

QT Magazine

Southern Lakes Lifestyle

SENSATIONAL SEASON

*Arrowtown celebrates
autumn colours*

Bike It Now

Riding the Central Otago
cycling wave

BETTER BUSINESS

*Surge in commercial
confidence*

Tantalising Tastes

Authentic Italian at
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ISSUE 127 AUTUMN 2025

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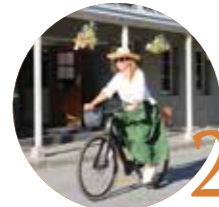
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QT LIFESTYLE

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

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Photograph Ania Drouet
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News from Around the Region

with Jenny McLeod

Australian wins 104th New Zealand Open at Millbrook Resort

West Australian Ryan Peake's win at the 104th New Zealand Open presented by Sky Sport at Queenstown's Millbrook Resort in early March was a remarkable feat considering he trailed Korean Gunatek Koh by four strokes at the start of the final round.

Peake won by one stroke at 23-under par to avoid a playoff with fellow Australian Jack Thompson, Japan's Kazuki Higa and South African Ian Syman all on 22-under par. Koh finished 21-under after fading in the last holes.



Photograph Andrew Carraga Photosport

Peake who had a five-year stint in jail for assault while a member of a bikie gang says, "I've changed my life. I always knew I could do it (win) it was just a matter of time when."

Thousands of people attended the four-day event which saw Daniel Hiller close with a score of 17-under par to become the first Kiwi home, one ahead of fellow Kiwis Sam Jones and Michael Hendry a further shot back.

Millbrook Resort has been confirmed by the New Zealand Open organisers as the host venue for at least the next seven years.

Queenstown Fire Brigade honoured

The Brian Smith Park in central Queenstown which recognises the 26-year contribution of the long-term Queenstown volunteer fireman has recently been marked with an interpretation panel honouring both the brigade and Brian Smith.

The Shotover street site housed the Queenstown Volunteer fire brigade's first engine shed in 1866 which was later upgraded to a new fire station 1928. The site remained the brigade's home for over 100 years before it relocated to a new purpose built complex in Isle street.

Brian Smith (1935-2003) was the brigade's deputy chief fire officer from 1990 until 1993 and received the coveted gold star in 1992.

He suffered serious leg injuries in 1992 when his fire truck crashed into Lake Whakatipu from the Glenorchy road but returned to firefighting duties as soon as he was rehabilitated.

Brian's passion was flying and he was a familiar sight flying around the Whakatipu in his distinctive gyrocopter which sadly claimed his life in a crash at Glenorchy in 2003.



Photograph Geoff Marks

Life honorary member Ken Tisdall Shane Smith Chief Fire Officer Terry O'Connell & Brigade Support Bob Robertson

The brigade says it is fitting the park was named in Brian Smith's honour by the Queenstown Lakes District Council in August 2006.

Hugo Tunnel

An historic tunnel at Big Beach created by early goldminers and abandoned 60 years ago has been restored and repurposed as part of the new Shotover Gorge cycle trail thanks to a \$735,000 donation from the Hugo Charitable Trust.



Southland MP Joseph Mooney Mark "Willy" Williams Queenstown Trails Hugo Trust Chairman Mark Owens Minister of Tourism Louise Upton Hugo Trust CEO Aoibheann Monaghan & Trust Founder Maryanne Green



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Queenstown Lakes Mayor Seeks Second Term

By Jenny McLeod

Destination Queenstown



Queenstown Lakes mayor Glyn Lewers has put his hand up for another three years in the role.

"I always knew getting things over the line and done in three years was a timespan too short and it would be a privilege to be elected again for a second term to finish what I have started."

Glyn also encourages people to stand for the council but warns that the job is not for people "who think they are going to shake things up on day one because that's not going to happen with the way the local government legislation is written".

"Being a councillor is for who those can think long term about strategic direction and have the ability to see the bigger picture and understand how decisions are interconnected. The best advice I can give anyone running for council is that if you come in seeing the best in people that puts you ahead. If you have a negative frame of mind you are not going to enjoy it."

The government's proposed regional deal is seen as a major opportunity for the district and the wider region and the Queenstown Lakes Council has proposed such a deal in collaboration with the Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council.

"A regional deal would provide us with some excellent opportunities in the health, tourism and transport spaces," he says.



Glyn Lewers

"We have also been increasingly working in closer partnership with Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga who have expressed their collective support for a regional deal to drive smart economic growth and much needed infrastructure."

Glyn says the council wants to further the visitor levy discussion with government to help fund infrastructure for the increasing tourist population, taking the pressure off local ratepayers.

"The government's plans to grow tourism means more investment will be needed in the district. We haven't had a straight no from government about a levy and there definitely needs to be some way of monetising the cost burden of the visitor economy. While a levy is one mechanism there may be another which we would certainly consider."

He says Local Water Well Done is a significant government reform changing how drinking water, waste and stormwater are managed in New Zealand.

"Looking at how the legislation is framed it certainly appears that the way we pay for water will change in the future. Options for how we deliver the model will be put out for public consultation so the community can decide whether it remains in-house or takes on some other form such as a business unit of council or a council controlled organisation (CCO)."

"Whatever, there is a clear directive that payment will move from a rates based mechanism to more of a fees and charges system which will put the pressure on who is delivering water services to introduce water metering."

The next local body elections will be held on October 11 2025.

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Glenorchy night skies are outstanding – there's nothing more magical than gazing at snow-capped mountains and a mesmerising Milky Way. The stars shine brightly at the head of Lake Wakatipu, so much so that Tāhuna Glenorchy has recently become an International Dark Sky Sanctuary. One of only 23 currently designated sanctuaries in the world, and only four in New Zealand, it's the first inland mountain sanctuary where on a clear night you feel like you can touch the stars from the tops of our mountain peaks, and see them reflected in the depths of the lake.

To experience this galaxy of stars visitors can choose to dine or stay at The Headwaters Eco Lodge, the world's first visitor accommodation that's designed, built and operated based on regenerative design principles to Living Building Challenge standards. Enjoy a Chef's Choice dinner at the lodge, relax by a roaring log fire in our cosy Scheelite Shelter, then gaze in wonder at the famous Southern Lights. Check out our website for details of Dark Skies packages where you can learn more with our in-house stargazing expert and telescope packages.

theheadwatersecolodge.com



BUSINESS CONFIDENCE ON THE INCREASE

By Jenny McLeod

Queenstown hospitality, tourism and retail operators can be cautiously optimistic that the recent tough years are behind them as business confidence increases.

That's the view of Queenstown Chamber of Commerce CEO Sharon Fifield who says reports following the peak summer season are that good weather combined with an influx of visitors has contributed to a return of consumer confidence.

"Business has overall been very good and it feels as if we have finally come out of those tough few years where it's been so difficult for everyone in Queenstown. Our business confidence survey in November last year was certainly showing quite a lift in confidence and I think we are headed in the right direction. With interest rates also starting to ease there is a feeling there is light at the end of the tunnel."



Sharon Fifield



Sharon, who has recently been appointed to the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce board, says around half their members are CBD based and they have been plagued for years by street upgrades, the construction of the new arterial route and a lack of parking.

"Hopefully we are now getting to the end of all that. We had some good wins last year persuading the Queenstown Lakes Council to provide extra parking spaces in the CBD after a lot of feedback around the removal of downtown parks and locals not coming into central Queenstown because it was all too hard and the parking too expensive."



She says the Chamber did a lot of work pre-summer to get more parks allocated and raise awareness that parking in council car parks is free in the evening from 6.00pm until 8.00am the next day.

The Chamber is also working to ensure there is good collaboration between the public and private sectors as local councils prepare submissions for the government's proposed regional deal scheme.

"It needs to be recognised that a lot of investment and capital comes from the private sector and it might well be best placed to deliver on some projects," says Sharon. "Although we don't know if our area will be selected for a regional deal we are uniquely positioned following the government's announcement of visa changes to attract wealthy investors to New Zealand. Many investors will want to come to Queenstown Lakes and when we consider the lack of public funding which so many projects face it is a good thing if it is carefully managed and monitored."

"Ideally New Zealand will be attracting highly skilled investors and younger talent that can offer more than just money."

The Chamber considers the government's plan to further grow tourism means local ratepayers will need more support funding infrastructure.

"This is where a regional deal comes into play and we have plenty of ideas for solutions such as some form of visitor levy which so many tourist spots internationally successfully have in place," says Sharon. "There's a lot of strategy around how we manage the impact of visitor numbers but we do have to make sure the burden doesn't fall back on the district's 30,000 ratepayers."

Membership spinoffs

The Queenstown Chamber of Commerce currently has 620 members and while showing positive growth is always keen to attract new members.

CEO Sharon Fifield says there are many membership benefits particularly the free networking events they regularly run.

"Most B After 5 events last year were oversubscribed which indicates the demand. Being a business owner or leader can sometimes be very lonely especially when times are tough so I encourage all businesses to join us and become involved with us as we work and advocate on their behalf."

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Café Culture

Bespoke Kitchen

Queenstown award-winning café Bespoke Kitchen has an international following for its innovative food style and baking.



Location: Nestled on the hill at 9 Isle Street less than five minutes' walk from Queenstown. It's easy to find on the way to Skyline Gondola base building.

Style: Bespoke Café has an eclectic, welcoming style with fires both indoors and out, a heated garden courtyard and stunning views to the

Remarkables Mountain range. It has its own garden with beehives out the back and is a hub for cyclists with bike stands outside for those riding the Skyline trails.

Food: The seasonal menu features beautifully presented fresh, unprocessed dishes and cabinet food. There are many novel raw, vegan and gluten free options with a focus on health and wellbeing. The breakfast plate includes an elixir shot, berry chia pot, goats cheese toast, heirloom tomato, pickled zucchini and fried egg. Baking is a specialty at Bespoke with beautiful cakes and afternoon teas available to order online.

Drinks: Fresh juices and smoothies created in-house, herbal and organic teas, house made hot lemon, ginger and honey, wine by the glass, craft beers and Allpress organic blend coffee.

The Boat Shed Café & Bistro

The Boat Shed's lakeside setting makes it an attractive destination café.

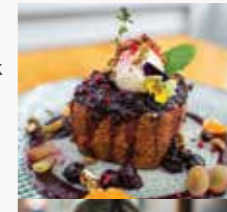


Location: Beside the Queenstown Marina the café operates from the restored historic New Zealand Railways Shipping office on the Frankton waterfront.

Style: The Boat Shed is one of the best spots to enjoy breakfast or lunch after a walk or cycle along the Frankton track which runs directly past the café. The deck overlooks Lake Whakatipu and the café's interior showcases memorabilia from Queenstown's boating past.

Food: A focus on fresh, seasonal produce such as locally grown mushrooms and heirloom tomatoes. Favourite dishes include Blueberry French toast, Cilbir eggs and fried buttermilk chicken burger.

Drinks: The place for excellent Biscoff latte, matcha latte or iced strawberry matcha latte. Wolf coffee, Central Otago wines and their own Canyon craft beers and ciders are served.



Provisions of Arrowtown

Arrowtown café Provisions is the perfect spot to take in the autumn colours.

Location: Housed in one of Arrowtown's idyllic restored historic miners' cottages at 65 Buckingham Street the café garden includes original fruit trees, roses and blossoms.



Style: Provisions is a blend of old and new reflecting its early heritage. Choose to sit inside in the cottage style rooms, on the deck or under the trees. It's a dog friendly café and has a kids' play area with lots of space.

Food: The casual, contemporary style with classic European cooking techniques is evident in dishes

like Turkish Eggs, Provisions Coconut Waffles and twice cooked crispy pork belly with apple puree made from apples from the café trees. Counter food and fresh baking includes their famous sticky buns.



Drinks: All Press coffee is served along with Stir Teas, smoothies and juices, Queenstown Altitude beers and Central Otago and New Zealand wines.

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To Italy with Love

By Tom Kalliber

A slice of Italy can be found in the heart of downtown Queenstown.

Walking through Bella Cucina's doors in Brecon Street diners are instantly attracted by the huge wood-fired oven and embraced by wonderful Italian aromas.

"Bella Cucina is a showcase of delightful simple fresh flavours. It's our love letter to Italy with an authentic Italian kitchen," says executive chef Marty James.

"Bella Cucina is a showcase of delightful simple fresh flavours. It's our love letter to Italy with an authentic Italian kitchen."



Marty and his business partners Jan Rae and Alex Boyes of the Wai Dining Group have operated the restaurant since 2008 as part of their expansive Queenstown footprint that includes award-winning Public Kitchen & Bar and Finz Seafood Restaurant on Steamer Wharf.

The recent addition of outdoor tables and chairs spilling out onto the Brecon street pavement has motivated a vibrant atmosphere for alfresco dining at Bella Cucina.

"Our end of Brecon street is very sunny and sheltered away from any southerly winds so it's the perfect location for sitting outside with a bowl of pasta or a pizza and taking in the Queenstown atmosphere," says Marty. "Bella is now open every day for lunch which is super popular for walk-ins along with evening dining service."

The wood fired pizza oven imported from Italy takes pride of place in the open air kitchen where genuine Italian dishes, pizzas and pastas are handcrafted.

"A large part of its enduring popularity as Queenstown's number one Italian eatery is the menu that reflects the freshest, locally sourced seasonal produce we can access. Just about everything is made inhouse including our artisan breads, sourdoughs, pastas and delicious desserts like tiramisu and Cannelloni."



"We import specialist products like Bocconcini, parmesan and mozzarella cheeses, Sicilian olives, extra virgin olive oils and some dried meats along with a wide selection of regional Italian wines to enhance the dishes."

Traditional antipasto like warm olives, sourdough breads, Beef Carpaccio and Chargrilled Squid Roquette are great starters with pasta dish highlights including Spaghetti Vongole featuring New Zealand clams and Fettuccine Nduja with spicy pork sausage.

"The pizza menu has Italian classics and personal favourites such as the Quattro Formaggi, Funghi Prosciutto, Calzone and Margherita styles. Our Trust the Chef is a popular option for diners looking to feast Italian style," says Marty. "Bella Cucina has great energy and a super friendly vibe which diners just love — it's fresh, delicious and affordable. Bellissimo."



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Food Talk with Jo Keppel



Without a doubt my favourite season for creating delicious food is autumn. I gather so much inspiration from the abundant and bountiful harvests of local nuts, rich earthy vegetables and Central Otago fruits which make cooking so fulfilling.

It is the season when I love to forage throughout the region for my future creations. I then spend weeks creating provisions for the year ahead to serve on feasting tables, canapes and dishes for my private chef service. I love this as it leaves my guests with a local story behind the dishes and a better understanding of what our beautiful landscape has to offer.

I wanted to produce a special autumnal risotto to introduce the season. Don't be put off by the steps at the start as it is worth it when you plate up the end result. I have added optional extras so you can use the recipe as a base and build on it to create your own deliciously comforting autumn meal.

I feature some of my favourite risottos within the Kitchen Angel in-home cooking service I offer throughout the Lakes District. My clients love them as they are a quick to heat, nourishing and soul warming mid-week dinner. The Kitchen Angel menu also features the award-winning truffled double mushroom and thyme risotto which is exceptional.



Divine Roasted Butternut, Hazelnut and Crispy Sage Risotto

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 400g butternut pumpkin
- 300g Arborio rice
- 1 tbsp butter
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 bunch sage leaves (approximately 15g), left whole
- 1 large onion, finely diced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 pinch chilli flakes

- 125ml dry white wine
- 1.3 litres quality chicken stock
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 100ml cream
- 100g mascarpone
- 100g fresh hazelnuts
- Sea salt and pepper
- 100g parmesan cheese
- 150g soft feta cheese (optional)

Method

Preheat oven to 160°C. Toast hazelnuts for 12 minutes until starting to brown. Transfer to a plate to stop cooking, roll in a tea towel to remove skins and roughly chop

Increase oven temperature to 180°C. Peel and cube the pumpkin, removing seeds. Line a baking tray with paper, toss pumpkin in 2 tbsp olive oil, season with salt and pepper and roast 20 minutes until tender

Heat chicken stock gently in a pot adjacent to your risotto cooking area

In a heavy based pan dry toast the Arborio rice, moving continuously with a wooden spoon until hot to touch (a few minutes). Transfer to a dish

Add 1 tbsp butter and 2 tbsp olive oil to the pan. Once hot add sage leaves and gently stir to coat until they start to crisp (30-50 seconds). Remove with a slotted spoon on to a paper towel, sprinkle with sea salt and set aside

Heat 1 tbsp olive oil, sauté onions for 3-4 minutes over medium heat, add garlic and chilli flakes Return toasted rice stirring constantly for 1-2 minutes

Add wine and stir until absorbed massaging the rice with the wooden spoon continuously

Gradually ladle in stock stirring continuously after each addition until liquid is absorbed (15-20 minutes) until the rice is al dente and liquid is almost absorbed

Stir in cream, mascarpone and lemon juice. Season generously with pepper and sea salt to taste

Fold in roasted pumpkin and parmesan, scatter with toasted hazelnuts and crispy sage. Serve hot with crusty bread or greens

Optional Extras

Add prosciutto and fresh rocket on top
Add 150g soft feta and fold through with pumpkin

Drizzle the pumpkin with 1 tbsp Be Local Honey Dew and cracked pepper and toss before roasting. This will add a sweet depth

Transform leftover risotto into arancini balls: roll into balls, coat in beaten egg and panko crumbs, deep fry 3-4 minutes until golden and season with sea salt



Photograph & Food Styling by Ma James




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Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa and the iconic French brand L'Occitane en Provence are proud to present a new era of luxury wellness, nestled in the heart of Queenstown.

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Waste to Wilderness

By Margo Berryman

Protecting the natural beauty of the Whakatipu environment while minimising the impact of tourism is a key goal of Sofitel Queenstown Hotel and Spa's sustainability plan.

"It's been a real journey of success as we have worked through all the hotel's operational levels, products and services to create more sustainable outcomes," says Sofitel Queenstown Hotel and Spa general manager Jeremy Samuels.

"Going down this amazing rabbit hole of sustainability our team has discovered clever ways to implement a regenerative plan that is both practical and effective."

The luxury hotel has several initiatives underway guided by their Qualmark New Zealand Gold Sustainability rating and Tourism New Zealand's Tiaki Promise to care for New Zealand.

He says one such programme is partnering with Queenstown's apiculture social enterprise Bee the Change whose thriving bee colonies are dotted in and around the resort. The hotel has sponsored hives at the Queenstown Gardens, Queenstown Golf Club and Whitechapel near Arrow Junction.

"We admire the work of Neal McAloon who is the driving force behind Bee the Change bringing communities together and enabling environmental education and pollination initiatives," says Jeremy.

"The benefits for Sofitel outside of supporting a great cause is that in September we will start harvesting honey from our sponsored hives that can then be placed on the breakfast buffet at the hotel. We are also looking at how we can expand that into gifting, amenities and information pieces for our guests so that the project continues to give back and support our sustainability journey throughout the year."



Left Bank Bistro



Bee the Change Beehive

"Ultimately we have to respect that we are guardians of this area and it's important that we have these amazing partnerships with local businesses as together we are stronger for it."
- Jeremy Samuels



Whakatipu Reforestation planting day

"Michael Sly aka Mr Chippy takes wilding pines and extracts the essential oils for export but that creates a lot of tree waste that does not breakdown organically," says Sofitel Queenstown Hotel and Spa general manager Jeremy Samuels. "He approached us last year for food waste to mix with his pine flush to assist the breakdown process. At the time we had just begun measuring our wastage and knew exactly how much we could supply Mr Chippy and a partnership was formed."

Mr Chippy creates nutrient rich compost from the process that he then donates to local community groups like the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust for native planting initiatives around the region.

The company also collects the hotel's coffee grounds which are then given to another local business Remarkable Fungi who grow the mushrooms that are served on the Sofitel's dinner menu.

"It's another great circular moment in our sustainability journey which also has an excellent community plug in," says Jeremy.



WHERE appetites alight



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SOFITEL

Favourite Festivals

Whakatipu Music Festival

The popular Whakatipu Music Festival returns to Queenstown this Easter (April 18-21) providing superb live music performed in intimate spaces and featuring a line-up of well-known international and New Zealand musicians.

"Six stunning concerts are planned in the centre of Queenstown covering three centuries of exceptional repertoire, much of which people will already know and admire," says festival director Anne Rodda. "Audiences will be delighted by a vast array of musical gems from Bach to Broadway with some yummy bon bons along the way."



Begonia Chan

"The weekend revs up to the grand final concert featuring a massed choir and professional orchestra celebrating Easter by singing their hearts out with the Hallelujah Chorus, O Fortuna and everyone's favourite — Beethoven's Ode to Joy."



Bartok Trio



NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival

Calling New Zealand adventure filmmakers and writers.

The 23rd edition of the annual NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival will be held in Wānaka from June 20 until June 24 and in Queenstown on June 26 & 27 2025.

Festival Director Whitney Oliver says entries are now open for the mountain film and book competitions.

"Nine-thousand dollars worth of prize money will be awarded across a range of categories with the grand prize-winning film and the Best NZ made film each eligible for \$2500 while the Mountain Book of the Year receives \$2000."

"This year's festival theme is adventurous sports and lifestyle with competition entrants invited to add their own creative spin as long as there is a link with adventure sports or people, the world's mountains, lakes, rivers, oceans and skies or alternatively there is a cultural or environmental theme."

Entries for the NZ Mountain Book competition close on March 30 and the film competition deadline is April 20.

All details are online at www.mountainfilm.nz



Arrowtown Autumn Festival

The Arrowtown Autumn Festival marks its 39th anniversary with 50 community events being held in the town over four days from April 24 until April 27 2025.

A long held tradition the festival celebrates the changing of seasonal colours which turn the trees' leaves to red and gold.

"As a community event the festival is set to impress with a wide range of great food, wine, arts, comedy and music events suited to people of all ages," says festival organiser Vanessa Williams.

The programme includes popular annual events such as the Arrowtown Street Parade and Market day, the Buckingham Belles, the Bayleys Art Exhibition at the Lakes District Museum and the local Arrowtown Quiz night.

www.arrowtownautumnfestival.co.nz



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2022 Festival Young Artist Soprano **Clare Hood**
 PHOTO: James Robertson

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WHAT'S ON

Te Atamira is Queenstown's community arts and cultural space offering a wide-ranging programme of exhibitions, workshops, classes, performances, events and talks designed for everyone to be creative every day.



Alta (2016 – 2024)

Open daily until May 4 2025

Explore memory, place and change in Marc Blake's immersive exhibition Alta (2016-2024). Featuring eight years of photographs centred on a solitary basketball hoop in Queenstown's Kawarau Falls Park this dreamlike installation invites reflection on memory, isolation and transformation.



Tamariki Education Programmes

April 2025 School Holidays | From \$32

Term 2 2025 | From \$190/term

Explore creativity in our tamariki programmes. Something exciting happens every day for young artists in our multidisciplinary arts programmes. Spark your children's creativity and sign them up today.



Te Radar's Cookbookery

Friday April 4 2025 7.00pm | \$25/\$48

Te Radar presents a comedic celebration of the beloved and bizarre cookbooks from New Zealand's past with a side of sumptuous vintage food photography. It's an hilarious, heartwarming, (and potentially stomach churning) show.



Saturday Arts Social

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TE ATAMIRA

For more information on all Te Atamira events

teatamira.nz/whats-on



Image: Macpac

Gear-up for Autumn

With crisp Queenstown mornings rolling in, it's time to swap light layers for something warmer (and stylish). Visit the team at Base NZ, Queenstown Central Shopping Centre for the latest in outdoor wear.



Street Style

Elevate your Autumn wardrobe with a bright beanie, logo sweatshirt, or statement jacket.

Left-to-right: Picture Colino Beanie, Burton Family Tree Pullover, Volcom Milie Jacket, The North Face Yumiori ¼ Zip Fleece.



Layer-up

Stock up on hoodies and fleeces – because cosy never goes out of style.

Left-to-right: The North Face 2000 Polar Nuptse Puffa, Fine Alpine Hoodie, Denali X Jacket, Picture Dauwy Fleece.



Find Your Adventure.

Outdoor-wear, camping gear, hiking, running and snow-sports. Get ready for Autumn adventures with Macpac, Mountain Warehouse, Kmart, Frontrunner and Base NZ at Queenstown Central Shopping Centre.

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Go Bold

Never get lost in a crowd or the wilderness, bright hues are perfect for any adventure.

Left-to-right: Oakley Park RC Softshell Hoodie, Picture Face It Jacket, Oakley Tahoe Puffy RC Jacket



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Revolutionary Light e-Bikes

By Tom Kalliber

Wānaka based Frenchman Alex Guichard has been on a mission to design the world's lightest e-bike fuelled by his passion for circular design.

His groundbreaking Le Velo Studio bike start-up has conducted five years of product development to transform the look, shape and weight of the modern-day e-bike.

"Our motivation has been to develop a super light bike to circumnavigate the e-bike's main problems of being too heavy and bulky," says Alex. "Most weigh in at 25 to 27 kilograms so the goal was reducing that by 30 to 40 per cent by replacing all materials with carbon fibre and removing the mid-drive engine from being integrated into the bike's frame."

"By placing the battery and motor hub in the rear wheel it allows the owner to choose between an e-bike or a push mode simply by swapping out the back wheel. This gives riders more flexible options and solves the bike's end-of-life cycle allowing it to be upgraded, repaired or returned to a standard push bike."

Le Velo Studio reflects Alex's environmentally responsible design principles and has already been recognised globally being named a finalist in the prestigious Berlin Green Awards for the world's lightest e-bike.

"I am committed to designing bikes that are elegant, timeless and inspired by the past. The first edition showcases our craftsmanship and artistry complemented with a sleek, matt black in finish and no branding — just a small brass head badge on the front."



Alex Guichard



Nine years ago Alex designed a revolutionary lightweight chair — the Revology design #1 chair — made from linen and flax which won the gold medal for product design at the 2016 Melbourne Design awards.

"Style-wise, the Revology design #1 chair was a contemporary nod to the timeless 19th-century bistro chair with a mix of form and function that caught the eye of the international design community."

"My background is as a carbon fibre designer using natural flax composite materials and I would say it is my European eye for all objects, antiques, old buildings and architecture that inspires these products."

Le Velo Studio has launched for presales allowing people to test ride the first edition bike before placing an order.

"We didn't want the traditional selling model of producing large quantities to flood the market but rather make just enough to satisfy first orders," says Alex. "People can contact us to test ride the bike during April and May before pre ordering their own Le Velo Studio model to be delivered in late August to September."

Designed, engineered and assembled in Wānaka the Le Velo Studio team believe they have created a winning formula with their avant garde e-bike.

"There has been phenomenal response and enthusiasm for the bike with testing happening in Christchurch, Wellington, Wānaka and Queenstown," says Alex. "We hope people will come on a journey with us to experience the quality and craftsmanship of the country's lightest e-bike."



For more information & to preorder www.levelostudio.com



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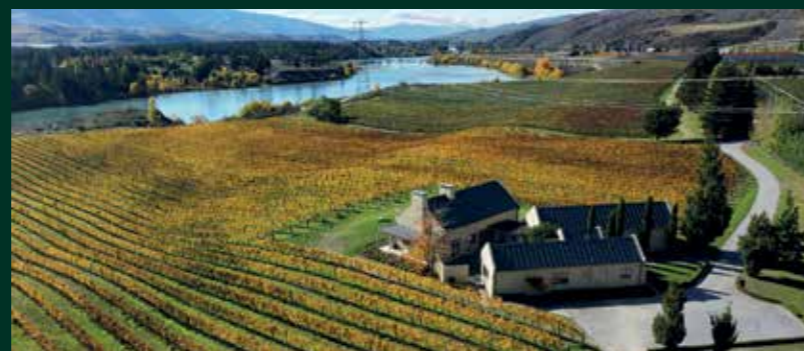
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Leading freeride mountain bikers compete in Queenstown

By Penny Simpson



Photography: Bartosz Woltanski

When the world's most exciting freeride mountain bike contest Natural Selection Bike was held on Mt Dewar in Queenstown in February local riders were stoked.

New Zealand's top freeride mountain bike athlete Robin Goomes, who won the prestigious Red Bull Rampage 2024, says it was brilliant that the competition came to Aotearoa.

"There is such a sick mountain bike scene here and everyone was fizzed to get amongst it. There are already so many great young riders in New Zealand and I think having this on our doorstep pushes them to the next level."

Formerly known as Proving Grounds the competition is now part of the Natural Selection Tour which is expanding from its snowboarding roots to include mountain biking, surfing and skiing.

Event director Sophie Luther says the competition was one of the most progressive and exciting mountain bike events held in New Zealand.

"We were thrilled to bring the world's best mountain bikers to New Zealand for Natural Selection Bike. There was an amazing vibe on the hill, the fans and athletes loved the event and we were really pleased to give these passionate and inspiring riders the opportunity to compete in our beautiful backyard."

Natural Selection Bike featured riders from six countries with a crowd of around 1,500 people gathering at Mt Dewar to watch the action. The competition featured a men's and women's division blending three of mountain biking's most dynamic disciplines - Big Mountain Freeride, Slopestyle and Downhill.

Poland's Szymon Godziek and Cami Nogueira from Argentina laid down incredible runs to earn the top men's and women's podium spots respectively. In the women's division Hannah Bergemann (USA) placed second with



Kirsten Van Horne (Canada) third while in the men's competition, Carson Storch (USA) finished runner-up followed by Louis Rebol (FRA) in third. Adolf Silva (Spain) claimed the Best Trick Award with a massive superman while Finley Kirschenmann (USA) earned the Best Style Award.

"It's been a massive effort to create this incredible course and bring a world-class freeride mountain bike event here," says Sophie.

"A special thanks to the government for supporting the event through its Major Events Fund and to philanthropist and mountain bike enthusiast Rod Drury for his vision and dedication in making this event a reality. Natural Selection Bike is an annual event and we look forward to returning to this beautiful site in 2026 for another awesome competition."



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KAWARAU GORGE TRAIL PROVIDES PIVOTAL CONNECTION

By Jane Brooke

The much anticipated 32-kilometre Kawarau Gorge Trail will be officially opened towards the end of this year.

Southern Lakes Trails Trust chairman Aaron Halstead says the trail links Bannockburn to Gibbston and construction is well advanced.

"This year two suspension bridges will be built over the Kawarau River at the Nevis Ferry and Citroen Rapids locations which are either side of the Nevis River. Two bluff bridges will also be constructed to link the landlocked formed trail sections together."

He says over the past year contractors have been working in hard-to-access areas as well as landlocked places and have also completed the bluff bridge upstream from the Goldfields Mining Centre.

"This heavy-duty bridge at three metres wide and 52 metres long has been engineered to carry six tonnes and is the only way for diggers and earthwork equipment to get to into the Roaring Meg area," says Aaron.

Specialists in their fields have worked with the contractors to help preserve and enhance the ecology and historic and heritage features of the Kawarau

Gorge environment. Several species of protected skinks and geckos are endemic to the area and lizard habitats have been developed to protect them while hundreds of native trees and shrubs have also been identified to be avoided during trail building.

Aaron says the Trust is excited about the progress including the section of track around the Nevis Bluff being developed by NZ Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi and looks forward to officially launching the landmark new trail to the biking community in the region.

TRAIL FACTS

Southern Lakes Trails Trust is building the Kawarau Gorge Trail with co-funding from Central Lakes Trust, Otago Community Trust and Government (MBIE). The Trust is responsible for the construction of the trail along with the Lake Dunstan Trail and the Wanaka Link at a total cost of \$26.3 million. The popular Lake Dunstan Trail was opened in May 2019 and has been ridden by more than 250,000 people.

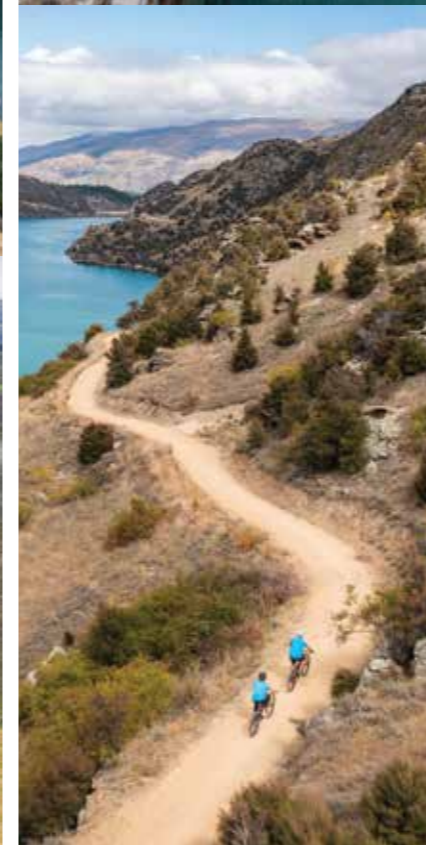
The Kawarau Gorge Trail is a pivotal component of the project which connects the four Great Rides in the Otago region creating 530 kilometres of continuous trail network across Queenstown, Central Otago and connecting through to Waihola near Dunedin.



Photograph Will Neilson



Trustees & contractors site inspection December 2024



Roxburgh Gorge Trail

RIDING THE CYCLE WAVE

By Jane Brooke

The cycling wave has catapulted Central Otago into international recognition with its outstanding biking trails throughout the region and more in the pipeline.

The spin off for cycle company Bike It Now! which is based in Clyde, Cromwell and Wānaka and co-owned by Kathryn Fletcher (Fletch), Lisa Joyce and Duncan Randall has been immense.

"When we opened in Clyde in 2013 it was simply a bike hire business with one travel agent connection," says Fletch. "For us all to live and work in Clyde successfully we needed the business to operate 12 months so that provided the motivation to expand and grow into Wānaka and Cromwell providing bike services all year round. Our local business is extremely important to us."

Bike It Now! operates daily and multi day self-guided bike tours on local trails with a particular focus on the big four — Otago Central Rail Trail, Lake Dunstan Cycle Trail, Roxburgh Gorge Trail and the Clutha Gold Trail.

"Already in 2025 we've seen more international tourists return which is positive with many booking hire bikes and tours with us as they travel down the South Island," says Fletch.

"Our self-guided tours are an opportunity to personally discover Central Otago trails with our network of support, guidance, return or one way transport shuttles and expertise wrapped around it. Whether it's a family of four, a group of guys on a trip or travelling couples we focus on the best fit for them underlining our motto 'we're all about you.'"

Each store offers high quality bike retail, bike tours, bike hire and workshop services.

"It's been great having our new Cromwell store open beside The Gate as the only rental and retail shop in the town. Across all our stores our local customers are bringing their bikes in for servicing and buying new accessories like helmets, lights and clothing to extend their riding into winter," says Fletch. "Looking forward we are excited to see the completion of the new Kawarau Gorge Trail at the end of 2025 adding to the dynamic mix of trails on offer locally."

Lake Dunstan Trail



Bike It Now! Cromwell Store

"We offer an eight-day trip which is a big loop that includes the Central Otago Rail Trail, then the Clutha Gold trail followed by the Roxburgh Gorge Trail finishing with a ride on the Lake Dunstan Trail. It's a mix of trail grades and excellent fun for all levels."



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What's New in Arrowtown

By Margo Berryman

Arrowtown and autumn are synonymous — a time when the leaves change to gold and the town celebrates its heritage.

QT Magazine talked to Arrowtown Promotion & Business Association manager Nicky Busst about the diverse 2025 autumn activities.



Photograph David Arnold



In the Lens

The Arrowtown autumn photography competition returns bringing local, professional, amateur and student photographers together to capture the superb seasonal colours.

"The competition has seven entry categories and produces a stunning collection of ambitious and comprehensive photographs. They cover a broad range of subjects from wildlife, landscapes, nightscapes to outdoor recreation."

Finalists and winning photographs will be on display in the foyer of the Lakes District Museum during the Arrowtown Autumn Festival from April 24 until April 27.

"Our mission is to salute the achievements of these photographers and discover stunning new photographs of Arrowtown and the surrounding area."



Photograph Debbie Fahy



Photograph Katrina Hughes

Art Showcase

The annual Bayleys art exhibition will be held in Arrowtown during April and May to coincide with the autumn festival.

"This is a wonderful six-week exhibition featuring many local artists including sculptures, jewellery and painting offering an amazing array of locally made pieces to admire and purchase. Now in its 22nd year the exhibition, which is held in the Lakes District Museum's main art gallery, is always well attended and a highlight on the autumn calendar."

Voices of the Past

A new Arrowtown Audio Tour allows visitors to experience the town's rich heritage as vivid historical characterisations deliver enthralling stories of Arrowtown's early beginnings and development. The Arrowtown Audio Tour custom app has been created by local history enthusiast Nick Fifield and is available for download on IOS and Android.

More info at www.arrowtownaudiotour.com

Heritage Tohu Whenua Sites

Tohu Whenua sites are identified as unique places that have helped shape and define New Zealand's rich heritage. Local landmarks recognised as Tohu Whenua include Arrowtown itself and the Arrowtown Chinese Settlement.

"Arrowtown is described as a charming town that reveals the stories of two very different goldrush communities — the preserved avenue where wealthy European banks and merchants traded and the restored huts of Chinese miners who lived a much more modest and challenging lifestyle."

"The partially restored Arrowtown Chinese Settlement is a tribute to the contribution made by the early Chinese settlers to the region's gold mining, cultural and business history and is a popular place for visitors."



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Photograph Clare Toia-Bailey

Historic Gaol

The original Arrowtown gaol in Cardigan Street is a standout Arrowtown historic site. Built in 1876 the heritage landmark was still in use until 1987. The building has historic and social significance for the town and is a rare example of a stone jail highlighting the original design, materials and craftsmanship.

Arrowtown Gaol



Police Camp Cottage Butlers Green

Photograph Clare Toia-Bailey



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Icebreaker celebrates 30-year anniversary

By Penny Simpson

Renowned New Zealand brand Icebreaker marks 30 years in 2025 celebrating three decades of innovation and responsible practices in natural performance merino clothing.



Family owned and operated for over 30 years The WoolPress has always been both a locals and visitors go to shopping destination particularly for its natural merino wool clothing.

"We have local families come into the store each year to kit out the entire household in Icebreaker ready for winter. Our traditional Easter weekend sale held in the Arrowtown Athenaeum Hall is a huge drawcard for Icebreaker and other clothing deals," says The WoolPress owner Delvine Wallace.

Move to Natural is Icebreaker's most recent campaign with all pieces made from naturally and ethically sourced fibres with premium quality merino wool at the core.

"The company continues to lead towards a more natural way of living by taking unnecessary plastic out of performance apparel," says Delvine. "It's the original sustainability story that continues to evolve."

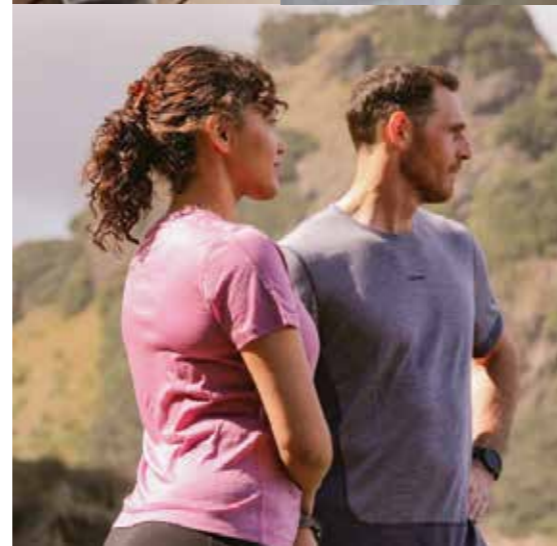
"We are proud to be a showcase for Icebreaker clothing at The Woolpress and all our staff are avid fans and able to help customers discover the special attributes of this incredible range of merino clothing."



The WoolPress in Arrowtown was one of the first stores in the world to stock Icebreaker when it was first launched in 1995 and today the iconic New Zealand brand is still one of their top sellers.

"Icebreaker was so innovative and ahead of its time when it developed its unique outdoor clothing in the mid-90s using high quality merino wool sourced from New Zealand's South Island farms which encompassed natural and sustainable practices," says The WoolPress owner Delvine Wallace.

"People everywhere were enamoured with the style and we had customers from all over the world visit our store especially to buy Icebreaker clothing. The solid following continues today with an excellent selection of new season ranges instore including t-shirts, socks, underwear, thermal layers and jackets that are always in demand."



Designer Spotlight at GOALS

GOALS boutique in Arrowtown redefines autumn's fashion code with new season active wear and fashion collections and co-owners Caroline Walak and Sophie Gibbs are upbeat about their favourite labels.

Pilgrim Crystal Hoops

The Ezo Twirl Crystal gold plated hoops from Pilgrim with cute twisting details and Preciosa crystals for a shimmering expression.



"These hoops are an all-time classic that will elevate any outfit to instant glam."



Retro Look

The Retro Track High Support Sports Bra by Lorna Jane makes it easy to tackle any exercise with its sweat-wicking Nothing 2 See Here™ fabric. "This bra provides high support with its racerback silhouette, hidden bounce-resistant mesh panelling, and a compressive, adjustable under bust band."



THE UPSIDE

The new lightweight Amana long sleeve knitted top by the Upside is crafted in 100 per cent organic cotton and hand dyed in tonal hues of white and natural. "It's the perfect mid seasonal piece for layering with leggings, shorts or denim."

Rylee + Cru

The latest collections for babies, boys and girls from Rylee + Cru are this season's wardrobe essentials at Goals. "We have the new Athletic Club relaxed fit sweatshirts, cotton tops, matching skirts and top sets making this one of the prettiest selections instore."



Tiger's Eye



A light weight puffer perfect for seasonal dressing the Brixton Cass Jacket is autumn's pick of the bunch. "We like this puffer jacket for its uncomplicated styling that features an insulated outer layer with water-repellent PA coating and interior taffeta lining making it comfortable to wear next to the skin."

Denim Layers

The Utopia Overshirt is a wear anywhere style from Brixton with its relaxed fit, soft brushed cotton and drop-shoulder design. "This is a super versatile light denim piece to layer up your outfits during autumn as temperatures start to cool or throw in your luggage as a vacation essential."



GOALS



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Altus Townhouses are selling now



Q&A

Construction of the Arrowtown Lifestyle Village townhouses is underway with the first planned for completion by the end of the year. QT Magazine spoke to sales manager Vicci Lawrence about the new concept.

How would you describe the Altus Townhouses?

The townhouses are our latest independent living option at the Arrowtown Lifestyle Village. We've planned eight buildings that include four townhouses - two up and two down. Each townhouse has been designed on a single level for ease of living with its own private entrance and internal access garage which is in contrast to apartment style accommodation.

The layout of the townhouse precinct ensures a light, open and sunny atmosphere with careful positioning to maximise sun and views for all residences.

What is the difference between the ground floor and first floor townhouses?

The ground floor residences feature two bedrooms and open onto a beautifully landscaped terraced garden with an outdoor fireplace and dining area. The top floor residences are larger and have three bedrooms with stunning views towards Brow Peak and Coronet Peak from a spacious balcony off the lounge.

How do residents access the top floor townhouses?

Each three-bedroom top floor townhouse comes with its own private elevator and stair access.

Are garages included?

Generally every townhouse comes with its own single car garage but we do have plans for a limited number of double garages. We are also taking expressions of interest for additional covered parking options.

*Images are artist's impressions



Why the name Altus Townhouses?

Altus comes from the Latin word for 'elevated above the usual' which perfectly captures the essence of this development. The name is also a nod to earlier use of the land by one of the village's directors, Roger Monk, who used the site as a rural airstrip for his Cessna aircraft. While the windsock and hangar have been relocated the spirit of adventure and elevation remains at the heart of Altus.

When will the first townhouses be ready?

The first townhouses are being built with a view to being ready for occupation by the end of 2025. We are currently taking expressions of interest, allowing buyers to secure their preferred residence now and collaborate on interior design options throughout the project.



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Meet the Artist

Arrowtown artist Fiona Garlick is driven by the power of her natural surroundings exploring nature, place and identity in her compelling original bronze sculptures.

"My artworks tend to have a story behind them like the survival story of the Chatham Island robin where one last breeding pair brought the species back from the brink of extinction. This work is a medium scale bronze inspired by the poem Love Birds by young poet Harriet Salmon."

"I recently had the pleasure of a 27-day trip to Antarctica experiencing incredible wildlife along the way and visiting historic places such as Shackleton's Hut which will no doubt inspire some of my new works this year."



Fiona Garlick

Fiona's sculptural studio is just a short walk from the main street of Arrowtown. Visitors are welcome to pop in or book into a personalised studio art tour.

"The art tours allow people to spend more time in the studio with me gaining a greater insight into the creativity of the craft and discovering the art themselves. It's fun and engaging getting to experience the gallery pieces and garden sculptures firsthand."

Small to large scale sculptures are Fiona's hallmark with works available for purchase that can be shipped around the world.

"In the sculpture garden are examples of my larger outdoor pieces on signature plinths made from Timaru bluestone. There's also exhibited works by fellow sculptors Rory McDougall from the West Coast and Matthew Williams from Christchurch who also casts most of my bronze works in his Christchurch foundry. All of these works are for sale."

To arrange a studio visit tel: +64 21 455 309.



Striking Ceramic Artwork

Bannockburn ceramicist Robert Franklin produces striking ceramic art pieces reflecting his dedication to the craft over several decades.

At Fusion Ceramics studio and gallery in Bannockburn he displays his fine porcelain, saggar fired ware and glazed stoneware.

"My focus recently has been on creating and using ash glazes. They are made with the ash of burned autumn leaves which is combined with other materials and the resulting glaze is then applied over another glaze to create a beautiful blended effect."

"The down side for me is that ash glazes are extremely runny and must be carefully controlled but the pieces are always a drawcard particular for people who have not experienced this type of work before."

During the 1970s Robert was a full time banker and at the same time together with wife Natalie he was a part-time studio potter supplying a number of retail outlets.

"The pressure of a banking career forced me to leave the pottery behind for a long time and I only returned to the pottery wheel some ten years ago after moving to our Bannockburn home," he says.

"As with all my ceramic work I am always experimenting with new directions. My home studio and gallery contains over 50 pieces of original hand thrown ceramic works which turn over regularly. I am open every day unless I am out biking or doing other sporting activities around Central Otago."

Robert suggests visitors travelling to Bannockburn should book ahead for an appointment to visit the studio.

"My works may also be seen at Wānaka Fine Arts or Hullabaloo Art Space in Old Cromwell."



Robert Franklin





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STUDIO & GALLERY

Porcelain, Saggar Fire Ware, Stoneware

At his studio in Bannockburn near Cromwell, Robert Franklin produces a select range of handmade ceramic art pieces. His works feature Stoneware, Porcelain and burnished Saggar Fired Ware with beautiful glazes and interesting surface impressions.

Visitors welcome.
Call ahead if travelling.



434 Bannockburn Road, Cromwell 200m past Black Rabbit Cafe
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Transforming Appearances

By Penny Simpson

Christchurch appearance medicine business Transform Clinic has been offering treatments in Queenstown for 20 years and aims to help people feel good about their appearance and boost their confidence and sense of wellbeing.

Established by its medical director Dr Ian Little and his wife managing director Jennifer Little the clinic is one of New Zealand's most respected private practices.

"We pride ourselves in seeking the latest and best in appearance medicine offering natural looking results that are effective yet undetectable with minimal downtime," says Jennifer.

The clinic operates every four to six weeks from Elysium Beauty in central Queenstown.

"Ian has been visiting Queenstown for over two decades and has enjoyed offering expert appearance medicine to our wonderful clientele. This year he has passed the baton to registered nurse Anna Stratford who will continue to bring exceptional care and expertise to our Queenstown clinics."

"Anna has worked alongside Ian for seven years as an appearance medicine nurse specialising in cosmetic injectables, laser and intense pulsed light therapies and skin therapy treatments. She brings a wealth of knowledge with a background in plastic surgery and operating theatre nursing."

Transform Clinic has a full range of cosmetic injectable treatments including Botulinum Toxin A, Dermal Fillers, Bio-stimulating & Bio-regenerating Injectables for the skin and fat dissolving Injections. Procell Therapies Microchanneling which is an evolved microneedling treatment using stem cell-derived serums to boost collagen and elastin and improve skin texture, pores and overall skin quality is also offered.

"Our success stems from providing the highest standard of care while staying at the forefront of advancements in appearance medicine," says Jennifer.

"We take time to listen and create tailored treatment plans designed to achieve natural, balanced results with honest advice. Anna genuinely enjoys getting to know each client in Queenstown to help them feel their best."

To book an appointment in Queenstown or Christchurch contact Transform Clinic on 0800 256 654 or email reception@transformclinic.co.nz



Anna Stratford



Enhancing Skin

"In the world of aesthetics there is a strong shift towards treatments for enhancing skin quality and supporting long-term skin health rather than only addressing surface level concerns," according to Transform Clinic managing director Jennifer Little.

Bio-regenerating treatments that work to stimulate the skin's natural ability to produce collagen and elastin which are the proteins responsible for keeping the skin firm, smooth and youthful are one of the biggest trends.



"Injectables remain a cornerstone of aesthetic treatments with a focus on subtle, natural results that enhance features," she says. "Products like bio-stimulating fillers not only restore volume but also actively encourage the skin's regenerative processes resulting in improved skin texture and elasticity over time. Maintenance and prevention are key drivers for therapies that improve skin hydration, texture and tone while complementing a daily skincare regime."



Anna Black

Rent Wear Return

By Margo Berryman

Designer dress hire company Collected, recently opened in Queenstown as a New Zealand wide hire service, is a passion project for owner Anna Black.

"I've always enjoyed fashion and when living in Auckland I would often rent designer dresses for particular events which is an affordable way to wear different designers' clothing."

"After moving to Queenstown I rented three dresses from an Auckland based company which never arrived. I was left scrambling to find something and baffled as to why the resort didn't have a hire service particularly being one of New Zealand's largest wedding and event destinations."

"We provide nationwide postal for customers outside the region and locals have the opportunity to try on dresses before hiring. There are many other ideas in the mix that we would love to cater to as the collection grows."

While online searching for a rental service Anna encountered Collected, first established in Invercargill. She subsequently brought the business relaunching it as a national venture based in Queenstown to fill a significant gap in the market.

"The previous owner Kat Little had done an excellent job curating a range of dresses that I am now refining and continuing to add to."

Collected's designer gowns and dresses can be rented on a daily or weekly basis. Labels include Paris Georgia, Caitlin Crisp, Aje, Bec and Bridge, Ruby, Christopher Esber, Shona Joy and Zimmerman.

Anna relishes giving women the chance to wear designer dresses without the need for a big budget.

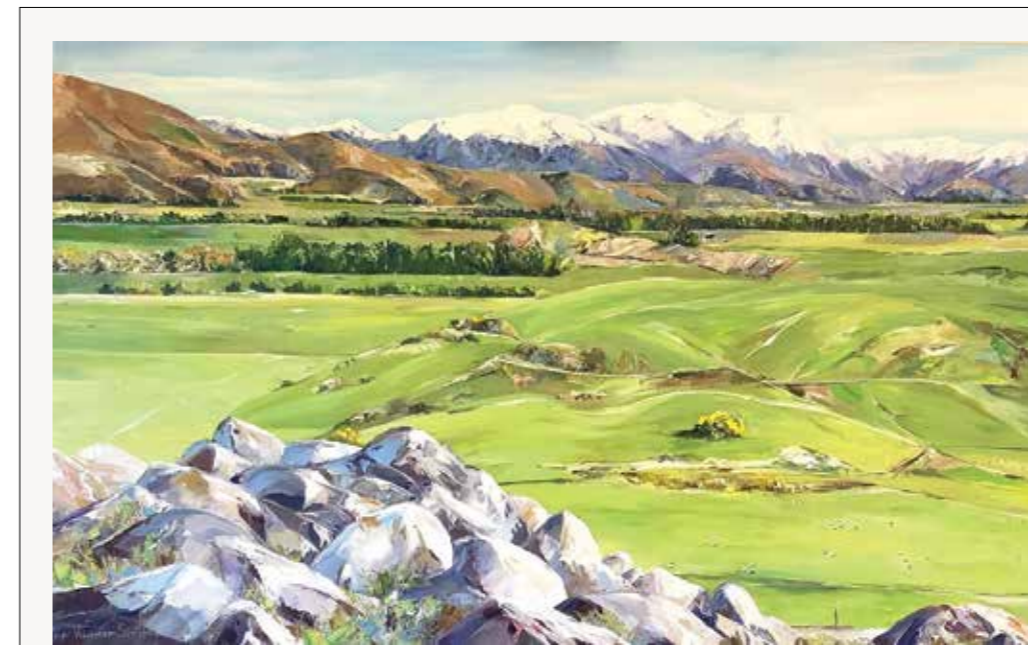
"I love fashion but I have become increasingly aware of the environmental cost of the fashion industry and fast fashion in particular. To mitigate this I endeavour to collect pieces that are typically locally designed from brands with a more ethical footprint. We encourage repeat wearing of beautiful pieces which both saves people money and is kind to the environment."

"The feedback so far has been wonderful with customers telling us that Queenstown really needs the service," says Anna. "For such a busy town there is a lack of retail that provides a range of dresses at a reasonable price which is why renting, wearing and returning from Collected is such a brilliant option."



Collected.

Hire a designer gown or dress from Collected online at www.collectedqt.co.nz @collectedqt



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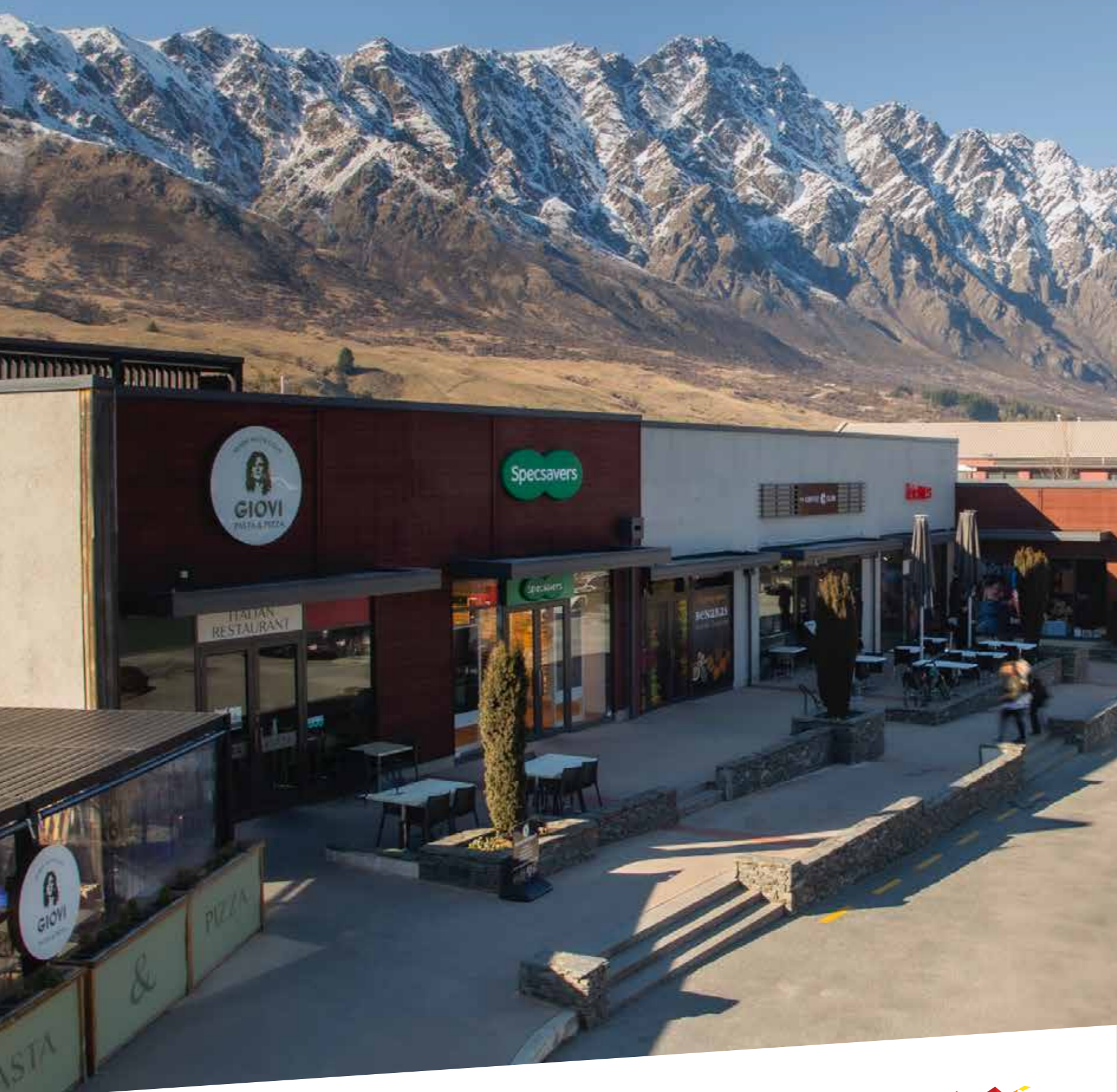
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Remarkables Park Town Centre (RPTC) thrives on sharing inspirational lifestyle, food, art, design, educational, health and wellbeing experiences.

"It is a one-stop destination where locals and visitors can gather for everyday shopping needs, facilitate business, relax and unwind and experience specialty dining and memorable events," says centre manager Nick Lambert. "With over 800 free parks the centre has an easy, village friendly vibe where locals like to shop."

Outdoor adventure gear: Hunting & Fishing, Evo Cycles, and Torpedo 7

Fitness & movement: Tru Women's Gym, Align Pilates, Align Studios and Fierce Grace Yoga

Recovery & wellbeing: Physio, massage and sauna at Align Studios

Creative & cultural experiences: Art, dance & acting classes at Te Atamira



Supporting Men in the Community

"In 2025 the Remarkables Park Town Centre is increasing its focus on helping Whakatipu men perform at their best—whether through fitness, adventure, wellbeing, or creativity," says centre manager Nick Lambert.

"From staying active to prioritising recovery and healthy living RPTC's range of businesses offers everything needed to support a strong, balanced lifestyle."

"We're celebrating the men in our community and ensuring they have what they need to stay strong, feel good, and perform at their best," says Nick. "Stay tuned for some exciting updates coming soon."



Easter Funland

A 'hoppin' good time for the whole family.

RPTC is bringing the community together for some free family fun at Te Atamira on Saturday April 19 to celebrate Easter. "Last year's event was a fantastic success so we encourage people to attend," says centre manager Nick Lambert. Event goers can expect bouncy castles, face painting and a visit from the Easter Bunny. "Our egg-citing Great Easter Bunny Quest is also back. From April 1 until April 19 people can visit Te Atamira to collect a worksheet then get hunting to find all eight hidden bunnies, collecting a stamp for each one. Once people have found them all there is a prize waiting for collection at Te Atamira."



Stay in the Know

For all the latest event details and store updates **sign up for the Remarkables Park Town Centre mailing list.** It's the best way to get the latest news first—and be in to **win a \$100 gift card in the RPTC monthly giveaway.**

"This is a great opportunity for people to stay connected with everything happening at Remarkables Park Town Centre."

- Centre manager Nick Lambert

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Autumn Wellness



Glenn Mitchell

Life Pharmacy Wilkinsons is owned and operated by Queenstown pharmacists Glenn Mitchell and Bronwen Judkins and has a large selection of pharmacy medicines, vitamins, natural health products and luxury skincare. QT Magazine spoke to Glenn about optimal autumn wellness.

How important is establishing a supplement routine for the change of season?

Taking regular supplements is a great way to prevent deficiencies and stay feeling your best. Establishing a routine with taking something like vitamin C helps build up the body's immune system to ensure it's well equipped to fight off colds and illnesses.

There are a wide range of supplements available for children and adults with the most popular ones being vitamin C, echinacea, Armaforce and Viralex.

Good nutrition versus taking green powders?

The value of eating well and incorporating plenty of fruits and vegetables into a diet cannot be overstated. Taking green powders helps to boost immunity and ideally should be taken alongside what you're already putting in your body. The Ministry of Health recommends half a plate of veggies, a quarter plate of carbs and a quarter plate of proteins a day.

What proactive products can help people prepare ahead of winter or prior to travelling?

It doesn't have to be overwhelming and taking things like vitamin C, zinc, probiotics, echinacea and vitamin D3 is a good idea. Getting a flu jab is very important. They all help to boost immunity, enhance the body's ability to fight off illness and keep you and your whānau safe and healthy.

Incorporating energy focused supplements such as vitamin B complex is also a great way to better equip your body to withstand the stresses of travel.



What's recommended for the home medicine cupboard?

Having symptom relief in the house before someone falls ill is highly recommended. Some popular products include paracetamol (helpful for headaches, fevers and general pain) and ibuprofen (anti-inflammatory, great for sore throat and achy muscles), cold and flu relief like cough liquids, throat lozenges, nasal sprays and day/night cold tablets.

Has Covid-19 changed the way people approach their health?

Since Covid-19 we've seen people investing more into their wellness in regard to prevention with supplements, exercise and vaccinations. We offer a variety of vaccinations in the pharmacy including Covid, flu, whooping cough and more.

What type of general advice does the pharmacy offer?

We can help with any queries you may have including vaccinations, travel support, questions regarding medicines, supplements, skin conditions, infections, contraception and pharmacist-only medicines (emergency medication supplies/antibiotics/etc). We are happy to answer any questions people may have over the phone, by email or instore.

What other products are helpful when working in alpine environments like Queenstown?

If working or playing outdoors during winter it's important to support your body both physically and mentally. For prevention we recommend general immunity boosting vitamins and supplements. Stress relieving supplements like ashwagandha, 5-HTP, some strains of magnesium & L-Theanine are also super important to stay feeling and functioning well during the season.

How big is the team at Life Pharmacy Wilkinsons?

Currently we are operating with our team of five full time pharmacists — Glenn Mitchell, Bronwen Judkins, Philip Lee, Jonny Mah and Helga Stauffenberg who can assist with any questions about supplements and natural health options.



CREATING A CONNECTION

By Margo Berryman

Mr Davis is redefining how men shop for clothes in Queenstown.

Owner Kathryn Davis has worked in menswear retail all over the world and her love of quality clothing and customer service drives the Frankton store's success.

"Men shopping for clothing is a completely different ball game to women — they need guidance and a real connection to make the process feel good."

Kathryn and her husband Benjamin Davis set up Mr Davis Menswear, which represents notable brands such as R.M.Williams, Ben Sherman, Rembrandt, Lacoste and Neuw Denim, 18 months ago after moving to Queenstown from Sydney.

"It's been so enjoyable connecting with local men who like the idea of shopping for different brands under one roof," says Kathryn. "They can take their time while we individually fit them into the right clothes to suit their body and lifestyle. We literally have guys in the fitting room trying on multiple versions of a short, chino or shirt to ensure the very best fit, colour and pattern works together in a cohesive wardrobe."



Kathryn Davis & Deb Bird

The store has an inhouse alteration service and a loyalty programme for returning clients while the recent addition of an instore barber has been well received.

"Gents Barber Shop had brought a relaxed vibe and is an excellent associate business for Mr Davis because guys need to get their hair cut every five to six weeks. They love coming in here and hanging out with other men and trying on clothes while they wait."

MR DAVIS EDIT

Mr Davis Edit was recently launched for men to purchase a curated box of clothes delivered to their home.

"Customers provide a brief via an online questionnaire or we do a style consult over zoom. Then we collate a personalised box of clothes for them and they keep what they want and send the rest back," says owner Kathryn Davis.

The Mr Davis Edit styling box appeals to men living outside Queenstown and those who like to shop online.

"They get the expertise of our personalised styling service all wrapped up in one box. It's the perfect solution for men who are time poor and they know they can trust us to choose the right outfit or clothing for their lifestyle or a special occasion."

STYLED FOR LIFE

Styling is a key point of difference at Mr Davis where staff offer guidance for choices from smart, casual attire to full corporate wardrobes for professionals.

"My background is in fashion technology and retail management and I completed an intensive four-month personal styling course in London specialising in menswear," says owner Kathryn Davis. "Whatever a customer's occupation we can style a wardrobe that works."

"Stocking seasonal collections rather than core products and an attention to detail on the wearability of fabrics and quality of wool, linen, cotton and denim clothing ensures customers are investing in pieces that will last."

"We slowly build on their wardrobe connecting them to new ideas so it's a journey to build the complete look. Clothes shopping shouldn't be a burden for men but rather a pleasurable experience."

Kathryn says their outstanding personal service is an integral part of shopping at Mr Davis.

"You can see the difference immediately when customers come out of the fitting room wearing clothes personally chosen for them. It's a confidence boost and they walk out taller, feeling good about their appearance."

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COMMITMENT TO CLIENTS

By Jane Brooke

Five Mile's Flex Fitness has been flexing its muscles in the health and wellness space for close to eight years.

Fitness director Keith Cameron has been the face of the business since it opened.

A passionate rugby player and coach he has played for the Highlanders and Māori All Blacks and represented Otago and Southland later transitioning to scrum coaching for the Highlanders and Otago Rugby.

High-level sport has sometimes taken its toll on his body which makes him perfectly placed to understand the importance of multi-disciplinary practice and support which is available at Flex Fitness.

Keith says the secret to their success lies in their unwavering investment in their clients.

"The gym model is about selling memberships but our true commitment is to our members' success. We begin with a comprehensive consultation and guide them on a journey, providing a range of tools and resources to help them achieve their goals."

"Our exceptionally high standards apply to our dedicated staff and state-of-the-art equipment plus our strong connections with healthcare and sports professionals."

He says their holistic approach enhances their ability to offer top-tier support, motivation and nutrition guidance.

"Expert trainers help clients maximise workouts, reach their fitness goals faster and recover from injuries."

Semi-private personal training sessions mean each workout is personally designed with a scientific approach to help clients train smarter, avoid injuries and mark real progress in a fun, supportive environment.

Keith takes pride in Flex Fitness being Queenstown's only official Hammer Strength Training facility featuring a wide range of Hammer Strength racks and plate-loaded machines. The gym also boasts a fully equipped pin-loaded functional training area ensuring access to the latest in strength and performance training.



Keith Cameron



"Every five years we completely upgrade the gym to maintain the highest standards and stay up to date with the latest equipment."

The first-class facilities also include private bathrooms, an infrared sauna and a Fit3D body scanner to track progress. The 24/7 access policy allows members to train whenever it suits their schedule.

"Many clients are long-term locals who appreciate quality equipment and exceptional service. We love supporting everyone from seasoned gym-goers looking for top-tier gear or someone new to fitness seeking guidance. We help beginners overcome 'gym-timidation' by introducing them to structured programmes and key equipment."

Youth and elderly people are an important element of the Flex Fitness gym family and include members up to 75-years-old who focus on functional movement patterns and use equipment with multiple functions.

Keith admits he can have a testing relationship with clients.

"I'm helping them make lifestyle changes but that often involves pushing them to their limits to achieve sustainable transformations."



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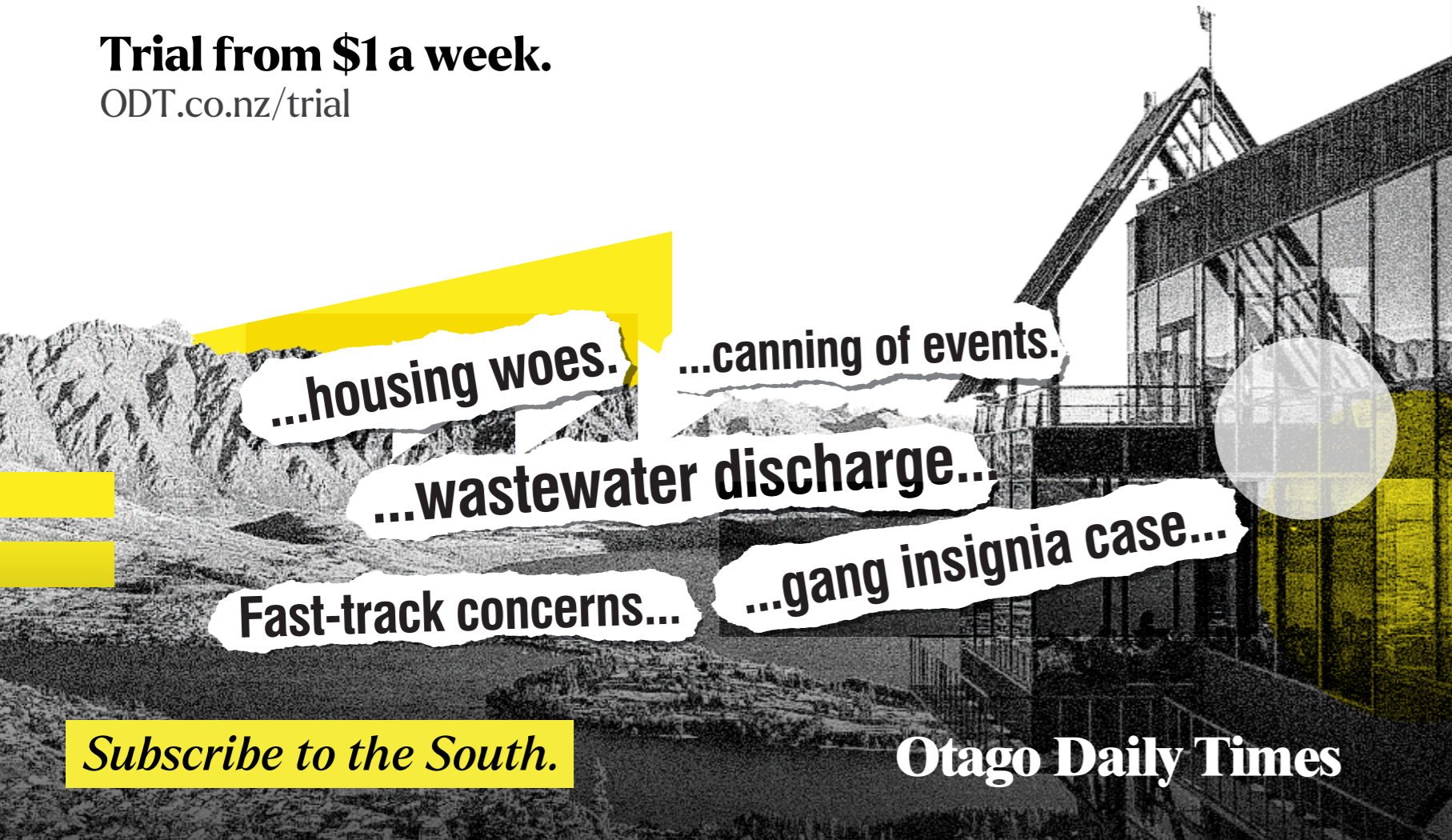
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The less glossy side of Queenstown. Someone has to talk about it.

There's no shortage of glamorous things to do in Queenstown. From fine dining and wine tasting, to climbing and jumping off (and out of) things. But when you scratch the surface, there's much more to this place and wider Otago. The ODT has over 90 journalists spread across the South, reporting the news that matters to local people. Stories that no one else is going to print.

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Arterial road key to transforming Queenstown

By Tom Kalliber

Improved access for public transport, more people-friendly streets and space for the town centre to grow and flourish are some of the anticipated long-term benefits from Queenstown's recently opened arterial road.

Queenstown Lakes District Mayor Glyn Lewers says it is the first stage of a much bigger picture. "Opening of stage one of the arterial road is another key step to transform Queenstown and improve the way we move around Whakatipu. It unlocks a range of other investments that will vastly improve the town centre experience for locals and visitors."

"It's been arguably the most complex project we've ever delivered and it's fair to say it has taken longer and cost more than we expected but we know this investment is important for our future. We shouldn't forget the less glamorous part of the project however where we've relocated electricity lines underground, supported improvements to fibre access and installed around 20 kilometres of water pipes."

"I do acknowledge that it's been a challenging and disruptive time for local residents and businesses," says Glyn. "Both the council and the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna team appreciate the ongoing patience and open dialogue."

He says the blessing ceremony held at the official opening of the arterial route was an opportunity to acknowledge the Kāi Tahu narratives and values incorporated into stunning artworks on the precast concrete retaining walls along the new road.

The artworks were developed by Kāi Tahu artists Paulette Tamati-Elliffe, Jennifer Rendall, James York and Marlon Williams under the design lead of Keri Whaitiri.

"The designs reflect our intergenerational connections to the inland area depicting our whakapapa (genealogy), traditional names, mahika kai (food gathering) and flora and fauna that hold great relevance to Kāi Tahu," says Paulette.

"It's important we bring our cultural narratives to the forefront, not only to share with our wider community and manuhiri (visitors) but also to ensure our tamariki (children), mokopuna (grandchildren) and future generations recognise themselves in the towns and cities that they live and thrive in."



Southland MP Joseph Mooney Mayor Glyn Lewers & Kāi Tahu representative Paulette Tamati-Elliffe officially open the arterial road

Waitangi Day reflections

The Queenstown Lakes District Council co-hosted the 2025 annual Waitangi Day commemoration for the Lower South Island on February 6 with local iwi Kāi Tahu (Kā Papatipu Rūnaka e Whitu).

"It was wonderful to feel the manaakitika at Queenstown Recreation Ground on a day of reflection, unity and inspiration honouring Te Tiriti O Waitangi," says Mayor Glyn Lewers.

"The whole community came together to share what we have here in our special corner of Aotearoa New Zealand with our visitors and with each other."



Kapa haka performed by students from Arrowtown School



Mayor Glyn Lewers & Tākuta Ferris – MP for Te Tai Tonga, Te Pāti Māori – hongī



Kaikaranga from hau kāinga Paulette Tamati-Elliffe performs karanga to manuhiri



Haka pōwhiri by mana whenua during karanga

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It's a Mint life

By Jenny Mcleod

Wānaka families wanting to create a fulfilling life locally for people with intellectual disabilities have successfully established the Mint Charitable Trust which is looking to the community for continued funding and volunteer support to ensure its ongoing journey.

Programme manager Charlotte Jackson says eight families banded together in 2017 to set up the Mint Trust providing opportunities for intellectually disabled people to have meaningful lives and connections in their own community and avoid having to move to larger centres for better care, facilities and amenities.

"There was a definite need and we now support 30 people including children, youths and adults ranging in age from six to 44 years of age. We follow people through their lifetime which is different from other organisations which may have a specific age range or a specific diagnosis."

In 2019 Mint opened in small premises shared with the Wānaka Workshop Community and Fabricate but is currently looking for a larger, fit for purpose central hub to help meet the needs of more individuals.

"Everyone involved uses Mint in different ways and we have people who come five times a week and others just once a week or even once a month. In addition to the weekly programmes we run holiday and employment programmes and become involved in community events to ensure inclusivity. Overnight trips and overnight camps for smaller groups are a big part of what we offer along with our annual camp to Camp Colombo in Gore where we can take up to 25 people."

Three part-time staff and a band of around 50 committed volunteers ensure the success of their programmes and provide an all-important family respite. Going forward the Mint Trust will concentrate on areas such as providing more employment opportunities.



Mint Party 2024



Renon Sasaki & Hailey Throne @ Mint Ball 2024



Ferdia O'Connell Reuben Beston Charlotte Jackson Chloe Duval Emma Pearce Scott Welch & Mint Creative Programme Coordinator Lia Burton @ Lumability 2024.



Louis Wilson @ Mint Camp 2024

"But above all we want to continue to create community awareness of what we are doing and ensure that our people are seen as individuals who can forge their own connections in the Wānaka community," says Charlotte.

"Every day we see an increase in self-esteem, mental well-being and a sense of belonging amongst those who are a part of Mint."

Pushing the boundaries

Mint means everything to 16-year-old Louis Wilson, according to his mother and deputy chair of the Mint Trust board Amanda Dorset.

"We initially used the mainstream school system and while there were good experiences there were also challenges and he couldn't get the support he needed. This led to Mint where we dream big and remain determined to break the stereotype that people with an intellectual disability are eternal children which is definitely not the case."

"At Mint Louis and the others have contact with their peer group and are continually offered opportunities to extend themselves by pushing the boundaries in a safe and friendly environment. They feel they have their own posse where people implicitly understand them and don't judge."

Amanda's company Wilson & Dorset piloted an employment programme for Mint which she says was driven by a business need.

"We needed work done in our warehouse and employed people from Mint on a trial which was very successful and everyone loved it. Now we have moved to individual contracts with the five Mint employees and they are paid a living wage."

Funding and 500 Club

The Mint Trust does not receive government grants and is currently all about grassroots funding.

Their 500 club, which is a core part of its funding efforts where individuals and businesses commit to an annual donation of \$500, has good support in the Wānaka community.

"But funding is extremely difficult and we are always looking for more assistance," says deputy chair Amanda Dorset. "We encourage more people and businesses to come on board as 500-club members and help provide vital financial support for Mint."

The Hugo Trust, Central Lakes Trust, Otago Community Trust and Sargood Bequest among others have also made significant contributions to assist Mint in reaching its objectives.

For more information about Mint 500 Club contact Jude Smith - jude.smith@minttrust.nz

PRECIOUS CLOTHING COLLECTION

By Penny Simpson

A desire to make beautiful, affordable and sustainable clothing is the driving force behind Claire O'Connell's ambitious Wānaka based project Precious Collaborative.

"My goals are to slow things down, go back to basics and create timeless pieces with an affordable price tag that can be kept, worn and treasured."

Claire launched her business last year after 12 years spent home schooling her children. She had earlier trained as an industrial designer before retraining as a pattern maker.

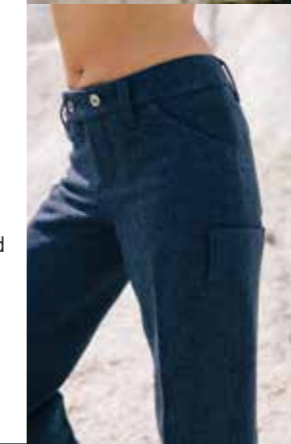
"My motivation is to make clothing that highlights natural, sustainable fabrics to combat the fast fashion cycle," she says. "People who can afford high-quality clothing have lots of choice whereas those with less money often get stuck in the fast fashion loop that churns out low quality, low price garments using synthetic materials that invariably end up in the landfill."

Claire began with various design ideas for the Precious Collaborative range but on discovering that the clothing would be expensive to produce decided to subsidise production costs by designing and selling exclusive designer garments.



Claire O'Connell

"We are aiming to help people out of the fast fashion trap by making tailored, sustainable, simple and easy to wear clothes at an affordable price. Precious Collaborative designs strike a balance between contemporary aesthetics and timeless appeal and durability, whether it's our signature designer coat or our ethical threads for everyday folk."



"I invited New Zealand fashion designer Liz Mitchell MNZM to be part of this project and create a bespoke coat. Her design aesthetic and love of wool and natural fibres matched my ethos and she understood my vision and came on board immediately."

"Liz made two beautiful bespoke garments — the Lake Wānaka coat for women and the Folded Landscape jacket for men that were both auctioned at the Precious Collaborative launch in December 2024 with the men's coat selling for \$10,000."

"We are taking more orders for the designer coats with 30 per cent of the sale profits going into our ready-to-wear collection which will enable up to 20 everyday people to buy from the range."

The first production run of the Precious Collaborative ready-to-wear range made from tweed and hemp is underway and will be available for purchase online.

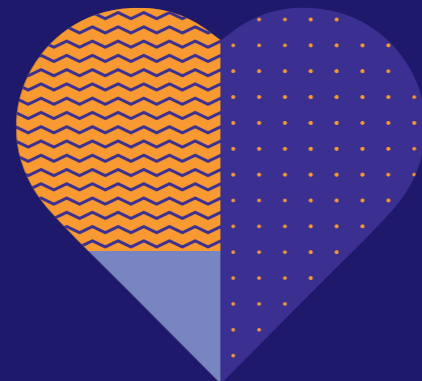
"This new range consists of a pinafore, men's and women's pants, a skirt made from a strong wool blend and a hemp shirt," says Claire. "We are charting new territory in sustainable fashion and I can't wait to see people wearing and experiencing the unique feel of good clothing."

For more information on the bespoke coats and ready-to-wear collection.

www.preciouscollaborative.nz



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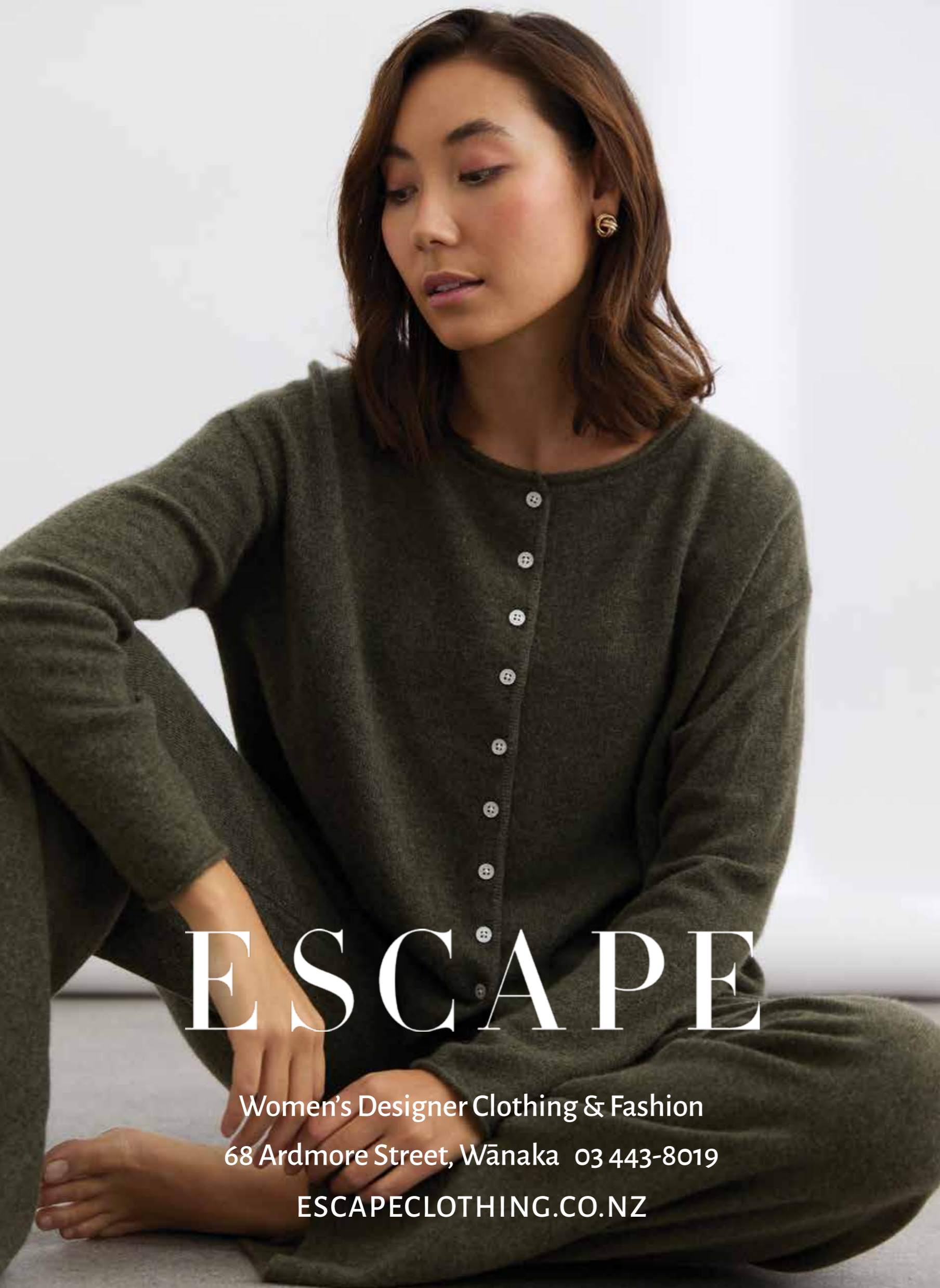
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Q&A

Olivia Lucas has opened her dream studio on Wānaka's lakefront centring on functional medicine and reformer Pilates. She spoke to QT Magazine about her motivation for Holistic House.

I spent over six years studying in Australia which is a leader in both functional medicine and Pilates but wanted to return home to the paradise that is Wānaka to share the knowledge, inspire, educate and give back to the country that raised me.

How did you become involved in Pilates and functional medicine?

I was a terribly sick teenager and my saving grace was alternative holistic options. I believe there is a place for all types and approaches from conventional or allopathic medicine to holistic and in many ways they complement each other. The way in which functional medicine helped me inspired and ignited a spark of purpose which led me to study one year of health science in New Zealand before transferring to Australia for a following six years. Alongside my studies I undertook Pilates teaching.

What type of facilities and services do you offer at Holistic House?

The reason for establishing Holistic House was to provide both functional medicine and reformer Pilates services because there was a definite gap in Wānaka.

Functional medicine focuses on identifying and addressing the root causes of illness rather than simply managing symptoms. By considering factors like genetics, lifestyle, environment and nutrition it provides a personalised, whole body approach to wellness.

Reformer Pilates is a dynamic exercise method that uses a specially designed machine to enhance the traditional Pilates workout. With adjustable resistance the reformer helps target



key muscle groups, improving strength, flexibility and posture and is a versatile approach to achieving a balanced, strong and flexible body.

Our small boutique studio focuses on

private and semi-private classes. We also have specific classes designed for prenatal and Mumma and bubs as well as mobile mat pilates which is popular for wedding mornings and corporate wellness days.



Photograph: Sargison Photography

Olivia Lucas

What is your point of difference?

At Holistic House we specialise in reformer Pilates with just three clients per session ensuring personalised attention and expert guidance. Our functional medicine practitioner graduated with distinction and has extensive expertise in pathology, offering a holistic, science-backed approach to health and wellness. At our studio on Wānaka's stunning lakefront with its pristine views enhancing every experience we combine luxury with a deep commitment to transforming people's bodies and health.

Who are your clients and what has been the response?

Our clients are aged from 14 to 80 years and we are breaking the stigma that holistic medicine is for the 'woo woo' and that Pilates is just for women. In fact we have equally as many male clients and we have had overwhelming positive feedback reinforcing how beneficial reformer Pilates is for people's mental and physical health.

What is the main reason for the success of Holistic House?

We have a high level of expertise and understanding of the way the body works both internally and externally and we subscribe to the no judgment theory. Our community is uplifting and members encourage, inspire and help each other to be the best possible version of themselves.

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Thriving Art Business

By Tom Kalliber

Hannah Brooks' art business which focuses on animal portraits and botanicals was ignited when she spearheaded a craft club for primary school children in the historic playgroup building in Hāwea Flat in 2017.



Today Hannah's thriving art business has developed to include commissioned works, original works of art, prints and an online Felt shop.

"I create personalised watercolour and acrylic painting commissions as well as fine art prints. Much of my work includes animal portraits and botanicals combining my enthusiasm for art and the natural world."

"I especially enjoy the animal portrait commissions bringing the characteristics of animals to life. I love their quirky nature and have also enjoyed working with brands to bring their products to life especially those that want lifelike botanicals. Some of my work includes brand illustrations and acrylic originals."

Hannah is continually experimenting with new techniques preferring not to be limited to one medium.

"My motivation comes from a blend of my passion for making art, the joy it brings me and the happiness I get from bringing that same joy to others. It's a win-win and I've been fortunate to receive heartwarming feedback from many of my customers who connect with the characters that emerge in my work. I'm always delighted to hear that I've managed to capture both the likeness and the unique personality of my subjects."



This led a year later to Hannah Brooks Art where she undertakes commissioned work from her home studio.

"For the first time all three of my daughters were in school which gave me the opportunity to dedicate more time to my personal creative practice."

Growing up in rural England during the 1980s Hannah was encouraged by her mother to go outside and draw a picture with nature which led to her interest in art.

"I pursued art throughout high school earning an A in A Level art then studied for a BSc Hons in Zoology at Swansea University in Wales. I continued to nurture my artistic side taking life drawing courses and watercolour workshops and my natural attention to detail turned out to be a great asset in both my academic work and my art."



Hannah Brooks

Hannah Brooks Art
 Instagram: [hannahbrooks_art](https://www.instagram.com/hannahbrooks_art)
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Full circle fashion

By Jane Brooke

After just a year in business Loft Pre-Loved Boutique in Wānaka has made its mark as a sustainable fashion option giving quality clothing a second life.

"The store's success comes down to great people, an easy consigning process and a relaxed welcoming environment," says owner Bridget Brownrigg. "Our team's personality and style makes shopping and selling fun and stress free and with more and more people concerned about sustainability pre-loved clothing has an important role to fulfil."



Toni Cottier Sarah Crawford Bridget Brownrigg & Gemma Kaler

Bridget began her specialist pre-loved consignment business in 2017 at her family's Canterbury lifestyle property but a move to Wānaka in 2022 led to the opening of Loft boutique in the Southern Lakes.

"Having grown up in Central Otago and spent so much time here over the years it already felt like home. I had always thought a store like mine would be a great fit for Wānaka being a place where people could buy and sell quality designer pieces in an effortless way."

"Loft is stylishly curated making the shopping experience more like a boutique than a second hand store. Most pieces come from locals but I still have a number of loyal customers from Canterbury who send items in to sell. We're always on the lookout for quality designer pieces which can be dropped into our store."



87 Sir Tim Wallis Drive
Three Parks, Wānaka
Email: loft.boutique@xtra.co.nz

Loft Boutique is open 6 days with plenty of parking and easy access.



Born to Run

Kinisi Running is Wānaka's one stop running store and owners Jane and Ian Evans spoke to QT Magazine about the inspiration behind their innovative concept.



What's on your essential autumn running gear guide?

Having lightweight, packable layers to keep warm and dry. With the shorter daylight hours a good headlamp is a must for confidence and safety. A lightweight rain jacket, long sleeve thermal and a good pair of gloves make for an enjoyable run. A pair of micro-spikes are a game changer for traction and confidence when the ground is frozen. Having a routine and even joining a running group keeps you motivated and accountable when it's cold and dark outside.

Kinisi Running was always meant to be more than just a shop. The vision was a meeting point for all things running from sharing experiences, making friends and finding running buddies to shopping functional gear and finding motivation. An important focus was creating a space where people could linger with a cuppa and chat to likeminded people while browsing the newest gear. Our social runs are another cornerstone of that vision encouraging connection, motivation and the sense of being part of something bigger.

Recommended new products instore?

Le Bent merino-bamboo base layers, cosy insulated jackets from Inov-8, La Sportiva or Dynafit, the UltrAspire Neon hi-vis running vest and the powerful Fenix HM65R-T headlamp boasts an awesome 1600 lumens to light up any trail.



The last fundamental piece is our knowledge and passion for what we sell. The market is flooded with gear of all types and we want to help people find the right piece of kit to suit their needs.



What social runs are on the calendar?

We offer a range of different social runs throughout the week each with its own perks. The Sunday Long Run which has been dubbed as the Pastry Run is a favourite as we always hit a bakery before finishing back at the shop for freshly brewed coffee.

Another favourite is our four-kilometre beginners Run4Fun which has no minimum pace and keeps to the pavement.



03 428 4499
info@kinisi.co.nz
www.kinisi.co.nz
87 Sir Tim Wallis Drive, Wānaka



What events are planned in 2025?

In March we're collaborating with the Himalayan Trust once again for their annual Summit Challenge. Kinisi Running will hold the 24-hour Mt Iron Challenge to collect as many vertical metres as possible. Last year over 80 people participated, some climbed Mt Iron with their families while others lapped it 25 times in 24 hours.

In June we'll kick off our 30/30/30 Challenge giving our community a little nudge to continue to keep moving. The challenge is simply to run or walk for 30 minutes every day with great prizes and vouchers to win.

During winter we're teaming up with Snow Farm encouraging runners to try cross-country skiing as a winter activity. This course is exceptionally popular culminating with an entry into the end of season Merino Muster.

Sign up online for regular newsletters or check FB, Instagram & Strava to follow the Kinisi Running Club.

CURATING COWHIDE

By Penny Simpson

Coastal Cowhides has launched a new store at Wānaka's The Precinct establishing a permanent base for the family owned business selling New Zealand's largest range of cowhide products and rugs.

"The decision to open a physical store marks a bold move against the trend of online-only retail but has proven to be a resounding success," says owner Fiona Hudson. "The store elevates the shopping experience allowing customers to see, touch and visualise how each piece will transform their home."

Fiona's unwavering commitment to quality and style sets Coastal Cowhides with its industrial interior design apart.

The spacious store's product range is extensive featuring over 100-cowhide rugs, patchwork rugs, calfskins, ottomans, counter stools, cushions, slippers, poufs, handbags, wallets, and overnight bags. Each piece is carefully curated to suit a variety of tastes and interiors.

"Cowhides are essentially practical floor art," says Fiona. "They can be a subtle addition to a home like our champagne range or dramatic to add a dynamic edge to a natural décor palette."

"Whether you're an interior design enthusiast or simply looking for a standout piece to complete your home we have something for everyone. Our passion for quality and eye for design ensures every customer leaves with a piece that's both beautiful, functional and long lasting."

"Many of our customers choose to ship their purchases home and we send products around the globe. Others opt to take their cowhide treasures home as extra luggage which is a cost-effective option made easier with our instore suitcase service."



Passion & Perseverance

Coastal Cowhides is a true family run business with a backstory of passion, perseverance and alpine ski racing.

Fiona and John Hudson launched the business in 2012 in a mission to support their young daughter Piera's quest to become a successful international ski racer.



Piera Hudson

"We were living by the sea at the time so the name reflects the company's origins but its purpose has always been to fundraise for Piera who as a young alpine ski racer had dreams of representing New Zealand on the global stage," says Fiona.



Fast forward to today and Piera has made a name for herself internationally also claiming the prestigious Australia New Zealand Cup (ANC) yellow bib in 2024 earning her a guaranteed personal start position on the 2025 World Cup circuit.

For the family Wānaka became the natural place to call home after 20 winters spent in Otago's stunning alpine landscapes.

"It's been a full-circle moment opening our new store in The Precinct as our business continues to thrive in this picturesque setting," says Fiona.



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Sustainability Fashion Leader

By Tom Kalliber

Leading New Zealand lifestyle brand Untouched World is the first fashion company in the world to be recognised by the United Nations for sustainability.

The B Corp-certified brand led by founder and CEO Peri Drysdale is on a mission to create enduring clothing made from innovative, natural fibre blends.

"We are relentless in our research and development, always striving to bring market-leading fabric innovations to our customers," says Untouched World sustainability manager Fiona Bretherton.

"This season sees the introduction of the June Knit Tee and Yama Cardi crafted in New Zealand from an exquisite RMS (Responsible Mohair Standard) Certified mohair silk blend. Known for its superior insulation and featherlight feel mohair is perfect for the changing seasons. Spun in Italy at a mill renowned for its exceptional social and environmental standards this blend embodies the brand's dedication to ethical production."



"From sumptuously soft knits to coveted winter coats the new Untouched World AW25 Collection delivers quality winter wardrobe essentials designed with thoughtful intention," she says.

"Mountainsilk™ fine machine-washable merino layering pieces are reimagined in earth inspired hues while the brand's signature CoolTree™ and Total Easy Care Merino collections introduce new versatile, season-defying designs. The merino used in these ranges is entirely ZQ™ certified and responsibly sourced from Glenthorpe Station in Canterbury's high country. We are proud to collaborate with growers like Glenthorpe who continuously raise the bar. Their ZQRX accreditation exemplifies regenerative farming at its finest, ensuring the land is not only preserved but enriched for future generations."

Expanding on its award-winning Rubbish Collection Untouched World has recently introduced a Rubbish Scarf and Rubbish Beanie, complementing the popular Rubbish Socks. The pieces are created from leftover scraps from production runs, repurposed into new yarn in Wellington in an initiative that supports the brand's commitment to diverting 100 per cent of its textile waste from landfill.

"Our Rubbish Socks have been embraced by our community," says Fiona. "This circular approach allows us to give new life to what would otherwise be waste, reinforcing our vision for a truly sustainable future."

To view the full AW25 Collection visit Untouched World stores in Wānaka, Christchurch, Wellington or Auckland or shop online at www.untouchedworld.com



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Timeless Coastal Charm

By Jane Brooke

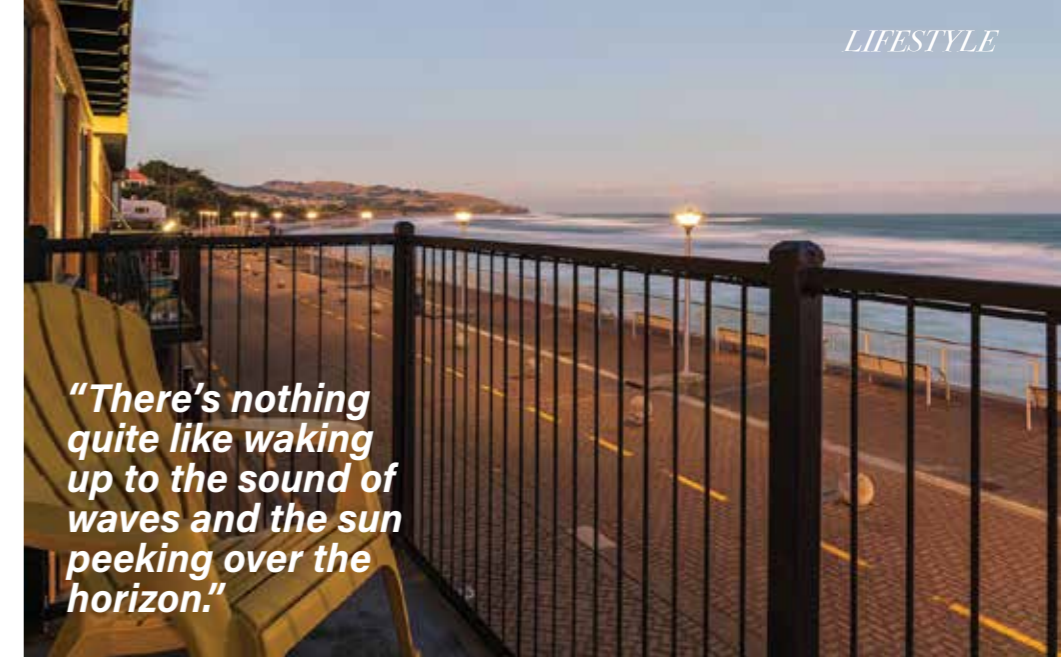
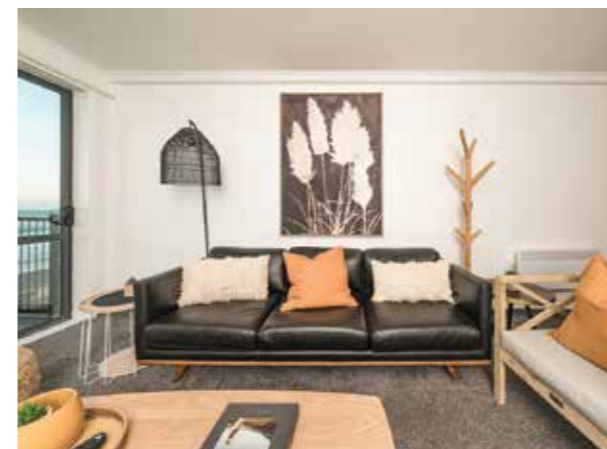
The Esplanade Apartments stand as a timeless piece of Dunedin's coastal charm offering front row seats to the breathtaking beauty of St Clair beach.

Originally part of a trio of grand buildings — including the historic Majestic Mansions and a stately villa — the Esplanade Apartments provide an unparalleled beachfront retreat.

In the early 1900s Majestic Mansions was designed with grandeur in mind, featuring an impressive entrance from the sea facing esplanade. The villa, once home to an elegant tearoom, billiard hall and private dining space now complements the Esplanade Apartments.

Owners Penny and Joff Riley seized the opportunity to weave the property into their Majestic Mansions business securing a rare slice of Dunedin's coast.

"The four one-bedroom beachfront apartments are just ten metres from the waves — an unrivalled spot for sipping morning coffee while watching the tide roll in. Behind them the villa's striking coned turrets house three spacious two-bedroom apartments ideal for families and groups seeking a relaxed, comfortable stay. The sheltered outdoor seating offers a serene space to unwind after a day of seaside adventure," says Joff.



"There's nothing quite like waking up to the sound of waves and the sun peeking over the horizon."



Each apartment is styled with a fresh, Scandinavian, beachy vibe. Soft, neutral tones reflect the sandy shores and the cosy furniture makes it easy to kick back and relax.

"There's nothing quite like waking up to the sound of waves and the sun peeking over the horizon. We have travelled widely and believe it is rare to find accommodation of this calibre so close to the beach front."

The location of the Esplanade Apartments is superb being handy to Central Dunedin, the Peninsula and surrounding areas.

"St Clair Beach isn't just beautiful — it's full of life. The sea has a renowned surf break, drawing surfers from far and wide. On calm mornings the ocean is like glass glowing with the colours of the sunrise while seabirds glide above. Often a sea lion can be seen lounging on the sand or on the rocks while seals swim amongst the waves and share the beach with beach goers."

"Some of Dunedin's best cafés and restaurants are just steps away," says Joff, "serving everything from fresh seafood, authentic Italian, the freshest Thai/Vietnamese and hard to beat coffee. To add to this there are boutiques, a day spa and a hair salon."

"Whether you're visiting from overseas, escaping for a coastal fix or looking for a relaxing getaway The Esplanade Apartments at St Clair beach are the perfect place to soak it all in — where the beauty of nature meets pure comfort."

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ORCHARDING GOLD STANDARD

By Penny Simpson

Kevin Jackson's dedication to innovation has ensured his fourth-generation Cromwell enterprise Jackson Orchards continues to expand and develop as one of Central Otago's largest fruit growing ventures.

The property on the Luggate-Cromwell highway grows cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, greengages, apples and pears while the onsite packhouse and store is a significant attraction.

"The packhouse is a hive of activity throughout the year as we operate more than 200 tonnes of stone and pip fruit and around 10-15 tonnes of cherries over the grading systems," says Kevin. "We have the longest season of any orchard in the country with all our fruit sold domestically."

"We're harvesting for approximately five months with the fruit stall, tours and ice-cream kiosk open all year round. People love to stop and see the operation, taste the fruit and other produce on sale while the ice-creams sell themselves."



All about icecream

The Jackson Orchards fresh fruit ice-cream kiosk sells over 70,000 ice creams a season from its dedicated outdoor kiosk beside the retail store.

"We have mango, strawberry, blueberry, boysenberry, passionfruit, banana, hokeypokey, raspberry, apricot and cherry with the most popular flavour being mixed berry," says owner Kevin Jackson. "We use our own apricots for the ice cream and customers can choose up to two flavours which are blended and swirled into one of three waffle cone sizes. They are delicious and a huge drawcard for the store."



Local Produce Instore

Jackson Orchards' expansive store offers a wide range of their own fresh and dried fruits alongside vegetables and artisan food products from local producers.

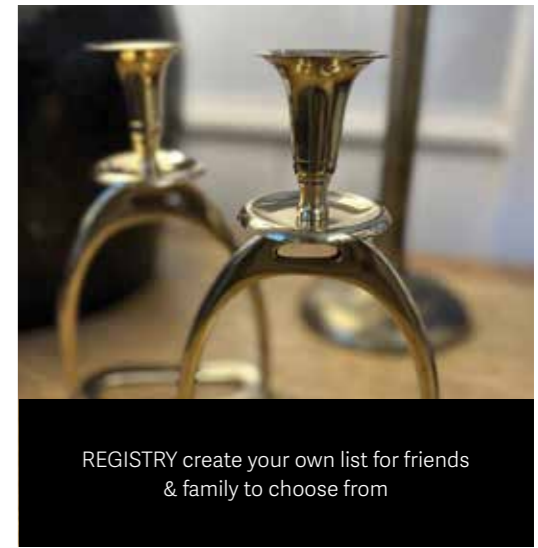
Lady Alchemy Condiments including sauces, salads, dressings, pickles and finishing salts made from naturally infused clean ingredients are also new to the store.

"Hugely popular are our own dried apricots, nuts and other dried goods, daily fresh bread from the European Bakery, Central Otago honeys and seasonal Red Bridge berries," says Ginge.

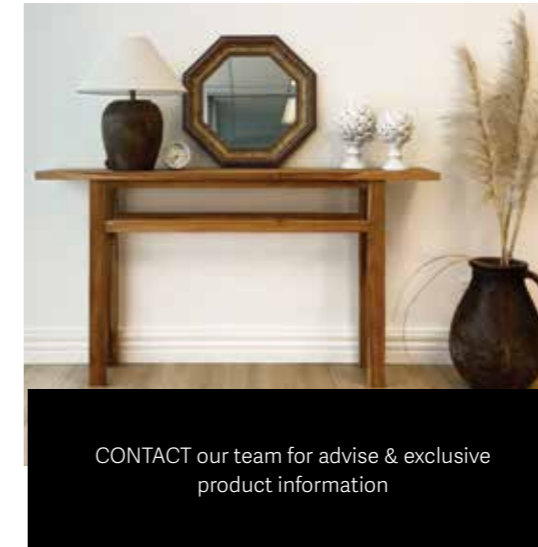
"We've recently introduced new skincare products from local company Earth Row," says store manager Ginge Cowie. "They are hand poured in Cromwell offering small batch, vegan skincare that is nourishing and renewing for all skin types."



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REGISTRY create your own list for friends & family to choose from



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Exclusive Tours

Jackson Orchards is alive with vibrant autumn colours during March, April and May.

"In autumn the packhouse is processing our apples and pears over the grader along with walnuts from our own trees with some over 100 years old," says owner Kevin Jackson.

"The orchard tours operate daily where visitors can hop on board one of our electric buses for a fun, informative insight into orcharding, fruit picking and packhouse grading."

Tours can be pre-booked online or instore.



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