

essence

essentially...south canterbury



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of Peonies

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Shopping Guide

SHOP THE LOOK

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

Charlie Blue Ditsy Midi Dress \$189.90

Augustine Elafonissi Hat \$79

Reality Beautiful Stranger \$79

Reality Wanderlust \$79

Ivy + Jack Isabella Maxi Black Dress \$189.90

Ivy + Jack Isabella Maxi Terracotta Dress \$189.90

Reality Kiss Kiss \$79

Reality Mind Bomb \$79

Millie Rose Boutique
281 Stafford Street, Timaru
www.millierose.co.nz

Tievoli Trading
Homewares, Garden Art & Lifestyle Store featuring unique Furniture by Evoli.

Donna Donna Top \$150

Large \$77.50
Medium \$44
Small \$33.50

Decanter \$660
Glasses \$154 ea

Flowers from \$5

Gin glasses \$246 ea

Beau dress \$159
Scarf \$15
Pippa Bag \$144

The Italian Closet Dress \$160.50
Scarf \$15
Brown Leather bag \$287.50

X large \$95 **Large** \$59.50
Medium \$44 **Small** \$33.50

Tievoli Trading
72 - 76 Talbot Street, Geraldine (old Barker's Shop)
Phone 0274 313 362 or visit us on Facebook

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There are plenty of places counting down to Christmas – not us. We just know it's not that long until the tree comes out and the best thing to do is to start getting prepared now – and that means not running around in a panic on the 24th December trying to find the perfect gift for all your family members. To help you out with the Christmas shopping we bring you the Essence Gift Guide this issue – a selection of inspiring gift ideas for all budgets and all tastes and all available at local retailers. Check it out from page 12.

We also bring you some ideas on places to go and things to do in our beautiful towns over the summer. When you live and work in a place it's easy to forget about attractions – but our towns are bursting with reasons to visit. Have you checked out the art gallery recently here in Timaru? Or taken a scenic drive out to Geraldine for a bite of lunch? Or taken a weekend morning to browse the amazing secondhand stores in Temuka? We want to do all those things these holidays and more. In fact we got a bit over inspired putting together our destinations feature on page 8.

Elsewhere in this issue – we bring you all you need to know about upcoming local events from the Santa Parade in Timaru to Waimate's Strawberry Fare; we check out a beautiful family home and get inspired by their design flair and we bring you a no-churn ice cream recipe that will have all the family begging you to make it. Plus there's info on local cafes, stores and services, a book giveaway and our gorgeous fashion faves.

So sit back, take a break and catch up on all the local stories in Essence Magazine. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we always love putting it together.

Until next month!
The Essence South Canterbury Team

contact us:
Dorothy McLennan - Publisher
dorothy@essencemagazine.co.nz
Ph: 0274 507 532
Pattie Pegler - Editor
pattie@essencemagazine.co.nz

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22 Chapel Street, Timaru, South Canterbury | www.essencemagazine.co.nz



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Front Cover: We are feeling all the holiday vibes with this gorgeous Isabella Tiered Maxi Dress from Millie Rose Boutique.



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Fetes Fairs and Events

As the weather warms up the region's event calendar is in full swing.

With wide, open space and stunning scenery, our region lends itself to fabulous events - from fetes to christmas lights to a paint and wine night - we're looking forward to the festive season!



Waimate Strawberry Fare

Waimate Strawberry Fare is a Free Family day out. Offering entertainment, upmarket stalls, a wide selection of food and of course Waimate Strawberries.

Strawberries have been grown in the Waimate District since 1880, they were and still are an important contribution to the Waimate economy. In 1984 it was decided to celebrate this little luscious red fruit by staging a community event, the rest is history.

The fare today is hailed as one of the the largest annual regional events. Held on the second Saturday of December each year and attracting over 14,000 visitors from all over New Zealand.

9th December, 10.30am-4pm



Himalyan Lillies in bloom at Orari Estate

An opportunity to view the magnificent Himalayan Lillies in bloom in the large country garden at Orari Estate.

Bring a picnic and enjoy a day of relaxation, by the pond or under the trees listening to the bird life and enjoying the peace and serenity of a large country garden.

A Geraldine Historical Museum fundraising event. Museum calendars will be for sale.

Signposted from Orari and Rangitata on the day.

Sunday 10th December 2023, 10am - 4pm.

211 Orari Rangitata Highway.

\$10 entry fee, children free.

For more info please phone 03 693 7028.



Timaru Christmas Lights

Driving around and looking at the lights is a tradition for many families and The Timaru Christmas Parade Trust want to inspire and enhance a sense of Community Christmas by providing an opportunity for the Timaru Community that go above-and-beyond in decorating their home for the Christmas season 2022.

(The Christmas lights list will be available on www.timarusantaparade.co.nz from the 1st of December)

From the 1st of December




PrimePort Timaru Santa Parade

Join Santa on his annual journey of fun, colour and excitement as he travels along Stafford Street, down the Loop Road and onto Caroline Bay where you can then say hi to the Ballantynes Santa and meet his friends from the parade.

The results of the float competition will be announced in the parade parking circle, please ensure your float Coordinator stays at the end of the parade until after the announcement.

Lolly scramble for all participants after announcements.

Sunday 3rd December, 2pm



Community Christmas Dinner

Come on down and enjoy the day with us! Fabulous group of attendees and volunteers all coming together!

Christmas Day at 12 pm, Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru 021 0848 1046 or E: timaruchristmasdinner@gmail.com



Timaru Santa Parade

3rd December 2023 at 2pm

Join Santa on his Annual Journey of Fun, Colour & Excitement in Timaru.



2023 Entries are now open

Now is your chance to register for the parade: Float, Helper, Sponsor, Entertainer, Supporter!

www.timarusantaparade.co.nz [timaruxmasparade](https://www.facebook.com/timaruxmasparade)



WAIMATE STRAWBERRY FARE

9 December 2023, 10.30am - 4pm

Celebrate the Waimate Strawberry Fare at Seddon Square and Boland Park, Waimate. A day full of fun, free family entertainment, fantastic stalls, fabulous food and, of course, scrumptious strawberries. A great day out for all! (please leave your dogs at home).

info@waimatestrawberryfare.co.nz | www.waimatestrawberryfare.co.nz

Sparkle & Shine Christmas 2023

TIMARU Christmas Lights

Let's light up the streets and celebrate the festive season by decorating your property with Christmas Lights

Enter the Timaru Xmas Lights Competition by registering at www.Timarusantaparade.co.nz by Monday 1st December 2023

Competition Details on Website/Facebook

Community Xmas Lights List available from 1st December 2023 on our Website/Facebook

www.timarusantaparade.co.nz www.facebook.com/timaruxmasparade

Soapbox Derby

An estimated 1000 people lined Stafford Street, Timaru to watch the much anticipated, Alpine Energy Soap Box Derby! 40 teams and a number of sponsors participated helping to raise money for South Canterbury mental health charities. The vibe was electric, and organisers were blown away by the support!



Christmas Evening

Maree Hynes Interiors were delighted to host the first of their Christmas evenings. It was a fun night with lots of laughs and entertainment. This was the first of three planned free evenings, Maree has had to add another night due to the popularity of the other two evenings. There is still space for the 16th November event, if you are interested give Maree Hynes Interiors a call today.



Do you know the road code?

Test your knowledge

L	O	S	S	O	F	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	R
D	I	S	T	R	A	C	T	I	O	N	L	E	Y
F	Y	D	M	S	D	L	Y	M	V	L	V	T	N
P	O	Q	I	Q	C	K	C	P	B	E	R	Q	Z
H	X	U	N	A	J	R	R	O	R	I	M	B	Q
Y	E	B	R	R	M	S	O	H	L	V	T	Z	
K	D	A	R	T	W	O	F	T	T	O	R	D	K
P	V	Q	D	N	E	E	N	D	N	E	L	L	R
G	D	G	P	O	D	E	R	D	M	Z	Y	R	J
N	M	T	J	I	N	Z	N	M	W	K	Y	N	P
R	G	Q	R	Y	J	U	V	J	J	T	P	Q	
Y	J	Y	K	D	P	S	T	Y	K	W	B	M	R

- The most common type of crash that results in fatal or serious injuries.
- What is the average age of the car fleet in New Zealand, in years?
- There is a road marking that indicates the presence of a pedestrian crossing up ahead.
- The Facebook page for road safety in South Canterbury.
- This driver factor contributes to many crashes.
- This has a negative impact on the response time of drivers.
- Roads can become slippery after the first rain following a dry spell. It is called _____-ice.
- ACC offers subsidies for motorcycle training courses.
- Safer speeds past schools. ____km/h
- The most frequent crash type on state highways on open roads.

Be in to win a double movie pass each week for the month of November

Name

Address

Phone



Do it online

Closing date: 3rd December 2023

Send your answers to:

Timaru District Council – SCRS
PO Box 522, Timaru 7940

Or take a photo (no larger than 3 MB) and email to:
Daniel.naude@timdc.govt.nz
lucy.mehrtens@timdc.govt.nz



Caroline Bay Playground



South Canterbury Drone Photography



Caroline Bay has a long history as a popular spot to gather and play. South Canterbury Drone Photography.

On 10th December visitors to the playground can enjoy over 40 play pieces including a bespoke lighthouse slide tower, a shipwreck, a 5 – 50m tandem flying fox, landscaping and incorporated reproductions of art work. It is set to become a much-loved community space – for children and grown-ups alike.

Roselyn, Owen and the rest of the team are all looking forward to the 10th December when they can finally see happy faces enjoying the space. It took a lot of people and a lot of work but it will be a wonderful addition to the area.

“We want to acknowledge and thank the mammoth team effort by volunteers, supporters, donors, suppliers and contractors to get to where we are at today,” says Roselyn. “It took a village and a village has come together to create this.”



FrancineSpencer With Gifted Taniwha Design - Photo Roselyn Fauth

WORDS: PATTIE PEGLER | IMAGES: SUPPLIED

Work started on the new Caroline Bay playground in March this year. We've all seen the area taking shape over the months and now it's just weeks to go until it will finally be opened with a public party on 10th December.

In the meantime the C Play team are asking us all to just resist the temptation to play for a few more weeks.

Currently the area is still a construction site, so for people's safety and to avoid time consuming and costly repairs, they need people to keep out of the space until that opening party. So just hold on! The project has been almost seven years in the making – and it's really worth the wait.

For C Play Committee Chair, Owen Jackson, the idea was sparked by a visit to the Margaret Mahy playground in Christchurch, with his young children. He got chatting to a lady from Timaru who was there with her grand-children and they were all loving the playground.

“That's all it took to set my imagination alight,” says Owen. “Why couldn't we have a playground like this that brings so much joy to families, surely other people would feel the same way?”

Imagination is one thing, making ideas happen is another. So Owen gathered a team of equally passionate and committed people to get involved and the long process of revamping the playground began.

They have consulted the community, gone out to tender, researched local history, hit the phones to raise funds and much more. Their work has been tireless and a key part of it was putting some real consideration and research into what people needed and wanted – making a playground that is accessible for all and fun for children and grown-ups alike.

Along the way they have also managed to recycle elements of the former playground. The original rubber matting was taken to Numats recycling plant in Oamaru and ground up to form the new rubber flooring for the space. The much-loved horse has been revamped in yellow and the slide and paddling pool will be making a reappearance.

“It has always been about the love for our children,” says Roselyn Fauth of the C Play team. “Bringing people together, sharing stories, playing, learning, caring - ultimately building everyone up for stronger bodies and healthier minds.”

The project still has finishing touches to coordinate – such as plantings, installing shade sails and BBQ facilities and story sharing signage. The story sharing includes creation stories, formation of our land, our flora and fauna, mahika kai and the port story including shipwrecks, sea rescuers, and play at the bay for over a century.



C Play volunteer kids test out the iconic yellow horse. Photo Roselyn Fauth



Earthmoving during works. Photo Roselyn Fauth



South Canterbury Drone Photography



South Canterbury Drone Photography

Book Giveaway

Sisters Under the Rising Sun, is a captivating novel from author, Heather Morris.



It tells the story of two Australian army nurses, Nesta James and Vivian Bullwinkel, in Singapore during World War II. When the Japanese military overrun the city, Nesta and Vivian cram aboard the merchant ship, Vyner Brooke. But just days later the ship is bombarded at sea and the two nurses end up in a succession of Japanese prisoner of war camps where they struggle to survive for nearly four years.

This is a story of courage and resilience in the face of terrifying circumstances.

Heather Morris is the author of the Tattooist of Auschwitz and her books are meticulously researched. For Sisters Under the Rising Sun she met with the families of both the lead characters and is driven by a passionate commitment to provide the 500 women interned in these camps with the recognition for their bravery that they deserve but did not always receive.

We have a copy of this wonderful book to give away.

If you would like to be in the draw to win please email pattie@essencemagazine.co.nz telling us why you would like to win and including your contact details.



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Holiday Destinations

As the weather warms up our thoughts turn to holiday time. We are so lucky in South Canterbury to live with so many fabulous places and things to do right on our doorstep. Whether you're a foodie, an adrenalin junkie, a beach lover or wilderness trampler - our region has plenty of options. So if you're looking for holiday options this year - why not keep it local? You might be surprised at what you discover.



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Top Ten Timaru Holiday Park combines the convenience of a city central holiday park with the seclusion, spaciousness and quiet of a country setting. We have everything you need for a great holiday, Caroline Bay and the town centre are within walking distance and a supermarket is only two minutes away. Spacious, sheltered, quiet, safe and hidden from the public view. This ideal accommodation will make your stay in Timaru City a carefree experience.

Book on-line: www.timaruholidaypark.co.nz
154A Selwyn Street, Waimataitai, Timaru
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Located at 80 King Street Timaru, U Wash is the perfect destination for everything you want. Powered by Eftpos, you don't need to scramble for coins or tokens.

A U Wash Laundromat gives people the opportunity to do some washing while they can go and explore their own backyard. You have the opportunity to do your laundry, wash your car, fill up with fuel and get something to eat while you're at it and don't forget to wash your dog as well all while waiting for your washing to finish. U Wash, your one stop destination.

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Timaru

When you live and work somewhere, you can often overlook its many attractions. But Timaru has plenty to offer if you just want to kick back and relax. Check out the Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden; the Aigantighe Art Gallery where you'll find a large collection of New Zealand and international art or spend a morning checking out some of the town's amazing street art. If you prefer to shop and lunch then you're also spoilt for choice - from Asian to European and even the excitement of Teppanyaki there's something to suit all palates and Timaru's boutique shopping means you're bound to find something a little bit different.

Oamaru

The picturesque seaside town of Oamaru boasts a Victorian precinct so authentic you feel like you've stepped back in time. Browse the shops or stop for lunch by the sea. And whatever you do don't miss the intriguing Steampunk HQ - where you can check out all sorts of weird and wonderful things in this retro-futuristic collection from an old style steam train that you can climb aboard to the awe inspiring 'portal' room.

Peel Forest

One of the region's best kept secrets - this peaceful little village is in the middle of one of the country's last remaining podocarp forests. And if you're wondering podocarps are types of conifer trees. There are walks here to suit all levels but don't go home without checking out the amazing tōtara estimated to be nearly 2000 years old. You'll also find over 50 species of ferns, waterfalls and breathtaking views.

Geraldine

The charming little town of Geraldine not only has some great spots to eat, handy shops and the iconic Barkers store and restaurant - it's also a great base for exploring the wider region. From here you can take easy day trips to Lake Tekapo, Twizel and beyond. Or why not splash out and check out the amazing natural landscapes with a scenic flight tour?

Keep it local these holidays!

CBay's 50 metre Outdoor Pool opens **November 10**.
Geraldine, Temuka and Pleasant Point district pools open **November 17**.

Hop to your favourite pool this summer and cool down for the holidays!

Please follow our facebook and website for the latest news and updates regarding CBay and the district pools

Caroline Bay Trust Aoraki Centre

www.cbaytimaru.co.nz



All I want for Christmas...

Sterling Silver Green Amethyst Necklace, \$189

Handmade Platinum Rhodolite Garnet & Diamond Ring, \$5,990

Handmade Platinum Three Diamond Ring (1.3 carat TDW), \$11,900

9ct Lab Grown Diamond Huggies, TDW 1 Carat, \$2,695

9ct Cobra Huggies, \$475

Karen Walker Peach Leather Jewellery Case, \$159

Brink Lille-Perlemor Fuchsia, \$275

Mark Lille-Walnut, \$239

Fjord Lille-Brace, \$275



Petite Lumine 5-Link Two Tone, \$329

Quadro Pressed Rouge Rose Gold, \$329

Iconic Link Unitone, \$399



Ege-Ocean, \$255

Ild-Jade, \$339

PANDORA

Triple Stone Heart Collier Necklace, \$99

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Disney x Pandora Mickey Apprentice Charm, \$99

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St Mawes Classic Arctic, \$399

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BUY Local



Summer Dining at Verde!

Get ready for al fresco dining with live music at Verde!

From Friday Nov 10th, our weekly Friday night dinners start again - and we would love to see you there.

With beautiful gardens, a children's play area and fabulous food - we can't wait to bring you the best of the season's offerings in the best of locations. We have a wonderful seasonal menu, live music, cocktails and craft beer all served in our



beautiful garden setting. So book your table now and make sure you don't miss out on the ultimate dining experience at Verde.

Open from 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Call 03 693 9616 or email info@cafeverde.co.nz to book your table today.

There is a chance that we will cancel the Friday night dinner on the 17th as that is the day that the Geraldine festival is on and it's usually our busiest day of the year.



The Timaru Community Christmas Dinner

Christmas is a time for coming together, particularly over the traditional Christmas Meal. The Timaru Community Christmas Dinner is a chance to do just that - there is no charge and all are welcome.

When: 12 midday on Christmas Day, 25th December

Where: Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru

Transport is available.

Bookings are essential.

Ph: 021 0848 1046

Want to help with the Timaru Community Christmas Dinner?

There are still volunteer and sponsorship opportunities available and we also welcome donations - this really is about the community coming together to provide a great Christmas Day Meal. Get in touch with us on 021 0848 1046 or email: timaruchristmasdinner@gmail.com

Follow on Facebook: [TimaruCommunityChristmasDinner](https://www.facebook.com/TimaruCommunityChristmasDinner)



No-churn Extra-rich Chocolate Frangelico and Boysenberry Ice Cream

This delicious recipe is from the new recipe book 'dish SWEET' by Sarah Tuck and Claire Aldous.

By crikey this is good - we've been making ice cream variations for ages, and this one just went to the top of the favourites list.



SERVES 8

Ingredients

- 500ml cream
- 150 grams dark chocolate (72% cocoa), chopped into 1cm chunks
- ¼ cup Frangelico
- 1 tablespoon dark cocoa
- 395-gram tin sweetened condensed milk
- ½ cup boysenberry jam
- ½ cup chopped toasted hazelnuts or almond flakes

Equipment

- 1.5-litre capacity freezer-safe container.

Method

Heat half the cream in a small microwave-safe jug or on the stovetop until simmering. Add the chocolate chunks and leave to sit for 1 minute.

Whisk until smooth, if necessary, reheating very briefly. Set aside until cool. Add the Frangelico to the chocolate and whisk to combine.

Whip the remaining cream to soft peaks, add the cocoa and sweetened condensed milk and whisk until smooth.

Completely fold in the cooled chocolate and pour into the container. Freeze for 3 hours then drop in blobs of jam and ½ of the hazelnuts and swirl through gently. Freeze a further 4 hours or overnight before serving. Top with the remaining hazelnuts to serve.

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HEINEKEN ZERO 12 pack bottles
\$26.99



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\$13.99



ST REMY Brandy 1L
\$52.99

35 Browne St, Timaru | P 03 688 1012 | www.warehouseliquor.co.nz

Local Foodies

It's a great time to head out and enjoy having brunch, lunch or dinner cooked for you at one of our many local eateries. From freshly brewed coffees and sweet treats to a full 3-course dinner, we are spoilt for choice in South Canterbury so get out and enjoy



BIN INN

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Catering South Canterbury

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Christmas party on 16th December at Grey Way Lounge and Christmas Day smorgasbord at mid-day.

Phar Lap Raceway, State Highway 8, Washdyke, Timaru | 03 688 2626
E: CateringSouthCanterbury@hotmail.com



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Set your taste buds on fire at HELL Timaru, home of the best damned pizza in this life - and the next.

With an array of sinfully delicious pizza, pasta, and desserts, you'll be spoiled for choice. We cater to all souls, veggie, vegan, carnivore, and gluten-free.

Give in to temptation and order now to savour the flavours of Lust, Greed, Gluttony, and more.

Visit hellpizza.nz or 3/9 Elizabeth Street, Timaru. Ph. 03 927 2239



Christmas Gift Guide

Christmas shopping should be a pleasure not a chore. So keep it stress free and fun this year – right here in South Canterbury.

You'll be amazed at the variety and range of items available from our local retailers. There are gifts for everyone at all budgets; friendly, helpful service and no waiting around anxiously to see if that thing ordered on some overseas website will actually turn up for Christmas.

Read on to get inspired with this year's awesome Essence Christmas Gift Guide from our fabulous local stores.

Simply Skin Appearance Medicine, situated in the Royal Arcade has your Christmas gift ideas covered.

If you are after some stocking fillers gifts, Simply Skin has some great ideas for you. Lily and Lolo makeup, Medik8 Christmas packs, 60-minute hydrating skin care treatments, anti-wrinkle treatments options, laser hair removal, gift cards, looking for that natural skin care for the teen in the house. Simply Skin has the wonderful range from Salcura, highly effective natural products. Gift vouchers are always fantastic way to say Merry Christmas.

Debbie has 20 years of years of experience in Appearance Medicine and can guide you though the options. Simply Skin is Timaru's boutique Appearance Medicine Clinic.

25 Royal Arcade, Timaru | 03 264 6054 | www.simplyskintimaru.co.nz



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APPEARANCE MEDICINE
TIMARU



1. Johnnie Walker 12 days of Discovery Giftbox
2. Glenfiddich Whisky Miniature Gift Pack
3. Remarkable Cream
4. Regions of Scotland Tasting Set
5. Johnnie Walker Black Giftpack
6. American Whiskey Gift Pack
7. Glenfarclas Tripack
8. Le Tribute Gin Gift Pack

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A Home that Feels Like a Holiday



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Max Warren

WORDS: AMELIA NORMAN | IMAGES: CREDITS ON PHOTOS

On a quiet corner in the sleepy, seaside settlement of Waikuku Beach is a home that feels like a holiday. Waves lap and gulls call in the middle distance. Quail skitter across the tidy, sheltered lawn. Sun pours over the neat deck, through wraparound sliding doors, across smooth West Coast beech floors. But despite the epic bach vibes, this is the full-time family home of Max and Julia Warren and their young daughters Olive and Poppy.

"We live in Waikuku Beach for the lifestyle," explains Julia. "Our lives are very outdoorsy and very beach-focussed and we wanted our home to blend in with this environment and our lifestyle."

From the street, the Warrens' home is all striking angles and gently weathered larch cladding. Eye-catching yet modest. The bold Corten steel alcove around the front door gives just a hint of the savvy design within.

The couple designed the home themselves. Max, an architect, who has recently set up his own business MW Architect, had long held a dream of designing his own home. With an array of award-winning projects from which to draw inspiration and a wish-list that included optimised outdoor living space and an "amazing" kitchen for food manufacturer, Julia, the pair threw numerous ideas around before settling on their compact, three-bedroom, bach-like design.

"We'd been looking for land for a while, whilst living in Christchurch," explains Julia. "We found this property in 2018. What we actually bought was an enormous macrocarpa hedge and a very old, dilapidated bach that had been here forever. Max took out everything that he could potentially reuse, like some lovely rimu and flooring, then he tied the framing to his Dad's Landcruiser and pulled the whole shack down!"

Once the property was cleared, the couple were standing on a 688m2 pile of sand. "It was all just sand," recalls Julia. "It made digging the piles really easy, but it also meant we had to bring in a huge amount of soil to get anything to grow here." It also inspired the home's moniker: Sandhill House.

The only nod you'll now find to the oodles of sand are an outdoor shower secreted around the side of the house ("ideal when we're coming in from the surf") and an impressive succulent garden where enormous green, yellow and blue agave and cacti variants thrive.

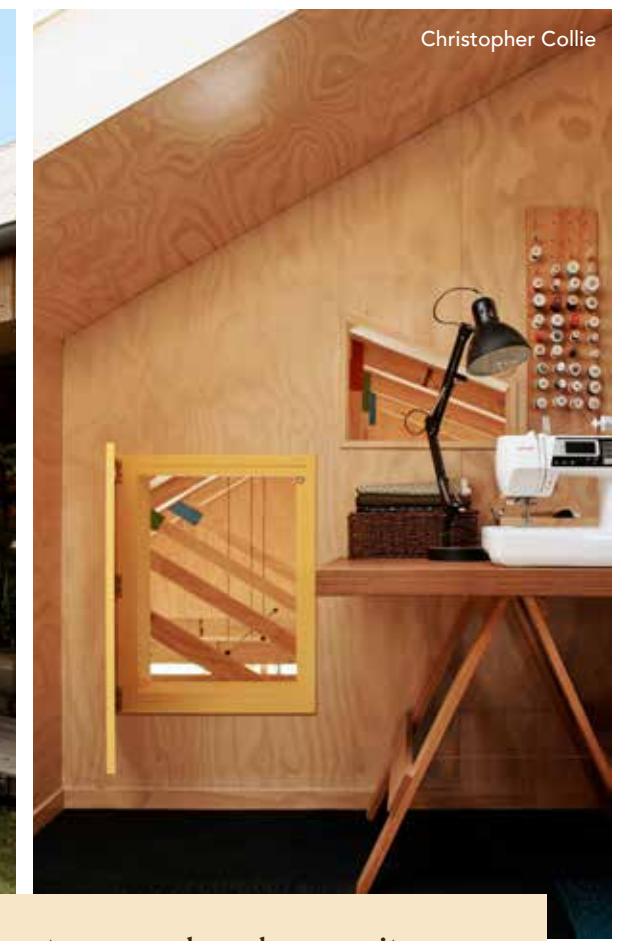
"A functional kitchen was a non-negotiable for me in the design phase. I wanted an amazing kitchen with lots of storage space and a walk-in pantry where our appliances could sit, ready to go. Max's only requirement was space for a coffee machine."



Christopher Collie



Christopher Collie



Christopher Collie

A wall of ply nooks provides storage and work space; its practical functionality contrasting with the colourful climbing wall that dots its way up to a safety net and a sun-yellow hatch into the upstairs loft space.

Around the garden's edge, lush akeake, lancewoods and lemonwoods create a well-established border. To the south are a walnut tree, apricot, loquat and feijoas. Just off the deck, to the north, is a small, flourishing herb garden along with some greens and strawberries. "That's my kitchen garden," says Julia, an avid foodie who operates her own raw food business, Make it Raw.

"A functional kitchen was a non-negotiable for me in the design phase. I wanted an amazing kitchen with lots of storage space and a walk-in pantry where our appliances could sit, ready to go. Max's only requirement was space for a coffee machine."

All the kitchen boxes have been well and truly ticked with a single wall of black cabinetry, steel benchtops and brass hardware offset beautifully by the ply walls that envelop the kitchen and living space. Max's coffee machine, shining in the corner, is the only benchtop appliance to be seen. The leathered negresco island is a central feature, serving as a family meeting space as much as a food prep one. "The island really brings the family together. The girls will sit and draw or eat there while we're in the kitchen."

Across the island is the bright living space, with those holiday-feel wraparound sliding doors and the gabled

ceiling filling the room with beautiful natural light. A wall of ply nooks provides storage and work space; its practical functionality contrasting with the colourful climbing wall that dots its way up to a safety net and a sun-yellow hatch into the upstairs loft space. Up here, Julia and Max share the space for sewing and working, respectively.

"I love the way Max has incorporated a lot of fun things," says Julia. "The girls go up the climbing wall and into the net and read books up there. Then there are the colourful nail plates up on the exposed trusses, the bright yellow laundry and the yellow garage floor."

These happy pops of unexpected colour amongst the ply walls, timber floors and sleek furniture have earned the home two Resene Colour Awards this year. Sandhill House has also received a Housing Award at the 2023 New Zealand Institute of Architects Canterbury Architecture Awards.

"These awards are a nice way for Max and our builders, McKenzie Builders, to get some recognition for the hard work they put into the house," says Julia. "But it also shows that you don't have to be building a million-dollar home to engage an architect; it shows that an architect can actually save you money with clever design and good use of space whilst adding something fun with a little bit of quirkiness."



Max Warren

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A Paddock of Peonies

WORDS: PATTIE PEGLER | IMAGES: SUPPLIED

When Jeanine and David Cassidy decided to move from Christchurch to Timaru, they talked about building a new home. But they wanted something a little bit different. Then when David spotted a house for sale in a peony paddock – they fell in love with it, forgot about building and bought the place, peony paddock and all.

So what did they know about peonies back then?

“I only knew that I loved peonies and they were my favourite flower,” says Jeanine with a laugh.

That was back in 2015 and at the time she was a stay-at-home mum with all three daughters at school. She was also working as a specialist bra-fitter for a well-known lingerie company – a role she had held for several years. But on moving to the peony paddock she intended to try to make a little extra income.

So in 2017 she started the peony business too – selling the flowers at markets and also trying out different peony derivatives like bath bombs and candles, soaps and confetti.

“You have to try different things and find out what works,” she explains. “You gain an understanding of peonies. They’re

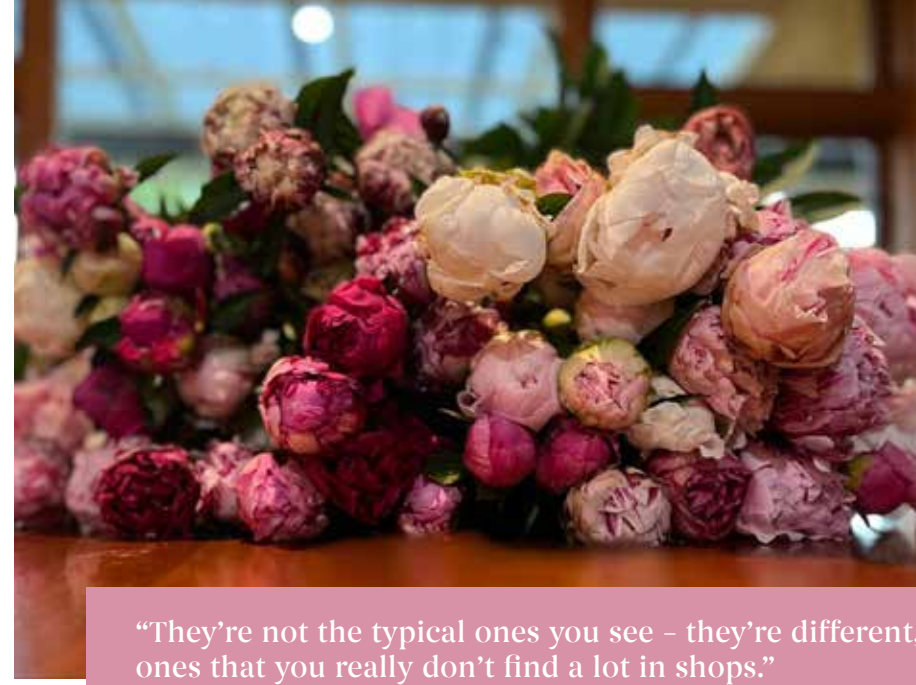
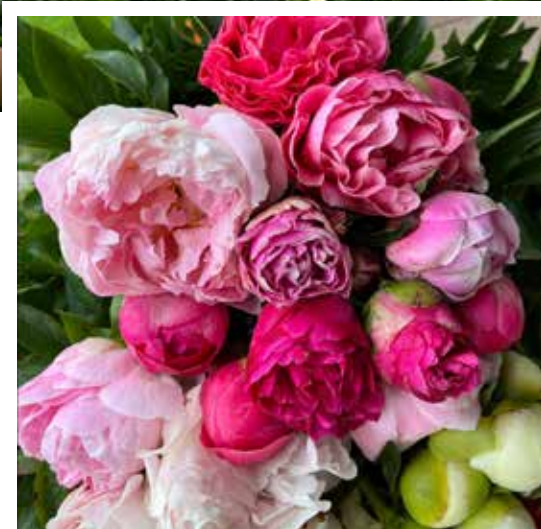


Jeanine Cassidy

special because they’re not around for very long and people get so excited when they see them.”

When it comes to the workload – spread out over the year it’s not a lot says Jeanine, but it does have ‘concentrated periods of work’. And at times like these the rest of the family will pitch in. Husband David is “a bit of a legend” and does a lot of work around the paddocks. And their daughters lend a hand at picking time.

Four years ago she decided to add another item to the to do list – holding a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Foundation New Zealand. It was driven in part by her work as a bra-fitter. “There are so many



“They’re not the typical ones you see – they’re different, ones that you really don’t find a lot in shops.”

women who don’t go for mammograms and don’t self-examine. And don’t talk about it. And I thought why don’t we use the peonies to raise some funds for Breast Cancer NZ.”

Whilst the first fundraiser was a bit nerve wracking, it went really well. And since then it has got bigger and better each year – consistently raising around \$2000 for the Breast Cancer Foundation. As well as peony sales they have other local artisans who come along on the day – and rather than a stall fee Jeanine just asks them to donate whatever they think appropriate to the Breast Cancer Foundation.

“The fundraiser is one of the happiest times,” says Jeanine. “Everyone is there for the same purpose and that is to make someone else’s world a little bit better. It fills my cup.”

Peonies also have a personal level of emotion for Jeanine. She recalls in detail placing deep red peonies on her father’s casket before his funeral a few years ago. They were the peonies that were in bloom when he died and now every year when she sees those ones blooming in the paddock she thinks of her father.

Whilst none of the peonies in the paddock are ‘named’ as particular varieties – there are ‘all sorts’ says Jeanine. Ruffled petals, delicate pastels, deep pinks and reds and even some scented ones.

“We don’t sell export level peonies – they don’t have pesticides or insecticides of anything like that on them – some can be a little bit rain damaged, half may flower, half may not,” she explains. “They’re not the typical ones you see – they’re different, ones that you really don’t find a lot in shops.”

They sound perfectly imperfect. But has it been a big learning curve?

Well, peonies are actually quite hardy plants, so they don’t need a lot of looking after. But one important aspect of healthy plants is not cutting them down straight away once they have flowered. “Let them go through their natural process,” she advises. “Let them go through sun and elements that’s how you set them up for the next season.”

And peonies still haven’t lost their appeal for the Cassidy’s.

“We still get excited as we sit and watch them grow from our living room,” says Jeanine “They are quite phenomenal.”

Open Day Fundraiser at Kaiwara Homestead and Gardens



Over Saturday the 18th and Sunday 19th of November Kaiwara Homestead at Culverden will be hosting an open day with all proceeds going to Cholmondeley Children’s Centre.

Bruce Johns has been busy through the year getting the garden prepped for the Homestead’s first open day. “Through our families brief association with Cholmondeley we recognise the sterling work they do, with total love and care for youngsters in need,” he says.

Kaiwara Homestead was built in 1886. It has been modernised over the years and is now a nine-bedroom home with large living areas, but it has virtually the same shape as in 1900.

The station was purchased by Walter Macfarlane in 1877, for his son John who was 20 years old at the time. John was an industrious man who developed the 24,500 acres, from just one hill block and one paddock on the flat. At its heyday around 1910 it carried 25,000 sheep. There was a cowman/gardener, a cook and two housemaids. And there were three gardeners - now just me laments Bruce!

The Kaiwara garden was one of the premier showpieces of the Amuri. Today Kaiwara comprises 1300 hectares (3200 acres), the garden is approximately three acres, with several notable trees planted before 1900. It was purchased by Bruce and Audrey Johns 27 years ago. Now their two sons run Pedigree Angus cattle on the hills with an annual bull sale held. The 320-hectare irrigated flats carry a dairy herd with 1100 cows milked.



At the open day visitors can look through part of the homestead and gardens including the partly restored large fernery and potting shed. The recently restored Station cookshop will also be open for viewing. It is now a four bedroom residence contained in the original footprint. Visitors will enjoy recapturing the cookhouse’s atmosphere where the cook would have been in charge of catering for up to 30 staff for shearing.

There will be live music and visitors are welcome to picnic in the grounds. There will also be talk given on Kaiwara at 11am and 2pm each day. An original painting by neighbouring artist Lissa Holland will be sold by silent auction with all proceeds to the cause.

Kaiwara is 10 minutes’ drive from Culverden, signposted from St Leonards Rd. The open day will run from 10-4pm over the Saturday and Sunday of Show Weekend. Entry \$20, tea and coffee included and children are free.



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Not Just LAND ROVERS

WORDS: GRANT SHANKS AND DAVE (SPROCKY) LOCKETT | PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Established in 1966, the Canterbury Land Rover Owner's Club (CLROC) is one of the oldest such clubs in the country, and with a membership of about 155 owners, it is also one of the largest of its kind in New Zealand. While membership (as the name suggests) was originally restricted to the venerable Land Rover, in later years the club opened its doors to other 'serious' four wheel drive vehicles. These include big cousin, the Range Rover, Toyota Land Cruisers and Hi Lux's, Nissan Patrols along with Jeeps, of course, and other 4x4's with similar off-road capabilities.

The history of the Land Rover goes back to the immediate post WW2 years. The original prototype was actually created in 1947 on the chassis and axle of the war's proven rugged old workhorse, the Willy's Jeep. Rover company chairman, Maurice Wilks, and his brother Spencer, were the culprits. So successful were the brother's experiments in a barn down on the family farm in Wales, the company almost immediately went into production of this new and quite revolutionary 4x4. The Land Rover Series 1 was rolled out by the former bicycle manufacturing company the following year. The rest is very much motoring history.

Today, CLROC is very much an active club promoting the virtues (and dare we say vices) of this iconic and sometimes maligned (by the uninformed of course) marque.

"My old '53 is noisy, uncomfortable and underpowered, but it gets me where nothing else will," said one rather proud owner. "I love the old girl."

That basically sums up the earlier Rovers at least. Like the Jeep they were semi-cloned from, they were rather utilitarian, a bit rough around the edges some might say, but very functional. Today, they are a lot more sophisticated, but the functionality is inbred, and that's the driving force (pun intended) behind CLROC – getting out there and doing it.

The club organizes regular events, such as driver training and expeditions to explore many of the amazing four-wheel drive tracks around the country, including venturing into the High Country and the myriad of river beds in Canterbury and further afield. In conjunction with the day runs, CLROC runs popular camping trips of varying durations to a wide variety of destinations. Camaraderie and the love of Land Rover and four-wheel driving are the glues that hold the club together.

Former Canterbury Land Rover Owner's Club Chairman and stalwart, Dave Lockett joined the club in 2006 and has been an active member ever since. "I have enjoyed a hell of a lot of trips since joining the club, and it's the members that make those trips enjoyable. I



would consider myself a regular Trip Leader running at least 5 outings a year. I'm probably best known for my winter trips to the Lake Tekapo area and Hanmer Springs looking for snow to play in. We've had some epic snow experiences over the years. The Tekapo trip is very popular with at least 30 trucks attending most times. Hanmer, while not quite as big, normally manages 20 trucks and that event is organized around a very popular Saturday night Pot Luck tea. It's a great family gathering."

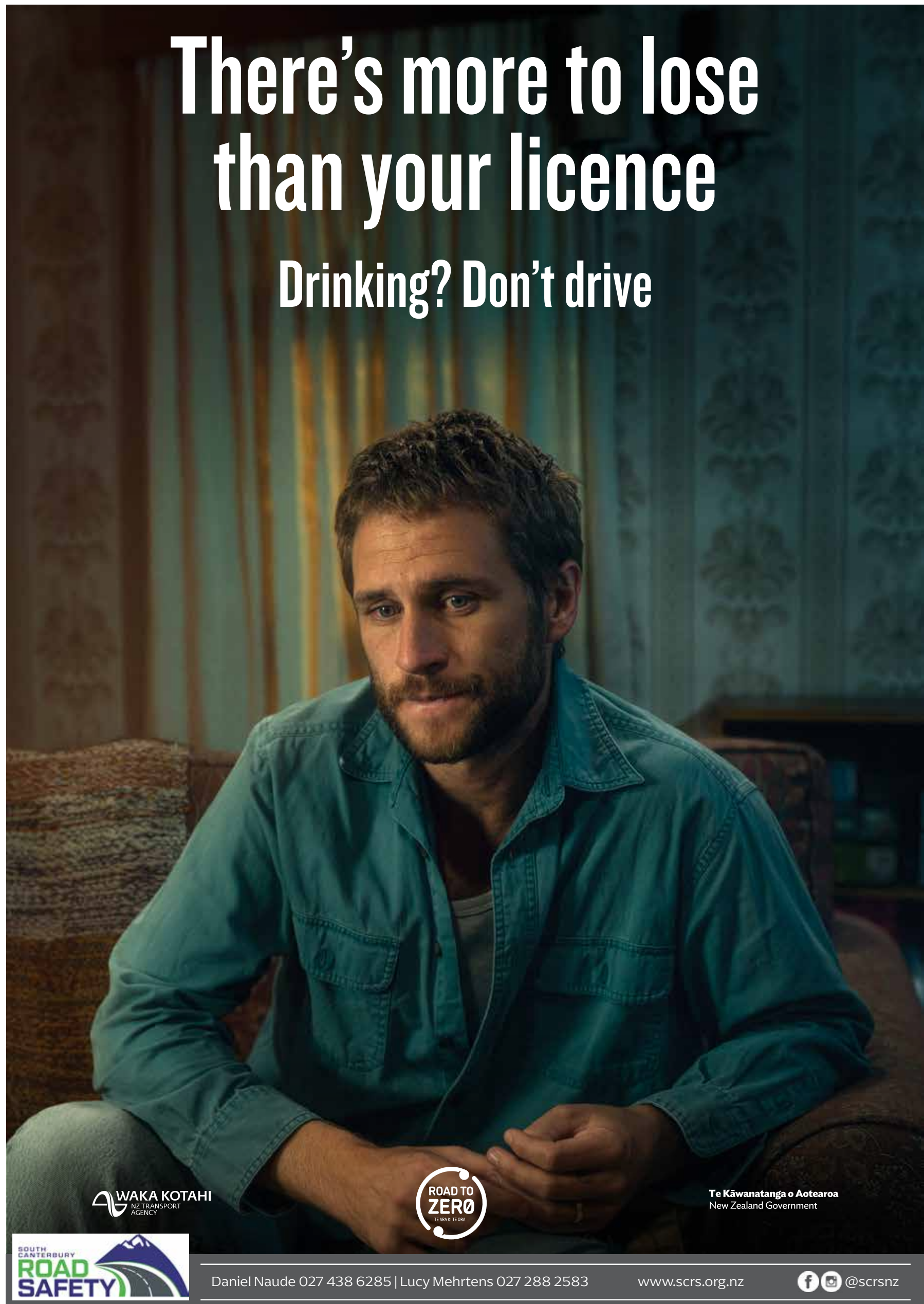
"CLROC has always focused on enjoying the outdoors with families. Generations have grown up in the club and are now driving their own vehicles. Sons and daughters, and even grandchildren, have joined their grandparents in the club. The great support from experienced members, to help newbies learn valuable off-road driving skills and the safe way to enjoy what we do is priceless," Dave maintains.

If you are interested in joining CLROC, contact Murray D, the club's Membership Officer, at clroc.membership@gmail.com. And check out the club website at www.clroc.co.nz.

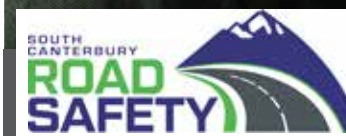


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