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QTM Magazine

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ISSUE 109 AUTUMN 2020

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QTMagazine

QT Magazine is a modern lifestyle magazine covering the Southern Lakes region of New Zealand.

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News from Around the Region

with Jenny McLeod

Central Otago Cannabis Cultivation Plans

A Central Otago company is planning a medicinal cannabis operation and is currently raising capital for its research and development facility on the outskirts of Cromwell.

Medigrowth New Zealand is spearheaded by Queenstown businessman Aaron Murphy along with Medigrowth Australia directors Todd McClellan and Adam Guskich.

Mr Murphy says the time is right for the facility with a law change in December 2018 paving the way for a regulated medicinal cannabis industry in New Zealand and the company is seeking licences to both cultivate medicinal cannabis and manufacture medicinal cannabis products.

The proposed facility will provide state-of-the-art technology in extraction and manufacturing, cultivation, laboratory services, genetics supply and university-led research.

The company is working closely with general practitioners on education initiatives. "We know many are being asked by increasing numbers of patients to prescribe medicinal cannabis but don't currently have the training or knowledge to do so."

Vital Support Needed for Lakes District Museum

Fundraising to the tune of at least \$3.5 million is needed to complete essential earthquake strengthening and restoration of the Lakes District Museum which is housed in the original 1875 Bank of New Zealand complex in Arrowtown.

Director David Clarke says — "it is a daunting task and we have set ourselves the ambitious target of completing this work by the end of 2021. If it isn't completed by 2026 the reality is that we will have to close and the Queenstown Lakes District will lose its museum, archives, education programme, art gallery and community hub that we have been so proud to provide to the community for the last 72 years."

The museum has been working on the project since 2011 and has recently received resource consent approval from the Queenstown Lakes District Council after completing heritage, engineering and geotechnical reports.

A Give a Little fundraising page has been set up and the community is being urged to support the project and ensure the future of the museum which plays such a key role in preserving the district's colourful history.

2020 NZ Open Attracts Top Field

The 2020 NZ Open played at Millbrook and The Hills golf courses attracted a top-class professional field and is clearly the best of the events held in Queenstown over the past nine years according to tournament chairman John Hart.

The tournament was won by second time Open winner

Brad Kennedy of Australia two shots ahead of fellow countryman Lucas Herbert.

The first New Zealanders home were Harry Bateman and Michael Hendry who tied for fifth place.

Young Queenstown up-and-coming pro James Anstiss (24) claimed a credible 24th place before heading to Mexico to join the Latin American PGA Tour after earning qualification earlier this year.

The NZ Open presented by Sky Sport was televised to 500 million homes around the world and Mr Hart paid tribute to the 515 volunteers, 312 caddies and many sponsors who enabled organisers to present an outstanding tournament to the world.



James Anstiss

Michael Thomas/Photosport



Adam Guskich Aaron Murphy & Todd McClellan

Wanaka Launches Mountain Bike Adventure Park

A new mountain bike adventure park in Wanaka featuring 35 kilometres of bike trails on 1000 hectares of terrain has been developed on Glendhu Bay Station.

Bike Glendhu is a collaboration between station owners John and Emily McRae and Wanaka rider John Wilson and is designed for riders of all levels from families to experienced and hard out bikers.

"We're proud to be involved in a venture that is sustainable and sympathetic while also diversifying income streams and providing something spectacular for the community and visitors," says Mr McRae.

The company has spent 12 months constructing the park which was designed and built by Elevate Trail Building of Queenstown with the support of Wanaka based Dirt Dynamics.

The facility features a 10-kilometre scenic family loop, a 22-kilometre back country loop plus a mix of descent options including technical endure, jump and flow trails and work is continuing on the base buildings, landscaping and pump track.



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All About Saving Lives

By Jenny McLeod

The Lakes District Air Rescue Trust (LDART) which has played a pivotal role in rescue and emergencies in the area for the past 30 years is charged with raising over \$500,000 a year to ensure the ongoing viability of the crucial service and its goal of saving lives.



Long-time chairman Jules Tapper, who along with a committed group of Queenstown people has been responsible for a rescue service that has saved countless lives over the years, says they want to highlight the need for widespread community support.

"We set up LDART in 1991 as a low-cost service operating on an 'as available' basis, using existing local helicopter operators. In those days there was no way choppers could fly in the middle of the night as there was no night vision equipment until recently and often there wasn't a helicopter available so there was no service. Despite this, over the years we have assisted more than 12,000 people in the wider area."

In October 2018 there was a new direction when the Government announced it would only fund dedicated services and LDART agreed to support the unfunded section of the local contract to the tune of \$500,000-\$600,000 a year. While this is challenging Jules says other South Island trusts with greater surrounding populations are required to support their services to a much larger degree.



LDART is currently campaigning to raise awareness that the Queenstown and Te Anau based service, operated by Heli Otago on behalf of Helicopter Emergency Medical Services Ltd, is by no means free and must have community financial support to help operate the lifesaving venture.

"While the Government covers the helicopter operations, we are responsible for contributions towards training paramedics, recurrency training for crew and pilots and providing essential rescue and medical emergency equipment," says Jules. "Recurrency training is particularly significant because there are tight restrictions around how often personnel can fly or whether a crewman can operate a winch for example, without recent experience or recurrency training."

Several months ago LDART invested just over \$115,000 in vital new equipment for the Queenstown based regional rescue helicopter which standardises it with others operating in the South Island.

"These were major items. We have invested in the Rolls Royce of equipment which will undoubtedly save even more lives. They include an automated CPR machine, patient monitor and defibrillator and a ventilator. This equipment is absolutely key to providing a top-line service."

LDART's role today is very much focused on fundraising and while there is good support from community trusts and individual companies Jules says the message needs to get out to the wider community that "if you have a dedicated service, which can react within minutes, you have to contribute to its existence. You never know when you might need us!"

"We have family subscriptions of \$50 a year and corporates \$500 a year and of course we are very keen to get private donations. We can't impress how important this service is. On just one day in December last year we had three heart attack victims and because of the professional and skilled staff who run the helicopter service they all survived. But this sort of thing can only happen if we have the money in the bank."

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Young Philanthropists Contribute to Community

By Jenny McLeod

Young philanthropists have blazed a trail in Queenstown with their pilot Generation Give programme at Wakatipu High School which has been so successful its leaders are now rolling it out in Auckland and Christchurch this year.

Youth Philanthropy New Zealand (YPNZ) was set up last year under the umbrella of the Wakatipu Community Foundation (WCF) by three former Wakatipu High School students — Beatrice Onions, Hugh Taylor and Chris Belmont.

Beatrice and Hugh already had a history of contribution notably with Wakatipu High School's Cook for a Cause World Vision 40-hour famine fundraiser in 2017. They led a team that cooked 6,000 meals for families in need around New Zealand, raising \$14,000 to support Syrian children.

"We came back together last year, with Chris, to establish the Generation Give programme and we knew that with the support of the WCF, Queenstown was the ideal place for the pilot," says Beatrice. "It was always our intention to roll the programme out nationally and it is exciting to be doing that after our first year with both Auckland and Christchurch also involved through their community foundations."

Interest was high amongst students when they called for applications to join the inaugural programme last year.

"We recruited 19 young people from different year groups which gave us a quite diverse range. Some knew about philanthropy, others didn't but were keen to learn. The students then set up a board and once a week conducted a board meeting followed by an inspirational speaker from the community. While as

through a raffle — "to make them feel they were contributing to the wider mission of Generation Give."

The first grants were made at the Spirit of Wakatipu Awards held in September last year with funds going to six non-profit organisations. To the group's surprise, the Hugo Charitable Trust matched their grants and later

mentors we helped facilitate sessions, everything was basically student led." Generation Give's aim at the outset was to donate \$10,000 to charity and with sponsorship from Roost Mortgage Brokers, Craig Investment Partners, the Dick and Diana Hubbard Foundation and the Tindall Foundation they had the ability to make grants to deserving community groups.

Beatrice says the students themselves also raised \$5,000

invited students to present to them about their specific charities, granting another \$15,000 to three of the organisations taking Generation Give's total contribution to \$35,000. "That support from the Hugo Trust took our pilot programme from being simply a success to something so much more than we could have imagined," says Beatrice.

This year's Generation Give programme looks to be every bit as well supported by Wakatipu High students and it will run beside an advanced programme catering for many of last year's participants who are so committed to the philanthropic culture, they want to continue their work.

WCF CEO Jennifer Belmont says the programme is all about "youth leading youth" and the achievements Generation Give has made in just 12 months are quite outstanding. "It has been so rewarding to help guide the students through the process and the skills they learn through the programme will give them the tools to continue to contribute to and make a difference in their communities in the future."

Renowned American philanthropist Carrie Morgridge met YPNZ leaders during a recent visit to Queenstown with other members of the Colorado based Morgridge Family Foundation. Spokesperson Beatrice Onions says — "the Foundation has a similar programme helping young people become community leaders and philanthropists and it was amazing to be able to exchange ideas with them."

Pictured: Helena Hornbacher (student) Beatrice Onions & Chris Belmont (YPNZ) & Carrie Morgridge



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Autumn Wine & Dine Diary

Explore what Queenstown hospitality has on offer this season from vibrant festive cruises to wine sampling in style. Margo Berryman takes a look at the options.

Among the vines at No5

No5 in Church Lane boasts a wine list exclusively dedicated to Central Otago viticulture. Throughout 2020 a series of innovative wine events are being held to present the latest vintages from local award-winning wineries and share the knowledge. The evenings will include competitions, meet the winemaker and wine sampling. Check out no5churchlane.com for dates and bookings.



Fireworks Cruise

What better way to start the Queenstown Winter Festival celebrations than by watching the opening night fireworks (June 18) from the luxury yacht the *Pacific Jemm*. Offering the best view in town of the lakeside celebrations the cruise includes a drink on arrival and canapes. Numbers are limited and bookings available at Eichardt's.



Margarita Day

Head to the chic enclave No5 Church Lane during Queenstown's annual Winter Festival week (June 18-21) and celebrate Margarita Day. The bar crew will be shaking up a storm producing exotic cocktails featuring Patron Tequila. Top picks are the *Smokin Tommy* made with natural agave, Patron Silver, fresh lime and manuka smoked tequila or the *Liquid Gold* featuring Patron Anejo, Grand Marnier, lime and champagne syrup.



Seafood at The Grille

A seafood extravaganza created by The Grille's talented team focuses on freshwater New Zealand crayfish and accompanying crustaceans in a sophisticated setting. The seafood banquet, designed specifically for small and intimate gatherings of up to 12 people, is presented at the restaurant's stylish Oyster table in the main dining room. Bookings essential.



Seasonal Foraging

Eichardt's executive chef Will Eaglesfield has a reputation as an enthusiastic food forager and enjoys using his foraged goodies to create exciting treats for guests at Eichardt's. They include dried walnuts and Central Otago fruits which are used to create delicious autumnal chutneys and sauces.



Wine Dine Masterclass Cruise

Hosted by a local Central Otago winemaker onboard the luxury yacht *Pacific Jemm* the masterclass cruise is a chance to dive deep into a personalised wine masterclass with a handpicked selection of wines matched with fresh canapés to celebrate the last day of the 2020 Winter Festival (June 21). Bookings available at Eichardt's.



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Queenstown By Light

By Jane Brooke

Queenstown's award-winning sensory experience — the LUMA festival of illuminated art, sculpture and performance is again expected to attract more than 50,000 visitors over four days at Queens Birthday Weekend 2020.



LUMA Trust chairman Duncan Forsyth says the cultural festival, now in its fifth year, is about making connections, illuminating spaces and bringing together artists, businesses, communities and visitors.

"It is the collective brainchild of local, national and international artists who come together to infuse the giant natural amphitheatre of the Queenstown Gardens with beautiful and thought-provoking installations."

This year the festival is going one step further with the introduction of VivoExotica, a curated art exhibition and competition which offers the chance to win the \$10,000 Mount Edward LUMA Arts Award.

"Emerging artists, teams, community groups, sculptors, designers or architects have been encouraged to submit works that will become 'inhabitants' of VivoExotica, described as a 'place of life,'" says Duncan. "The brief to artists is to be 'a little bit wild, a little bit weird populating a bizarre enclosure of all creatures great and small, real and imagined."

Following previous festival successes including the 2019 LUMA Gnome Project, LUMA and the South Island Light Orchestra (SILO) have established an Emerging Artist Programme and grants to help emerging New Zealand artists make the leap from aspiring creator to practicing professional.

Duncan says that due to partnerships with the Lakes District Arts & Cultural Trust and the Queenstown Airport Corporation the LUMA Emerging Artist

Programme (Leap) has specific funding available to support successful applicants. "LEAP's mission is to identify and reach out to new artists throughout New Zealand and encourage and support their unique talents. It's an exciting step for LUMA to be able to establish and promote opportunities for them to create work and share it with the world."

LUMA continues its war on waste this year and asks festival goers to support its Sustainable Queenstown *Dishrupt* crew by bringing a keep cup or using their mug library.



LUMA Fast Facts

- Queen's Birthday Weekend May 29 to June 1
- Queenstown Gardens and waterfront 5.00pm until 10.00pm daily
- Entry by donation
- Take public transport/lift share where possible
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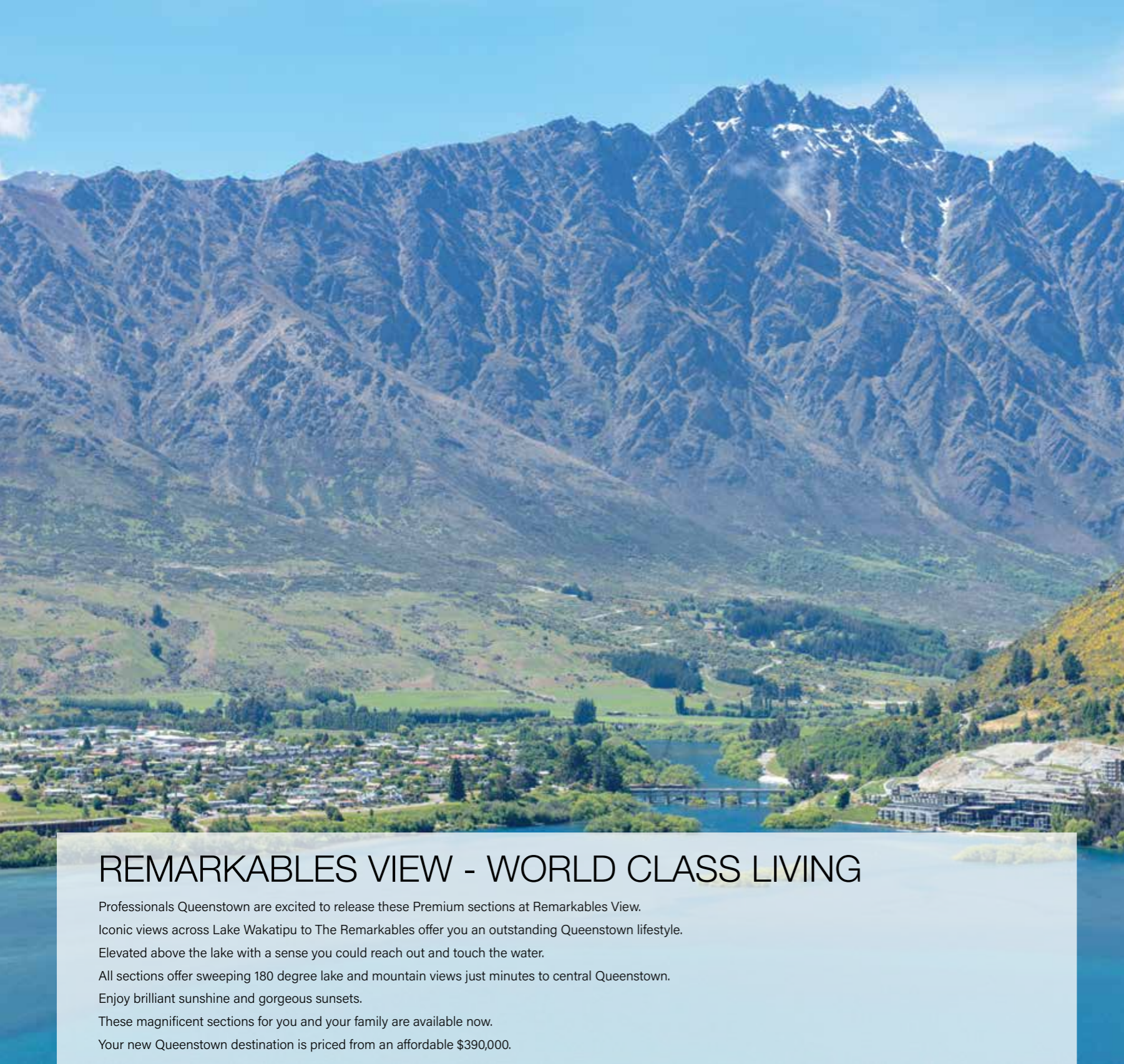
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CLOUDY BAY WINE & FOOD DESTINATION

By Jenny McLeod



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Cloudy Bay's new Jack's Raw Bar summer restaurant has been a significant attraction at The Shed near Cromwell and will continue to provide an exceptional al fresco wine and food venue during the early days of autumn.

"We want people to make the most of the warm days before we change to our winter opening hours," says brand experience manager Julie Delmas. "The Jack's Raw Bar has had overwhelming support and locals and visitors have loved the outdoor experience. It has been a wonderful atmosphere and has enhanced our reputation as an outdoor wine and food destination."

The Cloudy Bay Shed cellar door will operate its summer hours until Easter Monday (April 13) and Julie says the colours in the vineyard are always stunning during April.

"It is a perfect time of the year and overseas visitors love to see the vibrant red and gold colours which come with autumn."

"After Easter the Shed will remain open to the public operating five days a week, from Tuesday until Saturday."

"The weather is still often pleasant enough for visitors to sit outside," she says. "Certainly it is nice to relax beside our outdoor fire and sample a Cloudy Bay Te Wāhi which is the signature Pinot Noir grown at Northburn and Bannockburn."



Along with the cellar door the Cloudy Bay Shed also has a private tasting room and hosts vineyard tours as well as tastings with expert viticulture staff. Bespoke experiences for groups and individuals are offered and Julie says they tailor events for visitors where possible.

"Our Epicurean Experience is popular allowing guests to enjoy Cloudy Bay wines and food in our private Lakeview Room which is a beautiful environment. It's all about creating memorable experiences for people which underlines our philosophy and commitment to quality."

Julie says the entire Cloudy Bay team is passionate about the brand and how it is reflected at The Shed.

"They all love sharing interesting stories with visitors about Cloudy Bay wines, the history and the terroir."

"It is a perfect time of the year and overseas visitors love to see the vibrant red and gold colours which come with autumn."



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Relaxaway is one of the most established property management companies in Queenstown and provides a comprehensive service including consultation with homeowners considering renting, interior design advice, custodial services and property maintenance.

"We have a wide range of skills across our team which makes listing a property through us easy and hassle-free," says Jenny.

"Local knowledge is crucial. There are a surprising number of regulatory hoops to jump through before a property can become a holiday home, like having the correct consent, signage about noise levels and informing neighbours in advance."

"We cater for all types of clients, based locally and overseas, and different styles of exclusive properties from rural retreats to downtown studio apartments."

She says more and more visitors are booking later to take advantage of last-minute deals.

"People have become quite savvy but we can accept bookings until midday on the day of arrival."

PROPERTY EXPERTS



More and more homeowners in and around Queenstown are employing professional property management company Relaxaway Holiday Homes to get the best results in the short-term luxury rental market.

By Tom Kalliber

For more than ten years the company has taken a proactive approach to marketing clients' properties and business manager Jenny Parkes says their continued investment in technology helps them stay one step ahead of an increasingly sophisticated and competitive market.

"We use the latest portal management systems allowing us to fine tune rates in line with demand, with up to 15 different 'seasons' through the year, and run promotions as required across multiple online platforms."

Relaxaway lists properties on all the main global accommodation booking sites including Airbnb, Booking.com, Expedia, HomeAway and CTrip.

Jenny largely credits the company's success and loyal customer base to its attention to detail.









"Little touches make all the difference when it comes to someone choosing your property over another, especially at the top end of the market. We invest in high quality photography when marketing a new property and go that extra mile by staging rooms carefully with flowers and wine, for example, to invoke that holiday feeling."

Jenny says the right properties can achieve excellent returns even if rented out for just a few weeks of the year.

"Demand is so high over Christmas and New Year, for example, that just a short stay can help owners recoup the cost of their own summer getaways."

"We use the latest portal management systems allowing us to fine tune rates in line with demand and run promotions as required across multiple online platforms."



 <p>VESTA DESIGN BOUTIQUE</p> <p>Williams Cottage 19 Marine Parade Queenstown 03 442 5687 www.vestadesign.co.nz</p>	<p>A shopping experience like no other, Vesta isn't just famous for its rare and collectible goods.</p>	 <p>The Design store is located in New Zealand's adventure capital, Queenstown, on water's edge of Lake Wakatipu in a preserved historic building.</p>	<p>In its near original state Queenstown's oldest house (Williams Cottage) built in 1864 is the perfect setting for a design store like no other.</p>	 <p>Established in 1999, Vesta is an unexpected rarity in the centre of town and once discovered will always be revisited.</p>
				

TARGETING DISCERNING VISITORS



By Margo Berryman

People who want a luxury experience on a small scale and appreciate the finer things in life are being targeted by the developers of contemporary new visitor accommodation in Kawarau Village close to Queenstown.

The five-star Lanah Residence is a striking three-apartment building located minutes from the Queenstown airport in Kawarau Village bounded by the Hilton Hotel and overlooking Lake Wakatipu with views to Coronet Peak ski area and the Remarkables Mountain range.

Owners Han Suqing (Yvonne) and her husband Jean Pierre Dosse spent over a decade looking for the right piece of land to build their dream project after first purchasing a home in Jacks Point in 2008.

"We were contemplating an alternative to our apartments in Shanghai. Initially we looked in Tahiti and at a bungalow built by Marlon Brando but it was not quite right and the climate was very hot. We then came out to New Zealand as Jean Pierre had spent time here in 1985 when he was part of the team to open The Regent hotel in Auckland and visited Queenstown," says Yvonne.

"We stayed at Millbrook and went to Jack's Point with a friend and liked it so much we bought a house there that very same day. Then Jean Pierre found this land in the Kawarau Village in 2016 and we thought it was the perfect location for high-end accommodation and we are very happy with the result."

Lanah Residence reinforces the ideas and experiences of the international couple who bring a passion for genuine hospitality, cultural authenticity and thought-provoking interior design to the property.

"The suites are very spacious with floor to ceiling windows facing out over Lake Wakatipu. It's probably one of Queenstown's sunniest spots and we have maximised the beautiful views everywhere."

The well-appointed suites feature an oversized bathroom with a soaking bath, large walk in closet, a king size bed, day bed, working desk, dining table and a fully equipped kitchenette filled with complimentary provisions.



Toni Clarke



"We are targeting people who desire a luxury experience on a small scale and who appreciate the finer things," says Yvonne. "Many of the furnishings are our own personal pieces including French antiques from Jean Pierre's family home in Annecy, some very well-known artworks and unique pieces that tell the Chinese story."

The property's name is derived from a terracotta sculpture Lanah produced by French artist Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux (1827 – 1875) as part of a theme *La Dance* used to decorate the façade of the Paris Opera. The sculpture takes pride of place in the dining room area amongst other European and Chinese antiquities.

Complimentary breakfast is served each morning in the centralised dining room along with afternoon tea and pre-dinner cocktails.

"We are fortunate to have our own chef, Toni Clarke, who is a long-time colleague of Jean Pierre's and her knowledge of food and hospitality is second to none. She comes each day to prepare a New Zealand or Chinese style breakfast — all our guests love this and say the food is fantastic," says Yvonne. "We can also organise inhouse dining experiences and cater for any food requirements."

The ground floor is well equipped with a fitness gym,



laundry facilities and ski lockers and a jacuzzi above the property offers panoramic views. The standout residence draws inspiration from the couples' own experiences travelling the world. "We travel a lot and prefer small luxury lodges that are more personalised and not so touristy. That's what we wanted to achieve here so guests feel like they are



Jean Pierre Dosse & Han Suqing

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The developers of Queenstown's Lanah Residence have impressive credentials in international sport, hotel management, restaurants and hospitality.

Jean Pierre Dosse worked with the Regent and Four Seasons hotel in Asia Pacific for over 45 years, travelling the world managing and opening new hotels as vice president before starting his own consultancy practice in Shanghai working with private Chinese investors.

Han Suqing (Yvonne) is an owner in Shanghai of the fashionable Xin Jishi restaurants, famed for their traditional Shanghaiese style of cooking which are popular among visiting celebrities and Hollywood actors.

As a young athlete she was selected to train to become a professional softball player joining the Chinese youth squad before being chosen to represent the country internationally as a member of China's national softball team, including attending the Olympics in 1996.

Together the couple have combined their expertise to establish Queenstown's Lanah Residence as a personalised and luxury experience for discerning guests.

staying at their own residence with butler style service from the owners — not staff," says Yvonne.

Lanah Residence has a three-night minimum stay and guests can book the entire house (three suites) or alternatively each suite can be booked individually.

"I love sports and play golf, tennis, ski, mountain bike and hike and organising day trips for our guests is part of what we offer," she says. "Particularly for Chinese visitors who do not speak English this makes their stay easy, relaxed and friendly which is ultimately what we are here to do in every way possible."

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SYNCHING THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFESTYLE

By Jane Brooke

An architectural firm with a Southern Lakes focus is developing a reputation for creating bespoke permanent and holiday homes in synch with both the environment and clients' lifestyles.

Allfrey + South Architect's director Craig South says with summer and early autumn comes the Kiwi passion for taking to the beach, camping or getting away to a family bach or crib.

"This past summer was no different, everyone does it their own way. Many people will have made a beeline to favourite places and time-honoured holiday retreats." He says holiday accommodation itself can make a big difference to the overall experience.



Craig South

"From an architect's perspective a holiday home ought to feel different to one's everyday home yet still support individual lifestyle needs. A good example of this, in our own practice, is an award-winning family bach we

designed at Hanmer Springs. It includes several sun-soaked buildings that take in the views and are drawn together around a recessed patio and timber decks. The design allows for privacy while creating places to socialise and is set to provide a legacy for the family."

Craig believes a great holiday home will seamlessly fit with its environment and location.

"While sea views, sliders and decks are ideal for a beach bach priorities for an alpine crib would more likely include a drying room and an open fire."

He says a well-designed Kiwi holiday home will be treasured across the generations.

"It's a special place for sharing experiences and making precious memories, the kind of place where friends will come and set up a tent on the lawn and relax on the deck while children run around outside."



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Warding Off Winter Woes

By Claire Hathaway

The arrival of shorter days in the Southern Lakes marks the start of the colder months and the health and wellbeing team at Queenstown's Life Pharmacy Wilkinsons are urging people to shift their focus from sun safety to immunity boosting to help stay healthy during winter.

Pharmacist and co-owner Glenn Mitchell says people can be both in control of their own health and proactive in the prevention of winter ailments with the support of vitamins and natural health products.

"Everyone is different and our friendly team can help customers with their unique concerns, whether it is preventative, combating early signs of illness or dealing with symptoms once they've developed."

For people in the full-blown throes of a virus, Glenn has high praise for a relatively new product now stocked at Life Pharmacy Wilkinsons.

A New Zealand made brand, Kiwi Herb, uses all-natural ingredients and can be safely used by the whole family.

"This brand is fantastic across the board and because it is 100 per cent natural it is particularly good in providing relief for infants and young children who have coughs or colds," he says.



"Kaloba is a natural product from Germany and relieves upper respiratory symptoms and markedly speeds up recovery. The quicker you get onto it, the better."



Pharmacist Brian Wong says since he started working in Life Pharmacy Wilkinsons several years ago he has noticed the rapid change in climate has an obvious effect on people's health at this time of the year.

"It's important for people to get their immune systems strong to fight the effects of the relatively extreme weather here, be it through multi-vitamins or more whole food options like spirulina or essential greens, which help get digestive systems healthy."

"Probiotics and prebiotics help keep the gut healthy which has a flow-on effect for the health of the rest of the body. These are also good for tourists who may not be used to the diet in New Zealand and need something to settle their stomachs."

Brian says Vitamin C is an effective immunity booster and can be taken in a few different forms, from a commonly used daily tablet to the more expensive but highly effective liquid sachet such as Lypo-Spheric Vitamin C that is quickly absorbed into the body, and can ward off illness at the early onset stages.

"The Go Healthy Go Viral Defence is also very efficient at the early stages of feeling unwell. We recommend it be taken immediately after noticing the first signs of a cold. Its ingredients include olive leaf, zinc, echinacea and a cough suppressant."

Life Pharmacy Wilkinsons is located on the corner of The Mall and Rees Street and is open seven days a week from 8:30am until 10.00pm.



Glenn Mitchell



Clarins Double Serum

"This age defying product is great for the dry Southern Lakes environment. Its cutting edge formula is powered by 21 plant extracts including turmeric. One bottle is sold every five seconds around the world."

Cat Mai



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Jade Blackwell



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Innovative Exterior Home Solutions

Q&A

A prominent New Zealand surface restoration business, Nano-Clear® recognised nationally for their sustainably focused premium products and services has recently expanded into the South Island. QT Magazine spoke to Wanaka representative George Bridgewater about their presence in the Southern Lakes.



What inspired the company's move to the South Island?

We are a family owned business and just over a year ago decided to bring the Nano-Clear® products and services down south after considerable success in the North Island. With the harsh local environment having an impact on the maintenance and durability of exterior surfaces, demand is growing for what we have to offer.

Why do New Zealand home exterior surfaces break down to the extent of requiring heavy duty maintenance?

Most commonly UV rays are degrading the coatings that are used on our building materials, such as cedar or aluminium, causing a breakdown in the protectiveness of those surfaces from things like water and mould. They can then begin to fail, crack and rot over time.

New Zealand has some of the highest levels of UV in the world due to lower levels of ozone blocking UV, low pollution levels and the fact that the southern hemisphere tilts closer to the sun in summer. UV radiation degrades materials with different intensity and speeds. Other factors contributing to this are chemicals like spider sprays and house wash, limescale in water supplies, cement splashes and salt.

What are the advantages of using the Nano-Clear® system on exterior surfaces?

The system is designed to work on both freshly painted surfaces, wood exteriors and older or oxidised surfaces like window joinery. Because of its extremely low viscosity the Nano-Clear® product fills the pores of old surfaces and then reflects the colour back to the eye, both sealing and protecting the surface as well as returning to the original colour and locking it there for ten to 15 years.

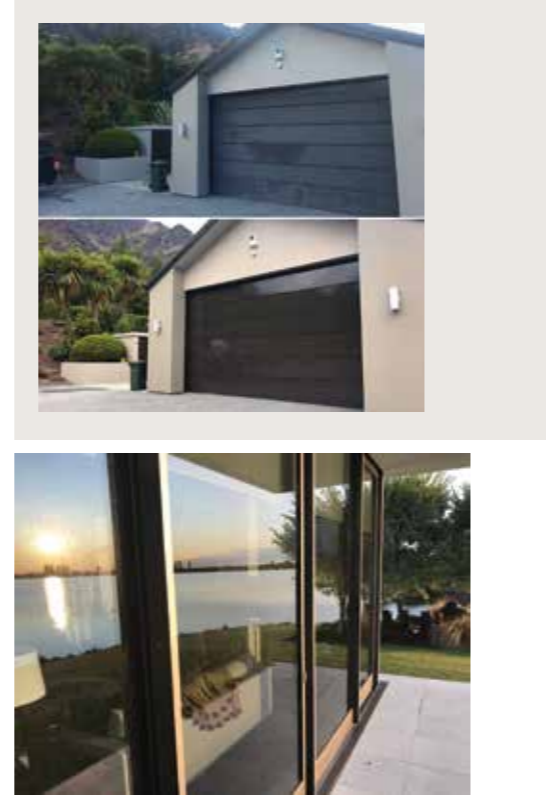
Where is the application of Nano-Clear® products of most benefit to clients?

We work primarily in window joinery restoration in the Southern Lakes region and this by far delivers the most cost benefits back to home owners. The ability to restore old joinery on a property back to new or match old with retro fitted joinery is of significant value to our clients and makes their homes look fantastic. Applying it to wood exteriors of homes also provides cost benefits from a maintenance perspective.

What other areas around a home or property can Nano-Clear® rejuvenate or repair damage?

Window joinery can be restored to its original colour or completely changed. This works particularly well for houses that have had some windows replaced or double glazing but not all the joinery is looking the same. We work closely with retro fitting companies who often ask us to come in and apply a Nano-Clear® coating once they have completed the new joinery so that all the windows in the property match up thus avoiding a two-tone effect. The results speak for themselves.

We can also apply the product to boats, caravans, vehicles and machinery. Nano-Clear® restores fibreglass and alloy boats brilliantly protecting them from UV, salt and fuel spills. It's also widely used in rural industries to protect machinery from corrosive products such as fertiliser and acids.



ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY

By Penny Simpson

The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is committed to reducing waste and is working closely with its contractors Waste Management NZ and Wastebusters to lead local communities and visitors towards a zero waste future and sustainable district.



"The beautiful mountains and lakes draw people here and we want to look after our environment for future generations," says Wastebusters communications manager Gina Dempster. "Every effort that visitors make to reduce waste is valued by our community."

"We encourage out of town people to think about practical ways they can support our commitment to waste reduction and help look after our place, such as carrying a reusable bag, putting recycling and rubbish in the right bins, eating in instead of taking food away and refilling water bottles."

QLDC's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan documents its goals reflecting those of the New Zealand Waste strategy which is focused on reducing the harmful effects of waste and improving the efficiency of resource use.

"Glass, organics and more support for waste reduction initiatives have been identified as priorities in this plan. Council has increased the level of support for community-led waste minimisation initiatives, including the community contestable fund and more promotion of events, workshops and programmes that minimise waste," says QLDC GM Property and Infrastructure Peter Hansby.

Grants approved in the latest council funding round include support for Sustainable Queenstown's *Dishrupt* service and education trailer providing reusable dishes and cups at local public events, *Waste Free Wanda*, a superhero character delivering interactive songs and performances aimed at growing environmental continuousness about plastic waste, Local Food Wanaka's *Autumn Apple Drive* teaching a hands-on approach to using surplus fruit across the region and ONE New Zealand/Plastic Free Wanaka which implements a cup reuse scheme in cafés.

Gina says hospitality businesses have championed the single-use cup free movement with the establishment of Wanaka Hospo-Goes-Eco — a group of cafés who got together after the 2018 One Summit which was held in the Southern Lakes, to make their local café culture more sustainable.

"This single-use cup free initiative has received a lot of support from Wanaka businesses and now has five venues joining early adapter Cardrona Alpine Resort which went single-use cup free in 2018. This includes Big Fig Wanaka, Federal Diner, Fedeli Café, Pembroke Patisserie and Buzz Cut."

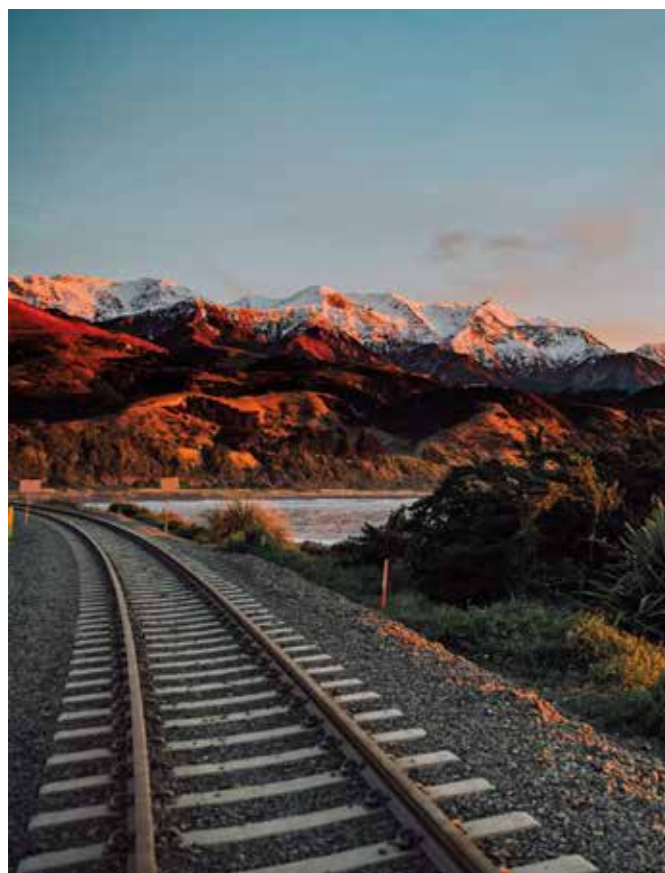
With funding from QLDC's Waste Minimisation Community Fund Plastic Free Wanaka recently implemented a new cup return scheme called *Again Again* in Wanaka cafés.

"Again Again provides reusable steel cups which are available by deposit and can be returned to any of the participating cafés," says Gina. "So, if you forget your reusable cup, you can borrow one without adding single-use waste to your morning coffee routine. There are now 16 cafés in the district offering the returnable cup scheme."



She says tourists can join in the zero-waste journey by reducing their use of disposables and recycling correctly and local businesses can help them achieve this.

"For businesses in Queenstown, Arrowtown, Wanaka or Glenorchy there are many ways to support visitors such as offering them a place to refill their water bottles or showing them where to buy reusable items like bottles, cups and bags. Letting visitors know how to recycle in our district is also important as each area is different across the country."



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"It's an opportunity to bring the entire community together to enjoy five days of events that provide something for everyone," says festival coordinator Carole Watts. "There are very few people in our community that aren't involved in one way or another, whether they are a performer, participant, spectator, volunteer, committee member or contractor."

While some events on the programme change each year, the traditional ones such as the Festival Parade, ASB Market Day, Quiz Night and the ever-popular Pie, Pint and Pinot continue to draw the crowds.

Carole's top picks are the Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea — where the area's older residents enjoy a special afternoon tea while being entertained by the Arrow Miners band, the Arrow Entertainers, the Buckingham Belles and Mini Belles dancing troupes — and the Quiz Night.

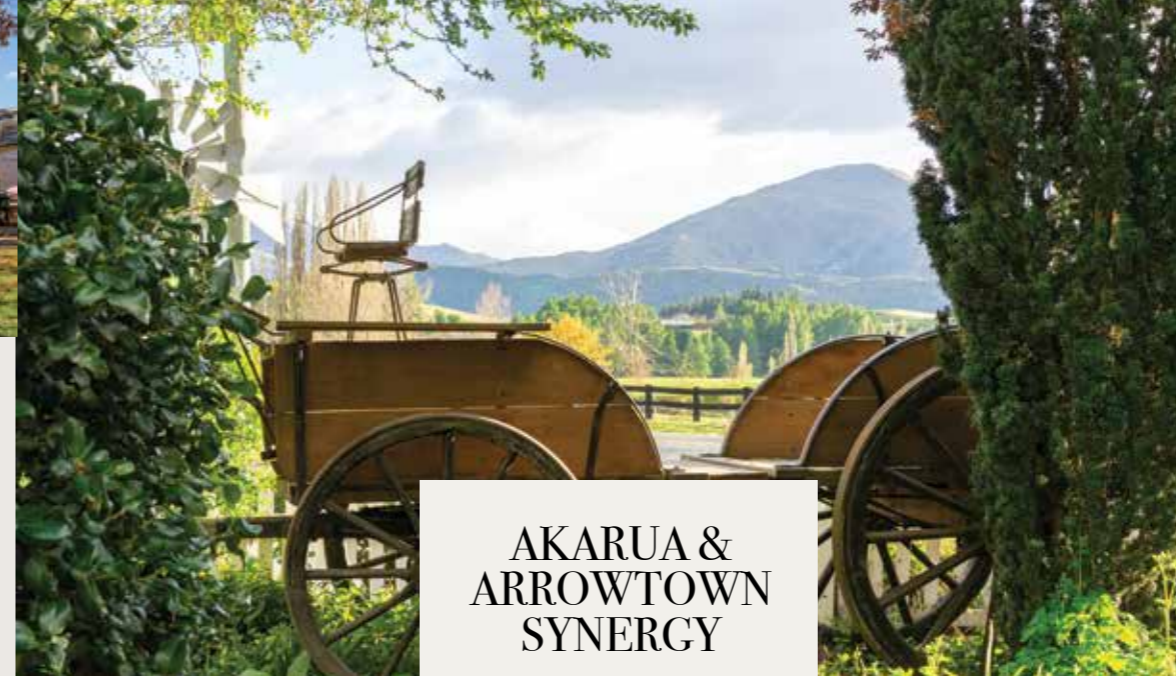
"This is a true locals' night and is always filled with hilarity mixed in with a bit of controversy. We love it and we love how our community supports it. Last year it sold out super quickly and we had 20 teams on the waiting list so in 2020 we aim to expand and take in more teams."

Several new events are highlighted in this year's programme. Tobin's Rush is a run that covers approximately 5km of steep terrain on a course up the historic Tobin's Track and back. Carole hopes this will become an annual contest inspiring healthy competition amongst locals.

"For the younger festival goers there will be a fantastical puppet show, Kotuku and the Moon Child, and in addition to the usual scarecrow-making competition this year children will also be able to become the scarecrow in the inaugural living scarecrow contest."

Carole and the festival committee are passionate about the autumn festival and all it represents for the Arrowtown community.

"One of our goals is to involve as much of our community as possible to provide a platform for local talent to perform as well as showcasing the history and beauty of our town during one of the most beautiful seasons of the year. We believe the festival more than achieves this."



AKARUA & ARROWTOWN SYNERGY

Akarua Winery's ongoing association with the Arrowtown Autumn Festival reflects the close links between the two, according to Akarua general manager Kathryn Pettit.

2020 marks Akarua's fifth year as naming rights sponsor of the festival.

Akarua Winery was planted in 1996 in Bannockburn by the Skeggs family and Kathryn says as a family owned company with long-held ties in the region they see the festival as aligning with its values.

"Akarua wanted to support this event as wine is inherently about enjoyment with friends and family and the Akarua Autumn Festival epitomises this. We also recognise how difficult it is becoming for community-run festivals to secure funding and sponsorship and we wanted to give our support for its long-term continuation."

Kathryn is hands-on as a member of the festival committee and the company is actively involved in the organisation and planning of the event.

"Akarua holds special functions each year to reinforce the festival programme and in 2020 two new ticketed events will be held at Akarua Wines & Kitchen by

Artisan – the Bubbly Brunch and the Autumn Long Lunch. Akarua is also a key player in the Pie, Pint and Pinot held on the Library Green."

Akarua Wines & Kitchen by Artisan opened three years ago at Lake Hayes allowing the company to offer a destination restaurant and cellar door close to both Arrowtown and Queenstown. The restaurant serves breakfast and lunch as well as grazing platters and Akarua wines from an historic cottage in a spectacular garden setting on the Arrowtown-Lake Hayes Road.

Kathryn says the winery is continually developing to maintain the high standards the Akarua label is recognised for.

"Akarua is proud of its heritage and commitment to the local industry. We have had a busy last couple of years with the release of two new wine brands into our range, Pinot Rouge and 25 Steps, which have been well accepted. Our focus in 2020 is making sure that momentum continues."



FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CHANGING COLOURS

By Camille Khouri

Arrowtown celebrates the changing season and colours with an annual festival (April 16 – 20 2020) which brings the community and the historic town's many visitors together to mark the transition from summer to autumn.

The Akarua Arrowtown Autumn Festival was launched in 1985 as a way of promoting Arrowtown to the farming community at the same time observing the end of the busy summer harvest. Thirty six years on it has grown into a significant fixture not only attracting locals but visitors from around the country as well as overseas.



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George spent many years in the fast paced Auckland market, honing his negotiation and marketing skills in a highly competitive environment, with a reputation for delivering excellent results for his vendors. Always drawn to the Queenstown Lakes District, George and his family made the move in 2017 and he has quickly made his mark on the area, with several notable sales. Together Colleen and George provide a full service real estate experience, and most importantly, premium results.

For a fresh approach to Arrowtown Real Estate, talk to Colleen and George.

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Curate

A Family Affair

By Margo Berryman

Classic and smart high fashion collections and resort style shopping is the overriding theme at Arrowtown's long-standing locally owned store Wallace & Gibbs.

The high-end fashion store was opened in 1995 by Delvine Wallace and Bruce Gibbs and today is a family affair with their three daughters Caroline Walak (31), Sophie Gibbs (34) and Elizabeth Wallace-Gibbs (26) part of the business management team.

"It's nice having the second generation coming through the business and it's helped us to continue to expand and innovate the store," says Delvine. "Everyone brings their own sense of style and fun which creates a lovely atmosphere whether we are on buying trips, merchandising the stores, or dealing with office admin or behind the store counter."

The Wallace & Gibbs group owns six stores across Arrowtown and Queenstown and is one of the largest fashion retailers in the region with an enduring reputation for representing leading fashion labels.

"Here in Arrowtown the Wallace & Gibbs store offers resort style dressing with a range of high-quality fashion labels like Trelise Cooper, Loobies Story, Ketz-ke, Sills & Co, Paige, Cutler and Ben Sherman. Because we all love fashion the store reflects our personal style. There is a relaxed and stylish vibe with a broad range of women's and men's clothing to choose from."

Arrowtown attracts a diverse mix of visitors and locals and Delvine says shopping in the historic village is always enjoyable.



Trelise Cooper



John Lennon

"It's a lovely experience shopping here, we have spacious change rooms and the team are all well versed in assisting customers to find the right size, style and colour choices. It's always nice to walk out of the store with a bag of new clothes having enjoyed the service."

"The new season's collections are outstanding with beautiful autumnal colourways and some inspiring wardrobe pieces," she says. "Wallace & Gibbs also stock a fine selection of jewellery, bags and fashion accessories along with a range of New Zealand designer shoes and boots by Chaos & Harmony and Kathryn Wilson."



Rollie



Ketz-ke



Chaos & Harmony



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What's New in Arrowtown

By Margo Berryman

Kathrina Hughes

Behind the Lens

The annual autumn Arrowtown Photography competition traditionally attracts a superb range of images from amateur photographers who capture the many facets of the historic gold mining village in their work.

"It's a real calendar highlight with impressive entry numbers showcasing the region in all its autumn glory," says Arrowtown Promotions and Business Association manager Sue Patterson.

The range of categories includes architecture, creative landscape, people and action along with an open junior section for budding young photographers. The final works are on display at the Lakes District Museum during the Akarua Arrowtown Autumn Festival.

"During festival week we hang the category winners in the museum art gallery space alongside the grand prize-winning photograph which receives the Jade and Opal Factory trophy on the festival opening night," says Sue. "There is also a rotating screen set up in the foyer displaying all entries received."



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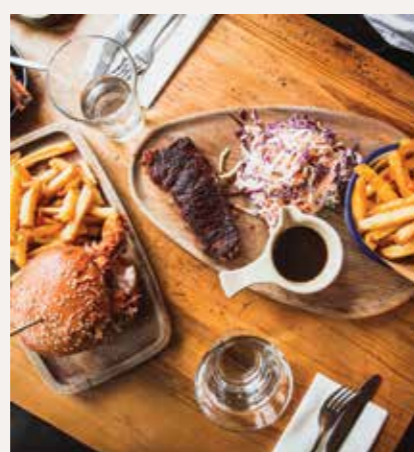
Cuisine Focus

Arrowtown is becoming known as a 'foodie' destination and a recent feature published by prestigious magazine Cuisine highlighted the diversity of the food scene in the village.

Editor Kelli Brett was hosted by the Arrowtown Promotions and Business Association (APBA) in conjunction with Destination Queenstown and APBA manager Sue Patterson says she met key hospitality people and was able to experience the vast array of locally grown produce, food and wine on offer.

"There are several new restaurants and cafés that have added to the dynamic food scene in Arrowtown which is firmly on the map for food experiences. Its flagship event, the Arrowtown Long Lunch, is held each year in December attracting people from all over the country as well as internationally."

"We know visitors and locals are increasingly charmed by these types of experiences and the proximity to local wineries and cellar doors adds to the overall appeal."



On the Trail

The development of world class trails for walking, hiking and biking in and around the Wakatipu Basin has been a bonus for Arrowtown which is a hub for the Queenstown trail network developed by the Queenstown Trails Trust.

The Queenstown trail connects communities throughout the Wakatipu Basin and Arrowtown Promotions and Business Association manager Sue Patterson says it is a significant attraction for tourists keen to take part in outdoor activities in the area.

The Arrowtown River Bridges Trail is a highlight of the Queenstown Trail Great Ride network starting at the historic Chinese Village and crossing five bridges over the Arrow River en route to Gibbston.



"This is a relatively easy cycling trail, very scenic and great for families with kids or wine enthusiasts who want to spend time at the Gibbston wineries before returning to Arrowtown for lunch or dinner," she says. "One of the most scenic spots on the ride is the 80-metre Edgar suspension bridge which provides stunning views of the Arrow River gorge."

Arrowtown has an extensive range of historic and scenic day walks close to the town such as the Arrow River Trail, Bush Creek Trail, Tobins Track, New Chums and Sawpit Gully trails. Maps are available from the Lakes District Museum.

"The Arrowtown trail network is linked to the Mahu Whenua trails which were created as part of the land convenanted to the Queen Elizabeth II Trust by the landowner," says Sue. "There are plans for new tracks that will provide for a range of recreation activities on Glencoe and Coronet Peak stations which will also link up with sections of the Te Araroa trail that passes through Motatapu and Mount Soho high country stations."



Easing Congestion

New amenities in Arrowtown such as the Ramshaw Lane toilet complex and extended parking beside the Arrow River has significantly eased pressure on the historic town, according to Arrowtown Promotions and Business Association manager Sue Patterson.

The two long-term major projects by the Queenstown Lakes District Council were completed in late 2019 and have created a positive impact on the town.

"These facilities have been well received by local townfolk and visitors," says Sue. "The increased parking has eased traffic flow and assisted larger vehicles such as campervans to find parking spaces, along with coaches and local transport operators."

#LOVEARROWTOWN



CHASING ACTIVE GOALS

By Penny Simpson

Setting targets for staying fit and healthy through the colder months is a key driver for the team at Arrowtown's luxury activewear store Goals.

Led by siblings Caroline Walak, Sophie Gibbs and Elizabeth Wallace-Gibbs the Buckingham Street store is a boutique destination for high-end active and streetwear clothing.

"As the season starts to lose heat and the chill factor creeps in it's time to slowly retrench into some warmer layers and pick a new colour scheme for workout gear," says Caroline who is executive director.

"The new season colour combinations feature gorgeous prints and fabrics that will freshen up gym gear. There are new clothing drops from all our leading brands every month so shopping instore or online is exciting at this time of year."

"Customers who can't get into the store should head to goalsstore.com and sign up for our regular EDM that has amazing offers for end of line garments as well as our awesome new gear. We ship around the world so it's easy to order exactly what you want, when you want it."



FEELING JAGGAD

"Jaggad is a very cool Australian brand with leggings, tops and sweats that stylishly cross over from the gym to the street. We are loving their new Namibia full length high-waisted leggings in subtle geometric prints and the Namibia crop-top featuring snakeskin fabric with contrasting straps."

Caroline Walak



RALPH SAMPSON FOR PUMA

"Try them, like them and wear them. It's as simple as that with the latest Puma Ralph Sampson Mid OG sneakers in classic clean colours. They have a classic 80s mid-top form and are a reissue of the four-time NBA champs original Puma made for guys and girls."

Elizabeth Wallace-Gibbs

CROSSFIT ESSENTIAL

"If you're into CrossFit or HITT at the gym then our latest range of shoes from Reebok fits the bill. They are a more technical sports shoe but still with that fashion edge."

Elizabeth Wallace-Gibbs

MAKE IT CLASSIC

"Lorna Jane is classic, easy wear active wear that all women feel comfortable in. We have their new season range including four different legging styles — full length, three-quarter, knee and short length so customers can wear their favourites any which way."

Sophie Gibbs



ADIDAS LOOKS BETTER

"Life looks better when you're wearing a pair of the latest Adidas Originals shoes. Pair with a matching Onzie set, for a fresh active look."

Caroline Walak

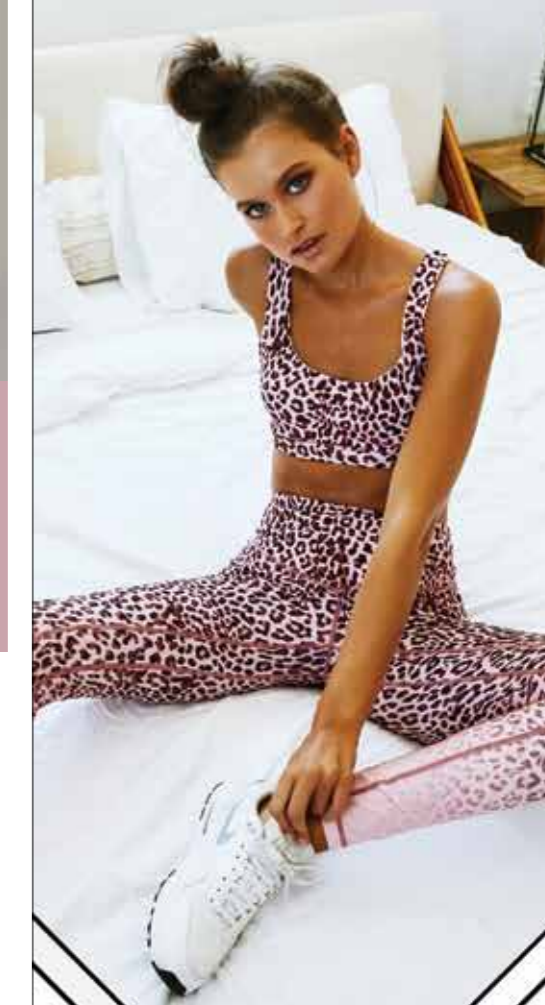


JETTING OFF

"We have a gorgeous new collection of swimwear from Jets that suit all different shapes and sizes, including bigger busts which we get a lot of requests for. The Bandeau one piece is a classic style with added support and ideal for the beach or the pool."

Sophie Gibbs

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Designer Solar Power

By Camille Khouri

Cromwell based solar energy specialist Infinite Energy is focused on providing design integrated solar power systems that successfully merge with buildings and ensure an appealing aesthetic for homes and commercial properties in Central Otago and the Southern Lakes.



General manager Regan Heal says the company supplies bespoke solar power systems that blend with buildings rather than "appearing to be tacked on as an afterthought".

"We identified an opportunity in the marketplace for design integrated solar power systems but the look of them could be a barrier for some customers, for while they liked the concept and the savings on the power bills, the aesthetic didn't appeal. Therefore, we attempt to balance optimised output and aesthetics because we feel no amount of extra power justifies turning your biggest asset into an eyesore."

Regan says they gather as much information as possible from a potential client on their power use and the reasons they want solar for their property to get the best outcome.

"Each design and system we build is treated as bespoke to that property and its energy use and needs. This is not a one-size-fits-all scenario. It's part of being independent and local and it allows us to understand a customer's motivations and opportunities for saving. Some want greater independence, some just want impact on power costs."

With solar power installed in Regan's own home his household makes savings annually of around \$3,500 with the annual cost of power an estimated \$500.

He suggests making solar power part of the whole build budget when looking at a new build. "The difference between borrowing \$600,000, for example, and adding another \$30,000 to that is not material in the scheme of things. Most of our customers receive between nine and 12 per cent return on their investments."

The technology used for solar power generation is constantly changing and progressing and the company travels offshore regularly to ensure they are up-to-date with the latest brands and systems. Currently most of the batteries and panels are manufactured in Asia for companies that are based in Europe.

"We've developed our supply chain from scratch," says Regan. "We shop globally in order to find a product that fits our design ethos. It's a very fast-moving industry and we're constantly reviewing and seeking out new products. Very few markets globally can compete with manufacturing proficiency in Asia."

Infinite Energy was established in 2013 and its services include grid-connected systems, grid-tied hybrid systems with battery backup and entirely off-grid systems for both residential and commercial properties.

Keeping it Green

Queenstown based Team Green Architects specialise in designing homes that have a low impact on the environment and principals Sian Taylor and Mark Read recently installed a solar power system in their own home after consulting with Infinite Energy.

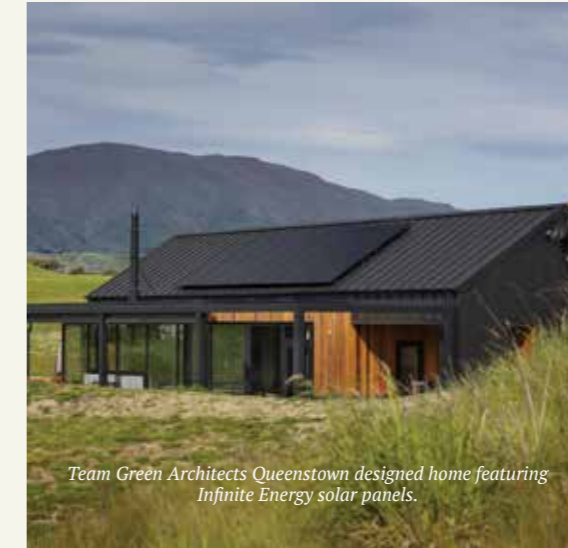
Sian says her system is just under five-kilowatt, including 16 panels with a 5kW inverter to allow the house to eventually store power in a battery.

"Our system is what they call a hybrid which is when you're still connected to the grid, but you have batteries. You're not completely off-grid but you're significantly more self-sufficient with a battery. However, you're not 100% reliant on your own power."

She says this means that during the coldest months in winter there is less stress about getting enough sunshine hours to cover the entire power requirements, especially because this is when many households have traditionally needed power the most.

"The thing I look at for myself and for clients is in deciding how far you go. You could overload your roof with panels but it's important to be able to self-consume the power as it's generated or store it in a battery for later use. This is where a customised design is critical in ensuring people get the best out of their system."

Sian says the combination of thermally efficient building design, intelligent energy management and self generation from solar presents a massive opportunity for clients building new homes.



Team Green Architects Queenstown designed home featuring Infinite Energy solar panels.

"Our system is what they call a hybrid which is when you're still connected to the grid, but you have batteries. You're not completely off-grid so you're not 100 per cent reliant on your own power."

"Our modern homes have the opportunity to be far more energy efficient, to waste less energy on heating — and to have simple controls to manage power usage to coincide with peak energy production. Historically, water heating and space heating have accounted for most of the residential energy use, followed by household appliances. All of these uses can occur during the middle of the day, regardless of whether the owners are at home or not."

Team Green Architects is passive house certified and well-versed in energy saving principles and Sian says most of their clients are looking for a comfortable and healthy home that allows environmentally sustainable living. Supplying solar is an important part of this and they often choose Infinite Energy to consult on choices for individual clients.

"It is a combination of the fact that they are easy to deal with and very focused on getting the best option for a client."

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Planning to Grow Well

By Tom Kalliber

A project to create a spatial plan for the Queenstown Lakes district aims to establish where and how people will live over the next 30 years.

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is required to produce the plan along with three other high growth councils identified by central government and mayor Jim Boulton says the project's scope is larger than any previous council planning project.

"We're working closely with central government, Kāi Tahu and residents to consider the future of our townships and communities today, and what we collectively want them to be for generations to follow. Some of us are excited by growth and the opportunities it provides while others feel challenged and unsettled by uncertainty and change. Wherever you sit on the scale, the fact is our district is growing."

Mr Boulton says the spatial plan is based around a 'Grow Well' concept, or 'Whaiora' in Te Reo Māori which translates as 'in the pursuit of wellness'. "Growth is something that can enhance our community wellbeing if it's planned for and we can make choices to grow well."

The process began with community workshops in November 2019 which provided significant discussions with people around the district.



Lake Wakatipu Queenstown

"At the heart of these conversations was a clear desire to ensure community wellness and environmental preservation," he says.

The community feedback is being used to create a draft spatial plan document which will be shared for further consultation in May and June 2020 before the final plan is published.



Roys Bay Wanaka

Preserving the Landscape

By Tom Kalliber

The harvest of Coronet Forest near Arrowtown, which was planted in Douglas firs as a source of timber between 1984 and 1996 will benefit native flora and fauna far beyond the plantation's current boundary.

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) general manager community services Thunes Cloete says the trees are an aggressive species and the forest spread rapidly via wind-blown seeds destroying local biodiversity in its path.

He says the current harvest will help stem the spread of wilding pines and allow the council to carry out one of the biggest replanting projects ever undertaken in the South Island.

"Not only will we eliminate a significant local seed source for wildings we will also return an area equivalent to more than 170 rugby pitches back to native vegetation."

Dr Cloete says income from selling the harvested timber will be used to help pay for the reintroduction of native species.

"Once established, plants like mountain beech and manuka will in turn attract indigenous fauna. It's an important step towards preserving the district's enduring landscape."



By Penny Simpson

PROMINENT HOTEL CHAIN INVESTS IN FIVE MILE

Prominent New Zealand hotel brand Sudima Hotels is making a significant investment in the Queenstown tourism market with a new hotel planned for the Five Mile Town Centre.

The 4.5-star hotel, set to open in the 2021-22 summer season, will operate as Sudima Queenstown and adds to Sudima Hotels' current portfolio of four hotels including Auckland Airport, Rotorua, Christchurch City and Christchurch Airport. Two more developments are in the pipeline for Auckland City and Kaikōura.

The hotel property is owned by Clearmont Group, the developer behind the Five Mile retail and business centre.

Director Craig Greenwood says that after over four years in the planning the group is delighted construction is now underway on the signature four-storey Armadillo shaped building which will complete the entrance to the Five Mile centre.

"In choosing a hotel operator we felt we needed a brand which delivered a quality experience at an affordable price and we believe Sudima Hotels fulfils these brand values," says Craig. "The hotel will also have a conference centre, meeting a need identified by our business customers, and there will be a further 2700m² of retail on the ground floor."

The building has been designed by Queenstown's JCY Architects director Richard Chambers and his team and is inspired by the topography of Queenstown's surrounding mountains.



"The building will complete the retail loop of the centre with a lobby on the ground floor accessing the hotel above," says Richard. "The palette of materials developed from previous buildings on the site includes weathering steel, warm timber-like tones on the upper levels and board-marked concrete panels with timber soffits."

Naylor Love is spearheading the construction and regional manager Greg Boland says they have a long association with Five Mile having worked with the developers from the outset.

"The design team has put a lot of time into making sure that the new hotel ties in with the look and feel of the rest of the development and we're looking forward to delivering a stunning building that fulfils their vision."

FAST FACTS

- Sudima Queenstown at Five Mile is close to Queenstown Airport, major ski areas and main routes north and south.
- The hotel will feature 120 guest rooms (king, twin and family), a restaurant and bar with alfresco dining, four meeting and conference rooms and ski storage.
- The décor will have natural finishes throughout to complement the beauty of the surrounding landscape.
- Sudima Hotels is an award-winning leader in the New Zealand accommodation and hospitality sector. In 2019 the company won three New Zealand Tourism Awards, including the Supreme Tourism Award.
- Sudima Queenstown will open as a single-use plastic free property, built to a standard that will enable certification to carboNZero status, further bolstering the hotel's reputation as a leader in sustainability, diversity and accessibility.

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SIGNATURE STYLISH SHOES

By Penny Simpson

Queenstown boutique shoe fashion store Issimo has recently celebrated the first anniversary of its second store opening in Queenstown Central, Frankton in 2019.

"It's been a fantastic year of meeting new customers who live outside of Queenstown, businesspeople working close by and lots of local families," says owner Kerrey Garvie who also owns and operates Issimo in Searle Lane in central Queenstown.

Signature shoes are upmarket European brands with plenty of new styles for autumn.

"R.M. Williams is high on the list with their updated Urban Adelaide boots that are lightweight but rugged with a feminine rounded toe now featuring a Vibram sole that gives a more chunky, modern finish," says Kerrey. "United Nude with their ergonomically designed styles feature interesting heels and platforms. The designer is an architect who has created shoes for Lady Gaga and his aesthetic is very cool."



Issimo is the exclusive local stockist of Austrian designed Hogl shoes, constructed of superior materials with luxury leather linings.

"The autumnal colours from Hogl include rusty rich nut browns, ginger, taupe, greys and navy blues — shades that are perfect for this season's fashions."

The latest range from Dr Martens feature solid block colours in green, navy and vibrant red. Timberlands are a winter favourite, with classic boots and also some beautiful lightweight styles.

"For guys we have Exceed boots and shoes handmade in a Portuguese factory that has been running for the last 60 years, so they are definitely buying quality," says Kerrey. "These are ideal for work, smart casual or celebratory occasions featuring textured leathers, soft calf hide and soft matt black soles that are classic with a twist."



EXCEPTIONAL SPECIALIST ART GLASS

By Penny Simpson

Höglund Art Glass has been created in New Zealand since 1982 and its name is revered internationally by art glass collectors and connoisseurs.

Swedish couple Ola and Marie Höglund have displayed their specialist art glass works in more than 40 exhibitions, including the New York Art Expo, the SOFA Exhibition in Chicago and art shows in New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, USA, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, India and Japan.

"We were appointed to produce the official art glass for America's Cup and Team New Zealand in 2000 (and again in 2003) which led to an invitation to create the art glass for the Sydney Olympic Games, also in 2000," says Marie.

"Ola and I have been creating art glass for many years. My background is textile design so working with art glass, light and vivid colours is the perfect media for me. Ola was born into a family of artists where glass and design were an important part of life. His mother is a ceramic artist and his father Erik was an artist who at the early age of 21 as a glass designer, revolutionised the art of glass in Sweden."

After emigrating to New Zealand in 1982 Ola and Marie first established the Höglund Art Glass Gallery and glass blowing studio in Nelson. Three years ago they moved to Central Otago, opening their new gallery which includes their extended family art works.

"Our family are all making glass so the gallery has an ever-changing display of our own blown glass, our son Oliver's glass lights and son Ossian's blown glass, my handmade glass jewellery and paintings as well as artwork by selected Central Otago artists."

The Central Otago Höglund Art Glass Gallery is open to visitors daily from 10.00am until 5.00pm and by appointment and is clearly signposted on State Highway 6 between Cromwell and Wanaka, an hour's drive from Queenstown.

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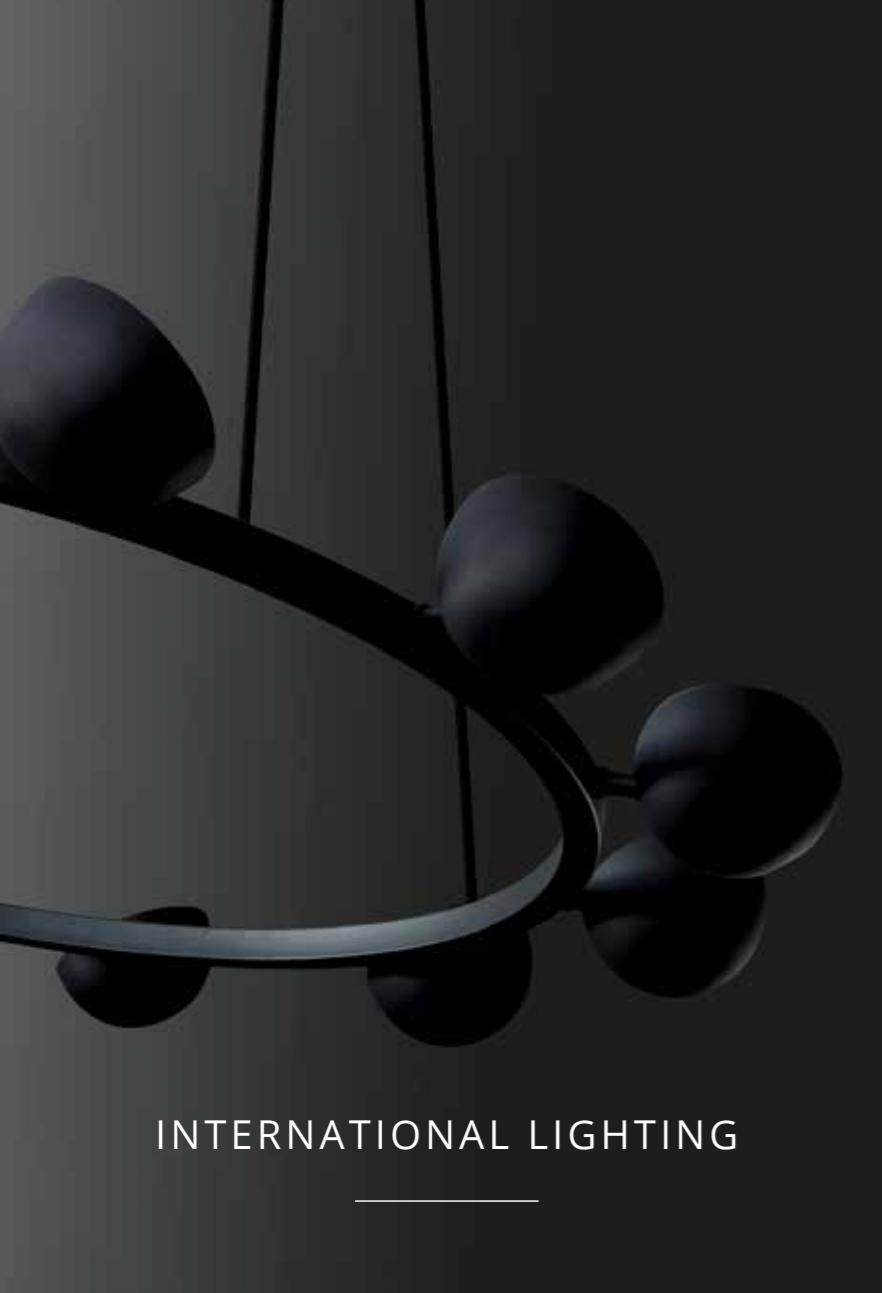
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A Touch
of Italy

By Camille Khouri

The owners of recently opened Italian restaurant Giovi in Remarkables Park have brought a touch of authentic Italy to Queenstown.

Italian food professional Giovanna Boventi Faroni has had a dream along with her businessman husband Mauro Balzarini to open a restaurant providing genuine, healthy and affordable Italian food.

Giovanna was brought up cooking from a young age learning her skills from her grandmother.

"My grandma had a restaurant for many years. She taught me when I was young and gave me her recipes. Every day she asked me to taste her food and she showed me how the same recipe can have a different taste. Why? The tomato today and the tomato tomorrow are different. Sometimes it might need more salt, more herbs or other adjustments. It's my passion and my creation and every day it changes."

To truly recreate her grandmother's recipes Giovanna imports special ingredients from Italy such as parmigiano, prosciutto and pancetta while also using local vegetables and meats. Catering to requests from locals she makes vegan pasta, pizza and sauces and plans to offer gluten free options in the future.

Giovi has a display cabinet of freshly made every day, mouth-watering pasta and ravioli which can be either cooked on-site for eating in or takeaway or packed up raw and cooked at home. There's also superb pizza choices and traditional Italian gelato.

Giovanna says true Italian pasta is light and low-fat and should leave diners feeling full of energy rather than over full.

"The Mediterranean diet is good for longevity and for health in general. The sauces are made from fresh vegetables and fresh herbs. Making it fresh gives quality and flavour to the meal."



Giovanna Boventi Faroni



Customers can select their pasta and sauces individually making a fun and flexible meal option for families. Pasta is cooked quickly in Giovi's kitchen and their homemade gelato rounds off a meal. There's also a distinctive sparkling wine from Italian winery Montina, which is owned by Giovanna's family, and blends well with the menu.

Originally from Brescia in Italy Giovanna and Mauro have lived in Queenstown for five years after being frequent visitors for many years.

"I love my neighbourhood the people are so nice and friendly," says Giovanna. "I would like Giovi to be a place where people come and feel like part of the family. They can come in and ask — 'what is different today?' It's really like a touch of Italy."

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FROM FARM TO PLATE

By Margo Berryman

The Fat Lamb in Queenstown specialises in farm to plate dining and highlights Kiwi farmstyle cooking with sustainably sourced produce from leading South Island farms.

Opened by leading restaurateurs Martin James, Megan James, Jan Rae and Alex Boyes who also own Public, Finz and Bella Cucina in Queenstown, the restaurant is housed in the historic Eureka House in The Mall and has developed a strong following.

"The Fat Lamb's popularity with both New Zealand and international visitors is no coincidence — from the get-go our vision was to recreate the Kiwi farmhouse experience offering the very best quality produce," says executive chef Martin James. "Our rural heritage is important to share with guests. Anyone who grew up in New Zealand remembers having a lamb roast for lunch or dinner if you were on a farm and we are recreating that very tradition."

The Fat Lamb sources much of its lamb from Shortlands Station, an extensive hill country farm in Otago. Martin says owner David Crutchley has farmed the area for over 68 years and his sustainable farming practices are unrivalled.

"David is an intergenerational farmer and his methods for pasture and soil upkeep ensure they grow some of New Zealand's best lamb. He does not use artificial fertilisers on the land and is very passionate about production. This dedication is reflected in the dishes we have on our menu bearing his Provenance brand. It's inspiring for our whole team to see what is produced on this particular farm and that helps us to portray the paddock to plate concept very well in the restaurant."

Exceptional hospitality plays an important role at The Fat Lamb.

"Keeping food consistent and putting our best foot forward is very important but providing outstanding service is our number one priority. Our professional team ensure all our guests receive the attention they deserve from warm greetings on arrival to dedicated service and care throughout the evening."

Trip advisor ratings reinforce this with consistently high praise about The Fat Lamb's genuine Kiwi style food and restaurant atmosphere.

"We are all about friendly hospitality because that is the Kiwi way — very welcoming and not stuffy — where our guests can relax and enjoy the whole dining experience," says Martin. "That's why people come to New Zealand, for the great food, the beautiful wine and the genuine hospitality."



THE FAT LAMB LOW DOWN WITH MARTIN JAMES

Q. What's your favourite dish on the menu?

The Provenance Lamb Rack. It's served pink on a bed of black-eyed beans, cumin roasted cauliflower, carrots with a cranberries and Pinot Noir Line. The lamb comes direct from Shortlands Station and is simply a wonderful dish.

Q. What would you recommend for those wanting to experience a range of New Zealand produce?

The Farmers Choice menu is a showcase of the very best seafood, lamb and venison all sourced from the lower South Island and sustainably caught. Each course is superbly matched with locally grown award-winning Chard Farm wines and this is a true taste of New Zealand.

The starter course is New Zealand paua, caught off the coast of Southland and sent to us fresh each day, which is served as a ravioli. Course two is Wild Shot Fiordland Venison (sustainably culled) served with Chard Farm River Run Pinot Noir. The Provenance Lamb Rack is the third course and to finish — a decadent dark chocolate Nemesis with poached seasonal fruits. It's a truly outstanding way to experience what The Fat Lamb is all about.



Q. What size groups do you cater to?

Small and large dining groups are very well catered for and we have an expansive upstairs dining area offering plenty of space to relax and socialise. Single diners feel very comfortable and we have tables overlooking The Mall for those who want to follow the action downstairs. The restaurant is stylishly finished with beautiful furnishings and fittings and a lovely place to spend time. The bar serves a fine range of wine and craft beers from a diverse group of unique producers and specialists and our cocktail list is always well appreciated.



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COUNTRY LANE

RUSTIC CHARM IN A COUNTRY SETTING



MOUNT MICHAEL WINES

CENTRAL OTAGO



MOUNT MICHAEL WINES TASTING ROOM OPENS AT COUNTRY LANE

Nestled inside the Buzzstop Honey Centre at Country Lane is the new Mount Michael Wines tasting room offering their range of premium award-winning Central Otago wines. Treat yourself to a self-guided tasting flight of premium Mount Michael Wines or sample the outstanding The Mountaineer Range.

Mount Michael 2018 The Mountaineer Pinot Noir, Central Otago \$29.99

Stylish, accessible Pinot Noir with a distinctive character, appealing floral aroma with hints of cherry, savoury dried herbs and spicy oak on the palate. I think this wine is in a class of its own and offers good value at this price. Think of it as a special occasion wine.

Bob Campbell MW



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Operating since 2015, The Barn is an eclectic mix of three businesses. Beautiful children's clothing from **Pretty Kiwi** including the popular brand **Jamie Kay**. Boutique homeware, jewellery and handbags from **Lusso Store** and **Sugar Tradings** handcrafted furniture. A must visit for design lovers.



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The Buzzstop Honey Centre is a must-do Queenstown activity offering a a one-stop shop for all things bees and honey.

Taste and purchase a fantastic selection of Kiwi honey with delicious honey influenced food and barista made coffee daily in our delightful retail store and café.



COUNTRY LANE COLLECTIVE

By Margo Berryman

The founders of the novel retail centre, café and honey experience in Frankton known as Country Lane, have a direct link to the rural property's farming history.



Tineke Enright and her brother Bruce Grant started developing the centre on the family farm after their father Bill Grant retired from farming.

"Our great-great-grandfather started the farm so Bruce and I are fifth generation," says Tineke. "I first began using the barn for my children's clothing brand Pretty Kiwi and was joined by boutique businesses Lusso and Sugar Trading. Then Nick Cameron from Buzzstop enquired about using the old woolshed for his honey business and the Country Lane concept was born."

Country Lane is now home to The Barn, Buzzstop Honey Centre & Café, Wakatipu Massage, In the Pink Flowers, Ride To The Sky and the Mount Michael Wine tasting room.

"Our vision was for a family friendly, welcoming atmosphere for people to shop, eat, play or just relax. There's a lovely rustic farm vibe with a large outdoor area, free parking and a boutique mix of shopping and experiences not found elsewhere in Queenstown."

Tineke says there are future development plans with some innovative ideas in the mix.

"We hope to bring some animals back to the farm and will continue to landscape the area and evolve the laneway organically to attract the right people and businesses who fit with our ethos."

Buzzstop Honey Centre

Nick Cameron's family has been involved with beekeeping in Central Otago for over 100 years and the Buzzstop Honey Centre encompasses a hands-on educational experience.

"I really wanted to educate people about bees, beekeeping and how honey is created from the flower to the hive and into the jar," he says.

Nick and business partner Rosie Ryan have developed a distinctive business with a sense of discovery, incorporating a retail honey shop and café into the venture.

"Our experiences are interactive, hands-on, ideal for families and open to all ages. The bee keeping tours involve an active beehive with an experienced beekeeper while our *Spin Your Own Honey* tour is really interactive. There is also a craft option to make honey soap, candles and beeswax wraps."

The centre is open seven days and Rosie says the focus is to provide an authentic experience to everyone who visits whether it's for a quick coffee, honey tastings or tours.

"The wonderful link between honey and wine is food and qualified chef Helen Gebel has joined our team recently from Rata in Queenstown. Her passion is to ensure all our food includes one of our delicious New Zealand honeys and she is developing a menu specifically with Mount Michael Wines to have food paired with each of the wines on offer."



Mount Michael Wines

Central Otago's Mount Michael Wines has opened its first Queenstown tasting room at Country Lane bringing their award-winning wines to the resort.

The label has been producing wine in the region since 1997 and owner Peter Robbie says the time is right to introduce a new cellar door option in Queenstown.

"People love to know where our wine comes from but driving for hours around the working vineyards has its downside particularly for visitors. Opening a more accessible location at Country Lane is a real positive. The whole environment is stimulating and we are delighted to be part of it. It's amazing that so much farmland with its delightful old workable structures still remains so close to Queenstown and the international airport."

"People can enjoy a fully guided tasting experience with a member of our Mount Michael team or sample a flight of wine accompanied with information for a self-guided tasting."



Anna and Peter Robbie



The Mount Michael Wines tasting room celebrates the company's boutique, hand crafted varieties in a relaxed atmosphere.

"People can enjoy a fully guided tasting experience with a member of our Mount Michael team or sample a flight of wine accompanied with information for a self-guided tasting," says Peter. "There is an opportunity to purchase some of our more exclusive small batch, single ferment wines that really are a bit special and truly reflect the sub-regions in which the grapes are grown. We ship overseas making it very easy for international visitors."

Peter says Queenstown people have embraced the new tasting room at Country Lane.



"It's rewarding being the closest cellar door to Queenstown and locals are appreciating the lovely location where they can enjoy a glass of wine in the outdoors in a family friendly setting."



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Country Lane, 26 Hansen Road, Frankton, Queenstown. Open 7 days





Stars Align for Gibbston Valley Chef

By Camille Khouri

In the 1980s pioneering winemaker Alan Brady had an inkling that Gibbston Valley would be a good place to grow grapes — an inkling that has cast the area onto the world stage as an important wine producer.

Gibbston Valley Winery opened in 1990 and has grown along with its popularity, with the initial tasting room and restaurant expanding to include a wine cave, private tasting and dining rooms, events venues, cheesery and more recently the high-end Gibbston Valley Lodge and Spa which opened in late 2019.

The winery's strong food focus requires an exceptional chef and Gibbston Valley has undoubtedly achieved this with executive chef Anthony Gradiska at the helm.

With experience at top Auckland restaurants Molten and The French Café followed by stints in restaurants and on super yachts around the world Anthony landed back in New Zealand in 2017 just as the role came up at Gibbston Valley.

Having lived in Queenstown before Anthony was keen to settle back in the area.

"I was on course to Queenstown almost immediately on touching down in New Zealand. The previous chef at the winery was here 23 years so it was great timing as it isn't the sort of job that comes up too often. The stars aligned, really."

One of the first moves Anthony made was to plant a kitchen garden. The initial plot didn't render much produce, but successive years have seen an abundance of tomatoes, zucchinis, other vegetables and herbs all included on the winery menu.



Anthony Gradiska

"We started composting and built a worm farm, basically processing all our food waste in-house and using it to build up the soil. This spring just gone we had a couple of weeks closed as we were renovating the kitchen, so we went all-in on the garden."

While he tries to keep the menu seasonal and local Anthony also steps outside those boundaries to provide variety.

Running a restaurant and lodge kitchen at a winery means being well versed in wine and food matching.

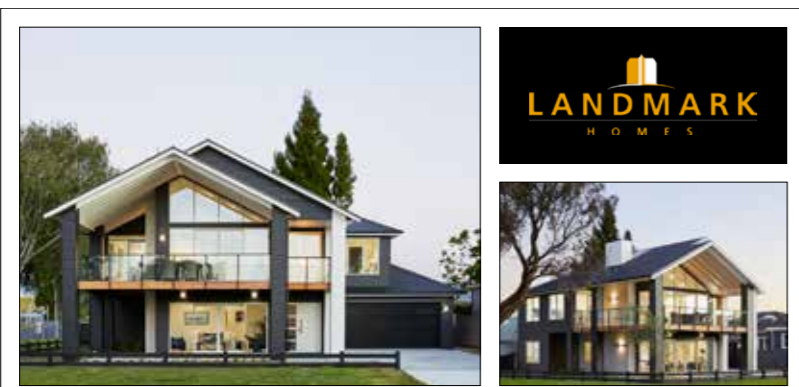
Anthony says sometimes dishes are created with a wine in mind while others are matched after the fact.

"We create some dishes which are challenging from a wine match point of view, sometimes it is surprising which wine will match. It's not always what you would expect."

He doesn't think there are any real rules with wine matching and he encourages diners to go with what they like, both in terms of food and wine.



"To me, food can be emotive and nostalgic. I like food to be approachable and relaxed and my favourites are French bistro and provincial Italian food. Tasty, good and unpretentious."



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CARDRONA HOTEL TIMELESS CHARACTER

By Tom Kalliber

The historic Cardrona Hotel has been welcoming hardy locals and adventurous travellers since the 1860s gold rush and its well-earned reputation for hospitality saw it awarded the Best Country Hotel title for the second successive year at the 2019 Hospitality New Zealand Awards.

Publican Cade Thornton has co-owned the hotel, nestled in the Cardrona Valley between Wanaka and Queenstown, since 2013 and is proud to continue an historic tradition.

"The place has its own timeless character but we're constantly investing in the business because we know people will only come back if we deliver a consistently high level of service every time they visit," he says.

This consistency helped Cade, his partner Alexis Baronian and their team of 40 staff win the coveted Best Country Hotel award, underlining their ongoing commitment to the venture.



CARDRONA HOTEL
Open 7 days, from 8am - late
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cardronahotel.co.nz



The hotel is a huge part of the après-ski scene throughout winter but Cade says the venue, which is one of the oldest in the country, offers quite different experiences throughout the year.

"Autumn is beautiful here with calm weather and golden colours. It's usually warm enough to enjoy an evening drink in our beer garden but we'll often get the big stone fire roaring outside anyway, just to add to the vibe."

Autumn also sees the return of Annie's Kitchen, the restaurant's annual series of changing weekly menus.

"It's an opportunity for our head chef Angela, nicknamed Annie, to unleash her creative flair and try out new dishes. We keep the same bar and snack menus but there are completely different evening choices every week featuring fresh, local ingredients," says Cade.

The hotel has 17 en-suite bedrooms, several of which have recently been refurbished.

A contemporary take on classic South Island accommodation, the newest room has been named Captain's and is the hotel's most romantic room with a plush wool-covered headboard behind the king bed, Argentinian aged-leather chairs and appealing black-and-white tiled bathroom.

"Captain's used to house the Stoked hot tub but we moved that outside for moonlit soaks," he says.

The Old School House gift store next to the main building is an attraction for visitors and hotel guests. Celebrating local artisan crafts and memorabilia there are many souvenir options from small coasters to \$5,000 works of art.

"The Cardrona Hotel means a lot of things to a lot of different people," says Cade. "Whether you're here for a wedding or family celebration, a romantic getaway or meeting friends over a craft beer I think we embody the true spirit of a rural Kiwi hotel, one which all New Zealanders can call their own."



The Language of Wine

By wine producer and wine writer Alan Brady

Had you attended the opening session of the 2020 Central Otago Pinot Noir Celebration in Wanaka recently you could have been excused for thinking you had turned up at the wrong event. With no wines on show, renowned New Zealand poet Brian Turner launched the celebration with readings from some of his work, followed by another local poet Annabel Wilson and author John Saker.

In due course wines made their appearance but the literary theme continued throughout the three days of tasting and conviviality with a final summing up coming in the form of a freshly written sonnet by Irish wine writer and poet Judy O'Kane and a few evocative verses penned by the chair of the celebration Christopher Keys.

It was Robert Louis Stevenson who said "wine is bottled poetry" and with a double degree in English and Russian Literature to bolster his winemaking qualifications Keys, who is chief winemaker at Gibbston Valley Wines, was determined to steer this year's event down the path of metaphor and romance which is inextricably linked with the sensory experience of wine. Language is critical when it comes to translating and sharing our perceptions of wine in all its styles and varieties and places of origin.

The language used can sometimes seem pompous and confusing to someone new to wine making them hesitant to express their opinion in the presence of those they see as sophisticated "experts". By way of encouragement



Alan Brady

I always point out that what they taste and smell is always correct. The words they use may not be in the popular lexicon of wine but however simplistic the description, it reflects what they have just experienced and therefore is legitimate.

So much of what we taste or smell in wine relates to memories associated with other foods, flowers and fruits. Some of this is no accident. When we describe wines as having the aroma or taste of raspberries, cherries or strawberries (Pinot Noir), or apples (typically Riesling or maybe Chardonnay), it's because grapes share chemical compounds known as esters with those fruits.

If we think Sauvignon Blanc has the character of cut grass or capsicum, it's not because the winemaker has cleverly blended some of these ingredients. The link is pyrazine, an aromatic organic compound that has the vegetable-like smells we associate with grass and peppers.

While some fruits such as apples have a natural abundance of esters, most of those found in wine are created during fermentation. They are at their most potent when the wine is young and will generally fade. Other aromatic compounds such as thiols and terpenes are longer lived and can give us clues as to the wine's grape variety or region of origin.

But the enjoyment of wine doesn't have to involve critical analysis or a chemistry degree. R.L. Stevenson's notion of "bottled poetry" is a much more accessible and romantic approach. Good poetry and wine should engage both emotions and intellect. As we sniff and swill, as the words of a poem flow teasingly across the palate of the mind in search of meaning — the reward in both cases can be a moment of enlightenment.



Domaine Thomson Wines Marks Milestones

By Jenny McLeod

Central Otago organic and biodynamic vineyard Domaine Thomson Wines has achieved several milestones during the past 12 months namely winning sought after national wine and viticulturalist trophies, importing its first wines from Burgundy in France and opening a new tasting room at Pisa in the Cromwell Basin, complementing the winery's cellar door presence with its partner Kinross in Gibbston Valley near Queenstown



"The fun began with the news that our Surveyor Thomson 2015 Pinot Noir had won the organic wine top trophy at the 2019 New Zealand Organic Wine Awards. Hot on the heels of that accolade our viticulturalist Simon Gourley won two trophies as New Zealand's Top Young Viticulturalist and Horticulturalist," says Domaine Thomson co-owner David Hall-Jones.

The company's first imports from its vineyards in Burgundy followed.

"Most notably, a bubbly by the name of Cremant de Bourgogne, a Pinot Noir from Gevrey-Chambertin and a Chardonnay from the village of Saint-Aubin," says co-owner PM Hall-Jones. "I am relishing being able to share our French wines with people who enjoy our Kiwi wine offerings."

Locally Domaine Thomson's cellar door partnership with Kinross in Gibbston Valley continues to grow rapidly, according to David.

"We're honoured to be one of Kinross' chosen wine partners. They are a super-savvy and fun team to work with and both our companies believe strongly in the future of our wonderful wine region."

At Domaine Thomson's base in Pisa the vineyard has just opened its office complex and tasting room.

"The purpose-built architecturally designed complex is recognised as a high-end 'by appointment only' addition to the Central Otago wine region," says David. "Our label is a nod to my great-great-grandfather John Turnbull Thomson who surveyed Southland and Otago in the 1850s and was also a prominent explorer and painter. The new complex has given us the opportunity to display some of his fascinating maps, sketches and paintings."



Operations and marketing manager Kate Barnett says — "the office and tasting room at last give us a spiritual home. People love the setting we have created and are intrigued by the relationship between the vineyard and John Turnbull Thomson. Our new buildings acknowledge Otago's early pioneers like Thomson, Kinross and Rees, with our use of a traditional alpine hut design which is reminiscent of the earliest buildings in the South Island high country."

"Domaine Thomson's new office and tasting room can be visited by appointment only while Kinross will absolutely remain as our cellar door" says Kate. "Kinross is a wonderful partner for Domaine Thomson and we value the ongoing relationship."



David & PM Hall-Jones Burgundy



Simon Gourley





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Powering Ahead

By Tom Kalliber

The team at Wanaka Powersports clearly enjoy life in the fast lane.

The business has accelerated so quickly since starting up less than two years ago it has already moved into its second state-of-the-art showroom at Wanaka's Three Parks development.

As well as stocking some of the world's most advanced motorbikes, specialist boats, power watercraft and outdoor equipment the new showroom has a café and snack bar, an expanded range of exclusive branded clothing, gifts and gadgets plus a bigger workshop for customisations and repairs.

General manager Daniel Irwin says the company is always on the look out for new opportunities.

"We've just launched a concept dealership for Central Otago Honda cars and have also begun stocking motorised surfboards made by JetSurf in the Czech Republic — it's an exciting new sport that's perfect for our local lakes."

A schedule of Wanaka Powersports' brands reads like a who's who of international dream machines on land and water – Royal Enfield, Indian and MV Agusta motorbikes, Peugeot scooters, Polaris off-road vehicles, Austrian-designed Belassi power watercraft and Nautique boats direct from the United States.

"There aren't many places where you can see a range as eclectic as ours all under one roof. Because we're not based in a big city we promote ourselves as a destination store for the whole family where mums,

dads and kids will all find something to enjoy," says Daniel. "People can drive down from Christchurch to test drive a motorbike, pick up a new wakeboard or biscuit for the lake, have a coffee and something to eat then head back home the same day."

The Wanaka Powersports team are especially passionate about motorbikes. Daniel used to race motocross and Mitch Scammell, a member of the company's sales team, competed at this year's world-famous Burt Munro Challenge in Invercargill. He finished second in class riding an Indian while the *Intertracker*, a Royal Enfield Interceptor customised by Mitch and Daniel, finished third in class.



Dale Finch

"We built the *Intertracker* right here in our workshop for an international competition organised by Royal Enfield last year. It won the People's Choice award and the company invited Mitch and I over to India for a tour of its factory which was amazing," says Daniel.

He says in a short space of time the company has achieved a high profile.

"The New Zealand powersports community is a tight-knit bunch and word has quickly got around about our range and customer service. First and foremost we're enthusiasts and I think that comes across when we talk to our customers. We love chatting about their particular passions and what we do as much as getting our hands dirty in the workshop out back."

"There aren't many places where you can see a range as eclectic as ours all under one roof."



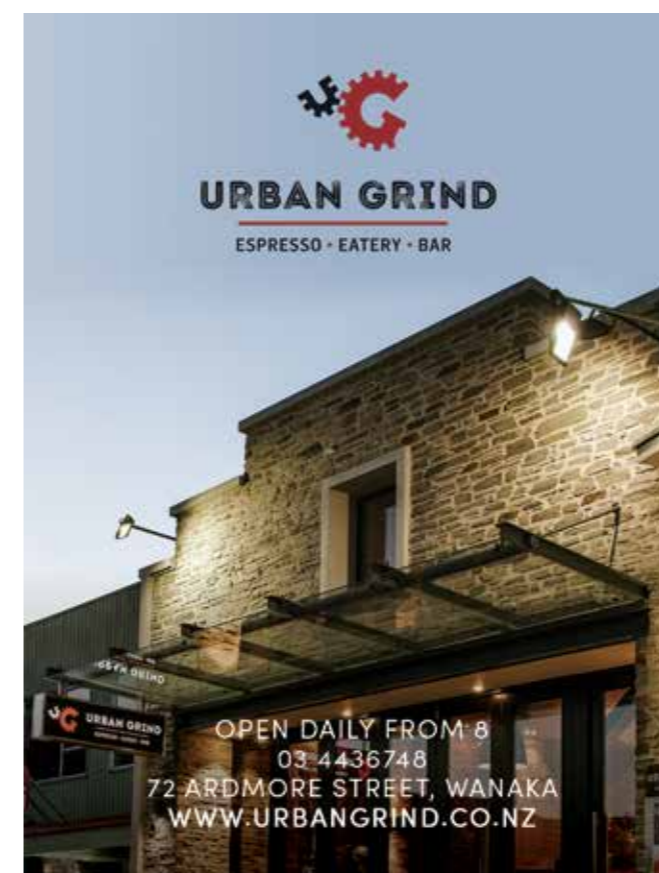
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With on-site management providing continued service, apartment owners have the flexibility to enjoy a permanent residence, holiday home or maximise returns as an investment property.

First National Wanaka's Quentin Landreth, representing the property, says the luxury apartments are in a highly sought after area.

"We currently have available premium apartments in stage one of the development that have prominent views over the water. They are located on the right side of the property which is the township end with nothing between the apartments and the lake - they are simply outstanding."

Architecturally designed by Mason & Wales, the five-star apartments offer exceptional construction quality

and high-end design. Ranging from 82m² to 159m², with two or three bedroom apartments available, the apartments have an extensive frontage designed to capture panoramic lake and mountain views from the spacious outdoor terrace, living room and master bedrooms.

The property has private on-site facilities including a heated swimming pool, spa, gym and immaculately landscaped gardens creating a beautiful Wanaka home for all seasons.

"The Marina Terrace development has sold extremely well and we are very fortunate to have options on these particular Stage One apartments now available," says Quentin. "For people who are interested it's simply a matter of contacting me at First National Real Estate Wanaka. We have extensive information packs on each apartment available along with budgets on projected investment returns."

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STAGE ONE
STAGE TWO
STAGE THREE

Delivering Results

By Penny Simpson

As one of the longest-running and independently owned real estate companies in the district First National Wanaka has cemented its position as an industry leader.



Owner Quentin Landreth is proud to head up his close-knit team of 12 real estate salespeople and administrators who have earned a reputation for their 'can do' attitude in the marketplace.

"It's our agents that will ensure owners maximise the most value out of their properties and the team all work extremely hard to create the very best results for everyone involved when it comes to buying and selling in the Wanaka market. This is a very dynamic area for real estate with some of New Zealand's largest tracts of land changing hands and multi-million dollar deals being done every year and our expertise is second to none when making these deals happen."



Quentin purchased First National in Wanaka in June 2018 along with a longstanding Wanaka property rental company to create First National Wanaka Real Estate and First National Wanaka Property Management in the same year.

Born and raised in Wanaka he has achieved considerable success during his career and is responsible for some of Wanaka's most significant real estate sales, including largescale developments and high-country stations.

He says First National Wanaka is fortunate to have some knowledgeable key members on its wider team.

"Kelly Gooch is our highly experienced residential specialist with an impressive record of over \$150 million in sales. He has extensive market knowledge and is a consistent top performer in our team. We were also recently joined by well-known local Debbie Forrest who as a residential salesperson brings a solid understanding of the greater Wanaka area with her."

"Brooke Woodrow is a rising star in our office and with just over one year under her belt she has exceeded all expectations and is rapidly growing her real estate career in Wanaka. John Fisher has a strong sales history in residential real estate being very results-driven which is evidenced

by continued sales and resales of sections and properties at Wanaka's new Queensberry and Pukerangi lifestyle subdivisions. His wife Vicki works alongside him and together they are a formidable real estate team."

The company enjoys a close alliance with First National New Zealand and their First National Australian colleagues as part of the third-largest real estate company in Australasia.

"We are also very community focused and actively participate and support many local community initiatives such as the Mt Aspiring College First XV, Upper Clutha Rugby Club, Wanaka Rotary Club, Wanaka's Relay for Life and Challenge Wanaka," says Quentin. "Our team has managed one of Challenge Wanaka's competitor aid stations at Eely Point over the many years of the event and this is a fantastic way for us to give back and be involved."

"The real estate climate in Wanaka is buoyant and given the current state of the world with the corona virus outbreak we are fielding a lot of calls from ex pat New Zealanders keen to return home — in particular families with small children. They are impressed by the lifestyle that Wanaka and the wider district offers together with the Queenstown international airport in such close proximity."

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QTMAGAZINE AUTUMN 2020

Inspiring Ideas

By Rebecca Williamson

Wanaka's Aspiring Conversations Ideas Festival returns this year (April 3-5 2020) featuring an inspiring mix of talent, compelling opinions, witty banter and intelligent debate.

Originally part of the biennial Festival of Colour arts celebration, Aspiring Conversations is now a standalone festival featuring 11 engaging events with a variety of high-calibre speakers, writers, performers and thinkers discussing issues pertinent to 2020.

This year's event explores everything from fake news and the climate crisis to religion, politics and taxes with Kiwi leaders and celebrities such as Shihad's Jon Toogood, Newshub journalist Patrick Gower and Green MP Chlöe Swarbrick presenting their individual personal views.

Marilyn Waring and Chlöe Swarbrick



Cynthia Qui Photography

Aspiring Conversations and Festival of Colour general manager Laura Williamson says the presentations, held at the Lake Wanaka Centre, are the ultimate in food for thought.

"We'll be talking climate change, growth, history, life, death and taxes with a dose of the blues thrown in. It's a line-up of world-class speakers and thinkers we wouldn't normally see come to a rural area like ours so we anticipate a major following."



Zoe Moon



Jon Toogood



Coco Davis

Liz Clarkson

Eclectic Conversationalists

An eclectic group of thought partners collaborate in Aspiring Conversations highlighting the depth of the 2020 programme.

Marilyn Waring and Chlöe Swarbrick. Marilyn Waring and Chlöe Swarbrick are the two youngest New Zealand MPs to be elected in the last 100 years — women who have joined the political battles of the day with intelligence and a powerful sense of their own integrity.

Shaun Hendy. Scientist Shaun Hendy teaches at the University of Auckland and spent a year not taking flights and using an electric car, effectively cutting his carbon emissions from travel by 95 per cent. He speaks about the climate revolution with Wellington City Council climate change portfolio leader Tamatha Paul and researcher David Hall.

Patrick Gower. Newshub national correspondent Patrick Gower has been a print and TV journalist for 20 years, breaking some of New Zealand's most significant stories. He shares his views on modern-day media and fake news during Aspiring Conversations.

Max Rashbrooke. Journalist, academic and author of the best-selling book *Inequality: A New Zealand Crisis* Max is joined by Professor of Taxation Lisa Marriott and economic consultant Shamubeel Eaqub.

Zoë Moon, Coco Davis, Tom Rodwell & Darren Watson. This remarkable quartet of musicians draws from the deep well of the blues. Music writer Nick Bollinger finds out how the blues has inspired them while each will perform songs that capture its spirit and power.

Jon Toogood. Shihad frontman Jon Toogood talks about spirituality, social conscience and his life as a Muslim Kiwi and high-profile musician.



Max Rashbrooke



Shaun Hendy



Patrick Gower

Urban Intuition

By Rebecca Williamson

Wanaka architect Ricky Booth has travelled the world in his quest to learn more about macro and micro planning and design and sustainable and innovative architecture.

Based in Christchurch for a number of years, before spending over a decade in Europe and Australia, he has brought his extensive international knowledge to Wanaka with the launch of his architectural practice, Intuitive Architects.

"There's an intangible component that attracted us to Wanaka," he says. "It's a wonderfully wise place — there is so much experience, energy and care that congregates here and people are willing to share and collaborate."

Collaboration is a fundamental element of Ricky's work which ranges from bespoke residential and multi-residential buildings to master planning and hospitality design including breweries and hotels.

"I care for how our region evolves. Wanaka is a wonderful place with an extraordinary landscape and that needs to be reflected in our buildings and public places."



Simon Devitt

He says for him, it's all about extracting lessons and ideas from the past — particularly from parts of the world with a rich building history — and looking to the future to determine how each project can be more innovative and efficient.

As the Southern Lakes continues to grow, Ricky's ambition is for Intuitive Architects to contribute durable, sustainable architecture in well-planned conscious communities, embrace natural, robust and recycled materials and apply them in a thoughtful way.

"I care for how our region evolves. Wanaka is a wonderful place with an extraordinary landscape and that needs to be reflected in our buildings and public places. I'm keen to participate and help influence sensitively designed buildings and places for people that encourages communities to thrive."

He starts each project by finding out what a client's focus is, and for a residential project, to understand how they want to live and interact in their home.

"We create places for people and buildings with integrity, all of which are intuitive to the local culture, climate and landscape. The planning and spatial arrangement is scrutinised and each project is a unique response, encompassing personalities involved, the brief and environment."

Ricky says the life that happens within a building expands beyond the walls.

"It's the spaces surrounding and between that are equally as important to consider. I place emphasis on recognising the value those spaces bring to people. If we design the residual spaces caused by placement of buildings and infrastructure with equal priority it's likely to encourage more efficient development outcomes."

Ricky's overseas experience in planning and architecture has influenced his holistic approach to designing buildings that are functional, spatially savvy and environmentally thoughtful.



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Setting the Benchmark

By Margo Berryman



"We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the support of the community and have had amazing feedback from customers particularly on how much they love having new and unique places to explore. The scale of the build and the centre's cobblestoned laneway has surprised people, giving an urban feel to downtown Wanaka."

The Precinct has bought vibrant fresh energy to downtown Wanaka with stage one now completed incorporating a collection of high-end boutiques, eateries and services

"We are super excited to have Deval Boutique and Revology concept store open on Helwick Street and The Green Room Plant Collective now bringing life to the laneway," says brand and retail manager Mel Norman. "Debbie Lawson opened Deval to an amazing reception with established and new customers from all over New Zealand coming to see her all new boutique, beautiful collection of designer clothing and luxury accessories." Wanaka's award-winning design studio Revology is setting a benchmark for the high-end retail centre. "Revology has given the development a very European feel with their quintessential French marble and brass bistro tables alongside their own Revology chairs

and customers enjoying sitting in the sun with iced tea and cakes on our central cobble laneway," says Mel. "Rachel Benton's Green Room Plant Collective is brimming with indoor plants and unique stems outside adding atmosphere and making the environment more habitable with her natural garden talent." Established Wanaka business Cakes of Wanaka and co. has opened upstairs on level one adding to the dynamic mix. "I have helped Clare Pennell with the design of her Cakes of Wanaka store which is in huge contrast to the other tenancies featuring tones of pastel

pink, peach, rose gold, ivory reflecting her own vibrant personality. It tells the story of her creative flair for wedding cakes and patisseries," says Mel. "We are thrilled to have attracted UKIYO salon & co. bringing their styling expertise here from Dunedin." The Precinct is a popular addition to Wanaka's downtown scene and Mel says there has been a positive response from both locals and visitors.

The Green Room Plant Collective

The Green Room Flower Company has grown rapidly over the past couple of years catering not only to Wanaka clients but also to the wider Central Otago region.



Rachel Benton Katie Briggs Peri Ellen Tash Wildermoth & Asta Devlin

"Recently we have branched into indoor house plants and accessories alongside our daily flower arrangements and it's been very well received," says owner and florist Rachel Benton. "Opening The Green Room Plant Collective at The Precinct answered the call to expand and separate the plant side of the business from the floral and this is a great opportunity to be at the heart of our thriving Wanaka community."

Rachel purchased The Green Room Flower Company in Wanaka's Gordon Road nearly three years ago and says the business has flourished.

"The previous owner taught me all she knew about flowers and I had studied horticulture and had a real passion for plants, so floristry came naturally. Growing The Green Room Flower Company into what it is today has been an incredible journey, because as a business owner you wear many hats and have to learn very quickly."

"We specialise in wedding flowers and set ups and it's a joy coming up with new ideas and products to create for that sector of the market along with all the bouquet work. I've absolutely loved every minute of it and have so many great plans to implement over the next few years and with the help of my talented team I'm very excited for the future."

The Green Room Plant Collective is in The Precinct's laneway and is a destination for a wide range of indoor plants, ceramic pots, hessian bags, planters, plant stands and supports.

"We are expanding into selling a range of macramé hangers, indoor care accessories, house-made potting mix, plant food and tools. Our team likes to provide lots of extra information and support to get the most out of indoor plants because knowledge is key and we are here to help," says Rachel.

"We also sell beautiful dried flowers for styling alongside our fresh flower arrangements such as bouquets, ceramic vase arrangements and our signature flower boxes that are made daily for people to grab and go."



UKIYO salon & co.

Jaimee Smith and Mikalea Campbell have brought their hair design talents to Wanaka opening UKIYO salon & co. on the first floor of The Precinct.



Together with their team of therapists and stylists they are long-standing members of New Zealand's hairstyling industry and have built up a steady following with clients all over the South Island.

Mikaela owned Runway in Gore for over ten years and I had Zaibatsu Hair Art more than 30 years so together we could probably write a book," says Jaimee. "We have worked incredibly hard to stay at the forefront of hairdressing which has seen us both win numerous business awards along with countless industry awards and we have travelled the world to work and compete."

Bringing their hairstyling expertise and flair to Wanaka has been an exciting step for the pair who view Wanaka and The Precinct as a dynamic and creative space to work in.

"Having worked at the top of the industry for numerous years we saw a gap in the Wanaka market for a stunning designer salon that would cater to everyone. We both have clients who regularly travel from Central Otago and Southland to see us anyway so the opportunity to work together in a beautiful new salon was just too good to miss," says Jaimee.

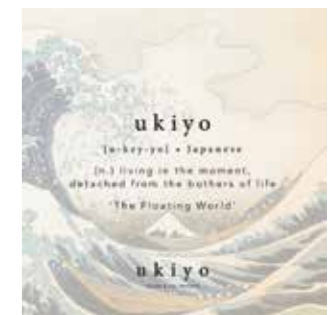
"The design of the building is extremely motivating and we knew we wanted to open something exceptional here. The Precinct and the Normans' vision for the whole retail centre has enabled us to fulfill our salon dreams."

UKIYO salon & co. offers a wide range of hair services and products including access to skin and beauty care.

"Our reputation is for providing exceptional colour knowledge and cutting skills and we wanted to bring other aspects into the business. With a large studio space it's enabled us to introduce other services like a beautician and appointments with skin appearance specialists," says Jaimee.

"The salon has amazing views and is a large beautiful space to work in which adds to the

level of service we offer. Our salon culture is extremely important and we pride ourselves on creating a relaxed and friendly environment while having fun together."



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High End
Label for
Wanaka

By Rebecca Williamson

One of New Zealand's most established and successful high-end fashion labels Sills + Co is adding to its stable of boutiques with the opening of a concept store in Wanaka.



Nan Broughton Madeleine Young
Susan Polk & Bronte MacKenzie

Recognised as a brand that skilfully blends timeless style and sophistication with decadent, high-quality fabrics Sills + Co is the overarching label created by award-winning fashion designer Caroline Sills nearly 40 years ago.

Sales and marketing manager Toni Sills says that with five boutiques already located in premium locations around the country, expansion into Wanaka was not really on the radar.



"Originally Queenstown was the focus for a new store location as our clothing labels had not been represented there for several years. But while we undertook site visits, we were directed to the Wanaka area and fell in love."

"Wanaka is such a beautiful, picturesque place so we were very mindful to design a store that fits with the aesthetic and which locals could be proud of," she says. "Our other five outlets are also destination stores — slightly out of the way but worth the visit."

Toni says the stores inspire people to invest in their wardrobe and home with everything from stunning cashmere jumpers and silk camisoles to crystal lamps and curated live potted plants.

"At the heart of the Sills + Co brand philosophy is authenticity, effortless style and easy-going living. Caroline Sills is the brand's premium label, while the Sills aesthetic of timeless simplicity resonates perfectly with today's casualisation of fashion. The powerhouse labels are perfectly complemented by ISAAC + LULLU, the youngest range which is referred to in-house as the 'playful younger sister'"

The seasonal collections of the three distinct labels are designed in Auckland by head designer Ange Pascariu in collaboration with Caroline Sills. Most of the brand's woven garments are made in New Zealand, with its iconic knitwear produced offshore to take advantage of technologies not available locally.

The autumn 2020 collection includes exquisite pieces such as cashmere and merino knits, pure wool coats, exclusive prints from French mills, elegant trench coats and hand-woven pashmina scarves from Nepal.

Toni says exciting drops of fresh new garments — as well as homewares, accessories and ready-to-take-home plants — arrive in store every two to three weeks.

"We want to make sure that our regular customers always have something new to see and be inspired by. Our focus on service is also extremely important to us, from our loyalty scheme to our personalised styling service and VIP events by our Wanaka manager Nan Broughton and her team. We want to make sure that everyone who steps through our door comes away feeling so good about their experience that they want to spread the word."

Sills + Co

NEW ARRIVALS

sillsandco.com

AUCKLAND HAMILTON WELLINGTON
CHRISTCHURCH WANAKA



Highlighting Clyde's Heritage

By Claire Hathaway

The ongoing restoration of original buildings in Clyde continues to place the historic town on the New Zealand heritage map and the recent opening of The Lord Clyde reinforces its significance.

The Lord Clyde is a new accommodation option in Clyde's main centre and has been authentically restored by the owners of the landmark Olivers complex, David and Andrea Ritchie, together with Andrea's sister Victoria Hansen.

"When we looked around the building, which is located over the road from Olivers, we immediately appreciated the lovely feel it had with its very good bones," says David. "It was the perfect location and fitted with our vision of bringing another old building back to life."

Andrea was responsible for the interior design and the property has nine elegant, light, comfortable and graciously decorated en-suite rooms which opened to visitors in January this year.

"The 120-year-old building had been pretty underutilised in many respects so hopefully it has now been moved to a different level and is helping to create more energy in the town," she says. "In the spirit of celebrating Clyde's rich heritage we have named the rooms after early residents of Clyde, all of whom lived fascinating lives and contributed to the development of the town and the surrounding area. This adds to the charm of The Lord Clyde and we have already had positive feedback from guests that they enjoy staying in quality accommodation with such charm and character."

The Lord Clyde breakfast served each morning in the guest lounge is memorable for visitors.

"We have a high percentage of international visitors, predominantly from Australia, North America, Europe and the UK," says David. "Breakfast is a time they enjoy where they get to meet each other and share stories."



Lord Clyde



There is always at least one party from New Zealand staying who generally love to share information about our slice of the world."

While Andrea and David remain the hosts at Olivers Victoria is the face of The Lord Clyde, living on site.

One of her roles is to help guests plan and facilitate their itinerary of activities while staying in Clyde.

"Guests choose to do a variety of things around the area from wine tasting, cycling the numerous trails, the Clutha River cruise or just enjoying the atmosphere of Clyde and the town the locals are so proud of," says David. "And after a busy day exploring the area they are able to enjoy a wine in the private garden overlooking the Clutha River and sun-baked hills and then dine at Olivers or one of the other great restaurants in town!"



Promoting Central Otago Artists

By Penny Simpson

For Eade Gallery owners Melanie and Rex Eade promoting the work of Central Otago artists is an important part of the Clyde venture.

Located in Holloway Street the gallery has an ever changing and diverse selection of local art on display.

"Some of our artists follow the seasons and the vibrant autumn colours are evident in work by Judy Smith, Philip Beadle, Nigel Wilson, Esther Dexter, Marg Hamilton plus my own work and Rex's photography," says Melanie. "Others have a colour palette that they use regardless of seasons such as Neil Driver, Gretl Barzotto, Richard Parsons, Rachel Hirabayashi, Leone Mason and Megan Huffadine. Style and colour can often be the trade mark to recognising an artist's work."

Eade Gallery has its own sculptural garden experience which is popular.

"Sculpture is definitely having a moment with an upturn in outdoor works," she says. "We recently introduced Richie Knight who works in cast aluminium and his two works *The Diver* and *The Dress* were much admired in the gallery before selling quickly. We are delighted to have more of his work coming."

"Bill and Michelle Clarke's forged stainless steel outdoor works are extremely popular. We're incredibly fortunate to now represent painter Neil Driver with two of his pieces selling to a rather famous Chinese director of the film *Only Cloud Knows*, that was filmed in Clyde in 2019."

"We offer an 'on appro' service allowing locals to take the work home to see how it looks and have never had an artwork returned," says Melanie.

Eade Gallery recently introduced an in-house picture framing service.

"Rex completes new works, conservation framing and the reframing of old or damaged work. Glass is a very important component of framing and we are able to show the difference UV anti-reflective glass has on an artwork which is significant."

The Colour of Anxiety Eric Schusser solo exhibition

March 29 - April 23

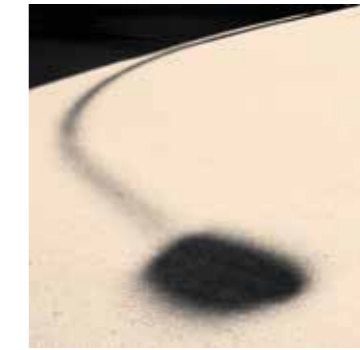
As a full-time photographic artist for the past four years Eric Schusser is best known for his black and white fine art photography and social documentary work.

"I followed in my father's footsteps printing traditional black and white images in a homemade darkroom and then along the way completed an advanced Diploma in Photography at the highly respected Design School of Massey University in Wellington."

Eric became a Fellow of the Photographic Society of New Zealand with a body of work honouring ambulance officers in New Zealand.

"My hope is to give viewers an image they can connect with and create an emotional response to. I have an instinctual response to shadows, light, textures and circumstance and how they as images can work individually or as part of a bigger body of work."

His solo exhibition at Eade Gallery has been inspired by the Australian bushfires.



"Waking up on New Year's Day and seeing the eerie glowing sky and smoke from the Australian bushfires I thought immediately 'welcome to our future.' Photographically through this series of work I want to convey a warning but also I want to share the beauty of our land."

Revival Lynne Wilson solo exhibition

April 26 - May 24

The colourful and creative world of Lynne Wilson will be on display at Eade Gallery with a solo exhibition from the much admired Central Otago ceramicist in April.

Lynne discovered the art of working with clay and the Raku Kiln in 2004. She says the Raku method of firing ceramics is risky and exciting.

"It continues to enthral me. My choice of glazes and instinctive tendency towards lazy lines are representative of my immediate environment but have a universal appeal, as is evident in increasing sales to overseas visitors."

"The simple convex shape of my wall plates serve as a canvas to be carved, imprinted and folded to represent landforms or painted with paper clay slurry to create highly textured surfaces with a strong sense of movement."

Lynne's solo exhibition at Eade Gallery is entitled *Revival* and is an eclectic body of work.

"This follows the Japanese practice of Kintsugi that offers the opportunity to repair and enhance pieces that have already been made but have suffered thermal shock or have failed glazes along with post firing additions of gold leaf, acrylic paint and inks," she says.

"Curating *Revival* has caused me to re-evaluate my work past and present, seeing a progression of thought and technique offers a tantalising glimpse of the future."





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NEW ZEALAND FASHION COMMITMENT

By Penny Simpson

Anna McRitchie relies on leading fashion brands that have stood the test of time for her boutique Clyde store Lily & Esther which stocks only the best New Zealand designers.

"Standard Issue is very well known amongst Kiwi women for knitwear that encompasses a fashion forward aesthetic with classic design. Their beautiful range of wash and wear garments are loved by our customers for their high-quality yarn, texture and design."

The label was recently purchased by Ben and Emma Ensor who have investments and interests in merino farming and Anna says it's an exciting new chapter for the company.

"With the Ensors now at the helm there is a continued commitment to showcasing homegrown New Zealand products in fashion. Standard Issue products are organic, sustainable and very eco-friendly."

She says new at Lily & Esther for autumn are fetching Standard Issue designs particularly styled for warmth.

"The Swing Sweater offers a lovely soft slouchy look in amber and blue hues and the Long Rib Sweater in saffron makes a real statement. The new longline Alpaca cardigan and the Honeycomb cardigan offer both texture and warmth and by adding a pair of merino seamless pants you have an outfit of complete comfort."

Autumn accessories in store include leather bags by Wellington designer Yu Mei and shoes by Chaos & Harmony.

"The bags are stunning and the new Crocodile Chiletta bag quite irresistible alongside an amazing range of new season's shoes, brogues, boots and slides."



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State-of-the-art designer audio

By Penny Simpson

The best of Yamaha's state-of-the-art MusicCast audio products are in store at Gary Anderson in the Cromwell Mall.

The store has a name for high-quality lifestyle audio brands and home appliances and owner Gary Anderson says Yamaha offers the very latest technologies to homeowners in the region.

"Their home audio system is for wireless streaming of music throughout your home. MusicCast represents

the cutting-edge of audio technology and trademark sound quality that Yamaha is renowned for."

"This offers a totally modern approach to audio and their products have plenty of power, amplification and instant connectivity."

The store stocks the full range of products from Yamaha who are the world's biggest musical instrument manufacturer.

"From AV receivers to sound bars to wireless speakers — whatever your needs are, MusicCast brings your home entertainment experience to a whole new level," says Gary.

As audio specialists Gary and his team supply and install audio systems for private and commercial properties.

"People who are building or renovating or just want to upgrade their home audio systems should bring in their house plans and we can work with them to create the best audio solutions to suit their budget and needs."



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Expanding The Gate

By Margo Berryman



The Gate



Forage Café courtyard



Five Stags



Five Stags



Forage Café



Forage Café



Five Stags



Harvest Hotel

Breathing new life into Cromwell's largest hotel The Gate has been an ongoing project for general manager Glen Christiansen and his team over the past five years and the high-quality development continues with the recent refurbishment of the accommodation wing.

"We have completed a contemporary upgrade of 30 rooms which was timely just prior to the busy summer season and in readiness for the winter ski season ahead," says Glen. "The improvement allows us to add more to the customer experience and guest feedback has been very positive. The rooms overlook either the Cromwell golf course, the adjacent Wooing Tree vineyard or our courtyard, all offering spectacular views."

He says new furnishings and fittings combined with warm, earthy tones have created a modern ambience to the rooms which have been double glazed to increase quietness and warmth. Air conditioning has been installed and the ensuite bathrooms renovated.

The modernisation of The Gate was initiated by its group of private owners in 2015 and Glen has overseen all aspects of the development.

"We will continue the upgrade this year with a brand-new reception area and information centre at the front of the hotel as well as a buffet style restaurant serving up to 150 guests which will be ideal for functions and events. This completes the overall vision for the hotel to perfectly complement our existing hospitality areas, the Five Stags restaurant and Forage Café. It's a big investment in the town and an important one as tourism continues to increase."

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Gate had a high profile this year as a supporter of the inaugural Ben Nevis Station Golden 1200 Hillclimb, the brainchild of Kiwi rally icon Hayden Paddon.

The March event was held on a six-kilometre remote high-country gravel route along the Nevis Road accessed from Bannockburn.

"We are very supportive of community events such as this new initiative by Hayden which is a precursor to a planned return of Race to the Sky in 2021. It's exciting for the region as a whole and brings more motorsport enthusiasts into Cromwell," says general manager Glen Christiansen.

PARK AND RIDE

The Gate has collaborated with Clyde cycle company Bike It Now, which recently opened a second store in Cromwell, to install a fleet of new e-bikes at the hotel for guests, locals and visitors to hire.

General manager Glen Christiansen says Cromwell's expanding network of bike trails are an important attraction for day visitors to the region.

"We get a lot of people stopping here for morning tea or lunch at Forage Café, hiring one of the e-bikes and heading out to visit the local wineries, taking a ride around Lake Dunstan or hitting the other bike trails. The Gate has ample parking so it's very easy for people to come here to park and ride and an excellent way for them to see the region."

"We can organise late returns of the bikes as required and dinner at the Five Stags restaurant is always a great way to finish off an afternoon's cycle."

HEARTY AND HOMEGROWN

Five Stags Restaurant at The Gate has carved out a reputation for its welcoming atmosphere and hearty style food.

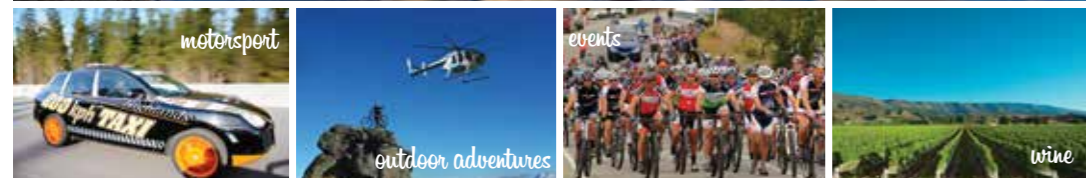
Serving snacks until late and a daily lunch menu from 12.00pm until 2.30pm with dinner from 5.00pm, it's a popular local hangout.

"The restaurant continues to be a real drawcard for the hotel offering genuine Kiwi hospitality and a relaxed mood," says general manager Glen Christiansen.

"It's a great place for socialising and dining and we have integrated live music on Friday nights that adds to the appeal. Our chefs use the best and freshest local produce for classic and hearty meals that never disappoint. The Black Panther Pizzas have a huge following and are a great take out option."

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GLIMPSEING SIDWAYS

By Camille Khouri

Working from her Cromwell studio in the 117-year-old cottage she calls home artist Rachel Hirabayashi creates paintings and sculptures that mirror the colours and landscapes of the area. Her artworks have a sense of narrative as well as a calm stillness within them. Some investigate her knowledge of geology while others represent the history of Central Otago towns and the movement of people within them.

For inspiration, Rachel often travels in her motorhome Fordita visiting out-of-the-way areas of the country and spending time in open spaces.

"Driving means you glimpse sideways to see the landscape and those images often stick in my mind and are what I use to start imagining the landscapes of my paintings. They're not anywhere in particular but I hope to catch something of the spirit of a place," she says. "Over the last couple of years I've been going to Bluff and watching the harbour with the working port, ships and containers. It's an interest in altered landscapes. It's like the church or township in the middle of nowhere — humans trying to work the land, to occupy the place and progress."

Her sculpture is created from recycled metal, twisted and manipulated then braised to create a patina. Some larger sculptures are on display in her garden, which makes an intriguing and colourful stop for people viewing Rachel's art.

Rachel uses acrylic paint to create layers of washes, working with spray bottles to encourage drip marks and deliberate stains across the paintings. She sees art as second nature, with her father David Jones a well-respected, full-time artist while she herself studied Art History and Religious Studies at the University of Otago before settling in Cromwell.

Rachel recently joined Indigo Artists, an alliance of Central Otago artists who come together to have their work exhibited in different locations.



"The wider field and numerous shows mean we are all busy and it's great seeing our work in big spaces."

Her work is often displayed at Eade Gallery in Clyde, Athol Gallery in Northern Southland, Objects of Art in Old Cromwell and Wanaka Fine Art Gallery. With Indigo she is also being shown during the year at The Rippon Hall in Wanaka, Mandeville near Gore and Arrowtown's Lakes District Museum and Art Gallery.



Third from left: Rachel Hirabayashi



"It's an eclectic cottage garden with sculptures, friendly dogs and friends. The studio and house are densely packed with things found while travelling in Fordita. And plenty of art."



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