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QT
LIFESTYLE

QT Magazine is a modern lifestyle magazine focusing on the Southern Lakes region

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News from Around the Region

with Jenny McLeod

Ambitious Public Transport System for Queenstown

Queenstown has opened a new era in public transport in a bid to alleviate the pressure on the resort's roads and reduce the impact private vehicles have on the environment, with the introduction of Orbus Queenstown.

The bus service offers a flat rate fare of \$2, when combined with a GoCard, to anywhere in the network and is a joint project between the Otago Regional Council, the Queenstown Lakes District Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

Orbus is the first stage in a long-term strategic plan to ease the strain on the local roading network and the Queenstown environment.

NZTA spokesman Jim Harland says the solution to the transport issues in Queenstown is not as simple as constructing more roads.

"Steep and constrained topography means building more roads alone will not address Queenstown's transport issues – a broad range of measures are required to provide the well-integrated and responsive public transport system the Wakatipu basin needs."



New Partner for Queenstown Winter Festival

Queenstown Winter Festival has a new title partner with prominent tourism company Real Journeys stepping into the role.

Destination Queenstown chief executive Graham Budd says it's the first time in the 43-year history of the festival that a local business has been the major partner.

"Real Journeys has a deep connection with Queenstown and the wider southern region. This commitment also demonstrates their recognition of the value of the annual winter festival to our local community as well as our visitors."

Real Journeys chief executive Richard Lauder says the company is pleased to be the first Queenstown business to become principal sponsor of the festival and to get behind the event at the top level.

"Through this association we expect Real Journeys, along with our Cardrona Alpine Resort and Go Orange businesses, will become more widely recognised both domestically and internationally."

All Black Legend Bound for Godzone

Former All Blacks captain and sporting legend Richie McCaw is throwing his hat in the ring for the second consecutive year competing in the challenging Godzone adventure race in 2018.

A member of the PwC Adventure Racing Team, he will share the race with Rugby Players Association CEO Rob Nichol and Wanaka multisporters Sarah Fairmaid and Bob McLachlan.

Godzone is being held in the Te Anau region from March 1 until March 10 and McCaw's team will compete in the 500 kilometre, ten-day event to raise awareness of the Isport Foundation which assists and inspires Kiwi kids who can't afford to play sport.

"We always like to support a charity or cause where we can and Richie's foundation is doing great things for young New Zealanders who deserve a boost and some real encouragement and guidance," says Nicol. He says he and McCaw and the rest of the team are anticipating a major adventure during the race.

"We expect there will be many days immersed in Fiordland wilderness and with the pack rafting sections we could be out there for a long time. It's going to test us in the extreme mentally and physically and will be classic New Zealand adventure racing at its very best."



Richie McCaw

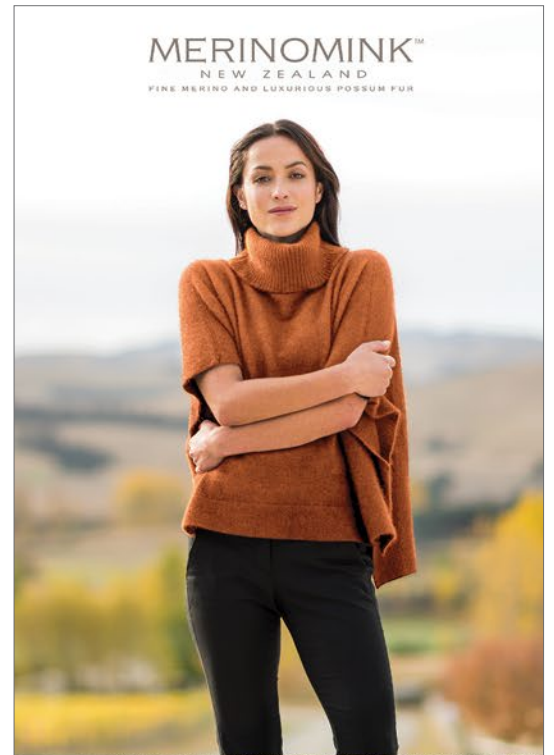
Health and Education Hub Promoted

A purpose built \$5m building close to the new Wakatipu High School at Remarkables Park will house a new early childhood learning centre scheduled to open early in 2018.

Remarkable Start will cater for 70 children aged from one to six on the ground floor while the extracurricular facility Kip McGrath and child therapy and psychology services will occupy the next level.

Spokesperson Candice Stewart says Remarkable Start will be an independent centre with a tailor-made and personal approach to providing children with the best possible start to learning.

"Our vision is to create a superior quality centre that's leading edge in New Zealand."



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Warbirds Over Wanaka Celebrates 30th Anniversary



Warbirds Over Wanaka marks its 30-year milestone at Easter 2018 underlining the confidence of founder Sir Tim Wallis in his vision for a world-class airshow based in the Southern Lakes.

Polikarpov I-16

Gavin Conroy

The internationally-acclaimed biennial airshow, set in stunning mountain scenery near the lakeside resort, will see more than 80 aircraft take part in the three-day event from March 30 until April 1. Aircraft will converge from around the world, including warbirds that defended freedom during four world conflicts, modern jets and helicopters.

The event is bringing back many favourite acts from past airshows and coincides with Sir Tim's 80th year.



USAF's C-17 Globemaster

An army of enthusiasts will re-enact battles while the specialist pyrotechnics team provides a backdrop of spectacular explosions and fireballs. The expected big crowds will enjoy impressive aviation displays while soaking up the atmosphere with market stalls, wine, food and craft beer stalls and children's entertainment.

"When the scene is further set by wartime music playing on the loudspeakers, it becomes an unforgettable experience," event manager Mandy Deans says. "Many visitors find themselves returning again and again to this remarkable event."

The main stars of the airshow are the WWII fighters and despite the passage of time and the growing expense of keeping them in the sky their numbers are stronger than ever.



Numbered among them are a rare Russian Polikarpov I-16 and Supermarine Spitfire. Famous for its contribution in WWII more than 22,000 Spitfires were produced with No.486 Squadron being a specific Spitfire squadron of Kiwi pilots.

Other aircraft include a Curtiss P-40E Kittyhawk, T-28 Trojan and the sleek North American P51-D Mustang. Added to the line-up is the mighty Grumman Avenger and a restored twin-engine Avro Anson Mk1. Their pilots are among the country's most experienced aviators, and many are commercial airline pilots with thousands of hours in their log books.

The RNZAF will display the capabilities of the advanced military helicopter, the NH90 and the Black Falcons will demonstrate their aerobatic Texans. The Australian, US and French Air Forces are also participating.

"Warbirds Over Wanaka is an event for the whole family," says Mandy. "It is run by a charitable community trust whose mission is to educate through the celebration and promotion of aviation, past and present."

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A Touch of Earhart

American aviatrix Amelia Earhart's spirit lives on in her former 1935 Packard Super 8 Coupe which will be part of an impressive rally of Packard vehicles attending the 2018 Warbirds Over Wanaka.



Former Earhart Packard

Amelia Earhart was the first woman pilot to fly across the Atlantic Ocean and disappeared in 1937 while attempting to fly around the world. The car she once owned, along with others, is being brought to Wanaka by the South Pacific Packard Club of New Zealand. Ten vehicles are being shipped from the United States especially for the Packard South Island rally which will culminate in the multimillion dollar car display at the airshow.

A strong link exists between the Packards and WWII aircraft. During WWII the Packard company made an American version of the Rolls Royce Merlin engine to power fighter aircraft. The Packard Merlin V12 engine was fitted to many aircraft types, including the P-51D Mustang, which will fly at the 2018 airshow.

Four of the Best

Warbirds Over Wanaka is recognised internationally as one of the best warbird air shows in the world and the 2018 30th anniversary event further cements its reputation.

RETURN OF THE POLIKARPOV

The story of Warbirds Over Wanaka founder Sir Tim Wallis and his restored Polikarpov aircraft remains one of the most audacious aircraft restorations ever undertaken. In the early 1990s Sir Tim located nine wrecked aircraft in remote areas of Siberia and convinced Russian authorities to re-open the original Polikarpov factory to have the aircraft fully restored and shipped to Wanaka. Their last performance at Wanaka was in 2008. Now one of those aircraft, Polikarpov 9, is due to make a triumphant return from Germany in 2018.

MASS HARVARD FORMATION

The Harvard is one of the most famous aircraft to fly at the Wanaka airshow. At least half a dozen of the former RNZAF trainer aircraft appeared at the first airshow and they have been a regular performer ever since. Back in 1998 12 Harvards were involved in a mass formation flypast and in 2018 organisers plan to have all 14 Harvards still flying in New Zealand take part in the Marsh Harvard Salute.

REGIONAL AIR FORCES

An impressive line-up of large military transport aircraft will feature at the 2018 airshow, including the massive C-17 Globemaster from the US Air Force, the RNZAF's C-130 Hercules, the French Air Force CASA and a debut visit to Wanaka by the RAAF's new Spartan C-27J. Other air force displays include the RNZAF Black Falcon aerobatic team and the RAAF Hawk Jets display team.

GRACEFUL GLIDER

One of the most talked about acts at the 2012 Wanaka airshow was a stunning glider display set to soaring classical music. Pilot Doug Hamilton will be back in 2018 with his ASH25 glider and will undoubtedly again mesmerise the crowd with his flying skills and the sheer beauty of this silent ballerina.



RAAF Hawk 127 Jets

Catch a Ride

Warbirds' Rides Day is an opportunity to get off the ground in anything from a Warbird to a jet aircraft. One of WOW's goals is to encourage people into aviation and warbird flying, with few new Warbird pilots training at present – hence the immensely popular Rides Day scheduled for Monday April 2.

Bookings are recommended at www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com

Airshow tickets are available from 0800 224 224 or www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com



ASH25 Glider

Hailing the Helicopters

A special free fly-over Lake Wanaka, celebrating helicopters large and small including RNZAF aircraft, will be held on March 30. Formations will fly over the lakefront with the Catalina Flying boat landing on the lake @ 4.30pm.

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Discovering Milford Sound

Milford Sound is New Zealand's most stunning natural attraction and Southern Discoveries has recently launched its state-of-the-art new coaches providing a premium road service from Queenstown.

Bethany Rogers went along for the ride.



I arrive at Southern Discoveries' information centre bright and early at 6:45am bound for a road trip to Milford Sound. Our driver Gabe Oldenhof is already there to greet us with the company's purpose-built coach which was launched in late winter 2017 and is making waves in the tourist industry.

There's a saying that travel is "about the journey, not the destination," but in the case of Milford Sound, it's both. On the map this world-famous natural attraction looks like an easy morning's drive from Queenstown. But New Zealand's dramatic landscape dictates the shape of the road which twists around mountains and glacier-fed lakes for almost four hours. I'm happy to let the professionals do it.

The new Scania 400EB coaches are sustainable and luxurious. They're low-emission and meet Euro Five standards and there are reclining seats and WiFi and USB charging ports on board.

But, by far and away the best feature is the view the new coaches provide – seen through large windows, a glass roof and a big screen showing dashboard camera views.

As we take the winding road towards Te Anau for our first coffee stop Gabe informs us about the landscape and local history. The narrative is also available in six different languages, but it's great to get a personal insight from him – he knows so much about everything and everyone in the area.

"It's a long drive, so I like to point out things and tell a few stories and jokes. There's a time for sleeping too, that's when I'll be quiet, but I always make sure nobody misses the interesting stuff along the way," he says.

"Driving to Milford all the time, I could get a bit blasé about the views. But chatting to visitors on the coach reminds you it's spectacular. The passengers can't believe what they see. Personally, my favourite part of the drive is from Knobs Flat through to the famous Homer tunnel."

At a stop shortly after Knobs Flat we meet the infamous Kea – the clown-like alpine parrot who enjoys pulling antennae off cars. Thanks to the USB ports on board the coach, my phone is fully charged and I manage to get some great footage of this rare and mischievous bird.



The Homer tunnel is undoubtedly a highlight. Due to the dash cam and glass roof I can see more of this incredible feat of engineering and on reaching the other side the mountains tower over us. I recline my seat back to look up through the roof, drinking in the incredible scenery as we arrive at Milford Sound for the next stage of our adventure – the Southern Discoveries cruise.

The company offers five different cruises – Scenic, Nature and Encounter Cruises and Discover More and Cruise & Kayak packages that include a visit to the Milford Sound Underwater Observatory. The coaches from Queenstown connect with the Nature and Scenic cruises which makes for seamless travel.



Each of the individual cruises provide a different perspective of the spectacular Milford Sound environment with its towering Mitre

Peak and remarkable waterfalls.



I chose the Nature Cruise which is perfect for people who love wildlife. The trip is accompanied by a fascinating in-depth commentary about the black coral, seals and other flora and



fauna Milford is famous for. We saw seals basking on the rocks and were doused by an impressive waterfall but the high point was a visit from a resident pod of bottlenose dolphins who playfully splashed alongside the catamaran.

The commentary was funny, fluid and informative – our guide had us

in stitches, looking out for penguins and other wildlife and learning the reason for the names of the famous peaks, waterfalls and mountains as we went by.

The friendly crew served a delicious Kiwi-style hot buffet lunch on board with all the personal touches that reflected the consistent professionalism encountered throughout the trip – from the coach driver to the cruise staff – definitely a cut above the rest.

From Interior Specialist to Celebrity

By Rebecca Williamson

Jason Bonham has found his niche designing the interiors of luxury homes and commercial spaces, super yachts and private jets for rich listers and international clients.

It was purely by chance, however, that he became a celebrity himself, courtesy of his role as a presenter and interior designer for renovation show *Trading Houses* and as a judge for two seasons of the successful show *The Block NZ*.

"Being on *The Block NZ* was super fun and we did a lot of laughing," says Jason. "It can be difficult as a judge though, simply because New Zealand is a much smaller population, so it can be a little bit restricted in terms of what can be supplied on a show like that. But every house on the show had its own style which was great."

While Jason is likely to reprise his role as a judge on next year's series, it's the multi-million-dollar luxury homes that really appeal to him. He has worked with some prominent international names through Bonham Interior and more recently has completed an extravagant \$75 million home for a large family in Santa Barbara.

However, the identity is under wraps as client confidentiality is hugely important in his work.

"We have a pretty fantastic clientele and we're fortunate to be able to do some amazing, super high-end work. There are a few people we are dealing with out of California who are global names which is fun."

"It's part of the reason why we are wanting to establish a base in the Southern Lakes – some of the clients we are working with are looking to come down and we are finding they don't want the typical Queenstown-Wanaka look."

Some of the fine art Jason has placed in top-end homes around the world include works by American Doug Aitken, Canadian artist Rodney Graham and acclaimed Indian-British sculptor Anish Kapoor.

"It's some serious art – none of the galleries in New Zealand have ever placed these artists so it's very exciting for us."



Eating Well with Al Brown

By Margo Berryman

Al Brown's groundbreaking approach to New Zealand food is again reflected in his latest book *Eat Up New Zealand* recently launched in Queenstown.

The popular New Zealand chef kicked off his nationwide book tour by hosting a special afternoon book launch at Queenstown's eco hotel Sherwood followed by an event at Bistro Gentil in Wanaka.

"I love coming to Queenstown and Wanaka and it seemed like a great spot to introduce the book publicly for the first time," he says. "It's an excuse for a quick road trip and it's a pretty relaxing way to get through the country and see something new."

Al has experienced wide success with his Auckland restaurant Depot, his Best Ugly bagel shops and bestselling books *Go Fish* and *Stoked*.

He is both a leader and a cheerleader for New Zealand produce and cooking.

"I love food and the New Zealand people and simply adore this country – where we live and what we have on offer is outstanding. I have been part of the hospitality industry from a relatively early age and to see how the food and wine scene has evolved over that time is extraordinary."

Eat Up New Zealand is a testament to his belief that Kiwis don't like "poncy" food but rather enjoy informal occasions to get together and share good homemade food.

"This is a cookbook that you can use every day and I hope people will read it and reminisce about foods from their childhoods and take in the beautiful photography that I trust has captured New Zealand's character, personality and grace," says Al.

"I love food and the New Zealand people and simply adore this country – where we live and what we have on offer is outstanding."

The book is packed with great stories about New Zealand food and includes more than 150 recipes focusing on simple, clever yet refined food that is inherently Kiwi.

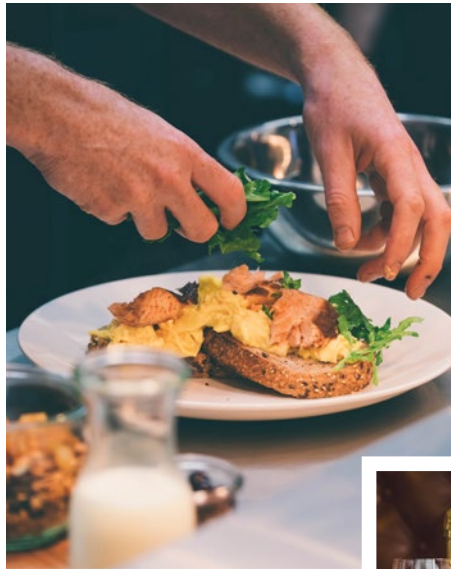
"I'm very proud to be cooking wonderful, nostalgic Kiwi-centric dishes, but it's the almost exhaustive explosion of new products grown here in New Zealand that really blows my mind. Our cuisine is a mix of old favourites combined with new, exciting flavours and ideas from elsewhere."

QUEENSTOWN'S GOLD STANDARD

Queenstown's elegant dining and entertainment establishments run by the Imperium Collection are creating unrivalled food and wine experiences for summer as Margo Berryman found out.

Best Kept Secret

Breakfast at Eichardt's The Grille overlooking Lake Wakatipu is the ideal start to the day. For those in the know, it's a quick walk down Searle Lane and into the back entrance of this stylish new waterfront restaurant. Choose from a delightful selection of dishes including apple porridge, buttermilk pancakes or eggs with mushrooms hollandaise served in the sunny bar area. Coffee with breakfast is complimentary so order up that second macchiato, sit back and appreciate.



Sunset Dining on the Waterfront

Summer cocktails, afternoon and evening dining just got better at Eichardt's The Grille with new al fresco tables lining the sophisticated restaurant's prime lakefront position. The classic combination of oysters and champagne or local craft beers and tasty sharing plates can be enjoyed on a summer's afternoon while taking in the world-class alpine and lake views.

Thank Krug It's Five O'Clock

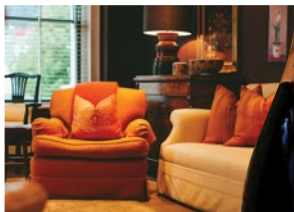
The team at The Grille love to celebrate and share their love of champagne, and have teamed up with Krug, one of the world's most esteemed champagne producers to host TKIF. During December and January, Krug Grande Cuvee will be available for purchase at The Grille by the flute (traditionally only sold by the bottle) making it the perfect way to wind down the working day. #TKIF



Quince of Hearts at No5

The "Quince of Hearts" cocktail is a fine example from the fascinating cocktail list at Queenstown hotspot No5 in Church Lane. Created by head bartender Michael Madison the exotic flavours of this "long style" drink are thirst quenching on a warm summer's evening.

Ingredients: Broken Heart Quince Gin, Broken Heart Quince Liqueur, Vanilla Galliano, Yellow Chartreuse, Lemon & Otago Fruit Tea Syrup.



Accolades Galore

Eichardt's Private Hotel has scooped up several distinguished awards for 2017. For the fifth consecutive year the hotel has been named New Zealand's Best Ski Boutique Hotel at the annual World Ski Awards. "We're honoured to once again take home this prestigious award," says owner Andrew Cox. "Queenstown has cemented its place as New Zealand's ultimate ski destination and our team take great pride in delivering an exceptional guest experience every time." Eichardt's and its waterfront restaurant The Grille were also named Luxury Hotel and Restaurant of the Year at the international Luxury Travel Guide Awards in London.



Eichardt's is located on Marine Parade in Queenstown's premium waterfront setting. Open 7 days a week.

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Nature's Influence @ Wilson & Dorset

By Rebecca Williamson

With its raw natural beauty and luxurious texture there's something very special about New Zealand sheepskin. But co-owner of Wanaka's Wilson & Dorset, Amanda Dorset, says quality sheepskins shouldn't be saved exclusively for the "good room".

In fact, she says, the sheepskins found at Wilson & Dorset's concept store in Wanaka, are so durable they can withstand any summer adventure, from hiking and camping to lounging around by the lake.

"Sheepskin is a luxurious, natural fibre which is incredibly robust – you can treat it rough, transport it anywhere, spill a glass of wine or a cup of coffee on it and it still maintains its beautiful look and feel after a quick spot clean."

Wilson & Dorset are specialists in transforming living spaces with a collection of intelligently designed sheepskins, short and long wool rugs, shaggy bean bags, cushions and soft stacking stones.

Amanda and her husband Ben Wilson have introduced a modern way of living with the collection, which facilitates freedom around the home and reduces the reliance on static furniture systems. Each piece flows seamlessly from living room to bedroom, indoors to outdoors.

Amanda says because the collection is heavily influenced by nature, it's effortlessly stylish as well as functional.

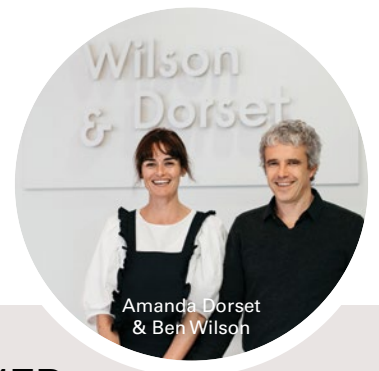
"We're trying to take what nature has developed so beautifully and harness it and bring it into the home. We specialise in New Zealand curly sheepskin and we try to do as little as possible with the processing of it so that its inherent beauty – the crimp and the curl – is preserved."

The pieces are all trans-seasonal being made from high-quality New Zealand wool designed to withstand heat, dirt, rain and moisture and every item is portable and convenient.

"Wool is a clever fibre and it's perfect for both hot and cold conditions – the sheep have to live in really extreme weather, from sub-zero temperatures to 35-plus degrees. Our short wool 'living' pile rug is very easy care and can be transported anywhere in summer. We even take ours camping."



"Our sheepskins are to be lived on and used every day."



SHEEPSKIN SUMMER WITH WILSON & DORSET

Tips for making the most of New Zealand sheepskin this season

TAKING IT OUTSIDE

It's as simple as moving the shaggy bean bag to the deck or whipping off the sheepskin from the armchair to place on the grass as a sun lounger

GO CAMPING

Take your sheepskins camping. They are perfect for sitting and lying on – and ideal for placing on a camp bed as an underlay for extra comfort

SUNDOWNER

Sheepskins are very versatile – great to throw over an outdoor chair around the barbecue or wrap up in while sipping a night cap and swapping stories as the sun goes down

Wilson & Dorset

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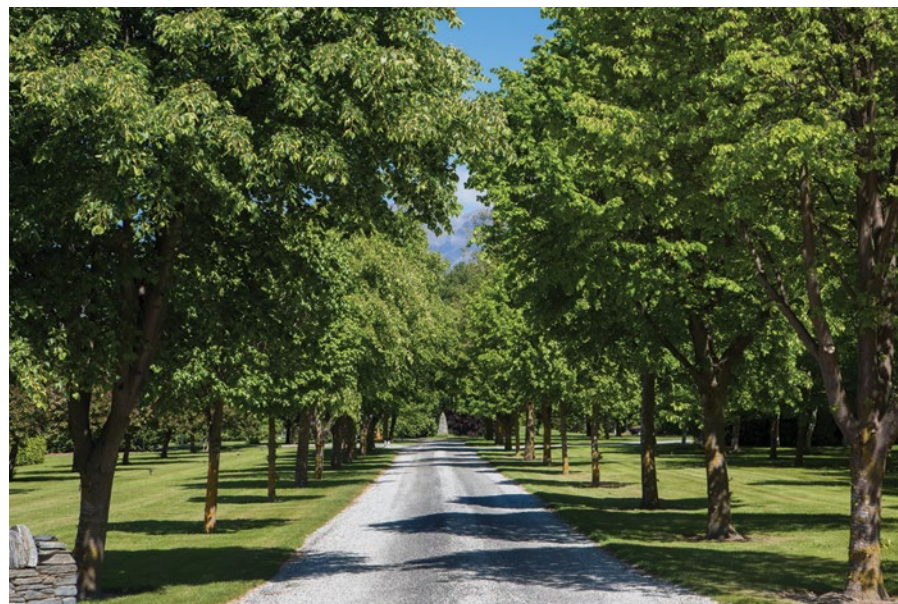
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Design Talk

THE MATÉGOT TROLLEY

North Interiors sources elegant and practical furnishings from Europe and Scandinavia and many of the designs have stood the test of time.

One example is the 1950s Matégot Trolley. Still manufactured for stylish homes around the world the tea trolley was designed by Mathieu Matégot, creator of the Rigitulle technique, where perforated metal is combined with metal tubing.

"This means it's lightweight yet very strong," says Olivia. "It has rolling castors, so it floats across the floor and has two trays with the top available in different colours as well as a newspaper holder. It's both practical and timeless."



Showcasing European and Scandinavian Design

By Bethany Rogers

North Interiors owner Olivia Dunstan has a "buy once buy well philosophy" which is reflected in her distinctive range of European and Scandinavian furniture.

Olivia has travelled extensively attending top-end design shows in Europe to seek out the best furniture and design pieces which are displayed in her stylish show room in Queenstown's Glenda Drive.

"This area is an up and coming place for retail," says Olivia. "Customers comment on the ease of parking around the store. I have three dedicated parks and now that Glenda Drive has become a through road it's even easier to get to. It's a lot more relaxing to shop and select items for your home when you don't have to worry about traffic and parking."



Formerly a garage, the store underwent extensive renovation and is spacious enough to house a selection of the beautiful furniture North Interiors is becoming so well known for.

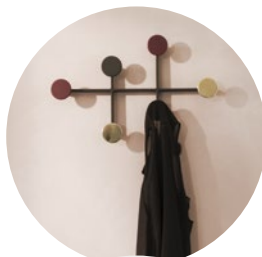
"We showcase as many pieces as we can on the floor, which are obviously all for sale as well, so that clients get a feel for product quality and style before ordering colours and sizes to suit individual spaces," says Olivia. "We cannot display every style and colour but we do have a select range of fabrics in store so that people can see exactly what they are ordering. There are also excellent examples online."

GLAMOROUS GIFTS

As well as stunning furniture North Interiors sells homewares that are perfect for special occasion and Christmas gifts.

The Afterroom Coat Hanger, designed by Stockholm based design studio Afterroom, is a simple yet sophisticated wall hanger – it's a perfect pick for someone who loves minimalistic design.

Wine lovers will appreciate the award-winning Wine Breather Deluxe by Norm Architects. This traditional carafe with a twist enables easy pouring and adds ten times more oxygen to the wine for a beautiful flavour.



3/183 Glenda Drive, Queenstown 9300
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WWW.NORTHOFHERE.NZ

Specialised Solutions at Ocula

By Penny Simpson

Established by leading optometrist Danielle Ross Ocula is the most progressive optometry clinic in the Southern Lakes offering services both in Queenstown and Wanaka that have raised the bar.



Danielle Ross

As director and principal optometrist Danielle has devoted time, energy and passion to developing the most technologically advanced eye clinic in the region.

"It has allowed me to make some brave, but exciting moves. I get a kick out of making a real difference in someone's life and I am fortunate to be able to spend my day creating innovative solutions that not only change lives but also pave the way, raising standards in eye care, both locally and nationally."

Providing expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of eye health issues, Danielle has an increasing reputation as a contact lens specialist.

"As a devout contact lens wearer myself the dry, arid Central Otago air has been one of my greatest clinical challenges and my goal has been to provide my patients with healthy eyes and freedom from glasses."

Training in Brisbane, Danielle says the concept of dry eyes and allergies was theoretical until she first arrived in Queenstown where the dry climate has been compared to Arizona.

"The minute I stepped onto the tarmac of Queenstown Airport all the humid, plump moisture in my skin, hair and eyes quickly evaporated – I felt like I was in a desert. My eyes were irritated and gritty and when they were not dry I experienced tears flowing down my cheeks because I was actually suffering Dry Eye Syndrome."

Driven to find a solution she has invested over \$250,000 in specialised diagnostic and treatment equipment aimed at tailoring her clinic's management approach and providing innovative results.

"I get a kick out of making a real difference in someone's life."



"The fact is there are options – and lots of them because everyone is different. For some of our clients the new Dailies Total 1 contact lenses by Alcon are the perfect solution because of their design, superior breathability and ultra soft surface. They offer up to 16 hours of uncompromised vision and comfort every day."

"For treating the underlying cause of dry eyes we provide E-Eye IPL which means our clients do not have to use eye drops anymore, and their eyes have stopped watering profusely," says Danielle. "We also specialise in Orthokeratology, a truly revolutionary breakthrough in technology that uses a unique overnight treatment, allowing a patient to see clearly every day without glasses or contact lenses."

Danielle says she cannot stress enough the benefits of a tailored approach to a client's eye health because every case is unique.

"As an optometrist, this means having all the options that our modern day technology allows, on hand and available for our patients. It also means being experienced and specialised, because finding the right diagnosis the first time and providing the best solution, leads to the most effective treatment strategies and winning results."

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Quintessentially Queenstown

By Penny Simpson

Hot property hotel group, QT Hotels & Resorts, has recently unveiled its latest New Zealand hotel in downtown Queenstown underlining the brand's trademark upscale style.

The five-star designer hotel, QT Queenstown, is the first purpose built property for the group, known for its signature mix of quirky architecture, art and design.

General manager Vince Santoro says the new complex is quintessentially Queenstown and takes its cue from the area's stunning alpine setting.

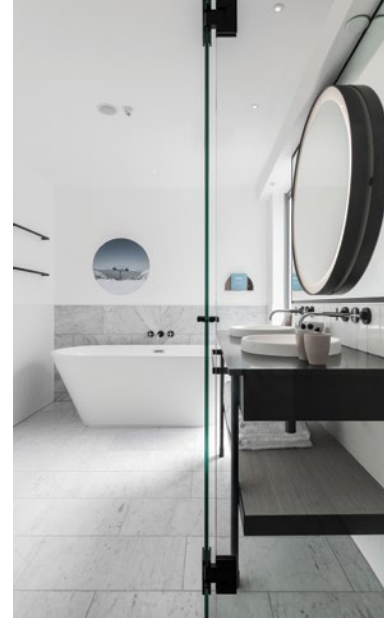
"The hotel embraces the iconic landmarks of Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables Mountain range which it overlooks. The centralised public spaces, rooms and restaurant are stylised around a theme of a nostalgic alpine and après ski lifestyle which fits with Queenstown's reputation as an international mountain resort."

Australian designer Nic Graham collaborated with stylist Anna Roberts to establish the right aesthetic for QT Queenstown bringing an unrivalled energy to the accommodation sector.

"We like to redefine what the hotel experience is for our guests and create a sense of luxury comfort. Nic has worked on the vision for all our properties and he is masterful at creating the right balance between vintage and contemporary styling," says Vince.

The hotel has 69 guest rooms overlooking Lake Wakatipu, individually tailored and curated to cater for top end visitors.

"Each suite has been decked out with upmarket furnishings and a luxurious QT Gel bed that are synonymous with all our properties. The ensuite bathrooms are large with oversized stand alone bath tubs and designer finishes," he says. "But above all, our rooms have a view to die for."



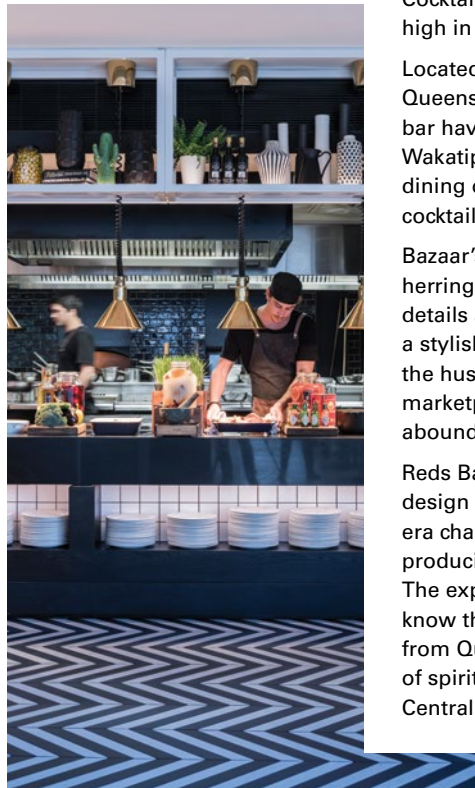
SOPHISTICATED & SOCIAL

Sophisticated food and drink offerings at QT Hotel's restaurant, Bazaar Interactive Marketplace and Reds Cocktail Bar, are setting the social bar high in Queenstown.

Located side by side within the QT Queenstown space, the restaurant and bar have superb views across Lake Wakatipu and provide adventurous dining options and a fun social hub for cocktails, music and late night DJ sets.

Bazaar's designer interior reveals herringbone-patterned floors, leather details and exposed surfaces creating a stylish finish. The restaurant mimics the hustle and bustle of a traditional marketplace and the interactive menu abounds with international cuisine.

Reds Bar is the hallmark of good design with customised Eames-era chairs and bold wall graphics producing the perfect backdrop. The expert bartenders intimately know their mixes offering choices from Queenstown's largest selection of spirit, liqueurs and leading Central Otago wines.





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Skycity Community Trust Endorses Local Groups

By Jenny McLeod

The SKYCITY Queenstown Community Trust has donated \$1.7 million for community groups in the past 15 years and this year over 50 charitable groups have benefited underlining the valuable role they perform in the community.

Trust chairman Clark Pirie says in total \$121,897 has been distributed this year to support the work of 52 Queenstown groups.

He says the Trust is a strong supporter of rescue and emergency organisations, of sporting groups which encourage health and social contact and events that add vibrancy to the community.

“We’re proud to have been able to support organisations like Wakatipu Search and Rescue, Happiness House and Presbyterian Support Otago for many years now to ensure their important work in the community continues.”

SKYCITY Queenstown general manager Jonathan Browne says the community trust is one of the ways the company can make a positive contribution locally.

“We’re privileged to be a part of Queenstown, supporting local community groups, backing the SKYCITY Stampede, Winter Festival, Gay Ski Week, Colour Burst and many other ways to make Queenstown an even better place to live, work and play.”

He says funds distributed this year will assist with a variety of projects including the health shuttle service for St John-Wakatipu, a vehicle for the Wakatipu Abuse Prevention Network to help it service the Wanaka area, new transceivers for Wakatipu Search and Rescue and important equipment for the Lakes District Air Rescue Trust.

“We have also leant support to Happiness House and Presbyterian Support Otago and Southland’s Buddy programmes as well as providing funds to assist with speech language therapy for children involved in The Upside Downs Education Trust.”

Drama Queenstown, the Remarkable Theatre and the LUMA Southern Light project have all attracted funding along with the Queenstown Hockey Club, Queenstown Ice Hockey, the Queenstown Swimming Club and the Wanaka Rowing Club.



Jonathan Browne



Frankie Singers

Jonathan says the Trust has also enabled the Kelvin Peninsula Community Association to purchase an 80-metre flying fox for Jardine Park and provided support groups such as Wakatipu Playcentre and the Wakatipu Toy Library, the Wakatipu Youth Trust and Queenstown Plunket.

The Warbirds Over Wanaka Community Trust also received support to bring the Christchurch group, the Frankie Singers, to the 2018 air show to provide free entertainment.

“These are just some of the many groups and organisations we have been able to help in this year’s funding round and we look forward to providing ongoing support across the board in the future.”

Footnote: Jonathan not only supports Queenstown groups – he has also recently competed in the tough SKYCITY Stair Challenge – a race up 1103 steps in Auckland’s Skytower raising money for Leukemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand.



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Summer at Base

By Penny Simpson

Base has been open just 12 months in Queenstown and has already established itself as the go to store in the resort for streetwear and lifestyle brands.

"We love what we do and pride ourselves on creating a fun vibe and great service in store," says Base store manager Daisy Mayen.

"We are celebrating our first year in Queenstown in February and we're loving being downtown."

Base opened its first store in Wanaka over 18 years ago and the store concept has evolved into a distinctive trademark of eclectic streetwear and lifestyle clothing under one roof.

"Whether you are shopping in the Queenstown or Wanaka store the same ethos is there which is all about accessibility to great streetwear brands from New Zealand and the rest of the world. We work hard to bring the best mix of brands and products together," says Daisy.



"We are proud to provide products and great service that engages a wide customer base and allows us to connect with everyone who walks in the door."

Base is open seven days a week in its central location in the Queenstown Mall.

"Our team is super excited for summer and we have a massive range of the best sunglasses including Rayban, Oakley, Electric, Smith, Le Specs, Quay and a huge range of shorts, tshirts, dresses, hats and caps," she says.

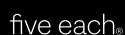
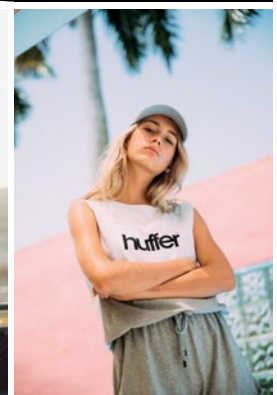
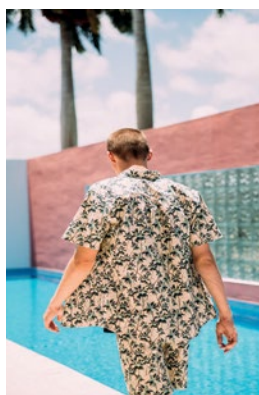
The store boasts Queenstown's largest selection of Havaianas jandals and has a wide assortment of street style accessories including Status Anxiety and Bellroy.

Base is the original stockist of Wanaka based merino brand Mons Royale and the entire summer range is available in both the Queenstown and Wanaka stores.



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2018 New Zealand Open Returns to Millbrook and The Hills

By Ian Hepenstall

For the last four years the ISPS Handa New Zealand Open has enjoyed unprecedented success and found a home in Queenstown under a model that includes amateurs paying to play alongside the professionals.

The tournament deservedly attracts Government Major Events funding as the arrowhead for the burgeoning New Zealand golf tourism business along with enticing high net-worth business people to take part in the event.

Organisers have attracted a family of significant commercial brands as sponsors while the host clubs of Millbrook Resort and The Hills have shared in the underwriting of the tournament.

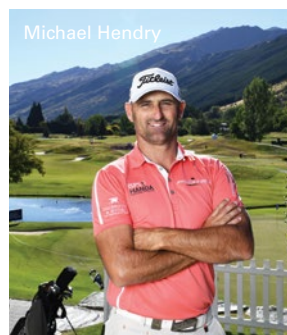
The development continues for the 2018 event, to be staged from March 1-4 at Millbrook Resort and The Hills, with the tournament now co-sanctioned with the ISPS Handa PGA Tour of Australasia and the Asian Tour along with a partnership arrangement with the Japan Golf Tour.

The development of co-sanctioning with the Asian Tour, and hopefully in the future with the Japan Tour, brings considerable added status, stronger fields and significantly more viewers as the television footage from the stunning Southern Lakes surrounds is beamed to more and more homes around the globe.

ISPS Handa New Zealand Open chairman John Hart says he is excited about the standing of the tournament.

“On the course it is becoming truly global – last year our leaderboard late in the final day had a Korean, two Japanese, an Australian and a Kiwi in the top five. We are delighted with the progress we are making and the quality of the professional field. The prize money now is over NZ\$1 million which is attractive to the players and this year we are co-sanctioned for the first time with the Asian Tour. That means our potential audience for the television coverage is over 750 million homes spread throughout Australia, Japan, Asia, USA, Canada, UK, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.”

A top field of Kiwi players is expected to join the international field with 2017 winner Michael Hendry, the first New Zealander in 14 years to win the championship, hopefully defending his title along with fellow contenders Ryan Fox and other prominent players including US based PGA golfers Tim Wilkinson and Steven Alker.



Along with the strong line up of representatives from Australia, Japan and Asia several celebrities will take part in the Pro-Am such as cricket legends Stephen Fleming and Ricky Ponting and renowned double international Jeff Wilson.

“The New Zealand Open is well established in Queenstown as it looks towards celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019,” says John. “I don’t see the tournament going anywhere else. There is firm support from the players and the growth path continues in terms of commercial support. We have great partners in Millbrook Resort and The Hills which is great for the game, great for tourism and certainly for Queenstown.”



Photographs: Photosport

JACK'S POINT SPECTACULAR GOLF DESTINATION

By Jenny McLeod

Jack's Point championship golf course with its spectacular location close to Lake Wakatipu and backdropped by the Remarkables Mountains has recently been ranked New Zealand's second top course and number one in the South Island by the Golf Digest reinforcing its reputation as an outstanding golfing destination.

"Jack's Point is continually at the top of the leaderboard when it comes to rankings, vying for position against high profile resorts around the country," says General Manager Golf John Griffin.

"Jack's Point was designed by leading course designer John Darby in such a way as to take advantage of the incredible landscape and alpine scenery. It provides an unrivalled standard of golf to meet the expectations of international golfers in terms of the quality of the course, services and facilities. The location has huge appeal for visitors and with its carpet like fescue fairways and smooth greens Jack's Point can justifiably take its place alongside the great golf experiences globally."

The course, located 15 minutes from Queenstown International Airport, is easily accessible and open to all visitors seven days a week from 7.40am until dusk due to the long twilight.

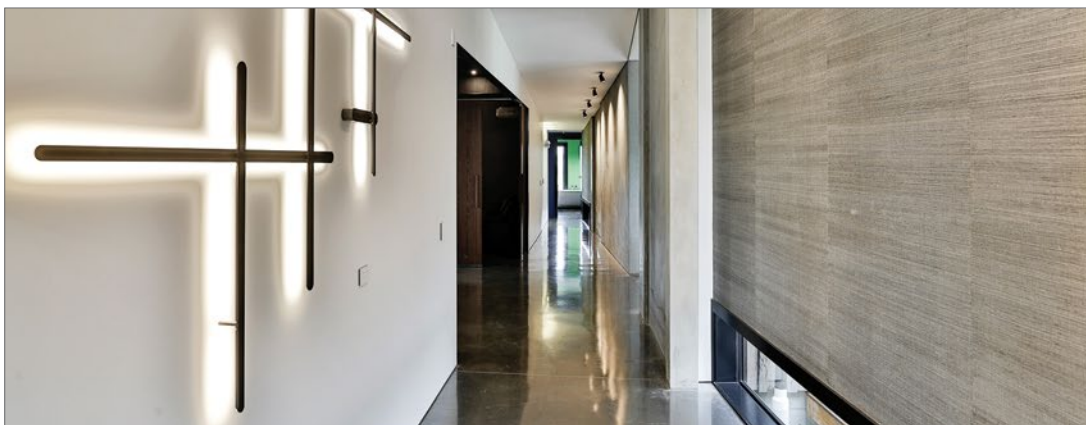
"We have a fleet of 72 carts and quality Ping rental clubs with golf fees including access to the driving range. There's also a special replay rate for people who want to play more than once within ten days of their initial round," he says. "Often people are so overwhelmed by the scenery the first time they want to return so this is a popular option."

Twilight in Queenstown is the ideal time for a round at Jack's Point, according to John.

"It is amazing to experience Queenstown at twilight and with the course open till 9.00pm in summer players can tee off as late as 5.00pm for 18 holes at the end of the day's activities. There are fewer people out golfing at this time and visitors can pick up a snack from the club house restaurant and head out to enjoy the setting sun."



"Often people are so overwhelmed by the scenery the first time they want to return."



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Distinctive Art Works

By Jane Brooke

Ola and Marie Höglund have been dedicated to the development of their distinguished art glass works that are held in galleries and private collections around the world for the past 35 years.



After 16 years dividing their time between their world renowned Nelson studio and studio in Australia they have launched the Höglund Art Glass Gallery in Central Otago.

Marie says the new glass gallery, located at their home on the road between Cromwell and Wanaka, also displays paintings, artwork and jewellery which have drawn a steady following with locals and visitors to the region.

"Now we are very enthusiastic about the reconstruction of our Australian glassblowing studio that has arrived in a container from the rainforest in tropical North Queensland. The glass furnace, kilns, equipment and glassmaking tools are all packed inside the container and we are looking forward to building the glassblowing studio beside the gallery."

The Central Otago gallery has an eclectic selection of Marie and Ola's sought after art glass pieces, paintings and glass jewellery which can be shipped around the world to buyers.

The Höglund Art Glass Gallery is open to visitors seven days and is clearly signposted on state highway 6 between Cromwell and Wanaka, just under an hour's drive from Queenstown.

Tel: 03 442 7210
www.hoglundartglass.com



INTRODUCING FRIDGE FREEZER ICEBOX

By Penny Simpson

From nifty streetwear to the latest branded street style shoes Queenstown's new Fridge Freezer Icebox store has introduced a fresh vibe to downtown shopping.

The new concept store in the O'Connell's Shopping Centre has been launched by entrepreneurial couple Paul and Kerrey Garvie who own two other specialist shoe outlets in the resort.

"Having operated Issimo Shoe Boutique and the Frontrunner for several years now we felt it was a natural progression to bring Fridge Freezer Icebox into the mix. There was definitely a gap in the market, and no one else is selling these top-end shoes," says Paul.

Key brands include Nike, Adidas and Puma with the point of difference being the exclusive styles.

"Each of these brands produces tiered levels of shoes and we now have access to the very top tier of street style, casual and fashion sneakers that can only sell in this store. We have shoes for women, men and kids that no one else stocks."

As part of a nationwide franchise Fridge Freezer Icebox also sells small quantities of urban style streetwear imported directly from the US. The brands include Sneaktip, ZooYork and LR6.

"The clothing, like the shoes, is cool and more often the items are one offs that won't be seen anywhere else," says Paul.

SUMMER SHOE ETIQUETTE

By Penny Simpson

Summer heralds a fusion of colours at Issimo with soft pastels and metallics at the forefront of new look designer shoes.

Queenstown's leading boutique shoe store is armed with the latest European styles ideal for summer celebrations and weddings.

Store owner Kerrey Garvie says while the look is all-important so too is comfort, especially for weddings.

"French designer JB Martin shoes are made in Italy to ensure they are both stylish and comfortable. Think wedges and low heels so your feet last all day in lovely shades of navy and nude."



"Gadea Quinn are showing a flash of silver and white wash finishes that will dress up any outfit for summer. Gadea is brand new to Issimo and is proving to be super popular – we love these shoes."

"Donna Carolina pastels come in classic designs through to uber modern. Another new brand, Matisse, have a heeled summer boot in ivory and blue finished with a soft silver embroidery which is stunning. And we have Diesel sneakers featuring metallic finishes with a really cool transparent platform design."

Mooi handbags have introduced some bright pops of colour and Issimo carry a variety of styles including the bestselling 'Jem', along with a full range of L.K. Bennett handbags to match any of the pretty summer shoe shades.

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Celebrity Interior Architect Opens Southern Lakes Studio

By Rebecca Williamson



Jason Bonham & team

Jason is also known for his primetime television roles as a judge on *The Block NZ* and presenter on *Trading Houses* but showbiz is his secondary gig – his real passion is running his full-service luxury interior architecture and design company, Bonham Interior, and he is upbeat about it coming south.

While the business is Auckland based Jason and his team of expert interior architects and designers provide a service to clients throughout New Zealand and all over the world.

He says opening a studio in the Southern Lakes is a natural progression for the company as he has already spent many years finishing high-end luxury residences in the region.

“We’re really excited about offering a new, unique service that the Southern Lakes hasn’t seen before. What we show our clients and what they end up getting is unique to them and unique to New Zealand – you won’t find what we are placing in any other home in the country.”

“I love to take our clients on a journey of discovering their own taste.”

Jason says Bonham Interior is the first New Zealand company to specialise in the placement and curation of furniture and fine art together.

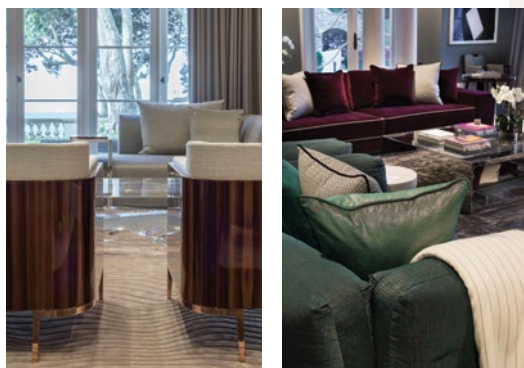
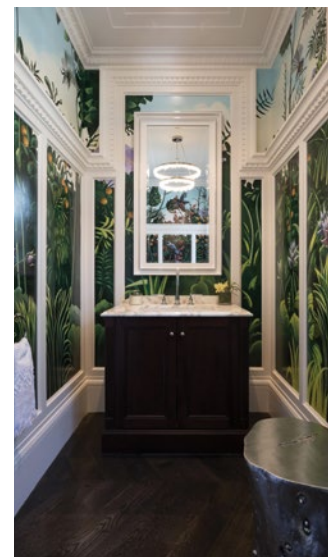
“It’s a full service – we can design it, make it, import it, place it and curate it”

Jason has worked in interiors in London, New York and California and travels extensively throughout the year to source one-of-a-kind pieces for his clientele. His work has a sophisticated international flair, which appeals not only to clients based overseas, but also to New Zealanders wanting to create something special in their home living spaces.

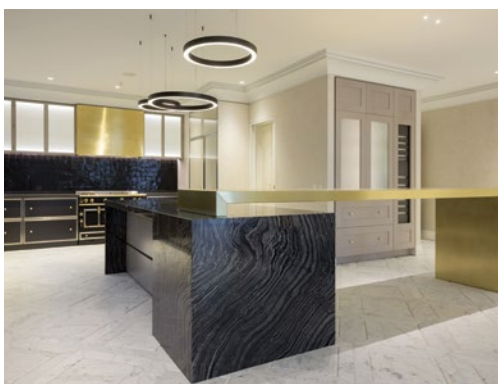
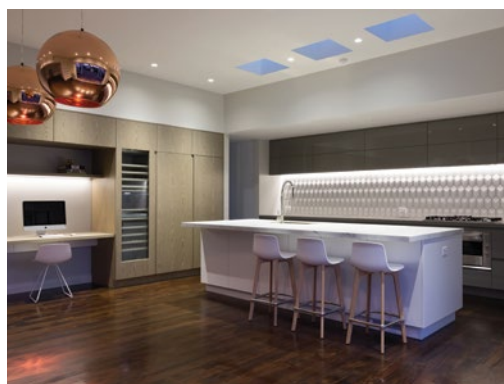
“I love to take our clients on a journey of discovering their own taste,” he says. “People come to us because they want something different, something stand out and they want their personality represented in their interiors. But we’re not just fluffing cushions here – ergonomics and functionality are the core components of design and we ensure we understand how our clients live and what’s going to make life easier for them.”

Bonham Interior is a boutique company with five staff and only accepts four or five projects a year ensuring Jason can fully commit to individual clients.

“Our aim is to bring an international flavour to the Queenstown market so the homes can have a touch of something different. It may be layered and contemporary or more traditional depending on how and what gets placed within the collection of furniture and fine art,” he says. “We also like to keep it fun. This is not a boring experience, we really like to get our clients engaged so they enjoy the process.”



Celebrity interior architect Jason Bonham will launch a new studio in the Southern Lakes in early 2018 strengthening his already existing connection with high-end clients in the Queenstown and Wanaka area.



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Sarah McBride & Sarena Glass

CHALLENGING NEW DIRECTION

By Jane Brooke

Sarena Glass and Sarah McBride are no strangers to the Queenstown property market.

The long-time local women have collectively more than 35 years' experience in Queenstown property and for the past five years have been the familiar faces behind the New Zealand Sotheby's International Realty Luxury Rental Homes business.

The pair bring a wealth of premium property information, networks and an extensive domestic and international database...

They have recently changed direction and switched to selling real estate for the company. Sarena has a university degree in valuation and property

management and already had her licence from the Real Estate Agents Authority while Sarah, who has previously sold real estate, has just completed her papers to become licensed again.

"The transition to sales was a logical progression," says Sarah. "We both like the challenge and have a genuine interest in property. We know the brand inside out and are comfortable working within a luxury brand and what it represents."

The pair bring a wealth of premium property information, networks and an extensive domestic and international database, thanks to their work in the Luxury Rental Homes business.

"We are proud to have built the NZSIR Luxury Rental Homes division from nothing to be the largest provider of luxury rental homes in the area in five years. In doing that, we have built up an extensive network of clients both locally, nationally and in Australia," says Sarena.

NZSIR managing directors Mark Harris and Julian Brown had been encouraging Sarah and Sarena to make the shift to sales for some time.

They agreed the new role would provide them with an exciting, fresh challenge.

"Sarena and I make an excellent team – we've proven that we work extremely well together and we both offer different skill sets that complement each other. We work hard, are down-to-earth and very honest. With our combined strengths, backgrounds and knowledge of the area it makes for a very strong offering and we hope to provide an unparalleled service to local, national and international clients."

Sarena agrees. "Having such a long association with NZSIR we understand the brand intimately and we're very confident about what we can deliver to our clients. We know the reach the company has really works."



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Designer Opens New Chapter

By Jenny McLeod

Ed Cruikshank arrived in Queenstown 15 years ago planning to stay for a ski season before returning to England to resume his career designing bespoke furniture with David Linley in the heart of London.

“The skiing in 2002 was fantastic but the future was uncertain. Queenstown offered so much but I wasn’t confident of finding the kind of work I wanted in a small ski town. However, a year of travelling had reawakened my hunger for design and I decided to take on a tiny studio, tucked away in an industrial corner of Queenstown.”

Things were slow at first and he spent days at the drawing board working on ideas that had been percolating over the last decade. But word of his skill soon got out and a year later he set up shop in Arrowtown’s main street where business boomed.

“The local market turned into a national and international one with customers from around the world commissioning tailor-made furniture for their homes, restaurants, hotels, lodges and even yachts,” says Ed.

Several of the ideas he hatched in that first tiny studio came to fruition over the following years and some have become Cruikshank’s bestselling designs. With a timeless character and superb build quality they have established themselves as classic, enduring pieces that wear in rather than wear out.

His first club chair design recently received international recognition being chosen by Louis Vuitton to sit alongside various bespoke pieces in their prestigious Queenstown store.

“Another design I came up with as a bit of fun at the time was a fire poker that also works as a bellows. Calling on my industrial design training I took a tapered stainless-steel tube I used in the design of an Auckland-built Linley yacht and combined it with a hand-crafted saddle leather handle. At one end was a devilish pronged head for pushing, pulling and twisting, at the other a curved mouthpiece,” he says.

“The mouthpiece had a larger hole to blow into and this narrowed to a tiny hole between the prongs. The effect was striking, a turbo-charger of a fire tool that acts like a mini furnace.”



Ed decided to make a batch of the intriguing firetools which he named Firebrand – “it was the perfect gift for the man with everything, a thank you present or a unique Arrowtown souvenir”

In 2015 Ed closed his Arrowtown store to create his dream design space in the country. Now he works again from a small studio, but this one floats over a pond nestled in a beautiful private haven.

Focusing on creating exceptional hand-made pieces, often inscribed with coded Braille, his furniture continues to find homes around the world and he is increasingly invited to bring his individual style to a wide variety of projects.

Working privately has proved productive. A book of Ed’s work introduced by his former boss David Linley, now Earl of Snowdon, will be published soon and the story of Firebrand is also about to start a new chapter.

“I wanted a name to describe what it does which also relates to its devilish look so I called it the Infernator. I’ve made a lot of changes, it’s really a brand new product, the quality has risen to another level and I’m excited to see what people think of the new black version when it launches this Christmas. It’s still a bit of fun after 15 years too.”

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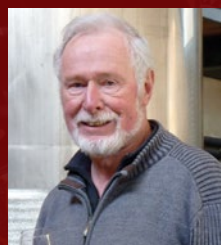
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A “Wedding” in Burgundy

By Wine Writer and Wine Producer Alan Brady

The gentle strains of the Maori love song “Pokarekare Ana” filled the vaulted halls of some of Burgundy’s most revered shrines when a group of Central Otago winemakers visited the famed French wine region recently.

In return their hosts responded with their own rousing “Ban Bourguignon,” the closest thing I’ve seen to a French haka. The spontaneous vocal exchange spoke volumes for the mutual respect of two groups of people from opposite ends of the earth, each dedicated to seeking perfection in the wines they produce from the Pinot Noir grape.

Twenty Central Otago winegrowers made the trip to Beaune to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Bourgogne Central Otago Exchange, a student exchange programme for young winemakers and viticulturists from each region. The exchange promotes a unique sharing of values, techniques and ideas between two regions which, on the face of it, could not be more different.

One with 1100 years of winemaking tradition and history, the other a brash 30-year-old upstart from the antipodes already making a big impact on the world scene with the quality of its Pinot Noir.

Amazingly the two have developed a growing bond based largely on their respect and understanding of “terroir,” a French concept which recognises the effect of place and micro environments on the way grapes grow and wines express themselves.

It was suggested that the gathering was rather like two families coming together to celebrate a wedding. If we run with that analogy then the matchmakers have been key players in each country such as Aubert de Villaine co-owner of Domaine de la Romanee-Conti, producer of some of the world’s rarest and most expensive wines, and the Mills family at Rippon Vineyard in Wanaka – Lois who has a home in Burgundy and her winemaker son Nick who trained there as a young man.

As a guest at the “nuptials” this was a heartwarming and emotional experience. I’ve had the privilege of being an integral part of the entire history of the Central Otago wine industry to date and I first started visiting the cellars of Burgundy over 20 years ago. However, never did I expect to live to see our young region welcomed with such a warm embrace by fellow vigneron in what is recognised as the world’s leading Pinot Noir region.

But welcomed we were with warm Burgundian hospitality into some of their industry’s most holy places – the great hall at Romanee-Conti where the princely M. de Villaine poured his company’s grand cru Batard-Montrachet at an unforgettable lunch and the Hospice de Beaune where 35 Central Otago Pinot Noirs were tasted with curiosity and enthusiasm by our French hosts. There were also visits to other leading domaines and to the Tonnellerie Cadus, a barrel maker who has supplied Central Otago with barriques for many years.

Perhaps the most memorable event was lunch in the vaulted cellars beneath the ruins of the 11th century Abbey de Saint Vivant where Benedictine monks first came up with the concept of terroir.

Our region has contributed to the restoration of the abbey and it was here, with the “nuptial table” adorned with the exclusive Central Otago Pinot Noir glasses, that a plaque symbolising the bond between the two regions, was unveiled before guests including representatives from the New Zealand embassy in Paris, the New Zealand Trade Commission, academics and leaders of the industry in Burgundy and many leading wine writers from around the world.

The restaurant

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Heading Over Yonder

By Jane Brooke

Queenstown's new hospitality kid on the block, Yonder, is pushing culinary and entertainment boundaries.

Housed in the historic McNeill's Cottage on Church Street the café, bar and experimental kitchen has become the new spot for locals and visitors who like the odd indulgence, good coffee and innovative healthy food.

Yonder's conservatory-inspired space, complete with greenery and wall mural designed by renowned street artist Andrew J. Steel combines original 1882 cottage features with pastel hues creating a contemporary ambience for summer.

The building's old stone walls cocoon the café which features a timeless pastel pink Victoria Arduino Black Eagle espresso machine and a colourful cabinet of decadent treats – a café by day transforming into a quirky little cocktail bar at night.

Beyond Yonder's main entrance a turquoise wooden panelled bar spans the length of the room with a striking gold tap pour covering the back wall.

The restaurant itself introduces fashionable elements including colours of the rainbow sound-reactive LED lighting to help the venue evolve throughout the day. Bright pink neon signage lights up the stage for live music and events.

The kitchen team, handpicked by Malaysian-born head chef Jamie Samakkody are making waves with their accessible and affordable menu inspired by cities around the world.

Yonder's chefs make breads, nut butters and yoghurts in-house and experiment daily to concoct tasty vegan and vegetarian dishes that are often naturally sugar, dairy, gluten and nut free.

Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee and cake health-conscious foodies can enjoy an affordable meal while friends tuck into tasty, indulgent dishes – with live music on the side.

The drinks menu is a trip down memory lane with old-time classics and impressive coffee pours.

Fresh, homemade infusions are a highlight of the bar's well-crafted cocktails and natural ingredients ensure even the drinks are vegan friendly. An intriguing tittle includes a homemade cold brew coffee and Diplomático rum espresso martini aptly named Old Mate Kaldi.

Yonder director Gary Livesey says the venue, just a stone's throw from Lake Wakatipu's waterfront, offers an escape from the daily grind.

"We've designed Yonder to be a concept that's open to more than one interpretation, hence the ambiguous name. The space is oozing with a homely, super-friendly and quirky appeal embracing art, food, coffee culture, music and drinks. It's also becoming the go to place in Queenstown's CBD for original and interesting acts, performances and events in a superb setting."

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Fresh Image for Bistro Gentil

By Rebecca Williamson

A change in ownership at Wanaka's award-winning fine dining French restaurant Bistro Gentil is spearheading a change in direction.

South African born Mario Rodrigues, long-time head chef at the restaurant, took over the business in mid-2017 and is relishing stamping his own personality on the venture.

"In the past Bistro Gentil has been known as a fine dining and expensive restaurant with small portions, but recently we've been focusing on increasing the portion sizes and trying not to be too dainty with our dishes," he says. "The feedback from our diners has been fantastic – everyone always leaves satisfied and happy."

While the restaurant still subscribes to its French-European roots Mario describes the new cuisine as "more modern rustic, rather than just modern French".

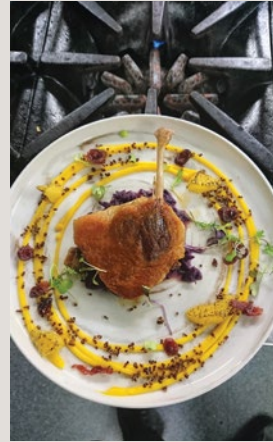
"We've changed the perception that Bistro Gentil is somewhere you go to only for a special occasion meal. It's now a place where people can dine in a relaxed environment while still enjoying exceptional food, five nights a week."

Bistro Gentil is open evenings Tuesday to Saturday while during the day the building is a tasting room for Wanaka winery Maude Wines.

The restaurant's innovative self-service wine dispensers, pétanque lawn and incredible views are still side attractions of the bistro which offers a creative à la carte menu as well as a sumptuous five-course tasting menu. The menu consistently highlights the best of Southern Lakes' seasonal produce and is regularly updated to offer different and inspirational dishes.

The change of ownership has also signalled a brand makeover for Bistro Gentil and its new logo features a tribute to Mario's late mother.

"My mother would write a recipe or a letter and always do a little wave symbol at the end of it to sign it off," he says. "She passed away 21 years ago and since this is the first restaurant I've owned I thought it would be fitting to incorporate that into the logo."



Evolving Menu

Bistro Gentil's impressive menu constantly evolves according to what's in season, bar a couple of traditional favourites such as the ever popular French onion soup.

"In the summer months I do love barbecuing and using ingredients such as corn, broad beans and peas," says owner Mario Rodrigues.

"The Cardrona lamb we use is my favourite – it's always accompanied by a puree, often cauliflower or another vegetable. It's very good and very tender. I also have a soft spot for our delicious confit duck leg which is crispy, while soft on the inside."

Much of the restaurant's fresh produce is picked from its own kitchen garden and Mario is excited about highlighting their succulent stone fruit on the menu during summer.

"Stone fruits are much more flavoursome to eat straight from the tree and our customers love the fresh taste which reflects our region."



"more modern rustic, rather than just modern French."

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Glenorchy Gateway

By Penny Simpson

At the head of Lake Wakatipu Glenorchy is the gateway to stunning wilderness and a captivating way of life.

Just a short but scenic drive from Queenstown the area attracts photographers and film makers and has been the setting for many famous scenes including New Zealand film director Sir Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movies.

One of the main attractions for holiday makers is a visit to Mrs Woolly's General Store which is a distinctive shopping experience for all age groups.

The store is adjacent to Mrs Woolly's Campground and the emerging Camp Glenorchy which is New Zealand's first zero net energy campground.



"Visitors to Glenorchy and Mrs Woolly's can expect a very warm welcome," says general manager Debbie Crompton. "We have healthy takeaway food and impressive pantry items alongside beautiful New Zealand made and imported gifts, art, clothing, accessories, books and handy items for the keen adventurer."

Mrs Woolly's goal is to make a trip to Glenorchy memorable.

"Our menu has expanded with a full deli fridge of freshly made lunch items, award-winning Fairlie Bakehouse pies and we serve hot coffee and our world-famous Full Monty frozen gelato sundaes. There is growing demand for the exquisite hand picked gift items we carry, including our exclusive line of branded clothing, hats, blankets, gifts and accessories," says Debbie.

Visitors can book local adventures such as horse riding, kayaking, jet boating and scenic helicopter flights at the newly opened Head of the Lake Activities Booking Centre next door to the store.

The construction of Camp Glenorchy which includes cabins, bunkhouses, a specially designed campfire shelter and group meeting spaces is on track to open in March 2018. The multipurpose accommodation will feature the South Island's largest solar garden enabling Camp Glenorchy to have a zero energy footprint over the course of a year.



Antipodean Style

By Margo Berryman

Interior stylist and collector of worldly treasures, Kim O'Sullivan, travels all over the world sourcing distinctive and exclusive items for her home and design store Antipodean Trader.

The store is housed in a charming old Queenstown cottage in Isle Street and is a treasure trove of beautiful accessories for both the home and garden.

"We have been in the premises, opposite the Queenstown Fire Brigade, for 18 months and recently secured the lease so we are here to stay which is great news. This is a perfect location for visitors and locals to find us and we have onsite parking out the front," says Kim.

This summer at Antipodean Trader reflects a range of items for lounging and entertaining in the outdoors.

"We have beautiful accoutrements and platters ideal for shared meals. I have hunted out oversized recycled Elm boards that are full of character, salad servers and quirky cheese knives from Italy and France as well as some handcrafted in India," she says.

"We have recently unloaded incredible forged and hand formed metal planters, old Anglo-Indian buckets and tubs for the garden which are perfect for planting flowers or native foliage. They even double up as vessels to fill with ice for entertaining."

The store has a range of gigantic floor cushions to lounge in on the deck or lawn made from canvas, leather, sisal and denim. There is a refined selection of French linen and 100% cotton scarves and small batch sheep leather bags made using old tanning methods.

"I have commissioned craftsmen locally and worldwide to create items specifically for the store. This includes my new handbag and jewellery designs made in New Zealand, local wire sculptures, carved wooden ornaments and forged hardware pieces like wall hooks, rails and hooks," says Kim who prides herself on seeking out exceptional items from all over the world.

"I have travelled to every nook and cranny across Asia and the Pacific and developed an extensive network of suppliers who unearth the most incredible craftsmanship which helps set Antipodean Trader apart."



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Tea is the New Black

By Margo Berryman



Michelle Casson



Michelle Casson is Queenstown's undisputed "queen of tea".

Her company Stir Tea, now in its ninth year, specialises in premium loose leaf tea sourced from the world's best tea growing regions.

Known for her passion and enthusiasm Michelle personally selects the entire Stir Tea range ensuring only the highest quality teas make the cut.

"You could say we are the little tea company that dreams big – we are very aspirational and have been since day one. Offering high quality, fresh tea is a cornerstone of our business along with embracing the history, rituals and beauty that surrounds tea. It is also great fun."

"I am at the Remarkables Market every Saturday during summer listening to what our customers like and hearing their tea stories."

"Everything about tea is humble and we have a lot of respect for what the Camellia sinensis tea leaf gives us. Tea is about gentleness and a slow release and I liken it to a marathon, unlike coffee which is more of a sprint," says Michelle.

Throughout Central Otago and further afield Stir Tea is served at a selection of well-known cafés and available for purchase at Raeward Fresh and the weekly Remarkables Market in Queenstown.

"I am at the Remarkables Market every Saturday during summer listening to what our customers like and hearing their tea stories. People love to share which is a wonderful way to determine what they are seeking and then be responsive to that," she says.

This season a "fill your own container" option has been introduced at the market which is proving popular with regulars as a means of minimising packaging.

"This was a way for us to give customers what they wanted. You can reuse your empty Stir bags or bring your own tin or paper lined glass jar to be filled one week and return the following week to collect it."

Michelle says market research revealed a demand for caffeine free options and Stir Tea has responded with herbal and fruit blends which are now some of the most popular in the range.

Michelle recently visited key tea growing areas in Japan and this summer the company is promoting Matcha which is a pure Japanese Green Tea.

"I wanted to introduce Matcha for its health benefits and delicious flavour – it's a whole bunch of goodness in a bowl. We have sourced a lovely traditional drinking Matcha, known as Usucha, which is very simple to prepare. We also offer a culinary grade best suited in the kitchen for cooking, lattes, smoothies and juices."

The Stir Tea range can be purchased from the company's recently upgraded website which presents the beauty of loose leaf tea with appealing images as well as interesting tea articles, recipes and tea brewing guides.

"Brewing your own delicious iced tea is another way to enjoy our blends and makes a refreshing and thirst quenching drink on a hot Central Otago day."

There is always something new and exotic to discover at Stir Tea including the recent arrival of Spring Harvest Tea's silver needle and Yunnan gold varieties.

Michelle often talks about a tea lifestyle – celebrating the little and big moments in life with a great cup of tea. She certainly embraces this philosophy.

Time to put the kettle on and reach for the bag of tea featuring the distinctive umbrella!



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Cutting Edge Airport Parking Technology

By Jane Brooke

Cutting edge sensor technology will change the face of parking at Queenstown Airport when it is launched this summer.

The technology is being installed as the next stage of the airport's parking improvements and provides customers with real-time information about the availability of almost 450 car parking spaces at the terminal. Sensors stream the number of available car spaces to digital signs at the airport entrance as well as Queenstown Airport's website.



Queenstown Airport Corporation's GM Commercial and Customer Experience Olivia Pierre says the aim is to help people make more informed choices about parking and transport options.

"Over the last 18 months Queenstown Airport has invested more than \$4.2 million in its ground transport and car parking offering to ensure an excellent customer experience for airport visitors and a wider choice of options when flying to and from Queenstown."

"Our focus to date has been on improving the parking infrastructure, including expanding our car parking by nearly 70%, bringing back the drop-off zone, and building a new roundabout and dedicated coach parks," she says. "The next step has been looking at technology solutions which will further enhance the customer experience."

"We've already rolled out Tap and Go in the terminal car parks for ease of payment and radio-frequency identification (RFID) for commercial operators which provides a range of benefits. Sensor technology will now take us to the next level in providing real time information. This will give airport visitors more control over their experience and take away the worry of car parking."

The Queenstown Airport is continuing to work closely with its Regional Transport Governance Group partners Queenstown Lakes District Council, Otago Regional Council and NZ Transport Agency to provide better short, medium and long-term transport solutions for the region.

The aim is for any new technology used at the airport's car parks to be integrated into the region's wider transport strategy, including the NZTA Choice App and future QLDC parking initiatives to present a cohesive picture of transport options and availability in the region.



Olivia Pierre

Experienced aviation professional Olivia Pierre has been appointed Queenstown Airport's General Manager, Commercial and Customer Experience after working previously for Air New Zealand and more recently Hawkes Bay Airport. As the airport faces unprecedented and sustained growth her role is to ensure a memorable experience for all visitors.

Top Travel Tips

BUS TO FLY: Leave the car at home and use the bus. The new \$2 buses run to and from Queenstown Airport regularly from 6.00am until midnight.

CHOICE APP: Plan your route to the airport and around the region via the new real time Choice app to ensure you reach your flight check-in on time.

PARK AND RIDE: The Airport Park and Ride now has 300 car parking spaces and is an affordable, convenient transport option.

NZTA WEB CAMS: Plan your journey around the region using the NZTA journey planner and webcams www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz

PLAN: Make sure you leave plenty of time for your journey, consider all your transport options and monitor the airport website for any important information including delays www.queenstownairport.co.nz

Sensor technology

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Angela Davis

Focusing on Five Mile

Queenstown's Five Mile Centre opened at the gateway to the resort just two years ago and already the large-scale complex is fully tenanted with more development underway.

QT Magazine spoke to Angela Davis of Queenstown Commercial Property Management Ltd, who heads the Centre management team, about the current and future status of Queenstown's newest retail and commercial hub.

What are the key features of Five Mile?

Five Mile is ideally located close to Frankton and in easy distance from residential areas such as Shotover Country and Lake Hayes Estate. The complex is family friendly, very accessible and the range of retail, food and convenience facilities makes it a one-stop-shopping destination for both locals and visitors. With parking both in the main carpark and underground there is space for approximately 1000 cars and a specific campervan park has recently been created to ease any potential congestion over the summer peak period. Alternatively, the new \$2 bus service which regularly drops off and picks up at Five Mile is a good option for getting to and from the Centre.

What type of shopping is available?

There is an excellent mix of retail businesses and obviously The Warehouse, which opened at Five Mile in March 2017 in its own purpose-built building is a significant drawcard. The diverse combination of more than 40 stores includes chains such as Countdown Supermarket and Postie Plus while there is a varied assortment of cafés, restaurants and takeaway food outlets. Other shopping ranges from high fashion to homeware, home décor, giftware, sports gear and electrical goods while customer facilities such as a child care centre, health centre and laundromat are conveniently placed.



What's new at the Centre?

Recently opened is the Vietnamese restaurant Saigon Kingdom along with the Bollywood Indian restaurant and a new gymnasium and fitness centre. Significantly this means the entire Five Mile Centre is now fully leased which is a milestone and underlines the reputation the complex has established, in the space of only two years, as a leading retail and commercial hub.

What future plans are in the pipeline for Five Mile?

Currently a new five storey building which will provide a mix of retail shops and commercial offices is being constructed and is scheduled to open late 2018. The new building is in response to increased demand in the Frankton Flats for office space. Longer term the overall development programme includes an additional building at the entrance to Grant Road which will provide a mix of retail and visitor accommodation.



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If elevated and north facing are key ingredients in your search for a Queenstown home then you have found what you are looking for. The location has unbeatable panoramic views over the Shotover River, the Wakatipu Valley and Coronet Peak. Renowned Queenstown architect John Blair has done well to frame the views in various

aspects throughout the 530 square metre house. Construction is of the highest quality using timeless materials such as cedar and schist, and the design is a classic gabled form with a euro-steel roofline. Extensive garaging with room for a trailer boat, several cars and plenty of scope for more accommodation if required.

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3 2+ 3+

TWIN PEAK VIEW WYUNA PRESERVE



Designed and constructed to withstand its environment and remain serviceable 'off grid' if ever required. Comprising of two lots totalling over 5.7 hectares with the impressive home set on the north block there is an approved platform for a 'future build' if required by the

new owners. This country estate is within the Wyuna Preserve development near Glenorchy at the head of Lake Wakatipu, an incredibly scenic 42-kilometre lakes edge drive from Queenstown.

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When you find a home that has been on the front cover of four different magazines and has won an architectural design award you know it must be special. Completely hidden from the road its entrance is understated but seductive – drawing you down the driveway as the

home emerges beside the Shotover River surrounded by mature landscaping. The contemporary architectural home is centred around a living area that opens to a horizon swimming pool and deck area and a sea of green trees with the river flowing gently below.

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4  3+  2 

PINNACLE PLACE QUEENSTOWN



From its grandstand view overlooking Queenstown Bay and Lake Wakatipu, 10 Pinnacle Place has an impressive internal space of 879 square metres, and 345 square metres of verandahs, decks, spa and terraced areas. Privacy and seclusion are secured at this location within a gated community limited to twelve residences

known as 'The Peak'. Owners of property in The Peak have an equal share in an exclusive fitness and entertainment complex. This includes an impressive gym, heated pool, spa, sauna and steam room accompanied by a changing facility, showers, and an expansive outdoor entertaining area with a kitchen and BBQ.

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Going for Gold

By Fiona Garlick

The Gold Shop in central Arrowtown makes the link between the hard-won precious metal and the beautiful crafted jewellery for which it is coveted and has a reputation for housing the largest selection of natural gold nuggets in New Zealand if not the world.

Owner Justin Eden has had a strong affinity with gold since his time as a youngster mining in the historic Shotover River, one of the world's largest gold bearing rivers. He learned the tricks of the trade from older miners working in Skippers Canyon and took out his first claim as far back as 1979.

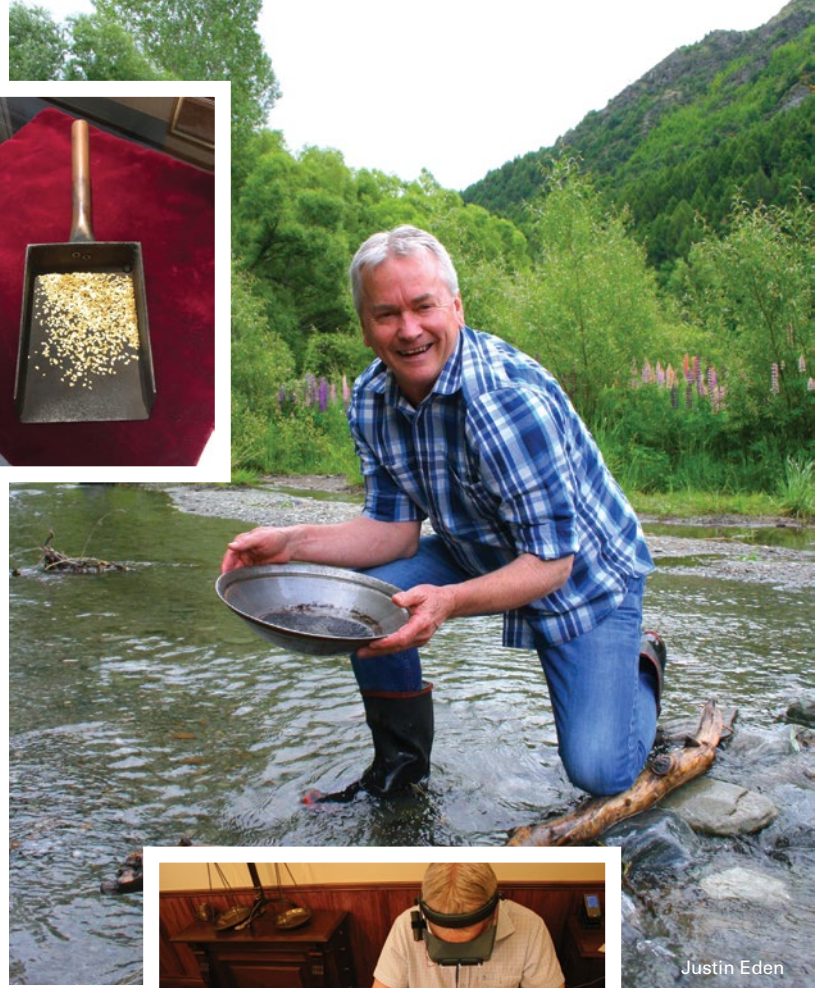
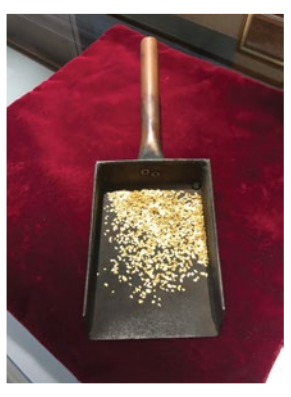
Gold fever turned into a career and, together with his wife Kaye he opened The Gold Shop in 1989, having spent the previous decade making a living mining the Shotover in summer and the Pilbara region of Western Australia in the winter.

"It is a privilege to add to the story of Arrowtown. People come in to the store, get inspired and hire a shovel and a pan and go for it in the Arrow River. It's a great way to get out into the environment," says Justin "and you just never know, there's plenty of gold left to find, you just have to put the work in."

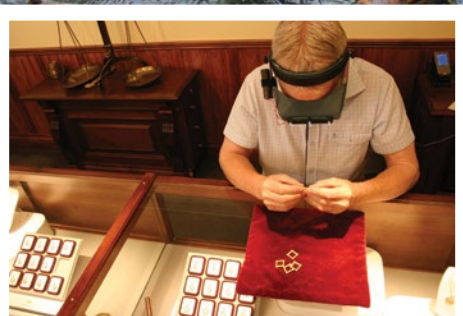
The dark cabinetry of the colonial-inspired store with its display of enthralling gold nuggets presents gold in its many forms – from big quartz-veined lumps bearing gold fever provoking signs such as "Gold Nugget 4.24 oz. Found Arrow River" to piles of petite nuggets and vials of glistening flakes.

Justin is not your average jeweller. As well as designing The Gold Shop's bespoke collection he is a certified gold dealer and a Gemmological Association of Australia (GAA) qualified diamond grader.

"Designs which incorporate gold in its natural form are our best sellers, whether it is a natural gold nugget suspended on a chain or our signature pendants filled with alluvial gold," he says.



Justin Eden



Working with award winning Queenstown jeweller Juerg P. Muff The Gold Shop also provides a niche custom jewellery service.



"A wedding ring for example can be made with gold sourced from an area that has a special meaning to the wearer – perhaps their ancestors were miners in the Nevis or they fell in love in Arrowtown," says Justin. "It's a real point of difference to have a piece of gold jewellery linked forever to the local landscape."

Exactly the reason why Justin ensures he knows the origin of his nuggets – even if the miners who come regularly with their finds for appraisal are understandably cagey about where they struck gold.

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Dreaming Big

Not many people make Sir Michael Hill appear insignificant, but the big man recently arrived at The Hills private golf course near Arrowtown certainly does as Miranda Spary discovered.

The three-metre high giant, known as The Seated Man, is the creation of renowned British sculptor Sean Henry and the latest addition to the collection of sculptures at The Hills.

Cast in bronze, then painted the sculpture looks life-size from a distance, but as you get closer, you feel yourself getting tinier and tinier. Your hand is only the size of his finger and it's a weird sensation.

The sculptor says he enjoys playing with scale.

"The emotions that are aroused by something much smaller than you are very different if the work is much larger," says Sean. "Small figures arouse feelings of tenderness and compassion whereas larger ones appear more heroic, even daunting."

A golf course isn't normally associated with great art but Sir Michael doesn't really do normal.

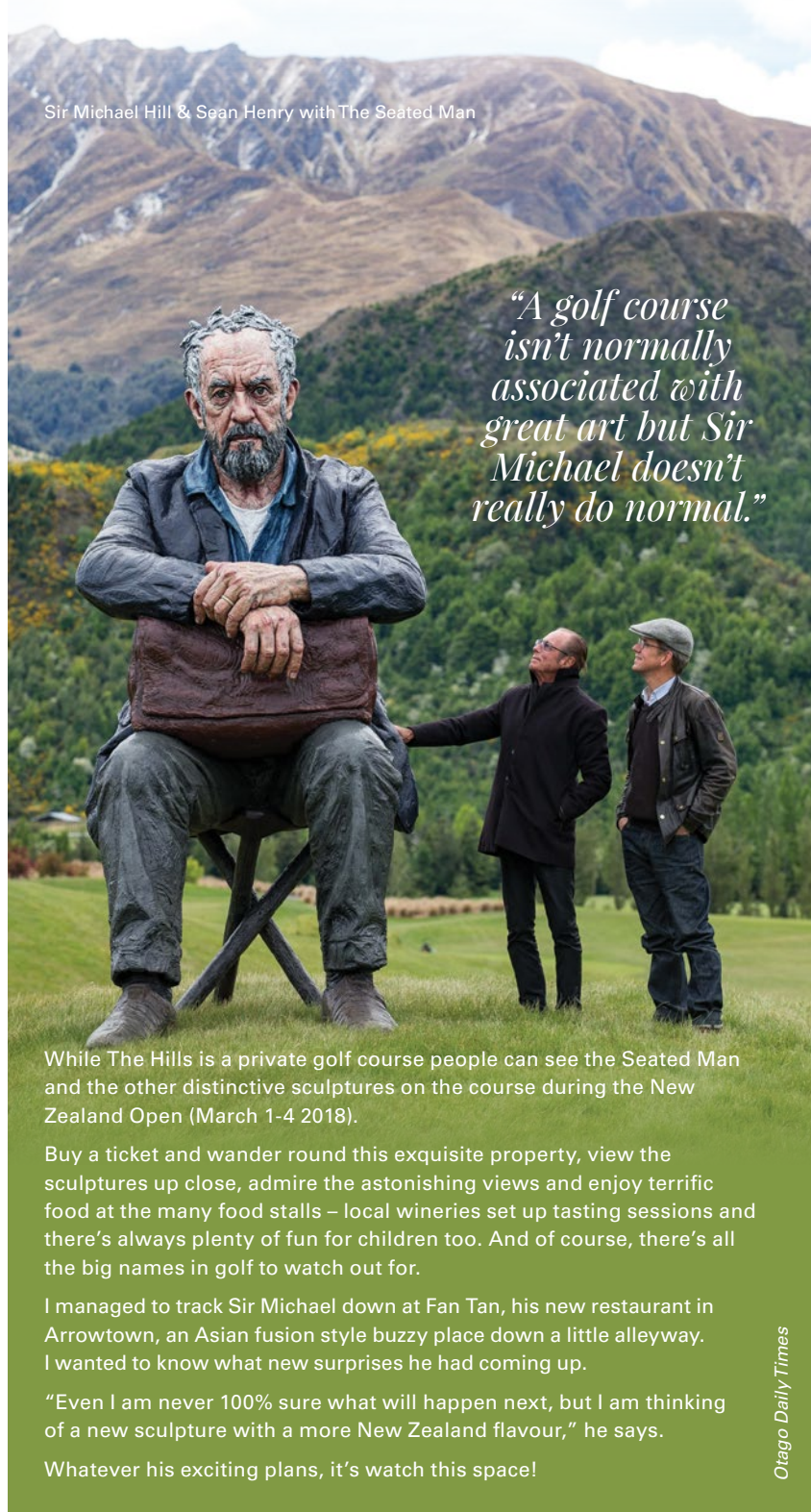
Not wanting his course to be like all the others he decided to install a sculpture on each hole. Unsuspecting golfers find themselves amongst a pack of fierce Chinese wolves on one, or a team of Clydesdale horses on another.

His son, artist Mark Hill who responsible for the giant warrior sculptures standing guard at Queenstown Airport, is the creator of the stunning silver dragonflies skimming the surface of the golf course ponds, along with some of the other surprises.

Sir Michael may be dwarfed by this new big man, but no one has bigger ideas and the ability to implement them better than him. He and his art teacher wife Lady Christine started the hugely successful Michael Hill jewellery company when their children were very young and today it's one of the country's largest companies.

Sir Michael dreamed of becoming a concert violinist but instead created the Michael Hill Violin competition which brings the world's emerging young violinists to Queenstown to compete for the prestigious title every two years. He was keen on golf, so he built The Hills where the New Zealand Open is held in conjunction with Millbrook Resort every year.

Sir Michael Hill & Sean Henry with The Seated Man



"A golf course isn't normally associated with great art but Sir Michael doesn't really do normal."

While The Hills is a private golf course people can see the Seated Man and the other distinctive sculptures on the course during the New Zealand Open (March 1-4 2018).

Buy a ticket and wander round this exquisite property, view the sculptures up close, admire the astonishing views and enjoy terrific food at the many food stalls – local wineries set up tasting sessions and there's always plenty of fun for children too. And of course, there's all the big names in golf to watch out for.

I managed to track Sir Michael down at Fan Tan, his new restaurant in Arrowtown, an Asian fusion style buzzy place down a little alleyway. I wanted to know what new surprises he had coming up.

"Even I am never 100% sure what will happen next, but I am thinking of a new sculpture with a more New Zealand flavour," he says.

Whatever his exciting plans, it's watch this space!

Otago Daily Times

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Farm Fresh Food

Farm fresh produce to Arrowtown is now a reality thanks to a centrally located regular farmers market in the village over summer.

The Arrowtown Farmers Market is being held every Sunday 10.00am until 2.00pm on the Library Green through until April 2018.

The foodie style market is organised by a group of keen locals with the support of the Arrowtown Promotion and Business Association (APBA), business and community groups.

APBA spokesperson Sue Patterson says a not for profit organisation has been set up to run the weekly market place.

“When we sent a questionnaire out to our members their response was positive and that helped to kick start the planning,” she says. “The new market is principally focused on local food and produce to bring together sellers of freshly harvested and organic produce with buyers.”

Local volunteer Michael White has taken on the role of market coordinator with digital and online support provided by Marco Dingeman.

“The market is proving to be an ideal platform for Arrowtown residents and visitors to purchase locally produced foods, drinks, flowers and plants on a regular basis,” says Sue, “and has been well received by our local community.”



WWW.ARROWTOWN.COM

What's New in Arrowtown



By Margo Berryman

Welcoming the NZ Open

The official 2018 ISPS Handa New Zealand Open welcome party in Arrowtown on March 9 will feature innovative aerobatic displays.

The free street party traditionally attracts hundreds of people to Buckingham Street which is the hub for entertainment, live music, food and drink stalls and fun children's activities.

“The street party is the official opening for the international golf event and we have a theme of flight with some very special aerobatic displays for this year's event,” says APBA spokesperson Sue Patterson. “Last year the celebrity poster signings with the likes of cricket personalities Alan Border, Ian Botham and Stephen Fleming were hugely popular and they will be a major drawcard again.”

Sponsored by the New Orleans Hotel and other local supporters the street party runs from 5.30pm until 9.00pm on Thursday March 9.



Stephen Fleming



New Motatapu Challenge

The iconic off road multisport event, the Motatapu, which is held in the high country between from Wanaka and Arrowtown has unveiled a new category for 2018.

The Sawpit Trail Run has been added to the line-up that includes an off road marathon, a triathlon, an ultra run and mountain bike race. The new event follows a favourite locals' track above Arrowtown traversing through Coronet Peak Station.

The 8.5 kilometre Sawpit loop offers stunning views of the surrounding area and organisers says the Trail Run is an exciting and novel option for all levels of competitors.

The Motatapu attracts thousands of entrants and is scheduled for March 10 2018 with the finish line in Arrowtown.

Mahu Whenua Gateway

Work is advancing on the proposed Arrowtown Environmental Centre of Excellence with the Arrowtown Promotion and Business Association making further inroads on the project.

In 2017 the Government earmarked over \$15,000 to complete a feasibility study on the centre which is proposed for land near Bush Creek. The area beside the Arrowtown village is a gateway to Mahu Whenua, a 53,000ha covenanted high country property that includes Motatapu, Mount Soho, Glencoe and Coronet Peak stations.

“We are delighted to see progress is being made on this important environmental proposal with some exciting ideas being generated,” says APBA spokesperson Sue Patterson.

“Part of the vision is to allow for regeneration of the land that adjoins the Mahu Whenua stations and see the reintroduction of native plantings and a native bird programme.”

“In the next stage the Arrowtown Charitable Trust will spearhead further funding applications to assist in the feasibility and economic impact studies for the project.”



The Fed

From one of New Zealand's most iconic street wear brands, Federation, comes the Gift Playsuit – an outfit that keeps on giving from the beach to a casual barbecue. **Shop the range at IKON**

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Arrowtown's fashion destination stores **IKON** and **Wallace & Gibbs** 'must have' looks for summer 2018

Pretty Florals

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Heading to a summer wedding? Aussie fashion label Shilla produces feminine dresses with ease. The Lustre Floral Layered dress is in **store at IKON**



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Kinross – Community Social Hub

By Jenny McLeod

The demand for special events at the historic Kinross property in the Gibbston Valley has led to the creation of the Willow Room, designed specifically for a range of intimate functions.

Kinross was founded in the 1860s and today the property still exhibits the same values centred round hospitality and conviviality.

Kinross managers for the past two years, Lizzie and Adam Ross, have recently purchased a share of the business owned by Hamilton couple John and Christine Erkkila.

“Events are a big part of our background and this is such a good fit with Kinross,” says Lizzie. “By making a financial commitment we are putting down our roots here and we love it. There is so much support for what we are doing in Gibbston Valley and we have become the community social hub which is exactly where we want Kinross to be.”

The Willow Room has space for 50 people to dine and up to 80 for events and is ideal for weddings, corporate events, meetings and conferences, charity events and a range of retreats.

“Kinross is a beautiful setting for a natural vineyard wedding” she says. “With our new function room, combined with our contemporary cottage style accommodation, we can provide a fantastic package. We are also marketing ourselves as an escape, offering extras such as yoga and Pilates classes.”



Kinross has recently transformed its café into a contemporary bistro which is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner through summer.

“We have a brilliant chef team and our menus, created from natural, regional produce are designed to match the standard of our cellar door wines. We represent five high profile Central Otago wineries including the renowned Wild Irishman and Valli labels along with Hawkshead, Domaine Thomson and Coal Pit wineries,” she says.

“Wine tasting is a significant attraction and Kinross is the perfect backdrop being located in the heart of Central Otago’s wine growing region.”

The Kinross outdoor kitchen featuring a wood-fired pizza oven and seating for 80 people is a popular summer meeting place along with the property’s other facilities.

“We are continually coming up with ideas for interesting gatherings and we are definitely a weekend focal point for both locals and visitors to the region,” says Lizzie. “As a ‘getaway’ destination Kinross has so much to offer and we are excited about the potential of the venture.”

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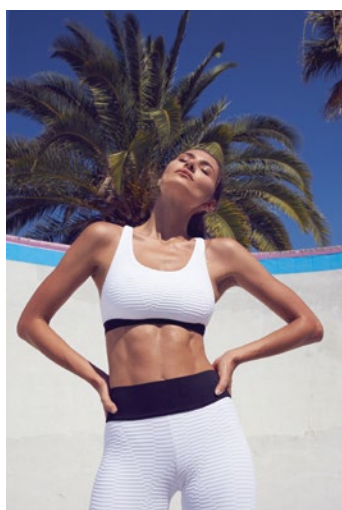
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SETTING SUMMER GOALS

By Margo Berryman

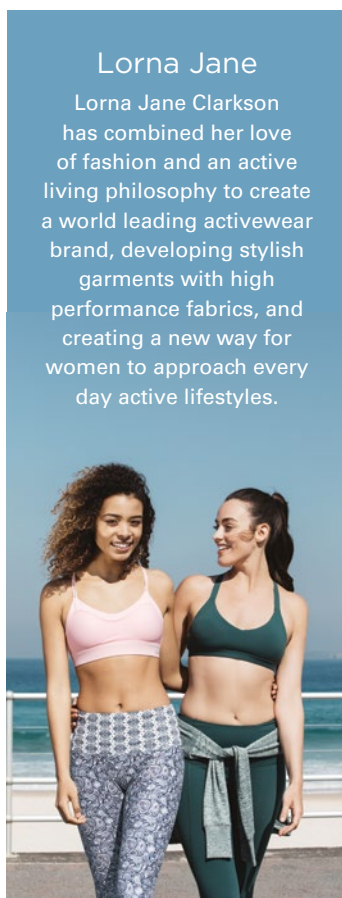
This summer marks one year since prominent fashion retailers, the Wallace & Gibbs Group, opened their luxury sport and leisure boutique Goals in downtown Arrowtown - a year which saw an overwhelming response to the store's concept and diverse range of brands.

Store co-founder Caroline Walak who launched Goals along with her two sisters Sophie Gibbs and Elizabeth Wallace Gibbs says their mission has been to encapsulate the way so many people like to live, wearing quality leisure and activewear at home, the gym, outdoors and while relaxing on weekends.



Koral Activewear

Koral, new and exclusive to Goals, uses premium fabrics from Italy, Japan and Brazil to create sophisticated and sexy activewear pieces that can easily be worn outside the gym. We love the core styles which look great and feel luxurious.



Lorna Jane

Lorna Jane Clarkson has combined her love of fashion and an active living philosophy to create a world leading activewear brand, developing stylish garments with high performance fabrics, and creating a new way for women to approach every day active lifestyles.



L'URV

It's boutique, it's unique and you really will sweat in style when choosing any of the items from the Goals range of L'URV. This activewear is perfect for yoga, the gym or a good looking coffee date. We stock bright colours, metallics and florals in limited edition ranges.



CHIC SWIMWEAR

Goals is the destination for boutique swimwear from leading brands Seafolly, Tigerlily, Assembly Label and Camilla & Marc.

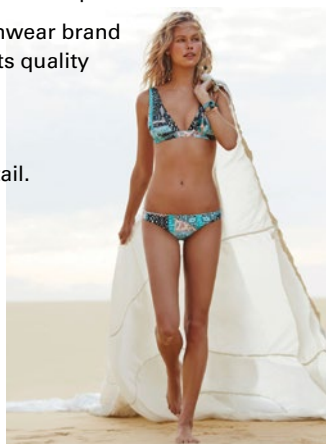
"This is the first season we have stocked swimwear at Goals. The stunning range of styles we have are hand-picked to cater for all women," says Goals co-founder Sophie Gibbs.

"Seafolly is the number one swimwear brand in Australia and is renowned for its quality fabrics and design."

She says people know Tigerlily for its boho inspired pieces, mixing rich colour palettes and embroideries, always finished off with exceptional detail.

"This season's prints range from the signature Mantra leopard and Dharma woodblock florals to the engineered Scorpion print, and of course their Oui black basic pieces."

"It's so easy to shop for our activewear and swimwear ranges either in store or online. With same day delivery to Arrowtown and Queenstown, website customers can be wearing their new gear before the day is over," says Sophie.



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FROM THE CHAMBERS



Multimillion Dollar Sports and Community Complex for Arrowtown

By Tom Kalliber

Plans are forging ahead for a new \$2.35 million multi-use venue in Arrowtown for sports teams and community groups.

Simon Spark of Arrowtown Community and Sports Centre Incorporated (ACSC) says the focus of the Jack Reid Park complex is to increase the range of facilities and opportunities for the local community through a quality development.

"This is going to be a real asset for the people of Arrowtown as well as visiting teams and groups."

The architecturally designed facility will cater for several existing organisations including the Arrowtown Rugby Club and Arrowtown Scouts. It will house a bar and kitchen, changing rooms, showers, toilets and function spaces.

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is providing up to \$1 million towards the cost of construction and once complete the building will be gifted to the council to manage and operate on behalf of the community.

"We're grateful for the council's support that has given us the green light to push ahead. It's also thanks to our other funding partners – Central Lakes Trust, Lotteries, Wilding Trust, Community Trust of Southland, NZCT, Sevens With Altitude and Arrowtown Rugby Club – who have helped make this project a reality," says Simon.

The new community sports facility is expected to open for bookings from June 2018.

Future Cricket Stars on Show in Queenstown

By Tom Kalliber

International cricket returns to Queenstown for the first time in three years this summer with the resort one of four New Zealand host venues for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Under-19 Cricket World Cup.

The John Davies Oval at Queenstown Events Centre will feature nine matches during the tournament which is being staged throughout New Zealand from January 13 until February 3.

Queenstown Lakes District Council sport and recreation manager Simon Battrick says he cannot think of a better place to watch future first-class players make their mark on the global stage.

"There are few grounds around the world with a backdrop as stunning as the Remarkables. We've invested \$640,000 bringing the oval back up to international standard and it's looking in great condition. Add some sunshine, a celebration of different cultures and the chance to see tomorrow's stars today and it's shaping up to be an exciting summer in Queenstown."

The international cricket fixture will make a significant impact on the local economy, accounting for approximately 2,600 bed nights when cricketers, team management and supporters converge on the area.

Entry is free to watch all matches which include England's four group games against Namibia, Bangladesh and Canada starting on January 15. The top two sides from each group advance to a Super League with six of these matches, including two quarter finals on January 23 and 26, also played in Queenstown.

"India and Australia's current captains, Virat Kohli and Steve Smith, as well as Black Cap legends Brendon McCullum, Kane Williamson, Tim Southee and tournament ambassador Corey Anderson all evolved as world class players after competing in the U19 Cricket World Cup," says Simon.

Eight of the nine Queenstown matches will be broadcast globally on TV highlighting the resort as an international tourist destination as well as a venue for top level cricket.



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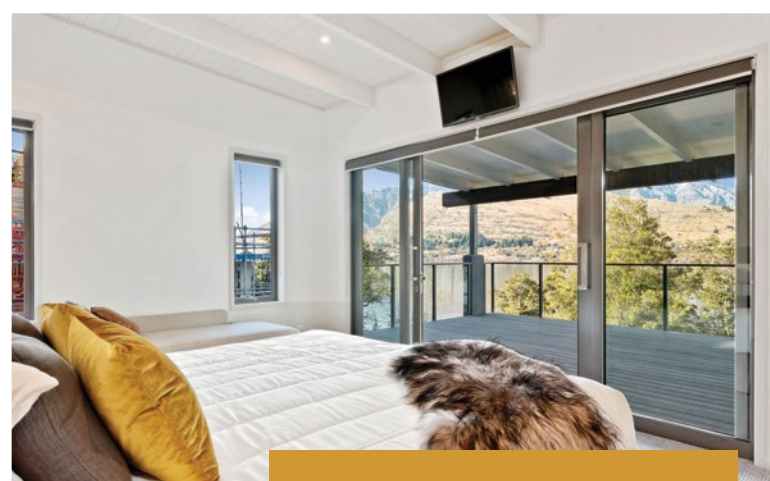
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Winter

May 1st - 31st October
10am to 3:30pm

LOCAL ARTISTS

LIVE MUSIC



Authentic Experience at The Rees

By Jenny McLeod

The luxury Rees Lakeside Residences, recently opened on a stunning lakefront location, are providing a niche market for travellers wanting more space, combined with a range of high-end services.

The Rees Hotel chief executive Mark Rose says they had the option of building more hotel rooms alongside Lake Wakatipu but they identified a need for larger and more spacious residences to cater to an increasing demand and a gap in the Queenstown market.

“The residences are superbly positioned just a stone’s throw from the lake and while they are adjacent to the main hotel they are also quite separate. The expansive three-bedroom villas with their outstanding lake and alpine views are perfect for families or groups wanting private accommodation with space and independence,” he says. “An outdoor terrace complete with spa pool and an all-weather Bose sound system is great for entertaining and Queenstown’s famous walking and biking trails are on the doorstep.”

“An appealing feature for guests is their specially assigned luxury travel curator who will co-ordinate activities from arrival to departure. We have luxury European cars available for private use and a range of other services are offered, including private dining with superior catering by the True South restaurant’s executive chef Ben Batterbury and his team.”

Mark says bookings are heavy this summer despite the Lakeside Residences just being launched.

“We consider there is such strong interest because there is nothing quite like the Residences available at the top end of the market in Queenstown. Add to this The Rees’ reputation for providing relaxing, but luxurious accommodation, combined with an authentic New Zealand experience for visitors from all over the world, and we believe we have the formula right.”

SIMPLY THE BEST

The Rees Hotel has won New Zealand’s Best Ski Hotel award at the prestigious 2017 World Ski Awards held in Austria.

Chief executive Mark Rose says it’s the second time the hotel has received the accolade and he attributes the award to the commitment and dedication of The Rees Hotel team.

“I am very proud of our amazing team who are our point of difference.”

The award was decided by votes from leading ski professionals as well as visitors who stayed in The Rees during a ski trip to Queenstown.

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Life's a Grind

By Margo Berryman

Combining her love of coffee and classic New Zealand caravans Anna Shorey has cleverly created a thriving boutique coffee caravan business.

Life's A Grind is based out of two fully refurbished retro style caravans with one permanently in place in Stanley Street beside the Queenstown Department of Conservation office and the newest located at the Queenstown Airport and every Saturday at the Remarkables Market.

"It took me two years to find the latest caravan in an old garden in Cromwell. We put new wheels on to get it home and then started the rebuild. The original caravan is now brand new inside but retains its old 1960 chassis," says Anna.

"I wanted to keep with the vintage style, it's really attractive and a great talking point. People ask about the caravans all the time while we are making their coffee."

Life's A Grind coffee service is quick, friendly and efficient with a steady demand for the popular Allpress coffee, sweet treats and slices served daily.

"Allpress have a huge following and are a great company to work with. We use the Rangitoto bean that is roasted in Dunedin and delivered fresh each week. It's a consistent roasting style that ensures a really nice coffee," says Anna.



"We know all our regulars by name and the coffee they drink. Our service is fuss free and Stanley Street has loads of easy parking right beside the caravan."

Anna's latest caravan will appear at special events such as the Glenorchy Races and the Lake Hayes A&P show over the summer months. Each week it can be found at the Remarkables Market.

"The market has a great community vibe, everyone is very relaxed and out enjoying breakfast and lunch."

Anna enjoys being in the caravan catching up with locals and having a chat to tourists passing through.

"I am really lucky because I love coffee and love making coffee so for me it's the perfect business."

Life's A Grind is open seven days a week from 6.30am-3.30pm at Stanley Street 8.00am-4.00pm at Queenstown Airport and each Saturday 9.00am-2.00pm at Remarkables Market.



Candle Melt Down

By Margo Berryman

Bespoke candle company Melt Candles is a Queenstown success story establishing in the resort seven years ago to become a well-known brand today across the South Island.

Owners Steve and Marie Aldridge took over the business three years ago and have consistently increased the market reach for their beautifully fragrant boutique products.

"Over the past two years we have ventured out to different market locations around the South Island on a regular basis to grow the brand which has been successful," says Steve.

Research and development of new product lines has expanded the Melt Candle range and he says the environmental properties of the candles are a significant selling point.

"The range now includes diffusers, candle burner packs and car diffusers which are really popular. The key property is the soy wax which is 100% natural wax, better for the environment, lasts three times longer than paraffin wax and the candles contain metal-free wicks with no lead or zinc."

Melt Candles has been a drawcard at Remarkables Market for three years and the Aldridges enjoy the community environment.

"We feel privileged to meet so many different people every Saturday. The locals who support us on a regular basis and fellow stall holders are now part of our wider candle family," says Steve. "Listening and taking feedback from customers is important and if a particular scent is required, we will endeavour to find it."



Three new fragrances have been added to the Melt Candle range this season.

"Our favourite is the new Pineapple and Coconut, because it reminds us of sitting and relaxing by the beach on a beautiful sunny day. The Bug Off Candle is an excellent way to keep the sandflies and mosquitoes at bay and suitable for inside or outside living."

Melt Candles are attractively presented in smart glass vessels and ideal for everyday use, special occasions and weddings.

"The reason our candles are so popular," says Steve, "is that people just love the depth of scent that is retained right through to the very end of the burn."

life's a grind
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Community Support for Artisans

By Penny Simpson

The Wanaka Artisan Market is a stand out local institution.

Held every Thursday afternoon all-year round the market offers food, craft, produce and entertainment – perfectly located under an historic tree alongside Bullock Creek.

The Wanaka market is one of only a handful of markets in New Zealand that runs every week for 12 months. It boasts a bevy of local produce including free range eggs, micro greens pickles and chutneys, bread, cake and vegetables along with a diverse range of art and crafts.

Market coordinator Samantha Stout, owner of Tregold Productions, has been in the role for the past six months and during that time has seen exceptional growth.

“The market is a fantastic weekly event offering the very best craft and produce from throughout the region. Visitors and locals love to soak up the atmosphere and take advantage of seasonal produce and regionally produced artisan products.”

“The Wanaka community really supports it and it’s wonderful to see the group of loyal fans that come and do their shopping every week. Community is at the heart of what we do and we are proud to support local enterprise as well as offering a platform for local community groups to fundraise or raise awareness.”

The market has a regular group of 18 vendors each week who sell a range of produce and crafts from candles to water kefir and everything in between.

Samantha says visitors to Wanaka can take home an authentic souvenir from the area made by local artisans selling at the market.

“Stone pendants, superb local photography, designer animals, beautiful wooden bowls and handcrafted soaps are great keepsakes and gifts.”

The Wanaka Artisan Market is held every Thursday from 3pm until 6pm and on selected Sundays during summer.





Wanaka A&P Show Set for Record Crowds

By Rebecca Williamson

The annual Wanaka A&P Show has an ever increasing reputation as one of the key South Island events attracting record crowds and injecting more than \$10 million into the local community.

The 2018 Upper Clutha show is scheduled for March 9-10 and organisers expect similar crowd numbers to last year's record breaking 40,000.

"The show gets bigger and better every year and we're excited about what's on offer for 2018," says event manager Jane Stalker. "We've got some fantastic musicians, acts and stalls secured and there'll be plenty to keep the whole family entertained for the entire two days of the event."

New for the 81st event is the Southern Lakes first Strongest Man competition, where locals can test their strength against champions from the North Island in various stunts, ranging from keg tossing to flipping giant tyres.

Jane says children are well catered for with the hilarious pirate Captain Festus McBoyle and Wayne McEwan's Animal Antics Show, while on the music scene a John Denver impersonator and popular Kiwi country rock duo Cooper's Run, will take centre stage.



The sensational entertainment line-up complements the traditional Wanaka A&P Show drawcards including equestrian and livestock events, classic carnival rides, food stalls, more than 400 trade exhibitor stalls, sheep shearing and wood chopping competitions and the world-famous Jack Russell race.

The popular G.J. Gardner Life & Style marquee also returns to host talks by celebrity animal behaviourist Mark Vette and other well-known presenters.



Wanaka A&P Show has a new electronic ticketing system allowing people to buy passes online from the website for the first time.

Early bird price \$12.50. Full adult price after March 5 online and at the gate \$15, 13-17-year-olds \$5, children under 13 free.

"We are urging people to beat the queues and buy tickets online," says event manager Jane Stalker. "It's easier to scan a ticket and walk straight in rather than having to line up at the gates."

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Creative Crafts

By Bethany Rogers

Earnslaw Park in central Queenstown has been playing host to the Creative Queenstown Arts and Crafts Market every Saturday for almost 28 years and the range of handcrafted gifts and clothing, pottery and art work displayed sets it apart as one the South Island's leading markets.

Everything is handmade by the stall holders who travel from all over to sell their artisan goods.

Hidez handbag designer Michelle Burford travels from Southland each weekend to promote her distinctive leather bags, wallets and purses.

Michelle's partner cuts the leather and she designs, dyes and hand stitches the bags with the more complex designs taking at least two days to complete.

"We use a mineral dye and once we've dyed it I hand punch the holes and stitch it together using two harness needles," she says. "Visitors are right into the New Zealand handmade products, they really appreciate it."

Victoria Eyles is another regular at the market. The former teacher designs and makes baby accessories such as swaddles, hats and bibs.



Victoria Eyles

"I only use natural fibres like New Zealand merino, organic cotton and bamboo. They're really absorbent, breathable, washable fabrics."

The environmentally friendly accessories were originally designed as one off gifts for Victoria's friends with young families. Their popularity encouraged her to set up business selling the distinctive clothing at the market and shortly she will be providing gear for her own baby.

"I meet so many people who are expecting children themselves along with first-time grandparents at the market and it is such a fun environment to be in," she says.

During summer, the market opens every Saturday from 9am until 4.30pm as well as selected Fridays from January – April.

Friday Market Dates

January 5, 19 / February 2, 16 /
March 2, 16, 30 / April 13, 27

Summer Exhibition Drawcard

By Jenny McLeod

Queenstown artist Angus Watson has been a professional artist for more than 30 years and his diverse work hangs in many homes not only in New Zealand but all over the world.

Angus is highly sought after for commissions and holds exhibitions around New Zealand. His annual exhibition, scheduled in 2018 for January 3-14 at his studio, is always a summer drawcard.

"I am accumulating a significant collection of new artwork for the exhibition," he says. "Having my own event gives people a chance to visit my studio in its idyllic garden setting and see where my work is created."

"Clients are always keen to know what inspires specific paintings and I enjoy meeting people who have made the effort to visit."

Angus also sells a selection of prints and card from his studio in Littles Road Queenstown.

He welcomes visitors to his studio at any time but suggests ringing first to avoid disappointment.

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Paulina Corvalan



Paulina Corvalan & Diane Sage



Garden to Plate

By Margo Berryman

Developing a modern market garden based on sustainable growing principles is all part of Paulina Corvalan's "garden to plate" vision for her Clyde based restaurant which bears her name.

Paulina purchased land not far from Clyde and has worked alongside two full-time gardeners to establish the property over the past six months. The project is already paying off with a range of vegetables, herbs and flowers making their way through the restaurant kitchen door.

"We have 12 gardens providing soft salad leaves like mesculin, purple lettuce, rocket, micro greens and herbs for the restaurant," says Paulina.

"I am very lucky to have two local women with a wealth of gardening experience who have assisted in laying the ground work. We have created a dynamic, rotation planting programme to ensure there will always be produce available."

The market garden has several tunnel houses filled with a variety of plants including four types of tomatoes and massive beds of capsicums, chillies, courgettes, pumpkins, potatoes, broccoli, beans and brassicas.

"The aim is to be as organic as possible with no fertilizers or pesticides used. We are companion planting and growing edible flowers," says Paulina. "I hope once we have fully established the gardens this summer we will benefit from constant harvests even into the colder months."

"We get excellent feedback online. People tell us they love the feeling of Paulina's — the great food, music, service and relaxed vibe which makes our whole team very proud of what we have achieved."

This summer Paulina's Restaurant menu has been spiced up with fresh flavors direct from the new market garden.

"We have introduced a delicious vegan paella and a Peruvian dish called Lomo Saltado. Both are beautiful summery dishes with loads of our fresh produce like hand cut potatoes, tomatoes, coriander and capsicums," she says. "One of our all time favorite dishes, blue cod, is back on the menu. We serve it Mexican style with rice, beans, corn and a very nice avocado salsa."

Recently Paulina made the decision to source 100% free-range pork from Havoc Pork in Dunedin and can't speak highly enough of the product.

"We use it for dishes like dumplings, pork shoulder sandwich and roasted pork. It's really beautiful to cook and has the right balance of meat and fat that customers relish."

Smaller plates and sharing platters are ideal to enjoy with a glass of local Central Otago wine. Paulina has crafted some tasty options including local beef sliders and spicy cheese empanadas.

The new barbecue platter is filled with wood fired delicacies including slow cooked beef ribs, roast chicken, free range Chorizo sausage and home made barbecue sauce.

"Summery herbs out of the garden such as basil, parsley, coriander and thyme are flavouring many of the dishes. The lamb is served with fresh chargrilled vegetables and there are lovely garden salads as entrees."

Open 7 days for lunch from 11.30am and dinner from 5.30pm until late.

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Spotlight on Clyde's newest gallery with Melanie Eade

"The Eade Gallery provides a local focus on our immediate proximity which gives it a point of difference and which serves me very well. I am more than ever connected to my own locality drawing most of my inspiration from what is around me. I am very pleased with my successful association with the Eade Gallery as it gives me the encouragement to showcase our beautiful area, and further promote my painting."

Nigel Wilson Central Otago Landscape Painter

What is a day in the life of the Eade Gallery like?

There is never a typical day in the gallery. One day I may be photographing artworks, cataloguing and loading them onto the website, engaging with followers on social media or packing and sending artworks. Another I could be hanging new artworks, rotating existing works and paying artists. When time allows I get involved in some of my own artwork. The one constant however, is the visit of daily customers who are constantly amazed by the talent and diversity of art in the area.

How many Central Otago artists does the gallery represent?

We currently represent over 30 artists. Although our focus is on art within the region we will source further afield to find an artist with a point of difference who will complement the others represented.

Who are the artists behind the new sculptural and ceramic pieces displayed in the gallery?

We have three new sculptural and ceramic artists alongside our other new artists. Andrew Hill specialises in ceramic sculptural human forms, focusing on the emotional response and interaction between the observer and the figures. There is always drama within their sensitive expressions, form and posture. Michelle Aplin creates incredibly detailed outdoor sculptural pieces from chicken wire, ranging from animals to gold diggers and fairies while Peter Johnson's realistic raku fired adult and baby seals are a significant attraction.

Why is Central Otago so appealing to artists?

It is the clarity of the light and the sheer beauty and scale of the landscape which inspires our artists to produce art unique to Central Otago which in turn creates such a strong following amongst both New Zealand and overseas collectors.



Eade Gallery

17A Holloway Street, Clyde
Open 7 days from 10.00am

Ph: 021 265 3358

facebook.com/Eadegallery
www.eadegallery.co.nz

Chic Clyde Collection

Inspired by the growth of Clyde as a retail destination Anna McRitchie unveiled her concept fashion store, Lily & Esther, just a few months ago featuring a chic collection of New Zealand designer clothing and accessories.

"Olivers has done fantastic things for Clyde and I was inspired to open my own business here now so many people visit the village," she says. "I have always loved fashion and shoes and the idea for the store evolved from there."

The engaging Holloway Street store is kitted out with fresh white painted walls and wood shelving creating a modern Scandinavian style interior.

Anna wanted to stock New Zealand fashion exclusively and initially chose her top ten labels finally reducing the list to five to include Kowtow, Company of Strangers, Standard Issue, Juliette Hogan and Staple + Cloth.



Anna McRitchie

"Kowtow is absolutely huge at the moment with their clothes made using ethical, organic cottons. They are my biggest sellers along with Standard Issue for their wonderful knits"

A hand-picked selection of New Zealand designed accessories including Chaos & Harmony shoes, Karen Walker sunglasses, Age Eyewear, Yu Mei bags and Linda Kingi bracelets completes the collection.

"I want to have something for everyone and these brands are synonymous with high-end New Zealand fashion. The Linda Kingi bracelets make ideal small gifts particularly for visitors and we also stock George & Edi candles made in Wanaka," says Anna. "All these brands are exclusive to us in Clyde and the feedback and support for the store from locals has been outstanding."



LILY & ESTHER

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Folklore STYLE

Summer days have arrived at Folklore.

Clyde and its exciting retail hub, just an hour's drive from Queenstown and Wanaka, is fast becoming an important destination for visitors to the region.

The Folklore store, housed in a superb architecturally designed building, was opened just over a year ago by Todd and Sarah Sisson and is already making a name for its appealing selection of designer goods for the home.

"Like music or art our goal is to source unique items that will become an essential part of peoples' daily lives," says Todd. "The store space just continues to evolve and Sarah is always discovering amazing new products."

For summer the store has a refreshing collection of new plants, iron forged containers, tableware, cushions, glasses, vessels, candles, jewellery and the Folklore home décor range.

The Folklore Store is open daily from 10.00am until 5.00pm
15 Holloway Street Clyde

Tel: 03 449 2998
facebook.com/folklorestore.clyde
instagram @folklorestore.clyde



The Sisson Gallery at Folklore features the work of New Zealand landscape photographers Todd and Sarah Sisson. The exhibited images represent professional photography careers spanning two decades capturing the stunning New Zealand landscape.

Sarah and Todd's work is available as large format, fine art prints – each print is drawn from a limited edition of 25 prints. Print pricing includes worldwide shipping.

SISSON
GALLERY

Sisson Gallery is open daily
from 10.00 am until 5.00 pm
19a Holloway Street Clyde.
Tel: 03 448 9289



Celebrating Cromwell Cherries

By Jill Herron

The spotlight is on Cromwell's cherry industry with the area now producing about half of New Zealand's export cherry crop - around 1700 tonnes valued at over \$30 million.

Chairman of Summerfruit NZ Tim Jones says many factors have combined to create the existing strong position, including years of niche marketing, improved technology, availability of land, tourism and excellent staff.

Around one-third of New Zealand's crop is produced by 45 South which operates the country's largest packhouse just outside Cromwell. As manager of the 300-hectare operation, which is manned by 30 full time employees and 400 seasonal staff, Tim is well acquainted with the precariousness of cherry growing.

While Cromwell's arid climate is ideal there are aspects of it such as rain, frost, wind, even hail that present potentially disastrous situations every year.

But, Tim says, Cromwell cherries are now considered to be market leaders by many overseas buyers.

"We think they are the best in the world and our market is telling us they are. That's one of the reasons we can charge up to \$25 per kilogram because we deliver on the promise that when someone overseas lifts the lid on a box of our cherries they will go 'wow'."

Cromwell exporters are also fortunate that regular direct flights from Christchurch can deliver their cherries quickly to the Asian markets well ahead of their main competitors in Chile who, without the same infrastructure, are forced to ship their orders which impacts on the freshness of the fruit.



CHERRY SPITTING

The cherry has taken on such a profile in the Central Otago that every New Year's Eve a quirky celebration is held in honour of the fruit.

Cromwell & Districts Promotion Group spokesperson Brigitte Tait says during the event contestants line up to compete for the title of best Cherry Stone Spitter, propelling stones along a special measuring mat in front of an enthusiastic crowd of onlookers.

"It's great fun, the kids crowd around tables for the messy fun of cherry-cream pie eating competitions and cartoon characters hand out free cherries. This year renowned magician Jonathan Usher, a keen spitting competitor last year, will perform and we've got lots of other free entertainment."

The event will be held at Cromwell Heritage Precinct on December 31 at 11.00am



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Tours Highlight Orchard Operations

By Emma Maddox

It's one of Central Otago's best-known orchards, but Jackson Orchards is more than just about fruit.

Located on State Highway 6 just outside Cromwell, the orchard provides guided tours of its venture – the only one in the region to do so.

Owner Kevin Jackson says the tours started seven years ago when he was approached by an Auckland-based tour operator wanting another activity for his clients while visiting the region.

The tours offer an in-depth insight into life on the orchard year-round and are popular with both tour groups and independent visitors to the region, who want to learn about the orcharding process on the 40-hectare property.

Kevin says Jackson Orchards' fruit-growing season, which includes cherries, nectarines, apricots, peaches, apples, pears and plums, is the longest of any orchard in the country.

“We begin in the second week of November with early cherries and finish the season in early May, which means there is always something happening in the orchard.”

Tour manager Julie Tate says the tours on a 13-seat open electric vehicle, which run daily on the hour, last for about 45 minutes and cover the entire orchard.

The orchard site was the first settled in Central Otago – in 1863 by Jackson Barry who was also the first mayor of Cromwell – and the original house is still on the site along with the original stables.

“Visitors get to see the old buildings during the tour as well as discovering what happens on the orchard during each season,” says Julie. “They also watch the orchard staff in action as they carry out their work and learn about such things as the water reservoir which holds 50 million litres of water.”



The tour also visits the orchard's beehives and walnut trees and there's a chance to sample fresh fruit in season.

Julie says the tour aims to be interesting and informative and provide a real understanding of how a Central Otago orchard works to visitors from all over the world.

“It's really satisfying seeing peoples' reactions when they come on the tour – and everyone has their own particular interest. Some like the machinery, others are interested in the orchard processes and others in the fruit.”

Tours operate daily on the hour from 9.00am-4.00pm. Evening tours by arrangement. Bookings can be made online or through the Cromwell i-Site.



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Forage Information Centre & Cafe at The Gate could not be better positioned for tourists hungry for food and refreshment or thirsty for information and being able to make accommodation, activities and tour bookings there and then.

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Thriving Heritage Precinct Market

By Margo Berryman

New stallholders, live entertainment, a bouncy castle for the kids and distinctive themed days are all part of this year's Cromwell Farmers and Craft Market operating every Sunday at the Cromwell Historic Precinct.

Around 35 produce and craft stallholders attend each week and market chairperson Jill Cameron says they have now extended out to a six-month season.

"The market has been going for 14 years and is well established in the town. We have been fine-tuning how it runs and have a marvellous range this year. One of the main attractions is our location beside beautiful Lake Dunstan. The market thrives amongst the historic precinct's old buildings and is an increasingly popular activity in Cromwell."

She says a loyal group of stallholders are committed to selling their goods on a regular basis including smoked salmon, cheese, honey, and a diverse range of fruit and vegetables. Fresh flowers, baked goods, olive oils, eggs, local meats and locally brewed beer are popular along with linen, wool crafts, pottery, soap and handcrafted cushion covers.

"As produce becomes available during the season more stalls will open selling Cromwell cherries and other fruits."

Tables and chairs are spread throughout the precinct to encourage people to relax and enjoy the market atmosphere and regular live entertainment.

"We really encourage locals and tourists to come along and make the most of the Sunday morning marketplace in this unique and beautiful setting," says Jill.

Hidden Treasures

Built on the shores of Lake Dunstan, the Cromwell Heritage Precinct is an ideal place to spend time with friends and families over the summer months.

The distinctive area has had new life breathed into its historic buildings by a group of artisan businesses including artists, cafés, jewellers and homeware stores which has created a lively hub.

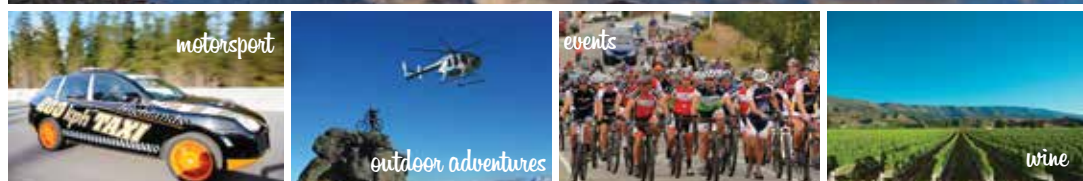
Retail spokesperson Jan Hawkins says people are often surprised at what's available in the precinct.

"Visitors still arrive unaware that the area existed and are intrigued by its historic background and eclectic mix of shops and cafés. It's like discovering hidden treasure."

The Grain & Seed Café sells freshly made food, coffee and treats daily. Tables and chairs are strategically placed outside overlooking the lake while Armando's Kitchen produces authentic Italian food and gelatos and serves Central Otago and Italian wines.

The precinct particularly appeals to families and Jan says picnic spots are plentiful and fishing from the town jetty is a popular pastime for children.

There is plenty of parking around the old town or alternatively it is a short walk from the Cromwell Mall following the signposted bollards leading to the precinct.



What's your passion? World class food and wine, exploring unique landscapes, international motorsport, or just sitting back and relaxing around Lake Dunstan.

Cromwell has an enviable location right in the heart of Central Otago. We grow some of the world's best stonefruit and produce exquisite Pinot Noir in what is the world's southernmost wine region.

A haven for mountain-bikers and hikers, there are trails to suit all levels or buckle up and experience an unforgettable adventure in a race car, helicopter or jet boat. Make Cromwell your Central destination, a warm welcome awaits.

www.cromwell.org.nz #cromwellnz



Shop Your Local Market Every Sunday

SUNDAY 9AM-1PM
FROM LABOUR WEEKEND THROUGH 15 APRIL 2018



CROMWELL FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKET
BUY LOCAL • BUY FRESH • BUY HANDMADE

Come for brunch, enjoy the music and browse our produce, food & craft stalls

Cromwell Heritage Precinct - end Melmore Terrace

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