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contents

It's the last issue of 2023 and what a year it has been – helping to showcase the wonderful people, places and business of South Canterbury.

We are delighted this month to welcome Belinda Boyd to the Essence team. Belinda is a Timaru local and as our new sales support and admin whizz, many of you will be hearing from her in the year ahead. She's already getting us super organized and we're looking forward to having her on the team – what a great way to wind up the year.

In this issue we've gone a little bit Christmas with tales of the Christmas trees in Timaru and Twizel; our Christmas Gift Guide to help you get those last minute gifts from awesome local stores and a mouthwatering recipe for caramelized yogurt. And of course, we bring you Christmas messages from local businesses.

We also caught up with an organization that spread a little local joy through the power of baking. And our writer, Amelia, got to chat with a mailman who takes his camera on the mail run with him – read the full article and check out his stunning images on page 6. What a great reminder of how beautiful our backyard is here in South Canterbury.

As Christmas races towards us we are all looking forward to those good holiday time things – sunshine, time with friends and family, great food and time to slow down and enjoy the world around us.

We want to wish all our local supporters, advertisers and readers a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season. We'll see you in January!

With Merry Christmas Wishes from the Essence Team

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Front Cover: Caramelized Yoghurt Cream with Summer Berries, try this mouthwateringly delicious adaptation to your morning yogurt. Recipe on page 11. Photograph Essence Magazine.



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Merry Christmas from our local Mayors



Mackenzie Mayor Anne Munro

As we head into the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very special Christmas and Happy New Year.

Our unique and special way of life here in the Mackenzie is something we can cherish. Over the Christmas and New Year period I hope you can take a moment to simply step back, clear your mind of the things that may cause you stress and anxiety and, even just for a few moments, focus on your loved ones and friends, and the things that bring you joy.

The incredible landscapes and natural environment we are so lucky to have in our backyard in Canterbury offer us fantastic opportunities to get out and make the most of them during the summer. Regardless of whether you fish, enjoy camping, cycling, walking, photography, or a picnic with the family, the range of fabulous locations around our mountains, lakes and rivers are endless.

Tourism numbers have been increasing steadily, and this will be a busy time for many of our local businesses. They are a crucial part

of our communities, so please, as you are out and about over the holiday period try to support them when you can.

Many of us will be travelling during the coming weeks, and this is the time of year when our roads really start to fill up with visitors, campervans, cyclists, boats and horse-floats, and a range of other potential hazards. Make sure you allow plenty of time for your journey, and take care of yourselves and others when travelling this break.

At this time of year, I would like to thank my Councillors and Community Boards, Angela our wonderful Chief Executive, and the team at our MDC offices for your commitment and hard work this year. Thank you also to the volunteers who do so much for our communities, many of whom are particularly busy at this time of year.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and I wish you all the very best for 2024.

Meri Kirihimete
Anne Munro



Timaru Mayor Nigel Bowen

As Mayor of our wonderful District, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to all of you as we approach the holiday season.

Reflecting on the passing year, I am filled with immense pride in witnessing the remarkable achievements and milestones of 2023. It has been a year filled with resilience, community spirit, and progress.

One of the highlights that stands out is our efforts in establishing a stronger sense of unity within our diverse communities. Through various initiatives and events, we have celebrated our cultural richness and embraced our differences. Thank you to all the individuals that run these groups and allow us to join the festivities.

2023 has been the year of watching Community Projects come to life. CPlay is opening in early December and is an amazing asset to the Timaru District. Fraser Park is another development that is taking shape, I look forward to the gates opening again in early 2024. These

initiatives, along with others, have laid the foundation for a brighter future for our upcoming generations.

Council is committed to making Timaru District a great place to live and are currently working on the 2024-34 Long Term Plan which will be adopted in mid-2024. It sets out what the Council will do, how it will be paid for and when it will happen. It is our key strategic planning document that sets the direction and intent of how the Council intends to make the Timaru District an even better place to live, work and play.

My Councillors and Council officers join me in wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please enjoy time with your family and friends, relax, enjoy the sun, stay safe and take care of each other.

Meri Kirihimete
Mayor Nigel Bowen



Waimate Mayor Craig Rowley

Season's greetings to everyone and I hope 2023 has been kind.

It is a funny time of year because on one hand things are busier than ever, but on the other, it is often a time to reflect on the 12 months that have been.

It is easy to get caught up in the constant challenges we are faced with – cost of living, staff and material shortages, regulations chopping and changing, a changing climate.

But in Waimate, like the rest of South Canterbury, facing challenges is nothing new. Part of our cultural heritage is getting up and going again when things get tough.

That is what we have done this year, and will do again next. Thanks to

a lot of hard work from our entire community things are ticking over nicely in our district. The main street is seeing continued investment, the parks and gardens look incredible and there are plenty of people willing to stop and have a yarn.

We have added even more green space with the redevelopment of the Glenavy Recreation Reserve.

So this year, when catching up with friends and family, take a moment to stop and appreciate where we live. Make the most of the things we have on our doorstep like the Lakes Camping, and incredible parks.

As Fred Dagg once said – we don't know how lucky we are.

Mayor Craig Rowley - Waimate District

More than a Christmas Tree

WORDS: AMELIA NORMAN | IMAGES: SUPPLIED

Covered in twinkling lights, tasteful red and gold baubles, and topped with a mighty glowing star, Twizel's seven-metre-high community Christmas tree represents much more than just the holiday season. "This tree represents a collective effort," explains Amy Oughton, co-founder of The Twizel Mistletoe Group, which purchased the tree in 2022. "It's a testament to what we can achieve when we come together."

The Twizel Mistletoe Group started after a post on the Twizel Community Facebook page in November 2021, when a local pointed out the somewhat lacklustre decorations strung on a tree in the central marketplace. "Conversations with fellow community members revealed a shared desire for more festive cheer," explains Amy. "So a group of us, united by our enthusiasm for Christmas, decided it was time to rekindle the town's Christmas spirit."

The team reached out to the 1800-strong Twizel community for funds and were met with an "astonishingly swift and enthusiastic" response, raising \$35,000 comprising "a heartwarming blend of contributions from individuals, local families, and businesses."

The logistics of purchasing, shipping and setting up a Christmas tree of this stature, however, proved rather more difficult.

"This wasn't just any tree; it needed to be a purpose-built outdoor marvel, sturdy enough to withstand the Mackenzie Country's robust winds. It took nine months to build it and have it shipped from China. Organising the logistics of transporting the tree, which arrived in multiple parts, was another puzzle."

The group also had to apply for special Council consent to erect the tree and adhere to rules for lighting a shining seven-metre-high beacon within the International Dark Sky Reserve in which Twizel sits. But, with hard work and determination, the Twizel Mistletoe Group's Christmas wishes came true, and the tree was lit up at a community ceremony on December 2nd, 2022.

With the festive season upon us once again, the majestic tree has been pulled from storage. Local builders and businesses have been busy installing the tree's base, erecting the metal frame, placing the decorations with a cherry-picker, and setting up security fencing. Community members came to "fluff the branches", and gathered one evening for a Christmas concert and the switching on of the lights: a series of annual events that are now the new Christmas norm for the town of Twizel.

"It's clear that our tree is much more than just a decoration," says Amy. "It's a focal point of community happiness and a sparkling symbol of unity."



Timaru's New Tree

WORDS: PATTIE PEGLER | IMAGE SUPPLIED

It's been great to see the new Timaru tree bring a festive air to our town. The new Christmas tree has been installed on the Piazza, the angels hover above Stafford St and the star shines over the city from the fire tower.

"It is just absolutely wonderful that we can have a bit of Christmas cheer through the CBD, we had a lot of positive feedback from the public as the tree is being installed," Land Transport Manager Susannah Ratahi said. "We decided to put the tree up a bit earlier than December because we wanted to make sure it was ready for the Timaru Christmas Parade along the main street."

The tree reaches a height of 10 meters including the star, the weighted base platform internal ballast, all decorations and branches equal around 7000kg. It has been designed to withstand winds of 150kph winds on the Piazza, and the structure hosts 275 metre of string lights which is around 11 laps of the indoor CBay pool, or roughly the distance from Ballantynes to the Old Bank.

"With a lifespan of 20 years, the Christmas Tree will be an enduring feature to Timaru for years to come," said Susannah. "We have seen some incredible feedback from the community, and we are glad to be one of the catalysts for community Christmas spirit."

The Timaru Christmas tree was funded through the CityTown Enhancements programme, this installation was a mammoth effort that couldn't have been achieved without the efforts of Celebrations Group, A&K Cranes, Fulton Hogan, FabTech, Hilton Haulage, NETcon and RSL Landscaping who remediated the tiles.

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A Mail Run Through the Lens



WORDS: AMELIA NORMAN | IMAGES: SUPPLIED

The road to Mesopotamia Station is a lonely one. The desolate gravel route cuts its way through ochre tussock and wide, open farmland, winding endlessly onwards towards the towering foothills of the mighty Southern Alps. Beneath the expansive, ever-changing sky, the spectacular Rangitata River makes its relentless run towards the distant coast. Often, there's not a soul to be seen.

You will, however, spot the postie. Five days a week, Matt Searles travels this road, 50km in each direction, delivering letters and parcels to the 16 mailboxes between Peel Forest and the historic Mesopotamia Station. And every day, without fail, he brings his camera.

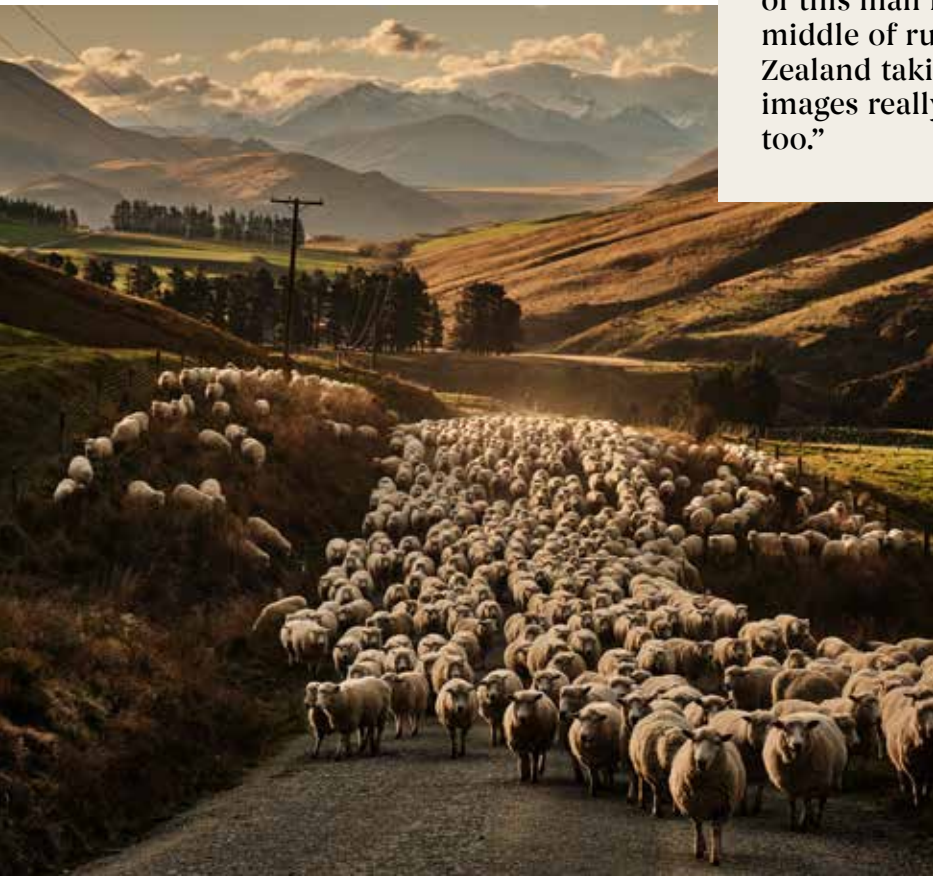
"I've always looked on a day out with my camera as a day well spent," says Matt, who first picked up a camera as a child in the UK. It wasn't until years later, having moved to New Zealand with his Kiwi wife Shelley, that Matt started taking photography seriously. "I started a photo-a-day challenge – taking a photo each day for a whole year – and I did this for three years. Since then, photography has been a massive part of my daily life."

In 2018, Matt and Shelley bought The Green Man café at Peel Forest. The couple had moved to the tiny village four years earlier, from Banks Peninsula, wanting to be closer to Shelly's family in Timaru. "When we moved, it was a question of finding somewhere that was similar in pace of life and proximity to nature as Banks Peninsula. Peel Forest fit the bill perfectly."

Formerly the village store and post office, The Green Man came with the responsibility of the local mail run. "The mail run has been handed down to each owner of the store," explains Matt. "So I started the run from Peel Forest to Mesopotamia Station on June 1st, 2018."

"I'll never forget my first day. It was a hoar frost, so everything was a magical winter wonderland." With such a landscape literally on his doorstep, it's no surprise that the photographer in Matt kicked into gear and started documenting the scenic journey to Mesopotamia Station, thus beginning a daily photographic record of his rural mail run, which he dubbed 'Mail to Messy'.

Matt's stunning, ongoing photo series features the changing seasons of this spectacular part of the world, showing the remarkable landscapes, hardy locals, rugged work dogs, farming life, and classic rural New Zealand in all its day-to-day glory.



"Like so many photographs, there is a sense of nostalgia in them that appeals to people. I think the idea of this mail man in the middle of rural New Zealand taking all these images really appeals too."



"I liken it to a 'spot-the-difference' competition; each day so many things remain unchanged but each day there are subtle differences to be explored. For me, the most enjoyable days are the ones where the weather and light is changing, with storms brewing in the mountains or fog rolling in from the plains. The days when the valley is blanketed in snow are always really special."

Whether he's stuck behind slow-moving mobs of sheep, watching a wild stag leap across the road in front of him, or experiencing a close encounter with a falcon hunting a skylark, Matt says each day offers a new photographic opportunity.

"The play of light on the land, the cloud formations, how clear or dirty the river is running, the snow on the peaks - all of these are just some elements that are in a constant state of flux."

Unsurprisingly, Mail to Messy has proven popular. Sales via Instagram, Matt's website and from The Green Man café have been steady. The project has also been featured in a short film, a podcast and in international photography publications.

"Seeing these images allows people to reconnect with the rural nature of our country," says Matt. "Like so many photographs, there is a sense of nostalgia in them that appeals to people. I think the idea of this mail man in the middle of rural New Zealand taking all these images really appeals too."

This summer, Matt will be out there, capturing the long, dry days, the sun-goldened paddocks and the cloudless blue skies whilst also running The Green Man with Shelley, catering events, visiting family and capturing the occasional wedding or commercial shoot. It's a busy life, but at the end of the day, it all comes back to his camera.

"Being behind the camera gives me a sense of calm. In a world where so much happens that you can't control, that's a very comforting thing."

"I liken it to a 'spot-the-difference' competition; each day so many things remain unchanged but each day there are subtle differences to be explored."



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Keeping your child safe

Keeping your child safe is one of the most crucial jobs you have as a parent, and one of the most important things you'll buy for your child is a carseat.

Right from the beginning, whether you take your baby home from hospital or the first time leaving your home, you need an appropriate car seat until they grow big enough to fit an adult seatbelt, at approximately 148cm tall. That's why we say "It's safer to wait until 148".

There is no single "best carseat" out there. The best car seat is the one that fits YOUR child's weight, height and age, and is properly fitted into YOUR vehicle, ensuring maximum safety if the unfortunate event of a crash was to happen.

As your child grows, you will need to transition from one car seat stage to another, but with each stage you may lose safety and protection, so it is important not to make the move to the next stage too early.



Five ways to ensure your child's carseat is safe.

1. Make sure that the seat fits the child.

Different carseats have different height, weight and age limits, which can be confusing so make sure you check out the specifications of the seat before you purchase. You could have the "Safest" seat on the market but if your child is not in an age appropriate seat, they may receive life threatening injuries in a crash.

2. Make sure the seat fits the vehicle.

Different makes, models and years of cars have different shaped seats, different material, differing usable space to work with. Some cars don't have an anchor point installed, some vehicles don't have isofix compatibility, some cars have inflatable airbags in the seatbelt. You could have the "safest" seat on the market but if it doesn't fit your vehicle then it will not perform how it should in a crash.

3. Make sure the seat is being used correctly.

This involves having tight, untwisted straps. Chest clip in the correct position (if there is one as some seats do not use them). Straps at the correct height. No aftermarket accessories added. You could have the "Safest" seat on the market but if your child is not properly restrained in the seat, they may be ejected from the seat in a crash.

4. Make sure it is installed correctly.

This involves making sure the tether (if the seat has one) is attached to the appropriate anchor point. A tight install on either seatbelt or isofix (but not both!) The seat is reclined to the appropriate angle if rear facing. The carseat is not braced to the vehicle's front seat unless specified in the carseat and vehicle's manual. You could have the "Safest"

seat on the market but if the seat is not properly installed, it may be ejected from the vehicle in a crash.

5. Check with your local Child Restraint Technician

At South Canterbury Child Restraint Rentals, we are qualified and trained to give advice and install the appropriate seat for your needs and what will best suit your vehicle. We are an independent charity, supported by the community, therefore, we are unbiased and have no loyalties to any particular seat or brand. We can hire our seats to you, or we can point you in the right direction to purchase your own and we will happily install it for you.

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South Canterbury Child Restraint looking for Technicians

Getting children's car seats correctly installed is important work and the group at South Canterbury Child Restraints are currently seeking two car seat technicians.

Applicants should:

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- Be able to work in confidential and challenging situations without judgement
- Be community-minded and want to provide an important safety service to the community
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It's all about spreading a little happiness says Richard, about providing something nice to somebody who might be having a really bad day.

Happiness Through Baking

WORDS: PATTIE PEGLER | IMAGES: SUPPLIED

Good Bitches Baking (GBB) is a national organization that helps to spread a little happiness by delivering home baked goods to those who might be having a tough day. There are 'chapters' all over the country and we recently got to chat with Richard Doran, 'head bitch' of the Timaru Chapter

A father of two and a business development manager in his day job, Richard, joined the Timaru chapter of GBB four years ago. It was a little gentle pressure from his two sisters, who both baked for GBB, that got him involved.

Having grown up with a mother who was a keen baker, Richard tapped into some of those old family recipes and started spreading a little kindness in the community.

"The very first time I baked chocolate chip cookies and they were going to hospice. Then I did a chocolate cake and that was going to women's refuge. It's quite a different concept baking something and sending it off to complete strangers," he says.

It may be a different concept but it's one that resonates with both the volunteers and the recipients. There are currently 32 'active' bakers in the Timaru area says Richard. And the baking can be anything from simple cookies to slices, muffins or beautifully decorated big cakes. While the volunteers' baking and delivery is rostered each month, Richard loves that his volunteers are always prepared to whip up something delicious at a moment's notice if needed.

The bakers are provided with a box to put the baking in and a card where they write the ingredients of the item. As well as a note to the recipient – and these can really vary says

Richard. Some may write poems, some may send a message, some decorate them with stickers and sparkles. They are all unique and made and sent with love.

Aside from the actual baking there are also logistics involved. The baking has to be collected from all the bakers and delivered to the recipients. Two of the core groups that GBB Timaru deliver baking to are Women's Refuge and the hospice – but they also have delivered to a wide range of support groups and other volunteer organisations and charities in the area.

It's all about spreading a little happiness says Richard, about providing something nice to somebody who might be having a really bad day. And whilst the bakers often don't receive feedback – when it does come it can be really meaningful. Richard tells of a group they baked for that was running a workshop for people struggling with addiction issues. Some of those that received the baking said it lifted their spirits because getting baking from the community shows that people still care and that the recipients are still part of that community.

"Some have even been inspired to bake themselves" says Richard. "So if we can show there is kindness out there and actually encourage others. It's an easy way to spread a little happiness."

If you'd like to spread a little happiness through baking – then get in touch through the Good Bitches Baking website at www.gbb.org.nz. Richard and the Timaru chapter will be delighted to hear from you.



Caramelised Yoghurt Cream with Summer Berries

Try this mouthwateringly delicious adaptation to your morning yogurt.

Make it late on Christmas eve so it's ready for the morning, it takes no time at all.

Yes, there is sugar, yes there is cream but hey it's Christmas and if you have eaten plain yoghurt all year – you deserve a treat. Just concentrate on the wonderful goodness of the summer berries that go with it. You could serve it later in the day if you don't need the sugar hit at breakfast.

The caramelised yoghurt is at its peak when the brown sugar has melted but the demerara sugar on top is still crunchy.

SERVES 4 - 6

Ingredients

- 375 ml plain unsweetened Greek style yoghurt
- 200 ml cream
- ½ cup soft brown sugar
- ¼ cup demerara sugar
- 1 punnet each of raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries
- Brazil nuts or almonds thinly sliced.

Method

Drain yoghurt in a large sieve lined with a couple of paper towels for 30 minutes. Carefully peel the yoghurt off paper, scraping it into a bowl. Whip the cream until stiff, then fold into bowl of yoghurt. Transfer to a shallow dish. Sprinkle with brown sugar, then sprinkle with demerara sugar. There should be a nice thick coating of sugar on top but don't overdo it. Cover yoghurt cream with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 8 – 12 hours.

One hour before serving put raspberries and blueberries in a bowl. Hull the strawberries slice and add to the bowl. Stir gently and refrigerate.

Divide berries between glasses then top with yoghurt cream. Scatter with sliced Brazil or almonds.

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 BELLS SCOTCH Whisky 1L \$43.99	 EXPORT GOLD 24 pack bottles \$38.99	 DOUBLE BROWN 18 pack cans \$24.99	 BARREL 51 12 pack bottles \$24.99	 SEAGERS Gin 1L \$41.99	 KGB 12 pack bottles \$24.99
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35 Browne St, Timaru | P 03 688 1012 | www.warehouseliquor.co.nz



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234 Stafford Street, Timaru | Ph (03) 684 3389 | www.stompz.co.nz



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4. Memoirs of Yesterday by Jane Crisp \$55
5. Yogi Chick Revolved Triangle by Lucia Heffernan \$55
6. Sunnyslife Underwater Camera \$35
7. Taste Lab Original Hot Honey Sauce \$16
8. The Naughty Corner sign \$47
9. Boho Bandeau \$20
10. Primrose Jigsaw 1000pc \$50
11. Bone China Birds from \$34

42 Queen Street, Waimate | 03 689 2686 | www.thequirkymagpie.co.nz



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1. Holiday Dish Towel Set \$28
2. Xmas Tins Set of 2 \$39
3. Moka Induction \$144
4. BBQ set \$162
5. Holiday Pot Set \$28
6. Sports Bottle \$46
7. Hobnail Black Cast Iron Teapot \$62, Trivet \$14
8. Camembert Baker \$42

34B Talbot St, Geraldine | 03 693 8632 | www.thekitchencupboard.co.nz



Gallery 329



1. Lynley Simmons - Bella Flora \$650
2. Emily Duggan - Pottery Donuts \$30 each
3. Denise Fitzgerald - Nasturtiums in a Jug \$280
4. Donna Sutherland - Wahine \$55
5. Debbie Miller - Echinacia Bottle \$90 each
6. Pete Dunn - Bowl \$40
8. Gift Vouchers available
8. Emily Duggan - Green Tumblers \$20 each

329 Stafford Street, Timaru | 021 053 0373 | Gallery329CreativeArtsCollective



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11 Te Weka Street, Timaru
www.cbaytimaru.co.nz

Christmas is on the horizon, the new swimwear from Speedo, Funkita and Zoggs is arriving daily. Perfect to pop under the Christmas tree for the avid swimmer in the family.

There's a style, colour or print to suit every taste, plus loads of swimming accessories including goggles, fins and ruck sacks.



Luscious Summer Lips

We recently caught up with NZ natural lipstick queen, Karen Murrell to ask her a few questions about lip care and colours.

How do we keep lips soft and smooth in summer? Keeping lips well exfoliated and nourished helps your lipstick application look better and last longer. I recommend using a lip scrub (my favourite for summer is the Watermelon or Mint Lip Scrubs from the Island Goddess Collection) either in the shower or at the basin each night and then apply some Moisture Stick to seal in hydration.

How do we use a lip scrub? Simply apply directly to dry lips, rub lips together to continue to work in and then remove with a clean damp washcloth. Lip scrub can be incorporated as part of your morning routine to create a smooth canvas prior to make-up application, or just before bed to encourage overnight skin rejuvenation.

What lipstick colours should we have in our makeup bags? When I travel I only take three colours with me. One neutral nude shade as this is good for weekends and casual meetings. I go for a red or orange shade for evenings or days when I'm feeling bolder or need to feel empowered. Finally, one pink shade which I tend to wear on days to work when I'm wanting to be more fashion orientated.

We have a set of Karen Murrell lip scrubs to give away to one lucky reader. Just email belinda@essencemagazine.co.nz with Lip Scrub in the subject line to go in the draw.

Entries close on 15th January 2024.



Book Giveaway



The recently released Irish Convict series by local author, Tom O'Connor, tells a range of true stories through the eyes of a fictional character, Maurice O'Brien. Convicted of a crime in 1830s Ireland he is transported to the penal colony on the continent now known as Australia. After some gut wrenching events working as a shepherd, Maurice escapes to New Zealand a year before the Treaty of Waitangi is signed.

Many New Zealanders are familiar with the hardships Maori people endured at the hands of Pakeha 200 years ago but the real story is not that simple. The Irish didn't like the English being here either. And Maori were divided about whether they accepted the new comers or not.

This fascinating series tells a gripping story and gives a compelling insight into the daily life of people living in New Zealand before widespread European settlement. It is heartening to see stories like this being published independently and printed locally. You can buy the books online at www.tomoconnor.co.nz.

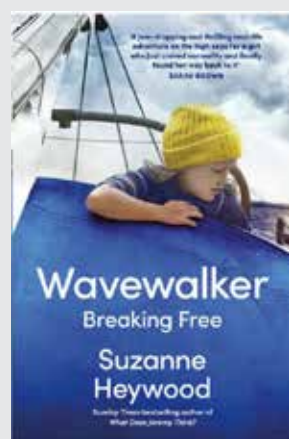


Three lucky readers have the chance to win the first book of the series, Irish Convict: Lost Sons, to giveaway.

Just email belinda@essencemagazine.co.nz with your contact details and Irish Convict Book in the subject line. Entries close 31st December 2023

Holiday Reading

Looking for a little holiday reading? Check out some of the titles that have got us gripped this year.

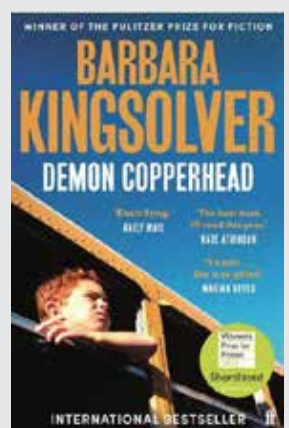


Wavewalker

Suzanne Heywood

"One morning over breakfast my father announced that we were going to sail around the world." So begins Suzanne Heywood's true story of her childhood spent roaming the world on a sailing boat with her parents and her brother.

It might sound like an exciting adventure but it soon becomes apparent that it's actually terrifying and precarious and the children yearn for normality. As Suzanne grows up on board she becomes determined to get some sort of education and build a life on land. A fascinating true story.

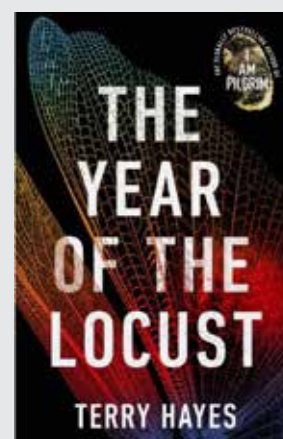


Demon Copperhead

Barbara Kingsolver

Appalachian mountains in the US. Set against a backdrop of the growing opioid crisis and grinding poverty this Pulitzer prize winning novel, by US author Barbara Kingsolver, was apparently inspired by the Charles Dickens' classic David Copperfield.

If that's the sort of literary reference that puts you right off, don't let it. Sure it's meticulously researched, the use of language is wonderful, it highlights eternal social issues. But it's also just a really good story, really well told. It hooked me from page one.

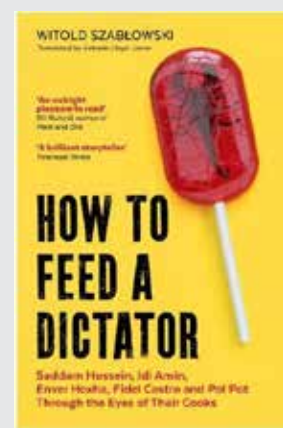


Year of the Locust

Terry Hayes

This is the second novel from Terry Hayes, the author of the doorstep thriller I Am Pilgrim.

I was beyond excited to read about this second book coming out and I am hoping to find it in my Christmas stocking. If for some strange reason you haven't read I Am Pilgrim yet - find a copy now, it's an absolute page turner of a thriller about an agent trying to stop a terrorist attack and it's a masterpiece of its kind. What a treat for the holidays!



How To Feed A Dictator

Witold Szablowski

Trying out a new recipe can be fraught but imagine if a culinary mistake could be fatal.

That is the weird world that writer Witold Szablowski takes us to in this fabulous non-fiction read about the personal chefs of famous dictators.

It's a fascinating and unique angle and it leaves you thinking long after you put it down.

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9ct Rose Opal & Diamond Ring was \$2,500
Now \$2,299



18ct Diamond Solitaire Ring 1.015ct Centre Stone w/ 0.24ct Side Stones was \$14,999
Now \$12,500



9ct Diamond Ring with Platinum top channel set 6x 0.04 Princess cut Diamonds
\$1,999



9ct Gold Blue/Black Opal and Diamond ring
\$2,699



Pandora Disney The Little Mermaid Ariel Dangle Charm, \$129
The Ringmakers

Lucy Shirt Dress \$199.99
Maree Hynes Interiors



Ashley & Co-Soothe Tube \$25
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Kemper Clock \$50
Millie Rose Boutique



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Malia Midi Dress Minkpink \$170
Millie Rose Boutique

Elms + King Bowery Wallet \$119.90
Hello Cyril

Teal Sapphire and Diamond Ring set in Platinum
The Ringmakers



Stg Turquoise Earrings \$255
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Betty Basics Ingrid Shoulder Dress \$94.90



S+G Earring \$29.90



Elm Block SS Tee \$64.90



Elm Soleil Check Dress \$149.90



Seeking Lola Zahara Top \$139.90

Betty Basics Lani Shirt Dress \$89.90

Stella+Gemma Lucie Sunglasses \$69.90

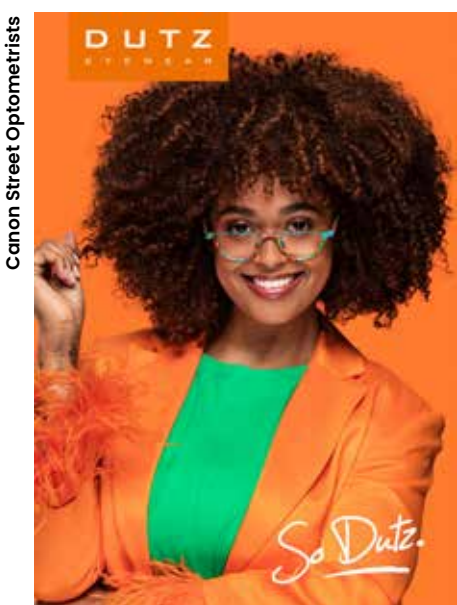


Bill Bass \$249
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Baltic Amber Earrings, \$169
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Summer fun Favourite Things



Bubble Vase \$39
Maree Hynes Interiors



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Tievoli Trading



Wanda Green Stud \$58
Millie Rose Boutique

Tea Towel
Tievoli Trading



Ivy+Jack - grace blood orange tie back top, \$139.90
Millie Rose Boutique



Teal Sapphire with Two Trilliant Cut Diamonds, Platinum Ring
The Ringmakers



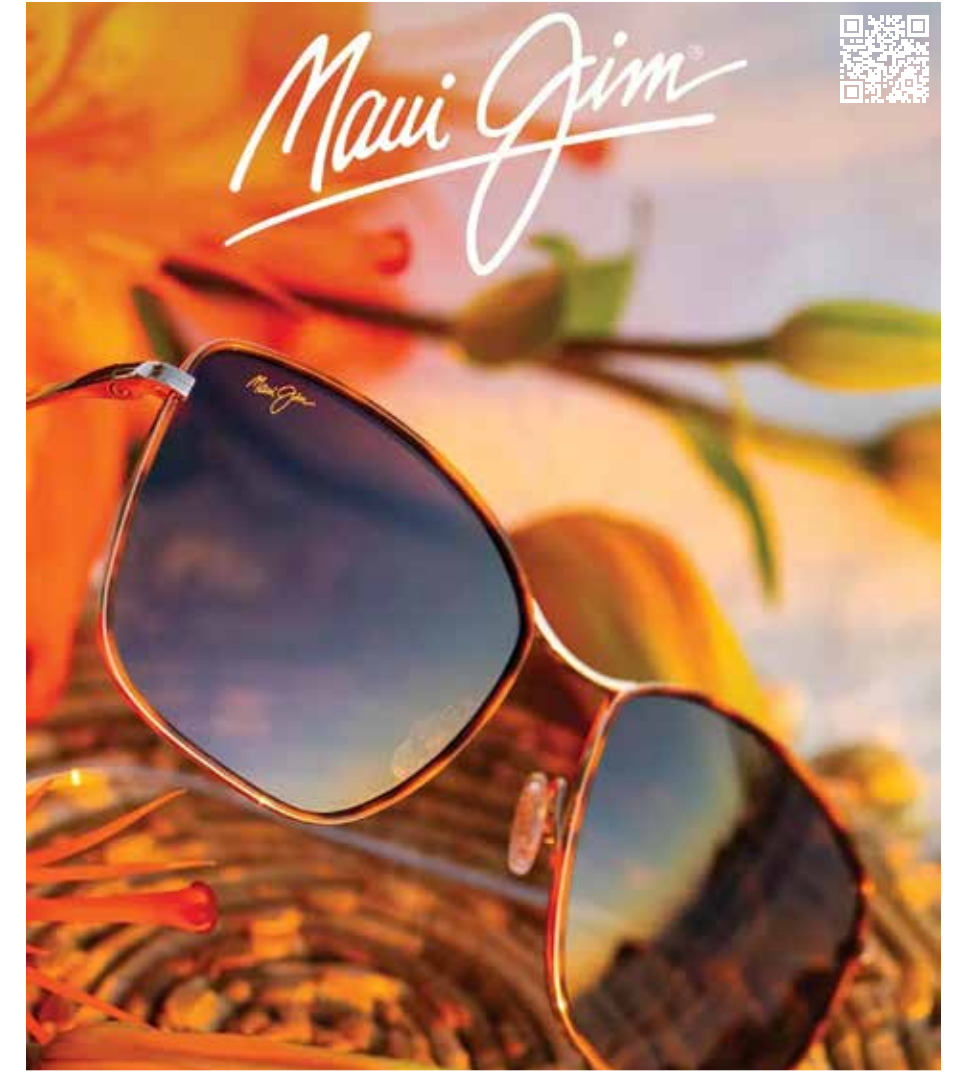
Platinum & Gold Mandarin and Grape Garnet Ring, \$2,589
JewelCraft



Evolve Leather Charm Bracelet \$49
JewelCraft

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Lucy.Mehrtens@timdc.govt.nz



Christmas Wishes

We are delighted to be able to bring you Christmas messages from our wonderful local businesses. Check out their holiday opening hours and seasonal wishes for customers and the community.



Catie and her team would like to wish all her wonderful clients a lovely Christmas and New Year.

We will be closing from 22nd December for a short break and will reopen on 8th Jan.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

17 Dee street, Timaru
03 683 1448
catierowepodiatry@outlook.com



The CBay team would like to wish our loyal members and customers a Merry Christmas.

As the year comes to a close, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support.

We look forward to seeing you over the holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the CBay team!

Please follow our website and facebook for latest updates regarding our opening hours.

11 Te Weka St, Timaru | 03 684 2229
www.cbaytimaru.co.nz



The team at Central Fitness Temuka Wish you a festive season of strength, joy and good health.

Cheers to a Merry Fit-mas and a Happy New Year.

Classes and staffed hours will be on a reduced schedule from Dec 22nd till Jan 8th, but take advantage of our 24/7 QR code gym access and online sign up to give yourself a head start in early January.

Here's to a year of gains, both in and out of the gym!! See you all in 2024.

85 King St, Temuka
0210 222 3551
www.centalfitness.co.nz



The Farmyard whānau wish you all a very Happy Holidays! Thank you for all your support this year, we are so incredibly grateful to our visitors and our community.

We'd love to see you down at The Farmyard over the Christmas break, we're open every day from 10am.

Bring your whānau for a day visit for just \$15, or \$3.50 per child and \$7.50 per adult.

Have a truly unique experience these holidays and join us and our animals for some fun in the sun!



50 Elmslie Road, RD 22,
Geraldine | 03 693 9355
www.farmyardholidaypark.co.nz



To all our valued customers,
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Annie, Nick and the team at Work Outfitters and Workwear Recycled.

Thanks to everyone for supporting local.

Closing Saturday 23rd December, 12pm
Opening Monday 8th January, 8am

155 A Hilton Highway, Washdyke
Ph. (03) 688 6638
workoutfitters.co.nz



Dean, Kim, Kaye, Shane and all the team of DE Group would like to thank everyone who has played a part in the growth of our business as we reflect on the previous year.

We are grateful for an amazing year and send our best wishes for a prosperous new year.

From 23rd of December 2023 until 7th of January 2024 the entire team will be taking this time off to enjoy the holiday season with their family and friends.

It could take us longer than normal to respond to your messages during this time.

(Head Office)
4 Elizabeth Place, Timaru
03 688 6713
www.designengineering.co.nz



We would like to wish all of our customers a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

A heartfelt thank you to all of those who shop at the Four Square. We really appreciate it.

We have lots of Christmas and New Year goodies instore, including toys, Christmas cards, wrap, decorations, and all of the usual Christmas food. Including Gluten Free options for those who require it.

Our Christmas hours are as normal 7am -7pm. The only day we are closed is Christmas Day

Main Street Fairlie | 03 685 8081



Karyn and the team at Driving Miss Daisy Timaru would like to thank our wonderful clients for their support this year and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you all over Christmas and into the New Year.

Call us today on 03 683 1073 or 021 503 398.





The team at Plunket Electrical Timaru Ltd wish everyone a very Merry Christmas with warm wishes for the New Year ahead.

We thank our customers for their ongoing support and would be happy to welcome any new customers requiring electrical work in the New Year.

Our office and workshop will be closed from 12pm Friday 22nd December 2023 till 8am Monday 8th January 2024, to give our staff a well-deserved break after a busy year. But we will always have one of our experienced electricians on call 24/7 over the Christmas break.

24/7 call 03 6848410
kelly@plunket-electrical.co.nz




The CBay team would like to wish our loyal members and customers a Merry Christmas.

As the year comes to a close, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support.

We look forward to seeing you over the holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the CBay team!

Please follow our website and facebook for latest updates regarding our opening hours.

11 Te Weka St, Timaru | 03 684 2229
www.cbaytimaru.co.nz



The team at Makikihi Fries would like to thank you for the support in 2023.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Factory closed all stat days.

For all enquiries, call 03 689 5879.
www.makihifries.co.nz





We would like to wish everyone Merry Christmas

The team at Maree Hynes Interiors and Harlau House Cafe would like to thank their wonderful customers for another amazing year.

We love seeing you all at our beautiful premises and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Both businesses will be closed on Christmas day and will re-open on the 4th January 2024.

253 Beaconsfield Road, Timaru
03 686 6784 | www.mareehynesinteriors.co.nz




Brent, Aimee & The Ringmakers team thank you for a wonderful 2023!

We wish you a merry and bright festive season and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Extended Christmas Hours:
Saturday 16th Dec: 10am - 3pm
Sunday 17th Dec: 10.30am - 1.30pm
Saturday 23rd Dec: 9am - 4pm
Sunday 24th Dec: 9am - 3pm

Holiday Hours:
Mon 25th Dec & Wed 26th Dec: CLOSED
Wed 27th Dec - Fri 29th Dec: 9am - 4pm
Sat 30th Dec: 10am - 2pm
Mon 1st Jan & Tues 2nd Jan: CLOSED
Usual shop hours resume Weds 3rd.

270 Stafford St, Timaru
Ph (03) 688 1362 | www.theringmakers.co.nz




Marks, Emily, Jitte, Joy and all the team at Timaru Dental Care would like to wish all their patients, and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For emergency dental work over the Christmas/New Year period look on Facebook under SC Dentists or ring the after-hours medical centre ph:684 8209 for the on-call dentist contact details

Closing at 1pm on Friday 22nd December 2023
23rd Dec 2023 to 2nd Jan 2024 CLOSED

Wednesday 3rd January
Open 9am-5pm

Thursday 4th January
Open 8.30am-1pm

5th to 7th January CLOSED

Normal hours resume from 9am Monday 8th January 2024.

Level 1, 45 Heaton Street, Timaru
03 684 3451




The team at Warehouse Liquor would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Enjoy a responsible festive season.

Holiday Period Hours
Christmas Eve 9am - 9pm
Boxing Day 10am - 6pm
New Year's Eve 9am - 9pm
January 1st 11am - 6pm
January 2nd 11am - 6pm
January 3rd normal hours resume

WAREHOUSE LIQUOR

35 Browne St, Timaru. Ph (03) 688 1012
www.warehouseliquor.co.nz

The team at Morris Waddell would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, thank you to all our clients and we look forward to hearing from you in the New year.

We are closed from the 22nd of December and open again on January 8th although we have our On-call Christmas Elf working during this time for any electrical emergencies.

60 Gleniti Road | 24/7 03 686 2422
E admin@morriswaddell.co.nz
www.morriswaddellelectrical.co.nz






Safe journey and have a Merry Christmas!

Here are four points that would significantly reduce the risk when you are driving:

1. Only drive when you are physically and emotionally alert or share the driving.
2. Make sure your vehicle is roadworthy, licenced and serviced.
3. Drive to the conditions - be patient. Ask yourself: Is it really necessary to pass?
4. Plan your journey www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz

Let a family member or a friend know when you are leaving and when you expect to arrive at your destination.

www.scrs.org.nz





Rob, Amanda and Joel wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024

We finish up on Friday the 22nd December and return on the 10th of January 2024.

The Shade House team would love to see you next year, so take care out there.

61 Church St, Timaru | Ph 03 684 9000
www.theshadehouse.co.nz




The team at Liquorland would like to wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Safe travels over the festive season and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Closed all stat holidays.

22 Dee Street, Timaru
Ph 03 688 3149



Our team would like to wish all our incredible members a fantastic Christmas filled with large smiles, love and festivities - but not a big belly!!

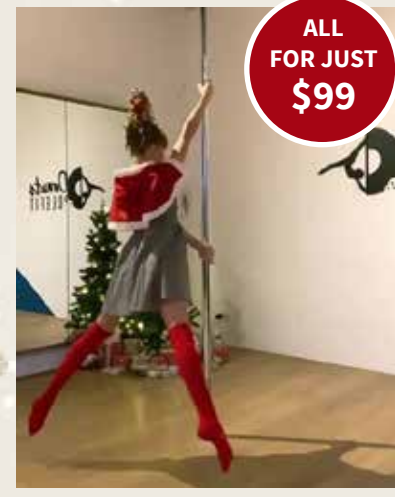
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1 Heaton St, Timaru
03 684 6664



Maree Hynes Interiors & Harlau House Cafe

253 Beaconsfield Road, Timaru
03 686 6784 | www.mareehynesinteriors.co.nz



The Ringmakers

Manufacturers of Fine Jewellery

270 Stafford St, Timaru
Ph (03) 688 1362 | www.theringmakers.co.nz




We wish all the fur-babies and fur-parents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe, and we will see you with many new changes next year.

Holiday Period Hours
Fri 22nd 8.30am - 4.30pm
Sat 23rd 10am - 12pm
Mon 25th & Tue 26th CLOSED
Wed 27th - Fri 29th 8.30am - 4.30pm
Sat 20th 10am - 12pm
Mon 1st & Tues 2nd CLOSED

9 Latter St, Timaru | Ph (03) 746 4144




Rosa and Peter would like to thank their valued Team, Clients and Retailers for their outstanding support during 2023.

We wish you all a safe and happy festive season and new beginnings for 2024.

Peter Herron Flooring closing Friday 22nd December and reopen Monday 8th January

Madam Mat closing Thursday 21st December and reopening Wednesday 24th January

17 Butler Street, Timaru
Peter - 021 315 169 | Rosa - 0274 763 593
peterherronflooring@gmail.com




Rob, Amanda and Joel wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024

We finish up on Friday the 22nd December and return on the 10th of January 2024.

The Shade House team would love to see you next year, so take care out there.

61 Church St, Timaru | Ph 03 684 9000
www.theshadehouse.co.nz



Felipe and the Team at Silva Studio would like to thank all our Valued Customers for their support in 2023.

Hope you all a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Our office will be closed from 12pm on Thursday 21st of December and re-opening on Monday 22nd of January 2024.

55 Theodosia Street, Timaru
Ph (03) 688 7575
www.silvastudio.nz




Stay Safe on the Roads



With the holiday season coming up many of us will be taking long car journeys whether it's heading to our favourite campground or visiting family.

Many of us are aware of the road rules and things that make for dangerous driving – but we still break the rules. Whether that's sneaking a look at our phones in traffic or failing to wear our seatbelts. But the reality is that a silly decision can have lifelong consequences. So wherever you're heading – please stay safe on the roads these holidays.

The Road Safety team at Timaru District Council shared the following key advice with us. If you're setting off on a long car journey, whether you're the driver or a passenger, then

please take a moment to read them. They might just save your life.

- Plan your journey and allow time for breaks and traffic. There will be more traffic on the road than usual.
- Always wear your seat belt and make sure your passengers wear theirs. Seat belts save lives.
- Be patient and enjoy the journey to your destination. Traffic and 'slow' drivers can be frustrating for some but getting to your destination safely is more important than any lost time.
- Slow down and keep an eye on your speed, it can easily creep up over the limit

- Take regular rest breaks and share the driving when possible
- Don't drink alcohol and drive – you put yourself and your passengers at risk. So if you know you're going to be drinking, make a plan to get home.
- Don't get distracted while driving. One of the key distractions for looking at your phone. So put your phone on silent and out of reach so you're not tempted to check it when you should have your eyes on the road.
- Road signs exist for a reason – to warn you about bends, or intersections or other road conditions. Look at them while you're driving and act accordingly.
- Look ahead – the sooner you identify a potential hazard the more time you have to react to the situation.
- Look around you not just straight ahead – don't forget to use your mirrors and be aware of any surrounding traffic.

Let's work together to keep our roads safer this summer.

See the team and key partners December 23rd, 11am-4pm at our 'Fatigue Stop' when travelling through Fairlie.

Encouraging you to take those breaks when travelling long distance over the holiday period.

We will have a BBQ and coffee cart, make sure you stop by and see us!



Daniel Naude - 027 438 6285
Lucy Mehrtens - 027 288 2583
www.scrs.org.nz

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New Zealand Government

Daniel Naude 027 438 6285 | Lucy Mehrtens 027 288 2583 www.scrs.org.nz

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- ✓ Ensuite Bathroom
- ✓ Gas Hot Water
- ✓ Portable Steel Chassis
- ✓ Towbar & Wheels Options

WE BUILD A HOME, YOU CREATE A VALUABLE ASSET.

EXTENDED FAMILY

Accommodation for elderly parents, teenagers or guest accommodation.

RENTAL INCOME

Our compact site footprints provide a smart way to earn money from your existing land.

LIFESTYLE CHOICES

A low maintenance, low cost holiday home that the whole family can enjoy for generations.

WORKER ACCOMMODATION

The perfect 'on-site' solution where extended or flexible working hours are required.

A FUTURE-PROOF INVESTMENT

Because our homes are portable, if your future requirements change, you can re-site or re-sell your home easily.