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Southern Lakes Lifestyle

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ISSUE 121 SPRING 2023

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News from Around the Region

with Jenny McLeod

Wānaka ski racer's enterprising fundraiser

Fifteen-year-old Wānaka alpine skier Mathilda Watterson has created a novel fundraising scheme by writing, illustrating and publishing her own children's book.

The captivating story *Abigail the Snail and the Bright Blue Quail* was conceived as a school project when she was a student in year seven. "At the time I read it to pre-schoolers at Montessori and they seemed to enjoy it. Now, a couple of years later I got the idea of publishing it and selling it to help raise money for my skiing."

Mathilda has always enjoyed writing and drawing and the book has been well received on the local market selling through the Wānaka Snowsports Club and other outlets.

Mathilda and her 14-year-old sister Isabel are committed ski racers and regularly feature on the podium on the circuit in New Zealand. They have also made an impact in the Northern Hemisphere winning the prestigious under-16 and under-14 Central Switzerland championship titles respectively this year.

The pair will head to Italy this summer as part of legendary New Zealand coach Chris Knight's international women's racing team — benefiting from his vast experience as a coach for top female athletes, including Americans Julia Mancuso and Lindsey Vonn, and more recently New Zealand's leading World Cup racer Alice Robinson of Queenstown.



Mathilda & Isabel Watterson

Bungy pioneers plan swing experience

The founders of bungy in New Zealand are looking to add a triple-person swing experience to their repertoire at the historic Kawarau Bridge site.



Kawarau Bridge

AJ Hackett Bungy New Zealand CEO David Mitchell says they have applied to the relevant local authorities for consent to develop the Kawarau Swing, designed to launch from a platform on the northern banks of the Kawarau River.

He says the swing can be adapted to take one, two or three people at a time and will fly as high as 35 metres above the river before being winched back to the platform.

The company is excited about offering a different experience for visitors who do not want to bungy or zipride and if the consent application is successful they hope to be operating by spring 2025.

"For the past 35 years the Kawarau Bridge has been a place where people

have come face to face with their own personal challenges and through bungy they have had life-changing experiences. We believe the swing will cater to those that don't want to do a bungy but are looking for other ways to increase their self-esteem."

Amisfield triumphs at Cuisine awards

Amisfield has won restaurant of the year in the Cuisine Good Food Awards for the second consecutive year.

Under the guidance of chef Vaughan Mabee the high-profile Queenstown restaurant achieved an almost 100 per cent tick and was awarded three hats in the 2023/2024 awards.



Vaughan Mabee

Lead awards assessor Kerry Tyack says "the Amisfield experience brilliantly demonstrates how magical, entertaining and memorable food can be. Former Cuisine chef of the year Vaughan Mabee remains top of his game, delighting with his theatre of food delivery and executing a near faultless and daring dance of innovation. Best of all, he nails it."

Amisfield was also named in The World's 50 Best Restaurants in late 2022 and Vaughan has become a household name as a judge in the television programme *Masterchef New Zealand*.



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COVER A View at Every Corner - Neville Porter, Porter Gray Gallery

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Shared Gallery Vision

By Jenny McLeod

The distinctive work of artists Neville Porter and George Gray has a special synergy.

Porter Gray Gallery recently opened in downtown Queenstown, opposite the Steamer Wharf, providing a shop window for their combined artistic talents with Neville's outstanding photographic works hanging alongside George's exceptional oil paintings.

"It is a totally collaborative endeavour," says George, "and we share the same vision for our work and the gallery."

The concept of opening a gallery to show their work in central Queenstown has been on their agenda for some time and earlier this year they decided to give the venture the green light.

"We didn't want to look back a few years on and say we should have opened that Queenstown gallery we always talked about," says Neville.

Once committed they were fortunate to find premises ideally suited for their gallery. With its expansive picture windows people are drawn into the space which inside offers a complete immersive experience.

The two artists, who are both prolific and prominent in their fields, share a love of nature and New Zealand landscapes which is evident on the gallery walls.

"My work is definitely inspired by my love of the natural world around me," says George. "What we see or perceive in this world is so full of variation, engaging our emotions in a way that could fill endless lifetimes."

The Central Otago environment dominates Neville's photography.

"My images display the natural beauty, drama and strength of the landscape and I investigate the vitality and structure of the ever changing natural world through my lens."

Photography Neville Porter



Neville Porter & George Gray

Photographic prowess

During the past 30 years Neville Porter has developed his interest in and love of photography after an earlier career in the textile industry.

"I have found it is an opportunity to create my own world view, to be curious and respectful about places while attempting to find their soul. I very rarely follow the obvious landmarks and I create the scene while the viewer's imagination reads the picture."

The Central Otago landscape is immensely powerful providing an extraordinary photographic stage, according to Neville, and he loves to hear personal stories which reference how his work speaks to people.

"Such as the farmer who sells his property and buys a picture of a window looking out on to a high country station or a photograph that can be a shared memory of a loved one. These stories inspire me to continue my journey."

Neville uses a digital camera to make the initial image, then creates a printed version. "In the past I have printed my work on canvas or western paper made of cotton. In recent years however I have found printing with museum grade archival inks on Japanese Washi paper makes a much more visceral display of my images. Washi has a history dating back over 1400 years and Rembrandt used it exclusively for his lithographs and works on paper."

Fantasy artist

A self-described fantasy artist George Gray paints almost exclusively in oils on portrait linen.

"During my many years as an artist I have worked with several different types of media especially when I worked as a professional fabricator. However oils clearly now provide the continual challenge necessary to my practice."

"I have what has been described as a left-handed dyslexic style and I am often asked if I already know how the finished work will ultimately look before I start. The answer is both yes and no. While I am being creative I make it up as I go and while I often have something of a picture in my mind it is by its very nature allowed to morph, change and grow."

George says his varied paintings mostly focusing on the natural world are all about resolving issues presented by the creative nature of his work.

"Until this happens the true and final outcome of the finished painting is still to be realised and finally presented."



Porter Gray Gallery



Now open 91 Beach Street Queenstown New Zealand

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QUEENSTOWN

Mt Cardrona Station celebrates significant milestone

A Central Otago alpine village development is celebrating over \$50million in total sales and will release its first titles to buyers this spring.

Mt Cardrona Station in the Cardrona Valley is also offering fixed pricing on a range of architecturally designed luxury house, land and landscaping packages and has recently launched its fifth neighbourhood.

Co-owner Chris Morton says just 29 hectares of the 400-hectare property, overlooking the Cardrona township, is being developed with a range of neighbourhoods and impressive central facilities.

"We are passionate about the area's outdoor lifestyle opportunities and have set aside and enhanced the remaining 370 hectares as high-country open spaces for homeowners to enjoy, including a world-class biking and hiking network."

Work is well underway on the development with all services established, roading built and sealed and building platforms in place.

"During winter Mt Cardrona Station's award-winning builder CDL Building of Wānaka has been busy working with innovative manufacturing company Hector Egger on construction elements of the first six homes in the Pioneer neighbourhood," says Chris.

"CDL starts building onsite this spring while another six-house frames are under construction. Hector Egger's latest technologies mean they deliver designed and engineered high-tech timber frame construction, produced faster than traditional building methods and delivering quality results to the last millimetre. The process ensures the efficient structural completion, watertightness, thermal performance and quality finishing of all residences."

Demand has been so strong Mt Cardrona Station has just released its fifth neighbourhood called Whitestar offering spectacular views across the Cardrona Valley from a rarely seen perspective. Buyers have the flexibility to choose from six-premium concept house designs all pre-approved by the Station's Design Review Board or create their own bespoke design.

"The Whitestar concept has been specifically designed for this neighbourhood's remarkable station front lots looking across the valley. Three stunning north-east facing lots overlook a beautiful alpine tarn, distinguishing Whitestar apart from other neighbourhoods," says Chris.

Whitestar is on the doorstep of the station's village precinct with convenient access to The Homestead with its sophisticated dining, workspaces and meeting facilities as well as a gym, pool, hot pools and bike and ski workshop.



Fixed pricing

Mt Cardrona Station is offering fixed pricing from \$1.45 million* on architecturally designed luxury house, land and landscaping packages in the Pioneer neighbourhood.

"What the market needs and wants right now is the ability to build with certainty in these

uncertain times," says co-owner Chris Morton.

"We're giving potential buyers the chance to own a home with winter and summer adventures right on the doorstep. They'll have peace of mind knowing there will be no cost overruns or supply issues."

Packages on offer include The Rose, a substantial four-bed, three-bath home embodying the Central Otago aesthetic in a beautiful 210-square metre pavilion-style home from \$2.35 million*.

Other options include The Pisa from \$1.8 million*, a peaceful retreat with a distinctive lean-to barn style reminiscent of old farm cottages and The Soho from \$1.45 million*, evoking the simple beauty of historic miners' cottages that once dotted the Cardrona landscape but with an astute contemporary twist.

Getting in early

Mary and Peter Wells are happy to have the green light on their superb home build over two premium sites in the Walter Little neighbourhood.

Peter, founder and former chairman of billion-dollar company Vulcan Steel, says they are very impressed with development plans.

"If you look at the concept, it's fantastic. We can see long-term economic value and most people will enjoy having a central common area such as The Homestead and its facilities that are designed to enhance the project."

Peter and Mary worked with Arrowtown-based Assembly Architects on their design. At 480 square metres in total, it is split into a four-bedroom home and a smaller two-bed, two-bath crib connected by a 15-metre long glass hallway with views to the front and back.

Peter is confident they have made a good choice.

"You wouldn't bet against Central Otago over the economic cycle. Queenstown and Wānaka stack up. We've been fortunate to work on lots of developments over the years and I'm confident we will all get a lot of entertainment out of the property and Mt Cardrona Station in the years ahead."

*T's and C's apply



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Simply the Best

By Margo Berryman

Queenstown is all about hospitality and with its unrivalled gastronomic experiences the award-winning Imperium Collection has a reputation for delivering the best as Margo Berryman discovered.

Cultural Creativity at NO5

No5 Church Lane, the recently reopened laneway restaurant at luxury boutique hotel The Spire, is a hotspot for modern New Zealand cuisine.

Executive chef Trent Watson's creative flair provides a cohesive menu of sharing plates featuring fresh, local ingredients from the sea, land and mountains.

"We're serving bountiful kai moana in unique ways like the Fiordland Crayfish toasted sandwich, Seafood Chawanmushi with smoked green lip mussels and Stewart Island Speared Butterfish with pickled daikon, fennel roulade and charcoal citrus."

New Zealand ingredients are championed throughout the refined dining experience.

"Locally grown Royalburn lamb backstrap is served with swede mash and kawakawa oil and our wild shot venison features a chocolate stout glaze made from stout from local brewery Altitude."



Eichardt's Stylish Tapas

Eichardt's Bar beside Lake Whakatipu offers a richly layered experience in its heritage location.

"Eichardt's is a timeless and classic Queenstown institution," says Imperium Collection food and beverage manager Gethin Curtis.

"The chic bar is a sought after setting where our guests can relax and unwind throughout both the day and evening while enjoying delicious tapas style dishes with an elevated drinks service."



Boutique Laneway Vibe

No5's stylishly sophisticated bar offers supreme cocktails, fine New Zealand wines and superb evening drinks and the intimate Church Lane locale has mixologists demonstrating their creative genius behind the bar.

"The No5 cocktail menu is testament to the team's versatility exploring fantastic flavour combinations and ingredients," says Imperium Collection food and beverage manager Gethin Curtis. "We offer interpretations of the classics including our Owner's Margarita, No5 Espresso Martini and Champagne Cocktail or combinations such as the Apple & Horopito Gimlet, Coco Otago or Fire, Fae & Flower."



Front Row at The Grille

Queenstown's dress circle lakeside restaurant, Eichardt's Grille, offers all-day dining in an expansive, sophisticated environment with spectacular views over Lake Whakatipu. With its New York bistro style aura, the restaurant is a top location for families, groups and small to large gatherings. The Grille's culinary element is exceptional with a menu featuring everything

from French caviar to grilled cheeseburgers, New Zealand Merino lamb rump, 200g Wagyu Eye Fillet and The Grille's legendary seafood chowder. Bookings highly recommended.



Private Dining

Offering one of Queenstown's finest wine selections, Eichardt's Grille extends the experience with an option to dine privately in their exceptional wine cellar space within the restaurant. Serious wine aficionados can also book to dine at the Grille's Sommelier table for extra 'je ne sais quoi'.



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www.eichardts.com



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CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

by Jane Brooke

Sofitel Queenstown Hotel and Spa's French inspired hospitality is legendary and its latest addition — Le Salon Rouge — is reminiscent of a prohibition era speakeasy.

The intimate cocktail bar and lounge has a mix of fine food and wine and cocktail experiences from early afternoon until late evening.

"Our decadent French style afternoon tea Le Goûter, served from 2.30pm until 5.00pm offers a beautiful selection of petite, artful savouries and sweets crafted by sous chef Imogen Liao and presented in a delicate French box," says GM Jeremy Samuels. "It's perfect for relaxing with friends and family while enjoying premium Dilmah teas, an afternoon G&T or a glass of Verve Clicquot champagne."

An Après Chic happy hour runs from 5.00pm until 7.00pm followed by the luxury hotel's Déjeuner menu from 7.00pm until late.

"The evening dining menu showcases Central

Otago produce executive chef Lindsay Bennet is extremely passionate about," says Jeremy. "It's a 'choose your own adventure' dining style featuring smaller lighter options, shared plates and heartier dishes offering flexibility for guests."



Jeremy Samuels

SUSTAINABLE LUXURY

Sofitel Queenstown Hotel and Spa has spent the past 12 months implementing a dedicated sustainability programme to create better outcomes for guests and support regional initiatives for a regenerative, carbon zero future.

"Our sustainability story aligns with the *Love Queenstown* campaign to protect the environment for future generations," says GM Jeremy Samuels. "I am all about creating the perfect balance between luxury and sustainability and bringing our guests along on that journey."

Sustainability practices have been embedded across the hotel's entire operation.

"We have introduced a zero-plastic policy for amenities in guest rooms and worked alongside our supplier Balmain in Paris to design bespoke aluminium racks for their hair and body products. Any replacement bottles are sent to Beyond Skin Deep – a recycling company which breaks them down for fence posts and also repurposes cakes of soap for charities such as Red Cross."

"Single use amenities like toothbrushes and combs are now bamboo and in the Bistro plastic blister butter and jam packs have been replaced with porcelain dispensers."

Jeremy says removing plastic water bottles has drastically reduced the hotel's environmental footprint.

"Installing a Brita water filtration system has enabled us to sanitise and bottle our own water onsite replacing the 77,000 plastic bottles that we used to put into hotel rooms annually. We have enhanced this with a refilling station in the lobby so guests can refill their own bottles."

GIN CONNOISSEURS

Boutique gins from around the world are a drawcard at Le Salon Rouge where the drinks menu features 120 boutique gins, with half of them produced in New Zealand. The menu is categorised into regions of the world and the experienced bar team is on hand to guide guests through their choices.



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Grand Scale Gibbston Resort

By Margo Berryman

Gibbston Valley Winery's upmarket \$750 million lifestyle development project has achieved a landmark with the first homes currently being built in the prestigious settlement.

"This is great progress for the Gibbston Valley Resort," says CEO Greg Hunt. "The Reserve stage is now titled with 70 per cent of the sections sold and new homes already under construction. We're excited to see the market respond to our premium lifestyle offering."

He says the Resort will be released in stages with each neighbourhood offering specific attributes that contribute to the overall aesthetic.

"The Rockery which is the next stage of the development has limited pre-release sections available for purchase. It is comprised of ten lots set amongst the natural schist outcrops that are unique to this Central Otago area and overlooking a natural spring water feature. There are limited freehold sections and house and land packages that offer all the benefits of resort living."

The entranceway to the development is directly opposite Gibbston Valley Winery and an underpass which is scheduled for completion in early 2025 will provide easy access to the winery, restaurant, lodge and spa.



A nine-hole golf course designed by well-known New Zealand professional golfer and course designer Greg Turner is presently being developed and is projected to be completed in March 2024.

"We have completed the practice putting green with the first six holes ready for seeding during spring," says Greg. "The Reserve overlooks the golf course that has been designed to work with the natural landscape of the property bordering the Kawarau River."

The Resort's Club House designed by Condon Scott and Space Studios is also under construction and will be a central meeting place for homeowners. The facility includes a swimming pool, private gym, outdoor fire pit and pétanque area and owners receive member benefits across all Gibbston Valley wine, food and accommodation products and winery activities.

Greg says The Resort sales office is located at the winery so potential buyers can easily access more information onsite.

"Now that the Reserve stage is complete we are fortunate to have the next stage available with fixed-price land and house packages providing a high quality, low stress purchase option to discerning buyers."

Forty Years On

Gibbston Valley Winery, renowned for its award-winning wines and exceptional winery hospitality, is celebrating its 40th anniversary since establishing its first commercial vineyard in the Gibbston region.

Just 25 minutes from Queenstown the winery is the perfect backdrop to sample their distinctive high-quality organic wines and sample the winery restaurant menu designed by executive chef Al Wilson.

The seasonal sharing menu which offers an exquisite taste of Central Otago highlights fresh local produce including some varieties grown in the winery's organic gardens and each dish is expertly paired with Gibbston Valley Wines.

The Gibbston Valley Winery cellar door is open daily for tastings, restaurant reservations, cave and winery tours and can be booked online at www.gibbstonvalley.com



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Vibrant Fun Atmosphere

In the past five years the Future Hospitality Group headed by James Ace and Bert Haines has grown its portfolio of high-level restaurants and bars to seven venues across Queenstown.



The pair are ardent advocates of hospitality excellence and their restaurant Margo's in the Queenstown Mall is a fun, contemporary place to experience the best of Mexican food.

"We're really proud of all our establishments and Margo's is one of the standouts," says James. "Our executive chef Matt Tobin is originally from USA and his vision for reimagining Mexican food using the best and most unique products available here and direct from Mexico has led the menu."

"Margo's has a casual dining atmosphere and the kitchen team constantly update the menu to give our loyal local following a fresh experience while keeping some elements like our Mexican salsa trio very traditional."

The flavourful menu includes appealing dishes such as coconut tempura prawns, Coca Cola BBQ pork ribs, crispy chicken taco, and Queso Fundido, a Mexican style cheese fondue. There are vegan and gluten free options and the restaurant hosts seasonal Bottomless Brunches that always sell out.



Bert Haines Matt Tobin & James Ace

Margo's colourful wall murals, vivid lights and pop tune soundtrack provide an upbeat and welcoming Mexican setting.

"Our guests are here to enjoy great food in a fun, vibrant atmosphere and we get all sorts of diners from families, business groups and co-workers to mates and friends on a night out," says James. "Margo's is a place to relax, unwind and let our talented crew bring the very best tastes of Mexico directly to the table."

MARGOS.CO.NZ

The Mexican Way

By Penny Simpson

Queenstown's only dedicated agaveeria Little Mez has a reputation for its impressive range of premium, authentic tequila and mezcal varietals sourced directly from Mexico.



Opened in July 2022 by the award-winning Future Hospitality Group the sophisticated, speakeasy style basement bar is tucked away in Cow Lane and is a popular addition to Queenstown's nightlife.

"Our passion for agave-based spirits drives everything we do and we love sharing our creations," says site manager Stu Campbell. "The bar has a dark and boujee vibe accented with DJ's playing an ambient mix of soul tunes and a dedicated vinyl DJ every Sunday night."



Our service is personable and attentive — we can talk to you as much or as little as you like with banquette seating and table service."

"Our mixologists are passionate and knowledgeable and we have over 120 varieties of tequila and mezcal on offer, some are the only bottles you'll find in New Zealand. We

encourage guests to try our Trust The Bartender option, tell us their favourite spirit and flavour style then sit back and watch the magic happen."

Little Mez has an indulgent drinks menu with signature cocktails including a Spicy Mezcal Margarita with Tajin chili lime seasoning rim and Pineapple Barbacoa served in Little Mez signature bottles and is a smoky take on an Old Fashioned.

"Little Mez attracts people from discerning drinkers after an expert agave inspired cocktail to date night couples and guests looking for pre and post dinner drinks when dining upstairs at Margo's. It's an excellent spot to pull up a late night stool and enjoy our chilled vibes and the world's very best mezcal infused creations."

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Steaking it out
By Margo Berryman

Crowd pleasing dishes include cuts such as the 120-grain fed Ebony Black Angus, grass fed Greenstone Creek King with a 4+ marble score and Carrara Wagyu grain fed sirloin from Queensland.

"We have people come especially to JSH to experience the Zen-Noh Wagyu which is grain fed Miyaza scotch from Japan and graded A5," says Briony. "The sharing cuts are popular including the slow cooked Lumina lamb shoulder and our Chef's Board features three favourite cuts served at the table."

Queenstown JSH has a modern, elegant setting with views over the resort and a stylish cocktail bar downstairs for pre or post-dinner drinks.

"The vibe here is fun, friendly and approachable," says Briony, a Canadian food and beverage professional with extensive international experience. "Our kitchen and wait team truly enjoy each other's company and are very proud to represent JSH."

"We're privileged when people choose to dine at our restaurant and with our large local client base the separate private dining room, at the top of the restaurant, is often booked for special occasions. We also cater for larger events and functions where the JSH experience is standout."



Conceived as an original New York style American steak house for the New Zealand market Jervois Steak House (JSH) in Queenstown is dedicated to the art of the perfect steak.

Owned by Foley Hospitality JSH in Queenstown, housed in Sofitel hotel, is a sister restaurant to Auckland's flagship Jervois Steak House in Herne Bay and the authentic and elevated steak house repertoire is under the culinary direction of group executive chef Gavin Doyle.

"We truly, genuinely love what JSH offers and every person in our team is extremely passionate about taking guests on a journey of discovery through flavour and texture," says Queenstown restaurant manager Briony Holmes.

"Our steak is of the highest quality available sourced from the very best beef producers in New Zealand, Australia and Japan and our chefs constantly review cuts to ensure premium quality."

"Our wait staff are extremely knowledgeable and spend time with each guest to educate them on what premium steak, seafood and vegetarian options currently feature," says Briony. "It's literally about tailoring the experience to each guest's individual palette including their choice of wine from our extensive cellar list to ensure a special meal."



Cuisine Good Food Awards

Jervois Steak House Queenstown was recently awarded its first hat in the national Cuisine Good Food Awards.

The restaurant was one of ten South Island restaurants to receive one hat in the annual awards and overall there were 18 category winners and 84 hatted restaurants.

"To be considered alongside other leading restaurants who are excelling in their craft is an honour we are so proud to have achieved," says Briony. "It is a very exciting result for our entire JSH team."





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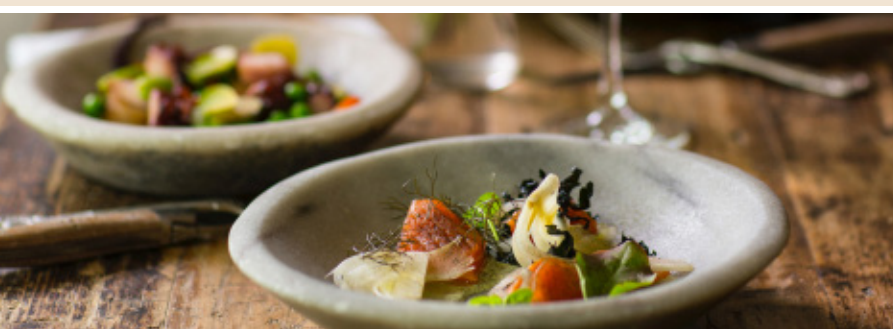
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Art for Art's Sake

Join us for our first art exhibition fundraiser featuring 30 local artists and a special dinner. Proceeds to the Early Childhood Education Centre, Glenorchy.

Destination Dining

By Jane Brooke

High-quality and innovative cuisine is the calling card of Lil Red, the new 40-seat restaurant at luxury boutique hotel QT Queenstown.

Originally opened as a pop-up Lil Red at QT promises stylish, casual dining in an intimate setting.

Local ingredients blended with traditional Japanese techniques combine to create an exciting menu designed by executive chef Ryan Henley whose commitment to environmentally responsible produce from regional farmers and fishermen is evident.

"I'm incredibly excited to make Lil Red a destination on the Queenstown dining scene and showcase the best of the South Island in my own way," says Ryan. "I've built wonderful relationships with local suppliers, going out on the boat with Gravity Fishing in Stewart Island to working with Nadia Lim and the team at Royalburn Station on a grow-to-order basis. I'm learning so much about treating ingredients with integrity and celebrating some of the world's best produce, which comes through in the dishes at Lil Red."

"We have an abundance of South Island produce and proteins



Ryan Henley



available that reflect the changing seasons," says Ryan. "Black Origin Wagyu beef from Christchurch, seafood from Gravity Fishing, Canterbury Whiteheart Kurobuta pork, and eggs and lamb from Arrowtown's Royalburn. QT Queenstown's own rooftop honey from Wānaka's Tiaki Bees' hives is highlighted on the menu and my team recognise the importance of sustainable practices and nose-to-tail cooking."

The Lil Red sharing menu includes signature small dishes such as creamed paua doughnuts, Black Origin Wagyu beef tostada and wood-fired flatbread with buffalo cheese, chilli oil and spring onion. Larger share plates offer wood-fired whole fish with koji butter and kombu, Royalburn lamb with a BBQ celeriac glaze and aged whole duck glazed with QT rooftop honey, sour pear, Jerusalem artichoke and sake lees jus.

Lil Red, on the sixth floor of QT Queenstown, features interiors by award-winning designer Nic Graham with a cosy fireside bar with a punchy colour palette. An elevated beverage menu of expertly crafted cocktails and a comprehensive wine list celebrates the best of Central Otago.

Bookings available online at qthotels.com



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Q&A

The Australian luxury real estate company Whitefox recently opened offices in Queenstown and Auckland. QT Magazine spoke to CFO Rory Donovan-Stumbles about launching into the New Zealand market.

Who owns Whitefox and what was the vision behind creating a high-end agency?

Marty Fox founded Whitefox in Melbourne in 2017 with a vision to establish a boutique agency with a unique approach to luxury property sales compared to that offered by the more traditional, franchised real estate brands. Whitefox focuses on highly curated, tailored marketing for every property with data-driven audience targeting that identifies the right buyer based on interest, lifestyle and location drivers.

What attracted the company to New Zealand?

The New Zealand market has been dominated by larger traditional agencies for some time. We feel there is a real opportunity to introduce a brand like Whitefox offering a more modern and contemporary approach to real estate with an emphasis on high-end property presentation coupled with expert negotiation.

When was the Queenstown branch established?

The Queenstown office officially launched on March 1 2023 in Beach Street with sales director Kate Fairmaid at the helm. It services the Southern Lakes region focusing on Queenstown, Arrowtown and Wānaka.

Kate is a Queenstown local who earned her stripes through the traditional real estate model. When she launched her own boutique agency she looked to Whitefox for inspiration and when Marty approached her to lead our Queenstown branch the deal was sealed instantly.

What areas of the regional real estate market does Whitefox specialise in?

Currently we focus on residential sales from the medium to upper end of the market in New Zealand. In the future we intend to offer advocacy and property management services.



Kate Fairmaid



What is your point of difference to achieve best results?

Our expertise is in the delivery of premium, curated property marketing campaigns that stand out and elevate properties well above those presented by traditional agencies. The Whitefox team are consistent, confident negotiators skilled at achieving the very best results for vendors.

What luxury property projects are currently represented by Whitefox?

We have secured some exclusive lifestyle listings in the region as a result of our unique marketing style and expertise. They include the ultra-luxury Lake Tewa Jack's Point development with its unrivalled Queenstown lifestyle options and the boutique Wānaka development The Lodges on Warren featuring superb luxury residences in the heart of the town. All details online at whitefoxrealestate.co.nz



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MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

By Penny Simpson

The 2023 Rhythm & Alps music festival, now in its 13th year, has a stellar line up for New Year celebrations in the Cardrona Valley from December 29 until December 31.

The festival is a highlight on the Australasian music calendar with more than 10,000 festival goers expected to experience three days of music at its best.

Event organiser Alex Turnbull is stoked with this year's group of artists and performers which include big names headlining the event.

"This isn't your average line-up — it's a special treat crafted just for the dedicated three-day pass festival-goers with a night of exclusive performances, all under the vast canopy of the Rhythm & Alps sky.



"We are pumped to have headline acts *Sigma*, *Peking Duk*, *Lucy*, *Aziz* and *Ortega* alongside New Zealand artists *Benee* and *Fat Freddy's Drop*. Other internationals include New South Wales surf-psych collective, *Ocean Alley*, South London production wiz *Ross From Friends* (DJ set), London-based electronic duo *BICEP* (Ninja Tune), Californian house-funk sensation *Channel Tres* and Aotearoa drum and bass guru *Paige Julia*."

"We have worked hard over the years to build an inclusive event with something for everybody — performers and festival goers alike," he says. "This year promises to be another exciting and welcoming festival across the board."

Acts will perform across five stages and the festival will ring in New Year's Eve with *Synthony*, a music event featuring an orchestra and fireworks show.

Alex says with almost half of partygoers coming from outside the Southern Lakes region there are a variety of onsite camping options available along with festival multi day and day passes.

"Regular buses will operate to the festival site from both Queenstown and Wānaka for day visitors and people can pre- book transport through Yello. We offer camping and glamping options that are curated to festival goers needs. This includes luxurious teepees, pre-pitched and carpeted with ambient lighting ready for an epic, fuss-free festival weekend."

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FOOD & WINE HIGHLIGHTS

by Jane Brooke

Beckoning Budding Chefs

The Headwaters Eco Lodge in Glenorchy now has cooking classes on the menu after opening its successful Dining Room.



Budding chefs can join executive chef Pete Gawron and his team at the lodge for a memorable cooking class with a difference.

"The class starts with an exclusive tour of the lodge's kitchen garden to pick fresh produce and herbs to use in that day's cooking lesson," says general

manager John Dick (JD). "Following discussions about ideas and recipes for a healthy and delicious lunch it is then a case of watch and learn as the chefs bring dishes to life while offering expert knowledge and useful tips to take home."



JD says participants can be hands-on — "a chef always needs someone to help with prep and give things a stir" — or simply relax and soak up the experience from the other side of the kitchen bench. Once prepared and the cooking class is complete lunch is served in the Dining Room with stunning mountain views and a complimentary glass of wine.

Visit theheadwatersecolodge.com for details and bookings

Top New Zealand Winery

Quartz Reef Wines was one of several Central Otago wineries to be recognised recently in The Real Review Top Wineries of New Zealand 2023.

The list is a national benchmark identifying where New Zealand

wineries are placed amongst their peers. The awards panel reviews around 10,000 wines each year with certificates awarded to a select group of wineries that consistently produce excellent vintages.

"We are so proud that Quartz Reef is named in The Real Review Top Wineries of New Zealand 2023," says marketing manager Lianne Collins. "Bob Campbell ONZM MW noted Quartz Reef is best known for its dense, powerful and consistently good Pinot Noir."

Quartz Reef recently released their Royal Series 2019 Billie Jean vintage, grown from grapes selected from their most eastern vineyard block at Bendigo which is the first to see the sun.

"This area of the vineyard is affectionately known as the royal block by our team and Billie Jean is the third ferment to be released from Block 12 which makes it very special for our founder and winemaker Rudi Bauer," says Lianne.

Follow online at quartzreef.co.nz



Fresh Twist

Odd Saint launched on to the Queenstown café scene last year with a fresh twist on international dishes spanning breakfast, brunch and lunch and more recently the popular Earl Street eatery has added an evening menu to further expand the experience.



"Odd Saint caters equally to the early morning breakfast and brunch crowd as it does for leisurely lunches," says co-owner Jamie Orr-Tobin. "The evening menu continues our focus on creating a melting pot of dishes that reflect our talented kitchen team. It has interesting small plates like Wonton Nachos, charred Cauliflower Gratin and Cajun Prawn Toast with larger options including the Odd Saint Steak Frites, All Day Smashburger and Hoosier Fried Chicken with butter curry. We describe it as global soul food with big flavours and punchy contrasts."



The eclectic style of dishes on the daytime brunch menu include hot smoked salmon on herbed rosti, Corned Beef Carnitas hash, the All-day Hippy Burger and Duck Fried Rice. Breakfast cocktails can be ordered such as Flora's Mimosa and Nic's Spiked Hot Cocoa and eightieth coffee is served alongside a selection of smoothies, juices and teas.

"We've received overwhelmingly positive feedback since opening from visitors and locals who are loving our fresh take on brunch, lunch and now dinner," says Jamie.

Menus & table bookings available oddsaint.co.nz



SPRING AT THE CLOUDY BAY SHED

Nestled in stunning Northburn, just 5 minutes' drive from Cromwell, Cloudy Bay's intimate Central Otago Cellar Door is their home away from home.

A visit to The Cloudy Bay Shed is an epicurean delight featuring the very best in Central Otago food and wine. Indulge with relaxed lunchtime dining whilst overlooking the infinity pond & Lake Dunstan or enjoy an array of exclusive wine tastings in this beautiful natural setting.



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ALICE HERALD

DIAMOND COUTURE

Inspired by nature

By Jenny McLeod

A new couture collection created by Wānaka bespoke jeweller Alice Herald reflects her ongoing love of nature so prominent in all her designs.

"I see jewels when walking through forests. Nature's colour, its architecture and quiet energy have such an influence on my design and in the story telling of the fine jewellery I create."

Her latest collection is inspired by the dahlia flower and is an extension of her original and popular Bouquet Pinky series centring on the orchids she carried at her wedding.

"I have done other pieces influenced by the rose, jasmine, passionflower and sunflower, flowers that clients have given to me for inspiration, and now the dahlia. It is such an incredible pompom of a flower and has an immense presence and burst of colour I wanted to encapsulate."

The recently launched dahlia collection is displayed in Alice's Wānaka studio and online.

"There is a central feature ring and earrings for the wow factor for special occasion gifting and wear," she says. "Several other jewels are designed more for every day using the petal pattern and colours to keep the pieces cohesive."

Alice says selecting the gemstones took time allowing her to source the perfect colours to echo the intensity of the dahlia.

"My fantastic suppliers and I worked closely to find the perfect gems. The central Rhodolite Garnet and some sapphires were specially cut so the shape and colour gave true representation. I have designed very cool textured bangles for the first time, along with diamond hoop earrings, which are a definite unique twist on the classics and will cross over the generations."



Alice Herald



Interactive Studio

Alice Herald's open studio in Wānaka's Precinct complex is a welcoming space where people can watch her designing her collections and bespoke jewellery.



"I like meeting locals from Wānaka and Queenstown as well as out-of-town visitors and enjoy their interpretation of my work and seeing them interact with the jewels. People love my sprawling design wall featuring current and future inspirations as well as the pieces in motion on the design desk."

The studio also has a private space for one-on-one design consultations.

"My jewellery has a good following online and I am increasingly finding people see my work then come into the studio to view it first-hand. I also do quite a bit of secret sourcing of diamonds or precious gems with someone's partner, who then surprises her and we design the piece together. It's incredibly special to be part of."

Alice also has a reputation for her legacy work, reimagining jewellery and creating new layers of symbolism and history within a jewel.

"Redesigning old jewels from forgotten jewellery boxes and giving them a new life and a reason to be worn is important to me. It is wonderful to continue the story and retain the history for future generations."

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HEART OF THE HOME

By Margo Berryman

F L Bone has been an importer of luxury home appliance brands for over 100 years and features a selection of exceptional designer products for the home.

The high-end appliances include range cookers and fireplaces and are on display in their Queenstown store at The Junction in Gorge Road.

Queenstown store manager Nicky Martin believes the cooker is the star of the kitchen.

"It's the most important furniture in the kitchen. Separate cooktops and wall ovens can break up the space while a stand-alone cooker focuses the kitchen on the main event which is cooking."

The kitchen is often considered the heart of the home and creating meals has become a family business thanks to the increase in cooking shows on television and influencer chefs on social media feeds. It is often the room we invest the most in when renovating.

Nicky says choosing the best type of range cooker for a particular property depends on several key elements.

"Whether you're updating your current cooker or completely redesigning your kitchen there are several factors to consider beyond brand, colour and functionality. The shape of your kitchen needs to be at the top of your list for cooker consideration — whether it is galley, L-shaped, U-shaped or island."

She says the number of diners regularly catered for, including guests, determines the oven that best suits the home.

"We assist a wide variety of people at F L Bone from empty nesters looking to downsize to those growing families requiring something larger. There is so much choice available which makes shopping here a fun exercise."

"Our cookers come in various configurations to support whatever your house runs — gas, electric, dual fuel or induction. Sometimes it simply comes down to preference but primary energy considerations need to be factored into your choice."

"Finishing touches like handles and knobs make a big difference to each cooker and while stainless steel black and white variations suit a traditional or industrial setting the store also stocks Falcon, AGA, Rayburn and La Cornue offering a range of contemporary colours that add a real wow factor," says Nicky.

"Visit the Queenstown showroom and we can present all the options and help co-ordinate colours, textures and finishings. Spending money on one of our high-end cookers is worth the expense — it will make you feel good every time you cook."



"We source world-class brands and exceptionally designed products so people can create the home they have always dreamed of."



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Q&A

Creative Space Architecture is a leading architectural design agency based in Queenstown and Tauranga. QT Magazine spoke to executive director Andre Laurent about designing energy efficient homes for the Southern Lakes region.

How do you maximise energy efficiency through architecture?

We guide clients to select the most appropriate construction methods and materials to maximise energy efficiency and passive solar aspects of any home design or building.

You talk about passive solar design, describe what that means to the homeowner?

Through site selection, orientation of living spaces and by selecting the correct materials the home will collect, store, distribute and at times reflect solar energy at no additional cost for the lifetime of the building.



"My focus is on ensuring our clients receive the best service, designs and information our industry has to offer. We aim to be the very best at what we do."

Andre Laurent

What factors should people consider to achieve an energy efficient home?

Selecting an appropriate site with good exposure to the sun is an excellent starting point. Also ensuring the selected construction methods compliment the location while paired with excellent fundamental design. This starts with locating the right spaces in the correct places.

What construction methods and materials enhance a home's energy efficiency?

Any material or combination of materials that create high insulation values and an airtight internal environment dramatically improves energy efficiency. Some good examples are Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs) or Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) among others. We recommend ICFs and SIPs in appropriate locations to regulate interior temperatures, lower energy costs and significantly reduce outdoor sound pollution.

What do you mean by "great design creates great value?"

There is no compromise for taking the time to ensure every aspect of your site and lifestyle is well considered during the design process. This one-time investment will return infinitely as you enjoy your home throughout the years. Great design results in a feeling of complete well-being as you walk into a home that's designed specifically for you. The impact on your life and lifestyle is immeasurable plus you will have a higher value asset for when it's time to move on.



You have been a leader in remediation for many years, what does this involve?

Remediation is utilising specialised training, skills and experience to correct historic construction and designs that do not meet the performance criteria of the building code, resulting in failure. These failures can range from water ingress to structural failures to failures of specified systems like passive or active fire and heating/ventilation among other things.

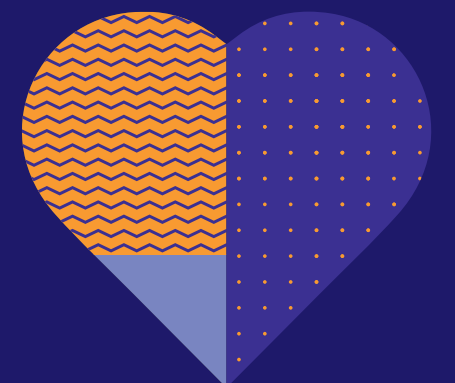
What are the main techniques you use to ensure weather tightness in your designs?

Keep it simple stupid (KISS) — this is all about reducing design complexity and costs while maintaining functionality and fantastic aesthetic appeal. Simple homes are much harder to design. However, they greatly benefit all aspects of any construction project, including budget.

What key piece of advice would you give to new home builders today?

People building a new home should ensure the design is flexible. This means it will work just as well when the kids are grown up as it does when they are young or ensuring the home could be used by a professional couple or a family that intends to care for aging parents. We never know what's ahead so flexible design is key to maximising future value.

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An exciting new neighbourhood is coming together on a former vineyard at the edge of Cromwell town centre.



Artist impression of Barrett Homes on Wooing Tree Park.



Artist impression of Integrity Homes on Wooing Tree Park.

A TRANQUIL PARK OUTLOOK IN A HISTORIC SETTING.

Standing tall in Wooing Tree Park, an exclusive pocket of the Estate, is the historic Wooing Tree itself. This 100-year old landmark has etched its way into local folklore over generations and now serves as an anchor point for the neighbourhood's greenways and cycle trails.

For residents seeking a more tranquil setting with a stunning park outlook, Integrity Homes and Barrett Homes are offering ten all-inclusive house and land packages inspired by the unique landscapes of Central Otago.

During the next two years, the original Wooing Tree Wines vineyard will continue its transformation into a picturesque new neighbourhood bordered by more than a hectare of 20-year-old Pinot Noir vines.

From the outset, owners Steve and Thea Farquharson have been clear in their vision for Wooing Tree Estate. As long term locals of Cromwell, they were determined to do what's right for the land, its history, and the environment in which it sits. The Farquharsons believe this new neighbourhood should have a strong sense of connection with its surroundings and become an integral part of the township offering benefits for everyone.

The decision to locate the new Wooing Tree Wines cellar door at the entrance to the Estate is just one of the ways this vision is coming to life. Scheduled to open in Summer 2024, the cellar door and restaurant will create a social hub for the neighbourhood and provide a unique addition to Cromwell township.

The commercial centre will also be home to childcare education provider, BestStart, which has been approved by the Ministry of Education to open a new purpose-built childcare centre for up to 82 pre-schoolers. Construction is due to start in 2024.

URBAN DESIGN THAT'S RIGHT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

For the team at Baxter Design charged with interpreting the vision and developing the Masterplan for Wooing Tree Estate, the overarching theme of the brief was to create something special for Cromwell that would set a new benchmark for residential development in the area.

Streetscapes, landscaping, and architecture have all come together to create a consistent identity that's tied back to the surrounding landscapes and the character of Cromwell township.

The Masterplan outlines a high level of detail for neighbourhood infrastructure and associated landscaping. Schist stone walls and solid macrocarpa post and rail fences on street corners have been purposefully chosen for their enduring qualities in extreme environments. Exposed concrete thresholds at every intersection provide a visual break from the chip seal roads and assist in reducing traffic speeds for safer cycling and walking.

Height restrictions, positioning of living areas along reserve boundaries, placement of garages, choices of building

materials and colours, site coverage allowances, types of planting, and hard landscaping are all part of a carefully curated list of design guidelines for residents.

The design guidelines ensure dwellings and landscaping align with the aesthetic of Wooing Tree Estate, while still allowing scope to create a look that is uniquely yours.

Cromwell is known for its network of reserves and greenways, which have been continued through Wooing Tree Estate. The recent completion of an underpass

means there is now a safe walking and cycle way from Lake Dunstan to Cromwell township via the Estate. For golfers, the underpass also provides easy walking access to Cromwell Golf Club.

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'Wake up like you're in Paris'

Making their Mark

By Margo Berryman

New owners of Provisions in Arrowtown Matthias Schmitt and Monika Ederer are relishing stamping their mark on the café housed in an original miner's cottage in Buckingham Street.

The professional chefs moved to Arrowtown with their two young children this year after spending more than a decade working and living on Waiheke Island.

"I was head chef at Mudbrick Vineyard & Restaurant while Monika was head pastry chef. We loved island life but were keen for a new adventure and while here on holiday discovered the café was for sale," says Matthias. "Moving here was great timing for our sons both starting kindergarten and primary school and the community has been so friendly and welcoming."

"The café suited us perfectly with Monica's pastry background and my chef background. We are really pleased with the whole foundation that previous owner Jane Shaw has created and our aim is to make it even better while offering a fresh approach."

Originally from Germany the couple share a farming upbringing and a love of the environment.

The café's new seasonal menu features fresh, local ingredients wherever possible including Royalburn Station free range eggs, South Island fish, Central Otago seasonal fruit, Whitestone haloumi cheese, Otago honey and Gibbston microgreens.



Matthias Schmitt & Monika Ederer



"It's been an amazing transition for us and a real learning curve. Our food is contemporary using classic French cooking techniques with some Asian fusion influence to make inventive, flavoursome dishes," says Matthias. "Innovative breakfast dishes like French Toast, Poire Belle Helene featuring poached pears, chocolate ganache with spiced mascarpone and House Smoked Brisket served with bone marrow hollandaise, poached eggs and salsa verde are standouts."

"People love our lunchtime Roasted Pumpkin Soup with coconut and lemongrass foam presented like a cappuccino with froth on the top. Hearty dishes such as Slow Cooked Beef Cheeks and Twice Cooked Pork Belly with apple puree made from our own apples have been popular."

Provisions also has healthy counter food and fresh baking with a range of quiches, salads, cakes, tarts and slices including gluten and dairy free options. All Press coffee is served along with Stir Teas, smoothies and juices, Queenstown Altitude beers and ciders and Central Otago and New Zealand wines.

The recently initiated Trust the Chef evenings on Fridays have a steady following.

"We wanted to introduce an evening option and this is a great way to start slowly. We serve beautifully presented dishes determined by what is seasonally available each week and the feedback has been amazing with plenty of repeat bookings," says Matthias.

"Trust the Chef allows for more inventive finer dining dishes and we serve selected wines and beers as part of the set menu. It is still a lovely casual café atmosphere but diners have been impressed with what is created in our little kitchen."



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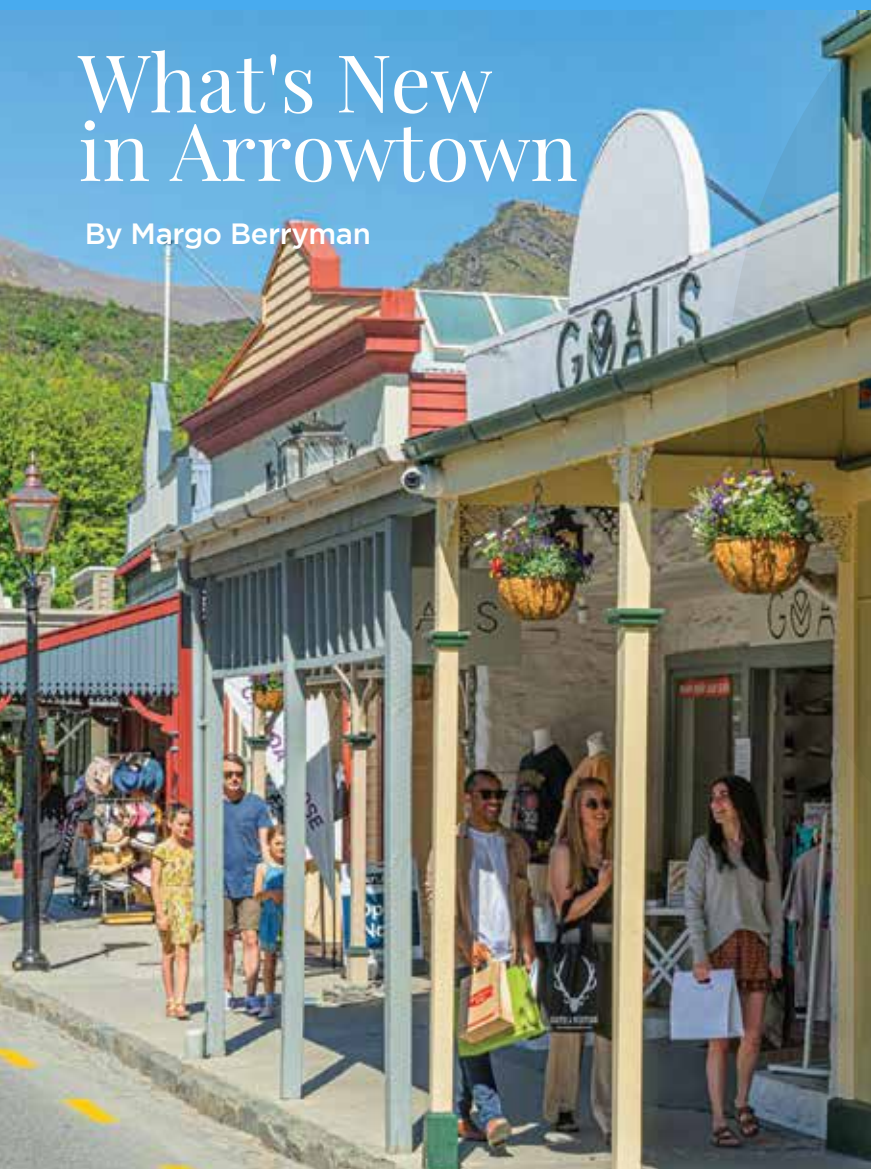
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What's New in Arrowtown

By Margo Berryman



Photograph Martin Silva

Boutique Shopping

Arrowtown is a leading New Zealand destination with an enticing mix of historic buildings and heritage sites combined with contemporary boutique stores, art galleries, cafés and lifestyle shops.

"What we offer is an elevated boutique shopping experience within the historic precinct that is totally unique — there is nowhere else quite like this," says Arrowtown Promotion and Business Association manager Nicky Busst.

"It is the place to come for beautiful, curated fashion shopping with chic boutiques offering exceptional designer brands, clothing and accessories and no chain stores. Visitors love wandering through the streets and laneways to discover the extensive range of high-quality fashion, distinctive homewares and furnishings, luxury souvenirs, jewellery and art."

She says the town's picturesque setting mixed with quality retail provides the appeal.

"Comparative to other larger cities and suburbs Arrowtown punches well above its weight for retail therapy. We constantly receive feedback from visitors who enjoy the fact they get to mix and

meet with local business owners in the shops and galleries."

"It is one of New Zealand's most desirable towns for shopping with so many boutique businesses based here — all within easy walking distance and free parking beside the Arrow River."



Photograph Martin Silva



Photograph Martin Silva

Events Extravaganza

Arrowtown is recognised as an important event destination with the historic town hosting a broad range of events every year.

"Events have a substantial impact on the town's economy and contribute to the considerable number of tourists who visit each year," says Arrowtown Promotion and Business Association manager Nicky Busst. "From sports and culture to food and wine, events profit from the close proximity of our community facilities, biking and walking trails and open spaces such as Butlers Green."

"All the fixtures on our calendar are a boost to the local economy with many community groups benefiting from and supporting these dynamic events."

Arrowtown Spring Flower Show

September 22 2023

1.00pm-5.00pm

The annual Spring Flower Show is organised by the Arrowtown Horticultural Society and 2023 marks its 100th year. A popular community day held in the Athenaeum Hall featuring fresh blooms, decorative floral art, handcrafts, baking, photography, bring and buy sales table and children's entries.



Cyclorama

October 21-22 2023

New Zealand's only e-bike festival is held during Labour Weekend and riders experience a weekend of curated trail experiences and fun bespoke e-bike adventures in and around Arrowtown.

Arrowtown Backyard Ultra Marathon

November 11 2023

The Arrowtown Backyard Ultra based at Butler Green is a race that continues until the last person is standing with competitors running 6.71km on the hour, every hour. The winner is the final person to complete a lap after the rest of the field has retired.

NZ Sotheby's Queenstown Marathon

November 18 2023

Arrowtown welcomes back the NZ Sotheby's International Realty Queenstown Marathon competitors with the event starting close by at Millbrook Resort.

Arrowtown Long Table

December 1 2023

12.00pm

The Arrowtown Long Table, returning for the 12th year, is held in a spectacular setting on Buckingham Street. Many Arrowtown restaurants create special set menus for the lunch and profits will be donated to a local community charity.



The Wild

December 6-10 2023

Organised by the Wild for Nature Trust and celebrating trail and mountain running The Wild is based in Arrowtown and offers runners of all abilities the choice of five mountain runs ranging from 9km to 86km.

Fresh Season Vibes

By Margo Berryman

The definitive spring fashion collections from leading New Zealand and international designers are emerging at Arrowtown fashion boutique Ikon to refresh wardrobes and create a whole new seasonal look for girls and guys.

"Spring fashion is fun and at this time of year everyone is ready to dive into fresh colours, new threads and stylish accessories," says executive director Sophie Gibbs.

"Ikon is one of the very best stores to discover everything you want in one place from designer sunglasses, jewellery, sneakers and shoes to shorts and t-shirts, smart casual denim and gorgeous dresses for a party night out."

1. Australian brand Charlie Holiday brings effortless femininity with skirts, crops and dresses we love. The Gabby Top & Maxi Skirt in white or black colourways and the Ellidy Mini Dress are divine.



2. The pretty colours of You On The Other Side Dress by Coop make it the perfect date night dress or for a spring afternoon wedding party.

3. Jewellery brand Pilgrim has gold plated earrings, rings and chains in the Colby collection. Featuring angular shapes embedded with sparkling Preciosa crystals they make the perfect gift.



4. Ksubi wide legged denim styles are a must have for spring to wear with crop tee or soft shirt for casual street style vibes.



6. Divine spring energy from Mink Pink, with the Sorrento Dress — a colourful classic that will take you from work to weekend in a heartbeat.



5. Scotch & Soda has guys sorted this season with check cotton shirts to style with the latest Diesel sneakers instore now.



8. Classic, contemporary looks from Australian brand Assembly Label are a standout. The Nilsa Pant is a wardrobe essential teamed with a white cotton tee or tank for effortless cool.



9. Ikon is Arrowtown's exclusive stockist of Oтра eyewear offering modern day elegance & glamour. Oтра Chelsea available in Transparent Navy/Brown & Black/Smoke Fade.



7. Tigerlily delivers elevated beach luxury in the Isadora Teja Maxi Dress crafted with intricate lace insert details for a sophisticated look.



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Spring ELEGANCE

By Margo Berryman

New spring fashion continues to arrive at leading fashion boutique Wallace & Gibbs and executive director Delvine Wallace is upbeat about what is instore.

"Spring is a key time of year with many of our local clientele getting ready for the summer season ahead and international visitors enjoying buying beautiful new seasonal fashion — especially from New Zealand and Australian designers — to take home."

Wallace & Gibbs is home to top fashion names such as Trelise Cooper, Curate and Cooper, Ketz-ke, Elm, Liverpool, Foxwood, Paige, New London and Standard Issue with accessories by Saben and Le Specs and footwear by Chaos & Harmony, Kathryn Wilson and Django & Juliette.

"This season showcases unique, luxurious fabrics and effortless pieces for versatility. We have gorgeous dresses for weddings and the festive season."



LEVEL UP

The latest range of bags by leading New Zealand brands Saben and Curate are now at Wallace & Gibbs featuring stunning colourways of pink, green, blue, white and black. These high-quality bags are a chic accessory for any spring outfit.



The new Mia Sandal by Kathryn Wilson features a curved vintage inspired cork platform with woven gladiator upper. Wear with a summer dress, high waisted shorts or your fave flared jeans.

GROOMING UPDATE

Enhance your wardrobe with the Treviso HBD-Blue Shirt crafted from premium



Italian fabrics for a sleek, sophisticated look. Perfect for a special occasion, this Lightblue Fil Noir shirt completes any ensemble. Add a pair of Freddy men's loafers.



EVERYDAY CHIC

Statement ruffles, pretty sleeves and delicate necklines feature in spring tops by Ketz-ke offering the perfect dress up option for skirts, denim and pants. For a dressier look that is simple and effective Ketz-ke offer seasonal prints in colourful tops that are an easy go to this season.



DESIGNER DENIM

Denim by leading international fashion brands Paige and New London is a staple fashion feature at W&G. Choose from a wide selection of styles and designs to keep your denim game on point for spring.



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Gloss & Co nail varnish offers warm coral, golden tones that make you feel like summer is already here. A lovely little gift or seasonal indulgence.



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FOURTH GENERATION FAMILY AFFAIR

By Margo Berryman

Easy Big Trees have been growing high quality plants and trees for over 100 years and the Southland horticultural enterprise is the largest of its kind in the South Island.

"We offer an extended range of the highest quality plants and trees, all expertly cared for with the wisdom and experience that comes from being a fourth-generation family business," says sales and marketing manager Barney Harrison.

The Harrison family first started growing plants in 1918 and today their extended collection of natives, deciduous trees, fruit trees and shrubs are grown on over 30 acres in Southland.

"We supply plants for all property sizes but our speciality is large gardens catering to almost everything needed for clients to create their own world of beauty. People are often surprised how big the trees are," he says. "The Harrison's Heritage Collection of advanced age specimens can be up to 20 years old, so people can choose a mature oak tree and we're able to transport and plant it in their garden. These large scale specimen trees create an instant, storied aesthetic to any garden environment."

Easy Big Trees deliver to the Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago region on a weekly basis.

"The Queenstown-Lakes area is very well-known to us. Take a stroll around Millbrook and other local residences including The Hills and chances are the trees have been by supplied by us. A number of these projects are viewable on our website, all in glorious technicolour particularly in autumn when the region really comes alive."

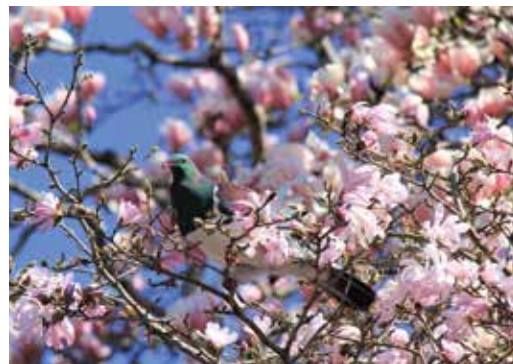
"We have everything you need to create your own world of beauty."



Orders can be placed with Easy Big Trees in person or online and the company also operates a grow to order service.

"Our website contains a treasure trove of information, including an easy-to-use filtering option to help identify the plants by desirable characteristics, such as those that attract birds. There is advice on what plants are suitable for and information about several completed projects. We are always happy to help answer questions and offer advice over the phone, by email or here at the nursery," says Barney.

"For large numbers of plants bookings are advisable at least nine months in advance. Our grow to order service ensures we grow the number of plants you want to the specified height, making sure they reach the correct size when you want them."



GARDENS & GALLERIES SUPPORT PLUNKET

By Jenny McLeod

The inaugural Arrowtown Creative Arts Society (ACAS) Gardens & Galleries tour in the Whakatipu Basin in February next year is designed as a destination event with Plunket as its charity.

Initiated by Margot Robinson, who has previously hosted the ACAS Opera in the Garden at her home, and well-known landscape designer Paddy Baxter it replaces the annual one-day Plunket garden tour and is scheduled for Thursday February 8 until Sunday February 11.

"We are reinventing the garden tour run for the past ten years by Plunket by adding art galleries and combining with ACAS who are staging Opera in the Garden 2024 on the Sunday night," says Margot.

"There is a wonderful new selection of gardens ranging from tiny to extensive and the artists' trails in Arrowtown and Queenstown represent a diverse group of local painters and sculptors. Artists' talks and workshops along with art focused movies at Dorothy Browns cinema are also planned."

"We think the event will become an important one on the calendar attracting garden and art lovers from all over the country. At the same time we hope to raise significant funds for Plunket which is such a worthy cause."



PLUNKET SAFE HAVEN

Plunket's annual garden tour has been its chief fundraiser for the past decade with money raised being retained and spent in the Whakatipu Basin.

"We are excited about the new image for the tour next year with the addition of galleries to the mix," says community services & injury prevention co-ordinator Elessa Impey. "The money from ticket sales will go towards operating costs for our Plunket rooms in Queenstown and Arrowtown."

She says Plunket provides a safe community and is especially welcoming for new families in the district.

"Fundraising is ongoing to provide the right level of support and the event will raise the necessary funds for much needed resources for our facilities."

The official opening of Garden and Galleries will be held at the Lakes District Museum on Thursday February 8 at 6.00pm with Friday February 9 and Saturday February 10 set aside for the tour of both gardens and galleries from 10.00am until 4.00pm. The event coincides with the ACAS Opera in the Garden on Sunday February 11 starting at 5.00pm.

Plunket will host an afternoon tea at the Arrowtown Community Centre on Friday and Saturday from 2.00pm until 4.00pm for garden tour ticket holders and the programme includes children's art and garden competitions.



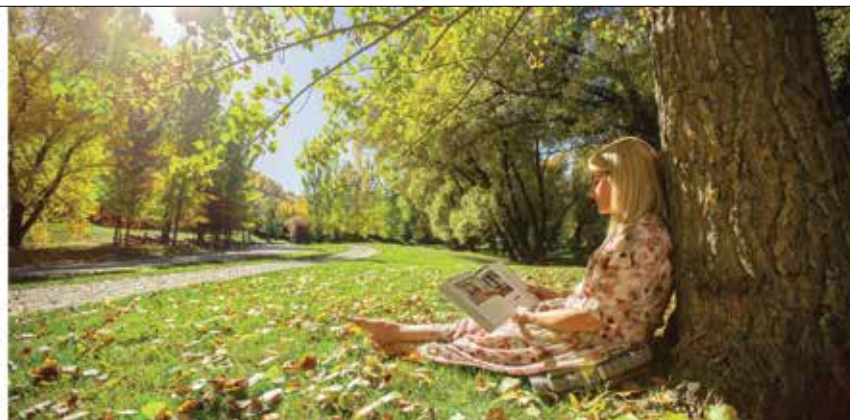
Volunteer Ella Wilson & Elessa Impey

"Plunket has been my second living room and I couldn't have survived without my Plunket family. It's a wonderful safe haven where families can relax in a supportive child friendly environment."

Plunket Parent



Arrowtown artist Jenny Mehrrens' gallery



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Living the Dream

By Jenny McLeod

Living the dream as an artist, sculptor Fiona Garlick exhibits and sells her work in her Arrowtown gallery, creating her pieces in the studio behind and residing with her son in the quaint cottage out the back.

"I like to think of my gallery, which is located on the treelined Buckingham Street just a short walk from the village centre, as a working studio where people can

find me and talk to me about the bronze sculptures I produce and watch some of the process."



Fiona Garlick

Artist's love of colour

By Jenny McLeod

Spring breathes new life into the rural home, garden and gallery of Queenstown artist Angus Watson and his many paintings on display reflect his love of colour.

"Another year has passed and I have been painting prolifically turning the surrounding spectacular landscape into vibrant, contemporary colours."

Angus enjoys commissioned work.

"I paint all manner of subjects including people, horses, cows, dogs, boats and holiday memories. All it takes is to provide a favourite photo and I can create a special painting."

Angus holds an annual exhibition in January at his Dalefield gallery and the 2024 edition of his popular calendar will be available in November both online and from his studio.



Angus Watson Gallery

Fiona's work is influenced by the surrounding environment – "it's very much about Arrowtown and its native species and what I call the 'charming invaders' which are the introduced flora and fauna."

Leaving a career in documentary production in London Fiona attended Falmouth College of Art in Cornwall before completing an honours degree in Fine Arts at Elam in Auckland.

She moved to Arrowtown 14 years ago becoming a full-time artist when she opened her gallery in 2022 and has recently had a solo exhibition at her representing gallery in Auckland.

"I love to make work for the outdoor environment which everyone can experience and I have pieces all around the country — a Waiheke Island vineyard, Auckland, Northland and Christchurch private gardens and a couple in Australia."



Lavender Farm

"I also have a range of greetings cards plus a selection of prints available for purchase which are a great souvenir of my work."

Angus loves to share his home and gallery with visitors.

"My gallery is open as long as I am home. Simply roll up the drive at 355 Littles Road Dalefield or call me on 027 4428488 or email gus@anguswatson.com to double check I am available — I am always happy to welcome people from both New Zealand and overseas and discuss my work."

Authentic Jade Jewellery

By Margo Berryman

One of Arrowtown's oldest, heritage buildings in Buckingham Street houses The Jade and Opal Factory which has been creating original jade sculpture and jewellery collections for over three decades.

Lee-Roy Mullings, a master carver in his own right, heads the business started by his father Gary Mullings in the early 1990s and there is wide recognition for the quality of their bespoke jade pieces.

"It is the history and the cultural aspect of jade that attracts international visitors and locals," says Lee-Roy. "New Zealand Māori first started shaping it for tools and weapons because they had no access to steel and then progressed to jewellery for their people."

"The colour and beautiful lustre of the stone is quite magical and people really respond to the jewellery and the larger sculptures we carve here onsite." Lee-Roy trained under renowned Queenstown master carver Rob Lynes and the family business has been dedicated to handcrafting raw stone into original and beautiful pieces.

An array of traditional jade jewellery such as Toki, Koru, Fishhook, Pee Disc and Twist pendants are made by Lee-Roy in the store's boutique carving studio.



Lee-Roy Mullings

"It's what we have always done and will continue to do," he says. "The carving process takes time and patience with smaller pieces like pendants and earrings anywhere from a few hours to the larger sculptures that require several weeks or even up to a month to complete."

"Our customers appreciate the authenticity and respond to the sculptural aspect with each design dependent very much on how I choose to carve the piece. That's often dictated by the stone itself — as to shape, size, colour and any natural fractures — that I am working with. Every carver carves differently and sees something different in the stone."

Visitors to The Jade and Opal Factory can glimpse Lee-Roy at work in the studio where nothing is left to waste and any left over stone is tumbled and polished into small specimen pieces for people to buy.

"New Zealand Jade makes ideal gifts particularly for guys who might not wear jewellery. We sell a lot of jade pendants for Christmas gifts, birthday presents, weddings and for couples starting a family. It is a unique and natural gift ideal for visitors to take home as a memory of their time in New Zealand."



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Reserve Revitalised

By Jenny McLeod

A previously desolate wildlife reserve beside Queenstown's Shotover River has been revitalised by the Tucker Beach community providing support for endangered braided river nesting birds and creating an attractive riverside environment.

Chairman of the Friends of Tucker Beach Wildlife Reserve Rose Barnett says the group of around 30 residents was formed six years ago in response to concerns about the state of the 150-hectare Department of Conservation (DOC) reserve.

"It was a very unpleasant place to visit being completely overgrown with weeds and broom and really just a dumping site on the banks of the Shotover with seven or eight burnt out car wrecks, old computers, furniture, carcasses and household rubbish littering the area."

Enter the Friends group which was motivated to clean up the site and in particular provide an improved nesting habitat for three endangered New Zealand bird species — banded dotterels, black fronted tern and the black billed gull.

"We had a combined mission to enhance the habitat for the birds and plant native species to help restore the biodiversity of the land as well as ensuring the reserve became a pleasant place to visit," says Rose. "To achieve this we applied to the Lotteries Board for a grant from the Environment and Heritage Fund to design a plan for the reserve."

The project had the backing of DOC and involved three consultants with a resulting document setting out the group's vision and strategy for the reserve.

While initially subscriptions, along with a small grant from DOC, kickstarted the undertaking it was the Jobs for Nature funding made available by the government during the Covid-19 pandemic that allowed things to advance quickly.

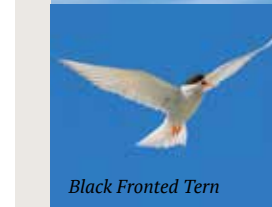
Black Fronted Tern



Banded Dotterel



Black Billed Gull



Black Fronted Tern



Banded Dotterel



Tucker Beach Reserve - Black Billed Gull

"The government's programme was designed to keep young people, normally employed in tourism, in jobs in the conservation space. We partnered with the GSD workforce which is a subsidiary of AJ Hackett Bungy NZ and received a grant of \$1 million to clear almost ten per cent of the reserve and plant five hectares in natives."

Over the last two years the GSD team, along with support from community volunteers, has achieved those targets hand clearing 18-hectares of weeds and broom and planting 25,000 native varieties.

"We have definitely made solid progress and this year our breeding habitat has been amazing," says Rose. "The birds, particularly the terns and gulls, are nesting and breeding in numbers that haven't been seen before. People are also coming back to the reserve and there is the added bonus of the Queenstown Trail going through it."

She says people using the area when the birds are nesting and breeding in the gravels from the end of August until the end of February are encouraged to remain on tracks away from the Shotover River.

"Dogs need to be kept on leads and we ask that people refrain from riding motorbikes and quadbikes in the river during this period so that the birds are not disturbed."

While expectations for the upgrade of the reserve have so far been exceeded the Friends group is concerned about maintaining the gains it has made and Rose says the current incorporated society is transitioning to a charitable trust and will be sourcing further funding for the project.

"This will allow us to employ people to continue working in the reserve. We want to provide a beautiful place for people to enjoy and the more we can do to enhance the area for both visitors and the wildlife, the better. We are proud of the results to date and grateful for the ongoing assistance of DOC, the widespread community support and the excellent collaboration we have with other local conservation groups."

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Five Mile Fast Growing

By Jane Brooke

Spring marks six years since Queenstown's Five Mile launched with the shopping centre today one of the region's fastest growing retail destinations.

"We have a vibrant array of clothing stores offering everything from sports and outdoor clothing to streetstyle and footwear," says Five Mile retail manager Regan Allington. "Our centralised location with easy, free parking makes Five Mile a must visit for both locals and visitors."

Five Mile sports outlets sell a range of sporting equipment including golf clubs, bikes and running gear.

"Stores represented at Five Mile include Rebel Sports, Stirling Sports, Kathmandu, Bivouac Outdoor, Alta and Cactus Outdoor. Shoppers can discover an excellent range of equipment, activewear and high performance gear ideal for families and sports enthusiasts alike."

New Zealand outdoor brand ilabb is a recent arrival at File Mile housed in the Sudima Hotel complex.

"Designed and tested in New Zealand ilabb stocks everything from merino underwear to smart and comfortable gym gear, lifestyle clothing and mountain bike riding essentials. It is a great addition to the Five Mile lifestyle offering," says Regan.

"With the Christmas shopping season upon us there are plenty of gift shopping options here as well including Brandland, Peak Interiors, Look Sharp and the Five Mile Pharmacy."



Streetwear at Five Mile

North Beach and Boardertown at Five Mile are the places to head for stylish new season clothing from international streetstyle brands like Nike, Adidas, Patagonia and Dickies.

Boardertown store manager Alex Lucchese says he loves to engage with customers.

"Talking to people about the snow and board culture that we truly believe in — it's the best thing ever."

An avid snowboarder who has built mountain terrain parks around the world Alex's favourite brand is Carhartt.

"I also appreciate all the independent, international skate brands Boardertown has instore with an excellent range of new spring gear now here as well."



Alex Lucchese



Environmental Initiatives

An ongoing programme of sustainable initiatives to reduce waste and minimise environmental impacts has been established at the Sudima Hotel and Podium Restaurant.

Hotel manager Ali Appelman says they are committed to becoming a zero-waste business. "Kitchen initiatives include swapping plastic wrap out for beeswax wraps and reusable containers and replacing toothpicks and skewers with reusable metal options."

"We set up a partnership with local sustainability guru Michael Sly with a pilot scheme to use the hotel's coffee waste to produce nutrient rich compost. The scheme has been expanded to include our food waste and the programme saved an impressive 320kg from landfill in its first month."

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Zoë & Morgan is very much a family affair with siblings Zoe, Morgan and Ruth following in the footsteps of their jeweller father. They have combined their love for jewellery, music and fashion to create luxury pieces.

Inspired by global travels, their handmade collection is a classic mix of youthful playfulness and mature sophistication. Delicate yet clever rings and pendants feature timeless motifs.

All Zoë & Morgan jewellery is responsibly produced, using recycled sterling silver and gold and natural gemstones.

Fashion newness also arrives through the introduction of British fashion label JW Anderson, known for pushing designs that challenge the norm, along with minimalist and contemporary Swedish brand Acne Studios.

Discover T Galleria by DFS Queenstown with its selection of over 120 both local and international brands catering to fashion enthusiasts, beauty lovers, watch collectors, jewellery fanatics, wine connoisseurs and more.

For more information visit [DFS.com](https://dfs.com)

WINNING FORMULA

T Galleria by DFS Queenstown's luxury retail destination, has introduced leading New Zealand fashion brands to its style portfolio in the form of an exciting new pop up.

The central Queenstown luxury retailer is now home to rock'n'roll brand Stolen Girlfriends Club, avant-garde designs from WORLD and alluring modern jewellery from Zoë & Morgan.

The launch of the Stolen Girlfriends Club range at T Galleria by DFS Queenstown gives customers a unique opportunity to discover the latest in eyewear, accessories and core ready-to-wear.

"We're incredibly excited to partner with DFS to showcase our brand to an international audience," says Stolen Girlfriends Club founder and creative director Marc Moore.

He says Stolen Girlfriends Club's rebellious spirit, romantic heart and infamous runway shows have blurred the lines between high fashion and street fashion.

WORLD, established by Dame Denise L'Estrange-Corbet and Francis Hooper, is recognised for its eclectic and avant-garde designs. Fuelled by energy and passion their vision and work has seen the label develop into what it is today from a cupboard at the back of an arcade.

Later into WORLD's journey the brand welcomed the creative expertise of Benny Castles who assumed the roles of creative director and designer. Their work has challenged expectations of New Zealand fashion through innovative use of intense clashing colour combinations and daring incorporation of eccentric fabrics.



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The name of the game

By Tom Kalliber

A growing number of players at Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) sports venues in Queenstown and Wānaka are enjoying a new racket sport with an unusual name.

Wānaka programme coordinator Assistant Tegan Duffy says pickleball is a cross between tennis and table tennis played on a badminton-size court.

"It sounds quirky but the rules are simple. The ball has holes, a bit like a larger version of practice golf balls, and you use a paddle to hit it over a low net. The pace is slower than tennis and the court is smaller but it's competitive and still a great workout."

Tegan says pickleball's popularity has exploded around the world in recent years.

"One of its attractions is how accessible it is for different types of people. Matches can be singles or doubles and we often see youngsters playing together with older folk. There's as much of a social side to the game as a physical one."

And the name?

"Apparently the game was invented by a family with a dog named Pickle. Every time the ball rolled away from the court they used to shout 'Pickle!Ball!' to fetch it back."



Walking down memory lane

By Tom Kalliber

A tiled pathway marking significant moments in history has returned to the Wānaka lakefront.

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) General Manager Community Services Ken Bailey says the recently completed project is a reimagining of the old Millennium Pathway created by volunteers some 20 years ago and removed recently as part of the area's redevelopment.

"This project would not have been possible without the amazing work undertaken by caring and committed locals who first envisaged and built the Millennium Pathway. The new feature is called Te Ara Maumahara, meaning a memory lane or path, and acknowledges those who have come before us and the moments that matter to our community."

The 1200 tiles laid next to the shared walking and biking pathway between McDougall and Dunganon Streets mark the end of stage two of the council's Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan.

"More than half the tiles are laser-etched detailing the year and information about significant events which have taken place around the world, in Aotearoa New Zealand and in the Upper Clutha over the last thousand years," he says. "I am sure the new pathway will give residents and visitors even more reason to enjoy a stroll along Wānaka's beautiful lakefront."

"We would like to acknowledge the dedication and generosity of everyone involved with Te Ara Maumahara especially Dr Michael Stevens, Ed Waddington, the Upper Clutha Historical Records Society and QLDC Parks Officer Diana Manson."



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SIMPLIFIED SOLUTIONS

By Tom Kalliber

From design concepts and project management to installation and delivery Central Otago based Power Solutions is a results driven company.



Mark Laming



Managing director Mark Laming has shaped the company that works specifically with developers, surveyors, planners, local councils and roading authorities to provide effective power solutions for a broad range of infrastructure, building and land development.

"Power Solutions started in 2018 with the vision to offer a simplified solution to the electrical distribution network. We became an Aurora contractor in 2021 and have since become the leading customer initiated works contractor."

"We work with companies, private land owners, farmers and agricultural contractors and local councils to provide purpose designed power services that are both time and budget efficient."

Mark Laming

initiated works contractor."

The company has a reputation for its expertise in subdivisions, street lighting, capacity upgrades, network design and power services, new connections and high voltage inspections.

"I started the company in 2018 and was joined by Alex Gaffaney as a principal partner in 2022," says Mark. "Over the past four years we have rapidly grown due to regional development demands and now operate with a team of eight staff including fully qualified cable jointers, designers, inspectors, electricians and technicians."

"Power Solutions is a one point of call for any infrastructure project or development. Our team are industry experts committed to providing power solutions across the board including more complex and challenging situations."

The company has worked with the Jack's Point network extension, Mt Iron Junction roundabout, Frankton Marine electrification project, Parkins Bay golf development and Devon Dairies solar farm among other projects.

Mark says their point of difference is the ability to engineer solutions for all sized projects.

"We are invested in our clients' success and offer simple solutions to what can often be a complex process. The ability to provide one point of contact from design to completion is a significant advantage and our team has the confidence and ability to design and modify network developments as projects change and progress."



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Indoor Golf Simulator Launched

By Jenny McLeod

Indoor golf has arrived in Queenstown with the opening of Golf Federation in the centre of the resort.



Ben played golf professionally, including on the Australian circuit, before training as a coach.

The indoor golf simulator in Athol Street is the brainchild of PGA golf professional Ben Guilford who saw an opportunity for a facility where people can practice and play golf in all weathers while taking advantage of the latest in golf technology.

"The power of data-led insights is incredible for improving a golfer's game, not to mention what virtual reality can do for bringing the game indoors."

Golf Federation has four golf simulator bays equipped with the ball tracking technology TrackMan and also provides a club fitting service, professional coaching and a retail store featuring golfing apparel from leading brands.

"Golf enthusiasts love the real time feedback and insights into their swing and performance with more than 250 virtual golf courses available and a range of games to suit both beginners and experienced players. It is designed as a family friendly facility for people to get involved in golf and people love to play holes at prominent world-class courses such as St Andrews and Pebble Beach."

"We are keen to attract locals as well as visitors to the facility," says Ben, "and we offer a discounted simulator hire rate for people with local golf club memberships. We also run a weekly indoor golf league and simulator bays can be hired for small and larger events."

"I've always had an interest in golf technology and have been an early adopter of tech for coaching which has seen a lot of advances in recent years. I see Golf Federation as adding another string to the bow of Queenstown which is recognised as New Zealand's golf mecca."

Ben Guilford



Valuing Volunteers

New Zealand Golf Open volunteer sponsor SBS Bank has committed to supporting the 450 plus volunteers for the next two years.

"The New Zealand Open's volunteer programme supports a large number of the Otago and Southland community members and aligns with SBS Bank's values so we are proud to continue the relationship we have," says CEO Mark McLean.

"The tournament makes a great impact in the South Island, both financial and for the sports fans in the region, and it's great to see many of our staff getting involved through our staff volunteer leave policy."

New Zealand Open volunteer manager Ben Ashford says "in the past four tournaments since SBS Bank came on board we have seen over 75 per cent of volunteers return year-on-year which shows they value the programme and the support given by SBS".



Photograph Photosport.NZ

New Zealand Open 2023 Champion Brendan Jones with SBS Bank Volunteers



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SILVER SIXPENCE SKIN & SPA

By Margo Berryman

A core belief in inner beauty and skin care led beauty therapist Alecia Hodgson to immerse herself in the industry and subsequently open Silver Sixpence skin clinic and spa in Wānaka.

"After qualifying from Christchurch's National School of Aesthetics I went to Canada for spa experience and then travelled to various countries. This provided excellent grounding for what works and what clients ultimately desire from their beauty clinic."

Returning to Wānaka from her travels Alecia set up a mobile beauty bus at Cardrona Alpine Resort.

"My goal was to create a job that I loved going to everyday and offer luxury spa treatments in a mobile environment. The beauty bus was a way for me not to feel trapped in one place and we catered to hens' parties, glampers and ski bunnies."



Alecia Hodgson



But she was intent on owning her own skin clinic and spa and to achieve this stepped out of her comfort zone to drive trucks in the Australian mines for two years.

"I saved the money to open Silver Sixpence and I'm so happy to have taken the risk of creating this new business venture."

Silver Sixpence is based at Three Parks and has a range of high-quality treatments focusing on long-term skin health, beauty enhancements and indulgent relaxation therapies.

"While the initial focus was skincare, our new luxury spa experience is dedicated to creating an oasis of calm and our clients love it. There are four treatment rooms, a twin tiled shower with infrared sauna and pedicure station with massage chairs," says Alecia. "We offer medical grade infrared, hot oil and fizzing cocoa body wraps, massage and spa facial treatments and cater for large groups and wedding parties."

"My team are constantly educating themselves to ensure best practice and I recently attended the Inmode conference in Australia. Our bright, clean clinical room is used for injectables and laser and we have Morpheus8 and FormaV treatments which are my current favourites."



Alecia's ambition has come to fruition and she

is excited about the next chapter.

"I feel very grounded in Wānaka and we have a lovely fun environment. Seeing clients walk out in a dreamy state or happy with the change in their skin is the motivation for my team of seven to come to work each day."

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DESIGN + BUILD SERIES 2023

19TH + 20TH OCTOBER

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Highlights:

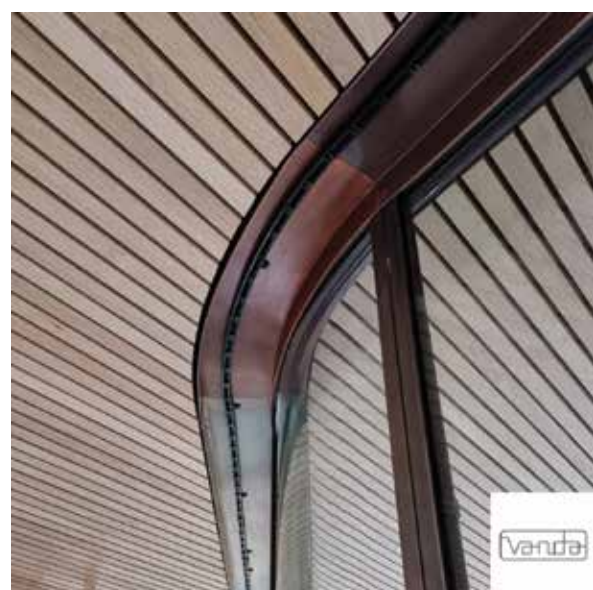
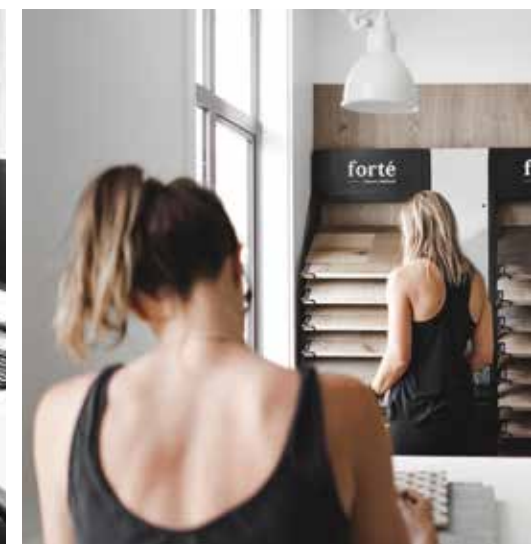
Thursday 19th October

- **9am: Vanda** | Window treatments to fit even the most challenging situation.
- **9.45am: Woodland Lifestyle** | Flooring and building acoustics.
- **11.15am: Dulux** | Reimagine your home, create the perfect palette for your home.
- **2.15pm: Bremworth – Why Wool?** | Demonstrating how wool is resistant to staining and introducing felted wool.
- **3.45pm: Terrazzo & Stone** | Terrazzo & Stone purveyors of quality European made Terrazzo.

Friday 20th October

- **1.30pm: Genia** | Add natural warmth and depth to your space with Genia Architecture's range of quality timber products.
- **2.15pm: JSC** | Embracing cutting-edge technology and innovation to drive our business forward, with ground-breaking new timber products.
- **3pm: PDL** | Home automation made easy.
- **3.45pm: CBG Construction** | Crafting High Performance, Passive, healthy homes.
- **4.30pm: Wānaka Solar** | Your solar energy experts.

Scan the QR Code to get a full schedule of presentations:



DESIGN TALK

Forté Flooring - Specifying for E3 made easy and an overview of all that Forté has to offer.

Date: Thursday 19th October 2023

Time: 1.30pm

Forté have recently achieved a CodeMark certification for the Forté Timber Overlay Flooring System. This makes specification easy and ensures a simple compliance pathway for architects to gain consent from council for installing wood flooring in wet areas with the building code changes to E3.

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more premium range of flooring, Artiste Rustic which offers a rustic and time-worn look, created using specialist artisan techniques.

We'll give an overview of what each of our Collections offer as well as their retail price and specifications.

Please register your interest in attending by emailing info@adlibrary.nz

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Andi

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Showcasing emerging and international talent

By Jane Brooke



World-leading chamber musicians will be on stage in the Southern Lakes region in October when the At the World's Edge Festival (AWE) returns for its third successive year.



Founded by internationally renowned Kiwi violinists Justine Cormack (festival director) and Benjamin Baker (artistic director) the festival, from October 7 until October 20, offers a mix of concerts and free events featuring high-profile musicians.

"The fortnight long festival is as inspiring and thought provoking as the name suggests, showcasing international and local talent, emerging artists and unmissable events," says Justine.

"The theme of this year's festival explores the dimensions of identity, delving into new perspectives, overlapping realities and cultural realms being crossed. These ideas are fleshed out by the carefully curated programme and musicians, some hailing from as far afield as Finland, Estonia, China and Germany."

The AWE Festival opens in Queenstown with *Sono*, paying tribute to the works of three composers including this year's Composer in Residence Victoria Kelly before travelling to Bannockburn and Cromwell and on to Wānaka.

"Each of the six programmes are played in intimate and stunning venues deeply connected to the land that surrounds them. They include Te Atamira in Queenstown, Rippon in Wānaka, the Cloudy Bay Shed in Cromwell and the Coronation Hall in Bannockburn." "In a region filled with adrenaline lovers and outdoor enthusiasts, AWE offers an unmatched opportunity for people to immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of world-class chamber musicians, wrapped in mountains and surrounded by music as thrilling, impressive and commanding as the landscapes in which it is performed," says Justine.

Free events & performances

The 2023 AWE Festival has an exciting array of free events and performances throughout the two-week October festival.

The events include open rehearsals, composer and musician talks, a music and dance event and an exhibition at Queenstown's Te Atamira by photographer Abhi Chinniah.

"A festival highlight on October 13 will begin with a showcase of some of Aotearoa's promising emerging artists," says festival director Justine Cormack. "The night then flows into *Sei Solo*, a music and dance performance featuring the extraordinary dance duo CONJAH and world-leading violinist and AWE artistic director, Benjamin Baker. To conclude the festival artists will play to over 2000 students throughout Central Otago while secondary school pupils have the chance to attend one-on-one composition workshops with Victoria Kelly, this year's AWE Composer in Residence."

For tickets and more information on free events
www.worldsedgefestival.com



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ELEGANT STATEMENT

A stylish selection of international designer fashion makes an elegant statement at Wānaka's Escape Clothing which has attracted a dedicated following since opening in 2002.

"Wānaka has grown massively since then and the business has really developed with the town. I think our customers are much more fashion focused today and the store reflects this with beautiful designer pieces for each season," says owner Lucy Lucas.

The Ardmore Street store offers every day fashion pieces from leading designers such as Loobies Story, Morrison, Paige and Verge to celebrated resort wear and wedding brands which include Trelise Cooper, Moss & Spy and Camilla.

"Camilla is an exceptional fashion label for us offering beautiful garments in signature silks with incredible print placement and exceptional tailoring," she says. "These pieces are distinctive in their design and very easy to wear and make your own."

"Trelise Cooper is a remarkably good ambassador for New Zealand fashion and customers enjoy her clothing along with our extensive collection of designer swimwear from brands including Camilla, Jets, Melissa Odabash and Seafolly."

Shop online escapeclothing.co.nz



LABOUR OF LOVE

The Wānaka Arts Labour Weekend Exhibition draws approximately 150 artists from across New Zealand to the annual event and 2023 is no exception.



Agate Rubene

With a festive opening night featuring live music, drinks, canapes and awards totalling over \$6,000 the four-day art extravaganza is a significant Labour Weekend drawcard.

This year's guest artists are surrealist John Walsh (exhibition artist-in-residence) and Central Otago painters Rachel Hirabayashi and Neil Driver. Working artists whose art will be on display include painter Agate Rubene and ceramicist Esperance Steven and more artists will be announced prior to the event.

The exhibition runs from Thursday October 19 from 5.00pm – 8.00pm and Friday October 20 until Sunday October 22 from 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Details and ticket sales are online at wanakartsociety.co.nz



Cuisine

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AWARDS 2023/2024

CUISINE HAT

Award-winning Wānaka restaurant Kika has cemented its reputation as a leading Central Otago eatery receiving a coveted hat for a second successive year at the recent Good Food Awards hosted by Cuisine Magazine.

The Dunmore Street restaurant also received a surprise nomination for Regional Restaurant of the Year at the awards.

"We are so stoked with this recognition for Kika and so proud of the entire team who work exceptionally hard to steer the ship every day," says owner James Stapley. "They are all absolute legends."

"I'm also proud of my other Wānaka restaurants Paloma and Arc for making it into the Cuisine Good Food Guide alongside Kika — we are over the moon with this result!"

Book a table online kika.nz



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SIMPLY SOLAR

By Penny Simpson

Cromwell based Infinite Energy celebrates ten years in business this year with innovation the backbone of their success according to CEO Regan Heal.

“Our team’s technical expertise has allowed us to play a leading role in the design and delivery of bespoke and complex systems for a massive range of applications. As a family run business we have grown to a peak of 19 staff with sales continuing to grow dramatically as solar power becomes normalised while energy costs continue to soar.”

“A personalised approach allows our technical team to hand-pick products for quality and performance specific to each job. We have a broad supply chain and no formal ties to any one brand which enables us to match a suitable solution to each unique location. This is not a one size fits all approach.”

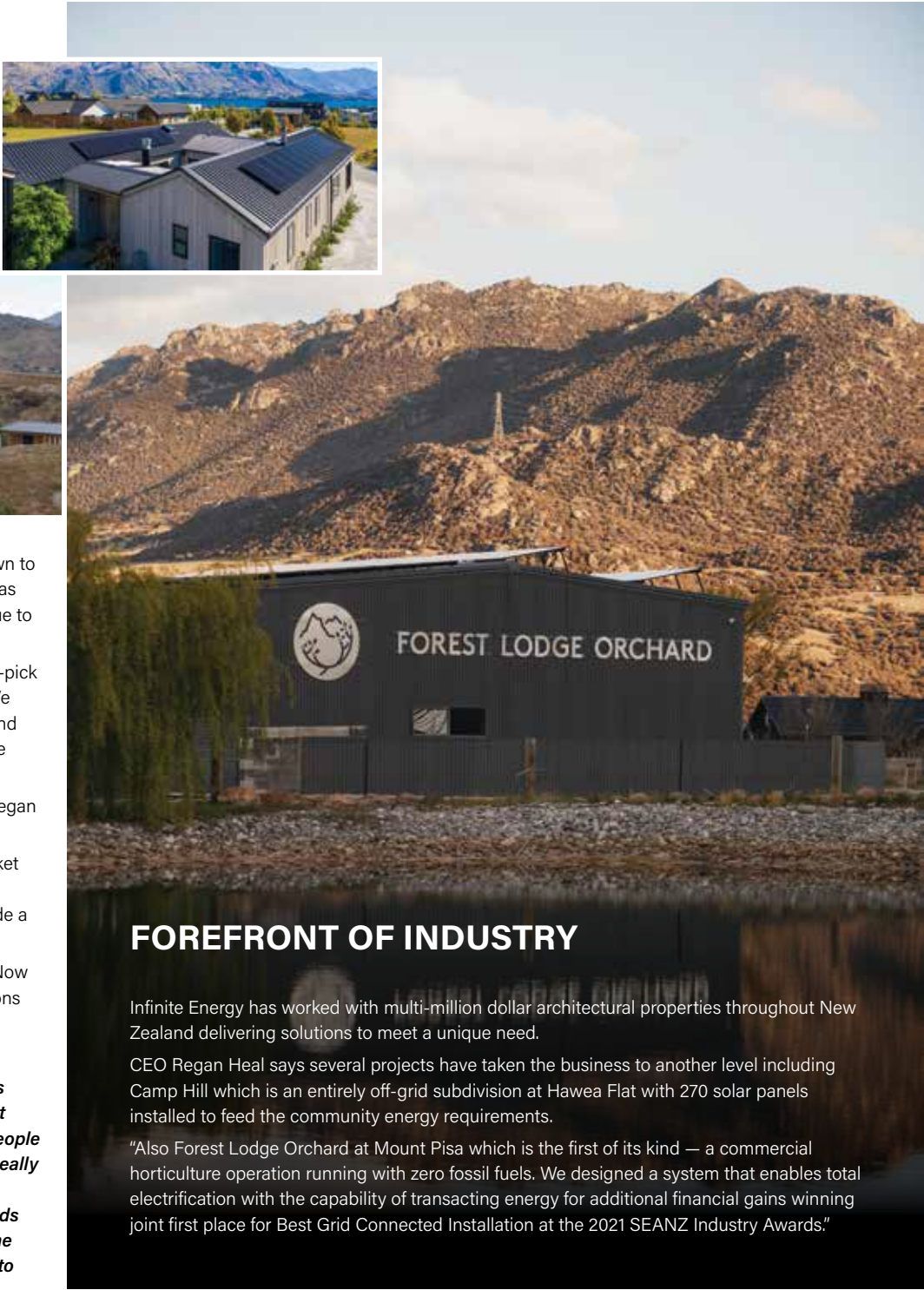
With solar technology constantly changing and improving Regan says Infinite Energy is at the forefront of industry upgrades.

“Battery storage has been a game changer for the local market where power outages can be frequent and disruptive. Today around 60 per cent of all systems we design and build include a battery component which is a smart solution.”

“We started out installing panels rated for 205W per panel. Now we have products exceeding 400W in residential specifications and much larger for commercial and utility scale projects. Batteries have been the big mover with lithium ion batteries making home energy storage more available and safer than ever before.”

Regan says there is a clear industry message for all New Zealand consumers.

“As New Zealand strives towards electricity moving to ten per cent renewable resources we want people to understand that solar power really works. It’s great for homes and businesses alike saving thousands in energy costs over the life of the system while also helping us all to reduce our emissions.”



FOREFRONT OF INDUSTRY

Infinite Energy has worked with multi-million dollar architectural properties throughout New Zealand delivering solutions to meet a unique need.

CEO Regan Heal says several projects have taken the business to another level including Camp Hill which is an entirely off-grid subdivision at Hawea Flat with 270 solar panels installed to feed the community energy requirements.

“Also Forest Lodge Orchard at Mount Pisa which is the first of its kind – a commercial horticulture operation running with zero fossil fuels. We designed a system that enables total electrification with the capability of transacting energy for additional financial gains winning joint first place for Best Grid Connected Installation at the 2021 SEANZ Industry Awards.”

SEAMLESS QUALITY SERVICE

By Penny Simpson

Wānaka business The Napery by Pacific Linen reflects years of experience in the clothing and film industry for managing director Jo Staveley.

“I became interested in the supply of products and services to corporate events in the mid-1990s when I was working as a body double for the Gabrielle character on the television series Xena and attending gala dinners and film industry wrap parties.”

“My mother had purchased a laundromat in South Auckland and my sister Gaylene and I started making and hiring chair covers. We then established the brand Pacific Linen in 2000 expanding to commercial premises and eventually opening a South Island distribution hub in Cromwell in 2012,” says Jo. “We purchased the local laundry in 2015 expanding into public and commercial laundering services.”

“We opened the Wānaka operation post Covid-19 lock down for the convenience of our residential and commercial customers. We supply local trades from caterers, venues and event management companies to wedding stylists, restaurants and accommodation providers. There was a definite gap in the market and the response has been amazing.”

Focusing on sustainability and eco friendly laundering The Napery by Pacific Linen offers a range of options including personal household services like sheet pressing, curtain cleaning, garment repairs and basic alterations and woollen clothing depilling.

The business is a member of several industry bodies including Hire Industry Association of New Zealand (HIANZ), the Drycleaners and Laundered Association of New Zealand (DLANZ) and Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA) as well as Wānaka’s Wedding Collective and QT Wedding Association.

“We also support local charities like Westpac Helicopters in Christchurch and The Cancer Society Ball in Queenstown,” says Jo. “My friendly, hardworking team delivers efficient, professional quality services and we make the process as seamless as possible dealing with any last-minute linen or laundry emergencies and offering an after hours drop off and pick up service. We also have an onsite recycled clothing boutique that sells specialist haberdashery and yarn.”



Jo Staveley

ECO PRINCIPLES

An advocate for reducing textile landfill The Napery’s managing director Jo Staveley ensures the business follows eco principles wherever possible.

“Up-cycling items like cutting down tablecloths into napkins and towels for rags through to extending the lifeline of linen items and garments by spot cleaning and using gentle low environmental impact detergents is what we are passionate about.”

“Pre-sorting soiled items and using high-spin extraction reduces our chemical, gas, electricity and water usage and where possible we use re-usable laundry, compostable garment and paper bags.”

The Napery has a specialist service for laundering delicate items such as wedding dresses.

“We provide onsite garment steaming and delicate wet washing express services that’s extremely popular for weddings and events,” says Jo. “Due to our high care services and use of gentle detergents along with 25-years of textile care experience our team are confident they can care for such delicate fabrics and garments.”



Jane Carnachan



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Spring Exhibitions

By Margo Berryman

Clyde's Eade Gallery, co-owned by Melanie and Rex Eade, is hosting three solo and duo solo exhibitions this spring centring on the work of artists represented by the gallery.

Stories

October 7 – November 1 2023

Impressionist painter Paul Samson has a new collection of oil on canvas works entitled *Stories* which will be presented in his solo exhibition.

"This exhibition is an exploration of the impressionist style of painting. I began with my version of Vincent van Gogh's sunflower painting and have improvised on the theme in my next few paintings."

Inspired by French artist Cézanne Paul developed his art while living in England attending Heatherley School of Fine Art in Chelsea before training with Israel Zohar, a contemporary artist of international standing who teaches in the old renaissance mode.

"After classically training in London I am currently integrating my impression of impressionist style together with my trademark quirkiness. The artist in me responds to works by the Masters such as Picasso, Cézanne and Vermeer and this influence comes through in my style and subject matter."

Paul paints from his home studio in Kerikeri and enjoys exploring complex compositions in some paintings while experimenting with greater simplicity in others.

"Hopefully viewers at my solo exhibition will appreciate both the execution and the diversity of subject matter I explore in my paintings."



Madame Chic – Paul Samson

The Alchemist and I

November 3 – November 29 2023

Award-winning Alexandra photographer Eric Schusser has produced a special duo solo exhibition to commemorate the works of his late partner and photographer Annemarie Hope-Cross.

"It focuses on anthotypes showcasing Annemarie's most recent work prior to her death from cancer in December last year," says Eric.



Sanctuary – Eric Schusser

"Anthotypes are photographs on paper coated with various mixtures made from berries, leaves, fruits and herbs with plants placed on top and then glass. The images are exposed to the sun for two to six weeks and most eventually fade. Annemarie had a purist approach to this and my approach was photographing and interpreting the process."

Eade Gallery has represented both Eric and Annemarie's fine art photography for several years and Eric says their collaborative photography work evolved over time.

"Anthotypes take time and care to produce, they are transitory and a bit ethereal — you never know the exact result. With Annemarie living with cancer for five and half years this approach allowed her time to experiment with an historic photographic process which was her specialty area. For us both working in this medium it became something we shared and experimented with together and I hope people appreciate the commemorative personal approach to these images."



Incompletion – Eric Schusser

Fire & Water

December 2 – January 2 2024

Melanie Eade and her son Thomas Geddes are collaborating on landscapes with similarly ethereal atmospheres for their duo solo exhibition entitled *Fire & Water*.

"Watercolours painted by Thomas and my encaustic wax artworks are surprisingly similar in many ways," says Melanie. "We are exploring texture, colour, and mood through meditative, dream-like landscapes within the realm of subjective landscapes — the meeting of the imagined, the remembered and the real as well as the confluence of land, water, and sky."

Melanie recently embarked on an artistic style and medium change which has been challenging and liberating.

"Encaustic painting is 3,000 years old. I work with molten pigmented encaustic wax medium and shellac on board to create multi-layered works, with each layer painted and fused with a blow torch."

"Thomas' works are experimental exposing the flow of water and pigments over paper creating unexpectedly beautiful results. It is the similarity of the wax and watercolour mediums which is the seed that has guided all our choices."



In Lonely Places – Thomas Geddes



Sea of Dreams – Melanie Eade

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Prominent label joins Clyde boutique

By Penny Simpson

Owner of Clyde's fashion boutique Lily & Esther, Anna McRitchie, constantly receives positive feedback about her pick of New Zealand designer labels and has recently added high-profile brand Kate Sylvester.

"I am delighted to have our first spring selection from Kate Sylvester instore now. So many people have asked if we stock the label that when the rep called I jumped at it."

"Lily & Esther has been dedicated to a small list of New Zealand brands like Kowtow, Standard Issue, Juliette Hogan, Leila Jacobs, Company of Stanger's, Yu Mei and Karen Walker eyewear who have all been with us from the start. Now we have Kate Sylvester who is celebrating 30 years in fashion this year and it fits in beautifully with our existing labels."

Kate Sylvester's new range includes the Denim Dress, a pinafore style with square neckline, the Anemone Bias Dress featuring an exclusive anemone print and Bella top in garden floral printed georgette.

Pink is having a big fashion moment largely thanks to the impact of Barbie, says Anna, with Kowtow's new seasonal drop featuring light pink denim along with organic cotton basics.

"Their new Wander dungarees and jacket made from 100 per cent certified Fairtrade lightweight organic cotton denim offers relaxed styling and a splash of soft seasonal pink. It's a playful look perfect for a Central Otago summer."

Handcrafted bags & accessories by New Zealand company Duffle&Co are new to Lily & Esther.

"I personally love this range of bags and wallets that have been carefully crafted using natural, sustainably sourced materials like full grain, end-of roll leather that is repurposed by hand cutting around small defects," says Anna.

"The Josie circular bag is the perfect leather crossbody featuring zip inner pocket and magnetic outer pocket to give access on the go and the wallets make ideal gifts or holiday season presents."



Kowtow Mirror Jacket



Kate Sylvester Denim Dress



Duffle&Co Josie Crossbody Bag

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