500. Black Diamond and White Diamond colours are available on VRX only. Grey Interior available on VRX for an additional \$1,000. Fuel Economy figures are based on the ADR 81/02 test for combined urban/extra urban driving.

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