

Directions

30 HOW TO'S



1 Skincare

It is important to change cleansers as we go from summer into autumn. Avoid ingredients with glycolic or salicylic acid which are drying. Change the weight of your moisturiser from a serum to a lotion or a cream to give better protection in the colder, harsher air.

We love: theCream® Face or Men (50ml), \$69.90.

Apply theCream® to a damp face during summer months and a towel-dried face during autumn and winter, when skin is more thirsty. theCream® contains 75% New Zealand colostrum. Colostrum contains vital life-giving ingredients needed to kick-start the immune system. This will do the same for your skin, revealing a fresher, younger you!



What skin type are you? ☒

Finding it hard to distinguish what skin type you are?
Oily, dry and damaged, sensitive, or a combination?

Quick test: Wash your face with a non-greasy cleanser and pat skin dry with a towel. Wait for 10 minutes without applying any product. After 10 minutes, swipe your forehead and cheek with two separate blotting papers.

- ☒ If both papers stick, you most likely have oily skin.
- ☒ If neither sticks, your skin tends to be dry.
- ☒ If the paper sticks on your forehead but not on your cheeks, then you have combination skin.
- ☒ If your skin is easily irritated by common cosmetic products such as shampoos and perfumes, or if you show sensitivity to "itchy" fabrics like wool, then you have sensitive skin.

It is never too late to treat your skin as it transitions into the cooler and drier weather.



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Autumn's here!

Is your skin feeling the effects of a change in season?

Changes in air humidity, temperatures, wind and heat can all cause changes to our skin. The remedy is to change skincare with the seasons. Get adequate sleep, eat a healthy diet, drink plenty of water and moisturise with oils from the inside out.

Let the following products help your skin deal with the changes in season to leave you with a beautiful, refreshed autumn look.

2 Beauty sleep

You should be getting around 6-8 hours' sleep a night. You may have trouble getting to sleep if you are stressed or restless.



TRY: Good Health Magnesium Ultra (100 tablets). Buy 1 for \$34.90 or buy 2 for \$64.90. A high-strength (220mg) one tablet a day formula that has superior magnesium absorption because it does not contain magnesium oxide. The

body uses the magnesium better, because it contains more easily absorbable forms of magnesium, plus added vitamins. This makes it fast-acting and effective for relaxing muscles and soothing nervous tension, supporting you with a good beauty sleep.

3 Skin-friendly oils

Essential fatty acids (EFAs) may support and prevent skin conditions from dryness, and may be effective in supporting healthy skin from sun damage. They may also hydrate the skin and soften wrinkles.

– EVENING PRIMROSE OIL

Evening primrose oil is rich in gamma-linolenic acid (GLA), which is a type of "essential fatty acid" (EFA). GLA is used for a variety of roles, but in particular it helps the body to manufacture prostaglandins which have a key role in supporting the

body's defences, hormonal balance and the maintenance of healthy skin and joints. Prostaglandins are affected adversely by poor diet, aging and other factors, so it is important to give your body every opportunity to aid their production.



TRY: MICROgenics Evening Primrose Oil (200 capsules + 20% FREE). Only \$25.90.

It contains 1000mg of evening primrose oil, offering support during the premenstrual period and aiding in the maintenance of healthy skin.

– FISH OIL

Your body requires omega 3 essential fatty acids for good health, which must be supplied in the diet or through supplementation. Omega 3 is essential for brain function, to support joint health, and promote healthy eyes, skin tissue and muscles.



TRY: Nutra-Life Odourless Omega 3 Fish Oil 1000mg (400 capsules). Only \$29.90.

A rich sustainably harvested source of omega 3 that is encapsulated and quality tested right here in NZ.

4 Vitamin C

Vitamin C can benefit your skin in two important ways. Firstly, it is essential for the synthesis of collagen, a key structural protein of the skin.



Secondly, vitamin C is an antioxidant and can help reduce skin damage caused by free radicals.



TRY: Thompson's® Vitamin C 500mg (200 + 100 tablets FREE). Only \$37.90 these chewables contain no artificial colouring or preservatives, and are gentle on the stomach.

5 Detoxify

We all know to use aloe vera gel on sunburn, but if your insides are sluggish, you could be eating healthy food and not absorbing the nutrients essential for skin and bowel health. Aloe vera may help.



TRY: Lifestream® Biogenic aloe vera juice (1.25L). Only \$29.90. Aloe vera helps settle wind and digestive upset, aids digestion, helps maintain friendly intestinal bacteria, supports immunity and helps soothe the digestive tract.



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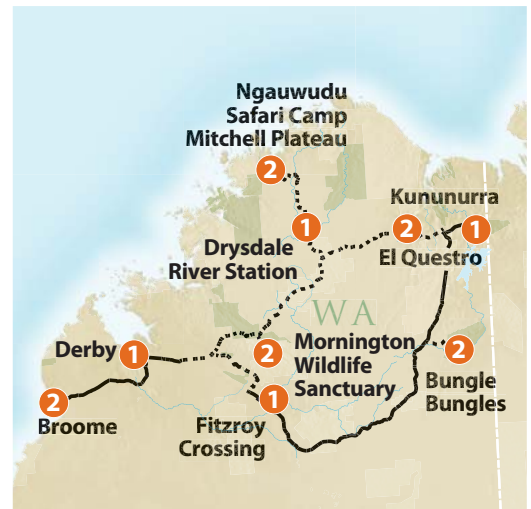
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WILDFLOWERS

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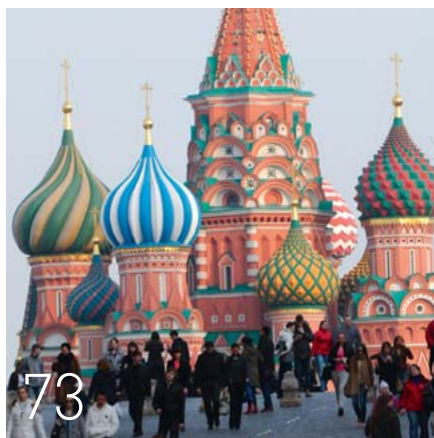
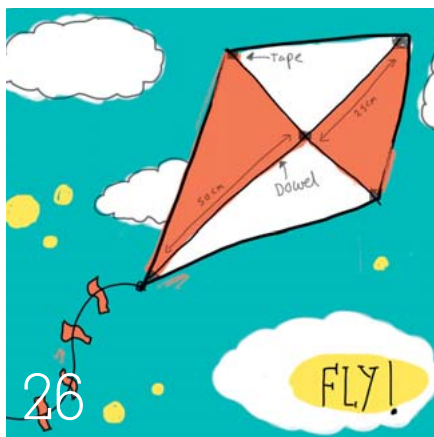
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AA18906

Let's get things sorted.



Insurance

Good vision, good driving

I **ATTEMPT TO VARY** the subject of these editorials, but want to focus again on the benefit to AA Members of a free eyesight examination with Specsavers every two years.

This benefit is coming up to its 12-month anniversary and, since its launch, a staggering 85,000 Members have taken up the offer – including myself.

In my case, the results were somewhat surprising.

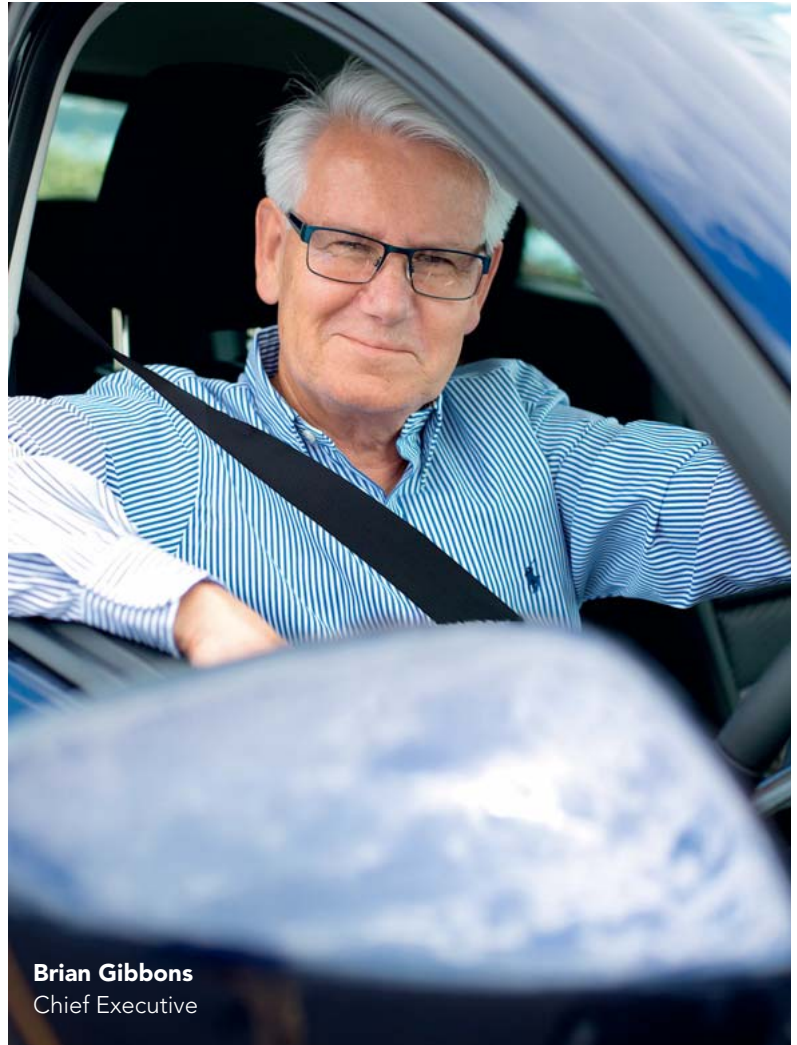
Having had good feedback from Members, I wanted to experience the test first hand. My anonymous appointment confirmed the quality conveyed by many, but it also revealed that the quality of my eyesight was not similarly up to scratch. Although I had passed the eyesight test when last renewing my driver's licence, the optometrist said after this examination: "If you sat your test now, you would fail". She went on to suggest that even though my current licence doesn't require me to wear glasses when driving, I should do so.

I have cited this personal failure to highlight how eyesight can deteriorate in a short period of time. This is the very reason the AA linked with Specsavers – to provide regular checks for Members every two years.

Obviously, the better your eyesight, the safer you are on the road. If glasses are needed, they should be worn. I have taken that advice and now wear glasses when I am behind the wheel.

I thought my eyesight was okay, but I have to concede that my driving vision is much improved with glasses.

I encourage all Members to avail themselves of this free check. The service is without obligation or cost and many people have, like me, been made aware that it is time



Brian Gibbons
Chief Executive

to wear glasses or upgrade the strength of their glasses. Around 60% of Members taking the test have had the assurance that all is well with their eyesight, but around 40% have made the decision to renew their glasses following the test, and so have improved their vision and safety on the road. 🚗

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you support roadside testing for drugged drivers?

➡ Go to www.aadirections.co.nz to have your say.

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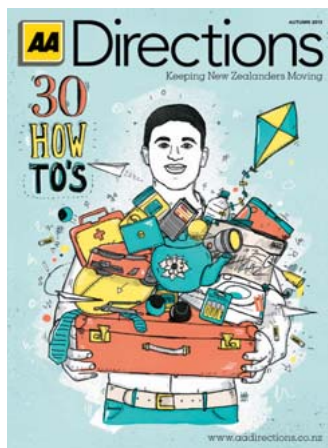
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ON THE COVER

Illustration by Adam Turnbull.

hello



Being practical is part of the AA's personality, so we thought it fitting to provide a light-hearted guide to doing various, useful things in this issue. Although you might not, strictly speaking, need to know how to make peanut butter, start a blog, find pipi or kick a conversion, you never know when these things might come in handy.

Also in this issue, we spoke to three creative Samaritans. In researching this story, we spoke to someone whose advice to people keen to help others – but unsure how to – is to 'use what you're good at'. Really good advice, we thought – so we share it, which is what *Directions* is good at!

Kathryn

KATHRYN WEBSTER
EDITOR

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ADAM TURNBULL

Adam is a New York-based, award-winning graphic designer, and a lecturer from Sydney. He frequently works on international illustration and design projects, and his artwork has seen him exhibit around the globe. His interests include drawing, coffee, beer, Mexican food, and John Baldessari's three-point advice for young artists: "Talent is cheap; you have to be possessed, which you can't will; be in the right place at the right time". Adam designed this issue's cover and our 'How To' feature on p. 26.



SARA BLACK

Hailing from Wellington and graduating from the Whanganui School of Design, Sara moved to Auckland eight years ago to hone her skills on music magazines *The Groove Guide* and *Real Groove*. She now spends her days designing *Urbis*, *Architecture NZ*, *Landscape Architecture Australia* and *AA Directions*. Her favourite things to do are styling photo shoots and scouring the internet for mid-century furniture.



DONAVAN EDWARDS

Engines have long held a fascination for Donovan. He worked for Hyundai and Renault in South Africa and would often spend his weekends burning through the forest on an off-road motorbike. After immigrating with his wife and son to New Zealand in 2011, he took up a position as the AA's Motoring Writer/Advisor. When not obsessing over the latest car models, he likes to venture into the great outdoors, taking his family camping, kayaking and bush walking. Donovan wrote our feature on electric cars on p. 48.

OPINION POLL

In the autumn issue of *AA Directions* we asked: **If we could improve the safety of cycling on our urban roads, would you give cycling a go?**

92%
YES



8%
NO

This issue's poll question: **Do you support roadside testing for drugged drivers?**

To vote, go to www.aadirections.co.nz

TAKE A BOW

Please let your readers know how amazing they are. Since we launched Starship's Mobile Phone Appeal three years ago, we have received more than 30,000 phones via the donation envelopes inserted into *AA Directions* alone.

By donating an old mobile phone to Starship, your wonderful readers are not only helping the precious kids who come for care at the national children's hospital, but they are helping to protect the environment, too.

Through Starship's recycling partner, donated phones are refurbished and sold to emerging economies around the world, with a share of the proceeds going towards the Starship National Air Ambulance Service. We have raised \$2 million from the Starship Mobile Phone Appeal so far – and we're still going.

We are planning another envelope insert in *AA Directions* – and we'd be thrilled if your readers would hunt

out their old mobile phones again and send them to us in this envelope when they see it. Their generous support of Starship kids is very much appreciated.

BRAD CLARK – STARSHIP CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CARING FOR KIDS

Last week the Milford Road was closed due to the risk of rock fall. The NZTA obviously has our best interests at heart. However, with no consistent speed limits outside schools, they aren't looking after our children as they come and go from school.

We need a consistent speed limit of 30 km/h to be introduced during busy times. Lives would be saved and more children would be encouraged to make their independent way to and from school, giving them a chance to safely learn about road rules as a vulnerable road user. This in turn would make them safer adult road users.

LUCINDA REES – SWANNANOA

CYCLIST'S PLEA

I am a motorist and a former cyclist. After enjoyable years of cycling in Christchurch (pre-earthquake), I quit six months after moving to Auckland because I was having at least one close call per week. The main issue was not the behaviour of drivers, most of whom were conscientious. The main issue was that the road lanes are often too narrow for bicycles and cars to share safely.

I would love Auckland to be more cycle-friendly, but it needs a much better layout of cycle lanes and cycle paths.

A MORGAN – AUCKLAND

BELL CALL

Could someone tell me why it is not compulsory to have a bell on a bike? It is very frightening when a bike suddenly comes up behind you while on a walkway. If a bell was installed, at least you could be warned.

CLIFF MATTHEWS – WHITBY

TOURIST SAFETY

We have recently returned from a trip to China where we travelled extensively by road. Several things we noticed may explain some of the problems encountered by Chinese tourists driving in New Zealand.

Seatbelts are compulsory only for the driver and front seat passenger; in parts of China, a single yellow line is the centre line – a single yellow line here gives a different message to visiting drivers; and passing manoeuvres and lane changing are accomplished differently there.

Having made these points, we saw no major accidents and very few cars were scratched or dented.

But, rental car firms here must make the differences between our countries' road rules clear. Telling visitors to 'keep left' is not enough.

PETER AND LYNNE HALL – MOSGIEL

We welcome feedback and views on articles in *AA Directions*, and on any issues affecting motorists. Because of the volume of mail we receive, letters cannot be personally acknowledged. Only a selection can be published and they may be abbreviated for print.

WRITE TO: The Editor, *AA Directions*, PO Box 5, Auckland, 1140 or email editor@aa.co.nz

Q&A

National newspaper headlines have been erupting recently, running regular stories about various volcanoes threatening to blow. We asked Volcanologist Nico Fournier what in blazes is going on...

What does a Volcanologist do?

A volcanologist is a scientist interested in volcanoes. Essentially, we approach volcanoes in the same way a medical doctor assesses a patient: by looking at symptoms. Symptoms may include earthquakes, hot gas coming out of the ground or ground swelling. By understanding these symptoms we can obtain a general picture of what's happening at a specific volcano.

At GNS Science, we have the dual role of research and monitoring. We do a lot of research to better understand how volcanoes work and why and how they erupt.

Practically, our time is spent studying the data recorded on volcanoes. This may involve work in the field. The rest of the time is spent running computer models to try and better understand volcanoes' behaviour.

What appealed to you about this scientific field?

I was born in a volcanic region in central France, so volcanoes have always been part of the landscape. Volcanology interested me for several reasons; the scientific challenge (it is a young science and we know very little), the usefulness of the job (helping protect people's lives) and, simply, the awesomeness of a volcano in eruption.

I have worked on volcanoes around the world and been exposed to a wide range of volcanoes and eruptions.

Why does there seem to be so much volcanic activity happening at the moment?

New Zealand volcanoes have been relatively active since last year. But this is not particularly unusual over the whole history of these volcanoes, which can last for thousands, or hundreds of thousands of years. It's therefore difficult to judge the overall level of activity looking at only a few years or decades worth of activity. There's no indication that volcanoes are substantially more active at the moment than they have been in the past. Although 2012 was a busy year for us, it's a far cry from what happened thousands of years ago at Lake Taupo, for instance, or not that long ago at Tarawera.

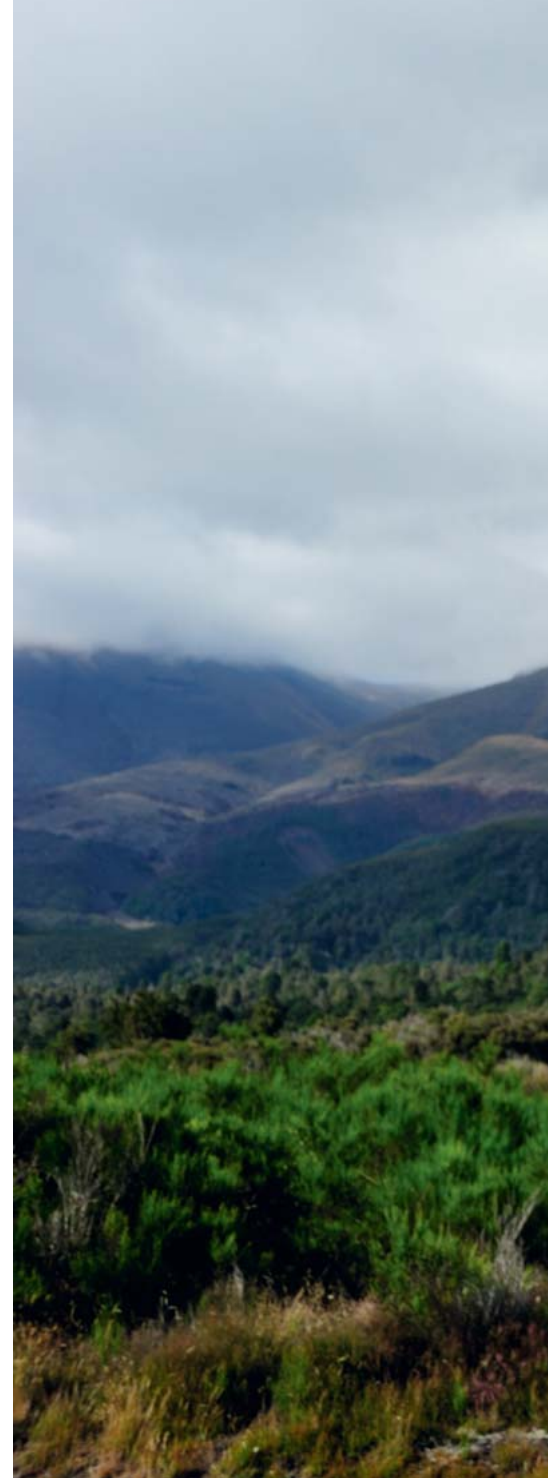
How many active volcanoes are there in New Zealand and which is the most likely to blow?

For monitoring purposes, we've numbered approximately 12 volcanic areas or systems. We tend to talk about 'areas' or 'systems' because some volcanoes erupted in multiple places and have a complicated history.

Tongariro is a good example: the current activity is centred around

the Te Maari craters, but previous eruptions occurred near Red Crater. Similarly, the Auckland Volcanic Field contains many small volcanoes (counted as one by us). But, because these volcanoes mainly only erupted once, we tend to focus on the overall area – in case activity were to increase in a new place – rather than focusing on the existing small volcanoes that may never erupt again.

As to which volcano is the most likely to erupt in the near future, White Island is currently showing the most



PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER JAMES QUINN



“We cannot rule out more eruptions with little or no warning at Tongariro or even Ruapehu”.

activity, hence is an obviously good candidate. But, as we have learnt, we cannot rule out more eruptions with little or no warning at Tongariro or even Ruapehu.

How concerned should people be about a volcanic eruption?

People should be aware of the hazards from volcanoes, in the same way that we should be aware of weather hazards when going tramping. They are potentially part of the environment for many Kiwis.

But New Zealand is very well-off at an international level for volcano monitoring. There is a solid structure in place to inform the public of current activity and the hazards they may face at any given time. Nothing beats preparedness and knowledge. For instance, we can provide guidance on what to do in the case of a volcanic eruption or ashfall in inhabited areas.

But there's no particular need for people to worry unnecessarily about volcanic eruptions: this is what we are here for. ➡

Art History

Advertising has never looked more beautiful than in the pages of *Selling the Dream: The Art of Early New Zealand Tourism* (Craig Potton publishing, RRP \$79.99). The glossy, 408-page book celebrates the remarkable graphic art used to promote New Zealand tourism to the world, sure to evoke nostalgia as well as a renewed desire to explore our landscape.

➡ www.sellingthedream.co.nz



And the winner is...

At a glittering event in Auckland last December the major players of New Zealand's motoring industry gathered to discover which vehicle would drive off with the prestigious title of Car of the Year 2012.

The awards, presented by the AA and the Motoring Writers Guild, also acknowledged excellence in ten distinct categories.

To be eligible for contention, vehicles had to have been launched in New Zealand in the 12 months to October 2012, and been put through their paces by the voting panel.

To a rapturous round of applause, the New Zealand Car of the Year 2012 was announced as the Toyota 86.

Motoring Writers Guild President David Linklater described Toyota's rear wheel drive sports coupe as "fantastic", saying the car "provides a high level of performance and safety". Stella Stocks, AA General Manager, Motoring Services, also had high praise for the car saying it "has sublime handling and is quick enough to be entertaining".

Best in class award winners:

Small car – Suzuki Swift

Compact car – Ford Focus

Medium car – BMW 3 Series

Large car – Skoda Superb

Luxury car – BMW 5 Series

Small/medium SUV – Mazda CX-5

Large SUV – BMW X5

Sports/performance car – Toyota 86

Utility – Ford Ranger

Safest car – BMW 3 Series

➡ For more info on the awards
see www.aa.co.nz/nzcoty



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AA Directions

Welcome

On *AA Directions'* website, we're featuring reader feedback on this issue's 'How To...' feature. The site's packed with stories from past issues, too – providing a rich catalogue of travel articles, celebratory and inspiring stories of New Zealand, and motoring-relevant coverage.



➡ Read more at www.aadirections.co.nz



Crafty Cuts

Handmade, the festival celebrating all things craft, returns to the capital this Queen's Birthday weekend.

Classes, talks and demonstrations of crafty pursuits – from stitching and furniture restoration to up-cycling and artisan food creation – will feature at various venues around central Wellington. Promoted as an opportunity for people to learn the skills of previous generations, but using modern technology and style, participants can sign up for one or many activities, either taking part in hands-on learning or observing experts at work in master classes. An addition to this year's programme is the 'World' category, which will focus on the crafts of different cultures.

➡ All skill levels, from rookie to expert, are encouraged so if you're feeling crafty, or aspire to, sign up at www.handmadenz.co.nz





Swing it!

Get out your wingtips and take a dance down memory lane, as the The Glenn Miller Orchestra brings the golden era of swing to New Zealand.

Together with the Serenade Singers and The Broadway Swing Dancers, the orchestra will perform Glenn Miller's iconic wartime arrangements, as well as the music of The Andrews Sisters, Frank Sinatra, and the romantic melodies made famous by Vera Lynn.

The show, which hails from the USA and has been touring since 1956, will visit 18 venues around New Zealand between May 30 and June 26. For a list of venues, dates and ticket details, visit www.glennmillerorchestratournz.co.nz

AA Directions has four double passes to The Glenn Miller Orchestra to give away. To enter, send your name, phone number and preferred venue to Glen Miller Competition, AA Directions, PO Box 5, Auckland 1140, or visit www.aadirections.co.nz to enter online. Entries close April 30.

Public Consultation

Enduring Power of Attorney

We want your views

In 2008 the laws regarding enduring powers of attorney were changed to provide greater protection for the rights and interests of people unable to manage their own affairs.

The Minister for Senior Citizens is looking at how well the changes are working to see if further changes are needed.

We particularly want to hear from you if you:

- have set up an enduring power of attorney after September 2008
- are acting for someone who is unable to act for themselves (under an enduring power of attorney)
- are thinking about setting up an enduring power of attorney
- have experience with matters relating to enduring powers of attorney (e.g. you might be a health or legal professional).

For more information and to participate in the online questionnaire please visit www.msd.govt.nz or phone **0800 273 674** for a hard copy of the questionnaire.



OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

TE TARI KAUMĀTUA

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

NOT BORN FOR DIY?

Or you simply don't have enough time...

Get your new toilet suite, vanity, basin/sink mixer or slide shower professionally installed by one of our qualified plumbers. You'll save time, worry, and a whole lot of potential problems down the track.



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*CONDITIONS APPLY

Find out more by talking to one of our specialist consultants today.

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bathrooms, laundries, kitchens and gas...
it's what we know

Catch a Butterfly

Love, longing and betrayal take centre stage in the New Zealand Opera's season of *Madame Butterfly*.

Puccini's beloved opera tells the story of Butterfly, a 15-year-old Geisha who falls for a callous naval officer named Pinkerton. Shortly after their marriage Pinkerton leaves Butterfly to bear his child alone, and returns years later with a new, American wife.

This tender love story stars Australian soprano Antoinette Halloran as Butterfly and Italian tenor Piero Pretti as Lieutenant Pinkerton.

Madame Butterfly opens in Auckland on April 18, and Wellington on May 11.



➔ Visit nzopera.co.nz for more information and tickets.

Thinking ahead

Arranging an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) is usually associated with a senior facing mental decline, but is something all adults should consider. Why? Because the most common sudden need for an EPA is after a vehicle crash involving severe injuries.

In the case of head injuries, the person injured may not be able to nominate who should look after their affairs or manage their care. Arranging who will protect your personal and property rights, if necessary, should be considered while you're still capable of it – most logically at the same time as wills are made.

Changes to how protection is ensured were made in 2007 and a review of those changes is currently underway by the Ministry of Social Development. Whether more amendments and safeguards are needed is also being considered and submissions are being called for now.

➔ See www.msd.govt.nz

Autumn COLOURS

An international mix of theatre, dance, art, conversation and music will herald autumn in Wanaka and Queenstown, with the region's biennial Festival of Colour. This year's acts include top New Zealand dance company Black Grace, the new Dave Armstrong play *Kings of the Gym*, Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells for Two*, Michael Houston playing Beethoven, New Zealand Guitar Quartet, Strike, The Yoots, and much more.

Politics, religion and art will be aired in a conversation series featuring world-renowned investigative journalist Seymour Hersh and local artists, poets, writers and activists. Open-air exhibitions, free and family-friendly events and street theatre will add to the atmosphere – all set against the glorious autumn scenery the Southern Lakes region is famous for.

The Festival of Colour kicks off on April 16 for six days, based in Wanaka and touring, in part, to Queenstown and other nearby towns.

■ www.festivalofcolour.co.nz



Risk reduced

New Zealand's state highways have become safer, according to the latest Kiwi Road Assessment Programme (KiwiRAP) results.

KiwiRAP, a partnership between the AA and several government agencies, evaluates New Zealand's state highways. A report at the end of 2012 showed a 15% reduction in fatal and serious crashes across our state highways and a drop in the proportion of the highway network

with a higher crash risk.

The KiwiRAP data is used by the NZ Transport Agency and Police to target safety improvements, enforcement and education campaigns in the highest-risk areas. The latest results show the approach is working, with highways that were in the high-risk category in the 2008 KiwiRAP report experiencing a 30% drop in serious crashes in five years.

The results also show which highways have the highest risk and drivers can go to www.kiwirap.org.nz to see how the roads they drive on rate. By being aware of where they face greater risks, drivers can adjust their behaviour to help keep themselves and everyone else safe.

More than half of New Zealand's road deaths occur on state highways, so improving their safety is critical.

Digital Directions

After a lot of interest from Members, we're pleased to announce that AA *Directions* is now available digitally as a full magazine PDF.

This means you can download the latest issue from our website (www.aadirections.co.nz) and read the whole magazine digitally on your smartphone, tablet or computer.

➡ To download this latest issue, head to www.aadirections.co.nz, follow the download link and then transfer the file to your device. PDF files are incredibly easy to use, are compatible with most devices and can be opened and read in your already-installed reader software, so you won't need to download anything else. Easy!



Doing the sums

New Zealand insurance companies – including AA Insurance – are changing how houses are insured. Instead of 'full replacement' insurance policies based on a home's size, homeowners now need to provide their insurer with the rebuild value of their home. And they need to check figures on their renewal notice to ensure all the details and any changes have been taken into account.

Called 'Sum Insured', this system is designed to provide more certainty for both customers and reinsurers – the companies that insure the insurers.

"Sum Insured provides stability for policy holders, who will know more accurately the most their insurance company will pay to rebuild their home," says Suzanne Wolton, Head of Customer Relations, AA Insurance.

"Reinsurers also want to understand the most that will be spent to rebuild properties after

large scale events or natural disasters," she says. "Certainty for our reinsurers also means our policies remain as affordable as possible."

As Sum Insured is based on the rebuild value of homes, not their market value or rateable value, characteristics such as the home's age or standard of build can impact on the rebuild value, so the homeowner is in the best position to calculate it.

"We don't want our customers to become experts in rebuild costs," says Suzanne. "There are online calculators to assist with this exercise, and quantity surveyors, valuers and builders can also help."

Anyone taking out a new policy with AA Insurance will be asked to provide an up-to-date estimate of their home's rebuild value.

Existing AA Insurance customers will need to consider their home's value, too. With renewals after 1 July this year, an estimate based

on the existing policy will be provided. It is critical that customers review this estimate thoroughly to make sure it accurately reflects their home. Customers may need to update their Sum Insured to take home renovations, extensions and additions into account.

"While this sounds a bit complicated and homeowners are understandably a bit nervous about this new responsibility, there isn't that much to it and those who have used the online estimation tool found it useful and easy to understand," says Suzanne.

"Homeowners are in the best position to know the details of their own homes – so it makes good sense for them to provide details of what it's actually worth. They can also provide information that insurers won't know about, such as the quality of fittings, any updates and additions."

➡ www.aainsurance.co.nz

Small Wings?

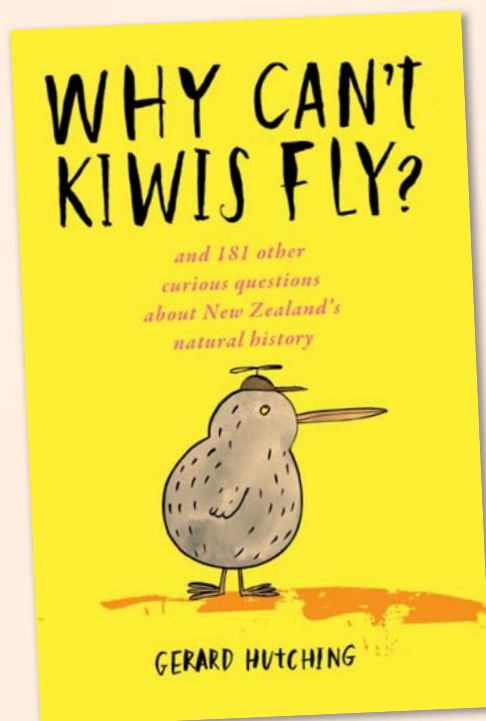
New Zealand is rightly renowned for the beauty and diversity of its natural world. But, like all great beauties, below the surface lies a potpourri of eccentricities, oddities and quirks.

Author Gerard Hutching looked long and hard at New Zealand and identified 181 ways in which our fair country is, in reality, slightly bonkers.

He then went about finding out the reasons behind these kinks, collating the answers in his book, *Why Can't Kiwis Fly?: And 181 Other Curious Questions About New Zealand's Natural History* (Penguin, RRP \$30). Inside you'll discover, amongst other things, why the top fell off Mt Cook, what Maori used for chewing gum and the answer to the age-old question in the book's title.

So, if any part of our great outdoors has left you puzzled, perplexed or perturbed, a perusal through its pages should prove productive.

AA Directions has ten copies to give away. To enter online, go to www.aadirections.co.nz or send your name and address to *Why Can't Kiwis Fly? Giveaway*, AA Directions, PO Box 5, Auckland 1140, by April 30, 2013.









European White Christmas Tours

Imagine spending this Christmas in a 'fairytale' hotel amongst the snow covered Alps with candlelit Christmas markets, ginger biscuits, mulled wine and sleigh rides. Stay in medieval hunting lodges or dramatic 13th century castles and have Christmas dinner and carols in an 800 year old rustic Inn!

Come and experience a European White Christmas with Albatross Tours.

For your copy of our Christmas 2013 tour brochure call 0800 446 232 or visit www.albatrosstours.co.nz

The Albatross difference...

-  Select from 19 European Christmas and New Year tours
-  Specially designed for Australians and New Zealanders
-  Leisurely paced with 3 to 7 night stays in one place over Christmas
-  Hotels specially selected for their location, style and nostalgia
-  Genuinely inclusive, with no additional 'on tour' costs
-  Guaranteed group departures

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WIN! Bay of Islands Family Time

The Bay of Islands is 'paradise without a passport' and, at only a three-hour drive from Auckland, it's the perfect place for a 'Freedom Friday' weekend escape.

AA DIRECTIONS HAS A FAMILY HOLIDAY THERE UP FOR GRABS. THE PRIZE INCLUDES:

- Two nights' accommodation for four at the Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands
- A \$100 voucher for dinner at the Waitangi Restaurant, Copthorne Hotel & Resort
- A family pass on the iconic Fullers GreatSights Cream Trip cruise, designed to showcase all the highlights of the spectacular Bay of Islands in one day
- A Waitangi Treaty Grounds tour and cultural performance
- And \$200 of fuel vouchers to get you there and back

TO BE IN TO WIN go to www.aadirections.co.nz and enter online. Or, if you don't have access to a computer, send your name and address to **B.O.I Competition, AA Directions, PO Box 5, Auckland 1140** – entries close April 30, 2013.



SIS TO AAI

The SIS brand is being retired and all SIS customers will be moved to AA Insurance policies.

SIS customers won't need to do anything. The AA Insurance team will automatically move current SIS Insurance policies, as they come up for renewal after 1 July 2013, to the equivalent type of AA Insurance policy.

Customers will be kept informed throughout and AA Insurance will let them know when the changes will affect them. Customers will retain all of their SIS insurance and claims history with AA Insurance.

☎ Phone 0800 801 201 or visit www.sis-insurance.co.nz for more details

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TV not included.

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BOSE® SOLO TV SOUND SYSTEM

Every TV show you watch has a world of sound within, but you may not be hearing it. That's because most flat-panel TVs have speakers that simply cannot reproduce the depth and detail of all that sound, so it remains trapped inside.

To solve that problem, we developed the Bose Solo TV sound system. It reveals so much more of the sound you're meant to hear that watching TV can feel like an entirely different experience.

No matter how many times you've watched your favourite shows, you can hear details

you never noticed before. Subtle sound effects. The crisp, clear vocal that steals the spotlight in your favourite talent show.

Our first one-piece solution for your TV. Proprietary digital signal processing allows this speaker to deliver more of the dialogue, music and sound effects you've been missing – clearly and naturally. So you won't have to turn up the volume to hear it all. And Bose speaker array technology reproduces sound that's wider than the screen, all from a speaker that fits neatly under your TV.

BOSE EXCITEMENT GUARANTEE

Purchase directly from Bose or from a Bose store* and take 21 days to audition your favourite TV shows through the Bose Solo system.

If at the end of the 21 day trial period you feel that the system is not right for you, simply return the product for a full refund.

The Bose Solo system is also available to buy from authorised Bose resellers.

THREE EASY WAYS TO BUY

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BUY FROM A BOSE RESELLER

For your nearest authorised Bose reseller visit reseller.bose.co.nz

The 21 day risk-free trial is not available when purchasing from authorised Bose resellers.



CHOICE
AHEAD

If you're an AA Member, your Specsavers entitlement just got even better. Because for a limited time, you can now choose between a FREE eye exam* OR \$60 OFF when you purchase from the 2 pairs designer for \$299 range or above. With a choice like this, it's easy to see why all roads lead to Specsavers.

*Free exam applies to standard eye examinations only, normally valued at \$60. Limited to one AA Member every two years. Excludes contact lens examination. Available to current AA Members upon presentation of AA Membership card, subject to appointment availability. *Price complete with PENTAX standard single vision lenses with scratch resistant coating. Second pair must be from the same price range of frames and lens range or below. Must be same prescription. Price for other lens types may differ. Extra options not included. Progressives and bifocals also available at an extra cost.

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Over 50 stores now open in New Zealand.
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Cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other frame or lens offers. Outside prescriptions welcome. Limited to one AA Member every two years. Available to current AA Members upon presentation of AA Membership card. Valid at Specsavers NZ stores only. Offer ends 31st May 2013.



HOW TO DO

(ALMOST)

EVERYTHING

30

TIPS & TRICKS

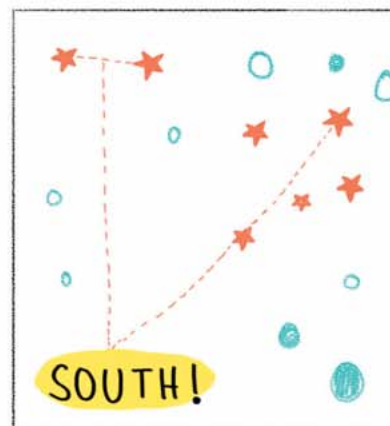
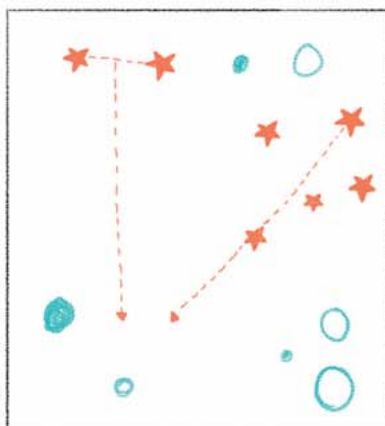
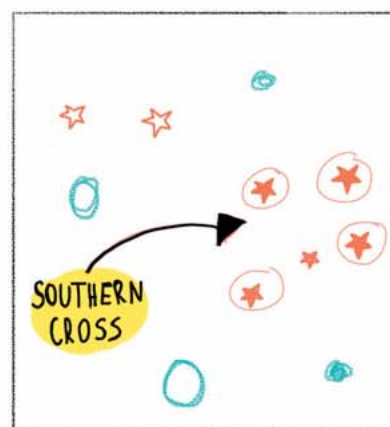
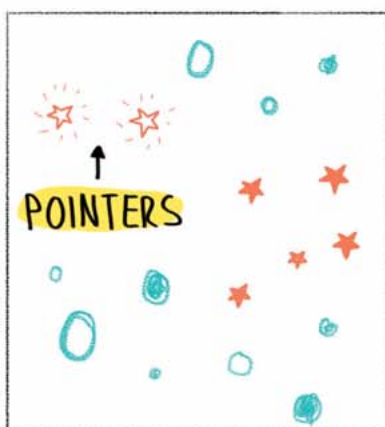
- FOR -

DAILY LIFE



1 CHECK YOUR ENGINE OIL

- Park your car on flat terrain and turn off the engine.
- Wait a couple of minutes for the oil to settle.
- Open the bonnet and locate the engine's dipstick. You can identify this easily, as it will have some kind of small handle and will be near the engine.
- Remove the dipstick and wipe it clean with a lint-free rag.
- Fully insert the dipstick back into its tube for three seconds.
- Remove it again and look for the markers near the bottom of the dipstick.
- In between these markers will be fresh oil. This indicates your current engine oil level.
- The oil level mustn't be below the minimum mark or above the maximum level.
- If necessary, top up the engine with the correct grade oil.
- Recheck the oil level and refit the dipstick.
- If you have topped up your oil, ensure that the oil filler cap is put back on securely.



2 FIND SOUTH AT NIGHT

- 1** | Look for two very bright stars, one above the other, in the Milky Way near the horizon. These are The Pointers.
- 2** | Above them, lying on its side, is the kite-shaped, four-starred

Southern Cross.

- 3** | To find due south, draw two imaginary lines: one from mid-way between The Pointers at a right angle, the other from the top of the cross to the bottom,

- extended until it meets the line from between The Pointers.
- 4** | The meeting point of these lines is the South Celestial Pole.
 - 5** | Locate south by dropping a vertical line to the horizon.

3 GIVE A TOAST

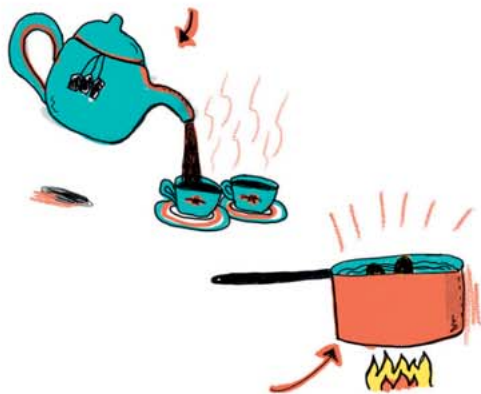
- Write, memorise and rehearse the speech before the event. On the day, don't drink so much that you forget it.
- Wait until everyone has a drink before you begin your toast.
- Stand up while giving the toast, even if it's just six of you around a dinner table.
- Hold a glass at the ready, but don't raise it until the last sentence of the toast.
- Face the person or group being honoured by the toast. Project your voice and don't rush through it.
- Raise your glass and

- finish the toast with a closing sentiment, for example: "Here's to your retirement. May you never be woken by an alarm clock again".
- Punctuate the toast by taking a sip of your drink, which is a signal for other guests to do the same.



4 MAKE A PROPER CUP OF TEA

- Boil fresh water in the jug.
- Warm the teapot by swirling a little boiled water around inside before pouring it out.
- Add one teaspoon of loose tea leaves per cup, plus one extra for the pot.
- Pour the just-off boiling water into your teapot and let the tea steep. Allow about one minute for green tea, three to six minutes for black tea, 10 to 12 minutes for herbal teas. If you like your tea strong, add more tea leaves rather than letting it stew for longer.
- If it's white tea you're preparing, splash a little milk into cups.
- Use a tea strainer to catch the leaves, as you pour the tea.
- Take your cup of tea and a biscuit or two into the sunshine to enjoy.



6 BOIL AN EGG

- If the egg has come from the fridge, let it warm to room temperature. Very cold eggs crack in hot water.
- Carefully place the egg in a small saucepan of cold water and cover with a lid.
- Bring the water to a gentle simmer before turning the heat off.
- For a soft-boiled egg with a runny yolk, leave the egg in the water for one minute, then lift out and place in an egg cup. Eat with buttered toast soldiers for optimum deliciousness.
- For a picnic-ready, hard-boiled egg, leave it in the water for five minutes, lift out, and peel once cold.

5 KICK A CONVERSION

- 1 | Put the ball in the tee or use your boot heel to make a pivot.
- 2 | Aim the ball by leaning it towards the goalposts at a 45° angle, with the seams facing out.
- 3 | Take three long steps backwards away from the ball. Check you're still lined up with the ball. Take two steps to your left or right (your preference) and aim for a specific target between the posts.
- 4 | Focus your energy into your kicking foot by swinging your arms into a clap. If you ever wondered why

the pros clap before kicking, this is what they are doing.

5 | Begin approach. You should run the same number of steps you took away from the ball and follow the same path you marked out. This will see you curl into the ball.

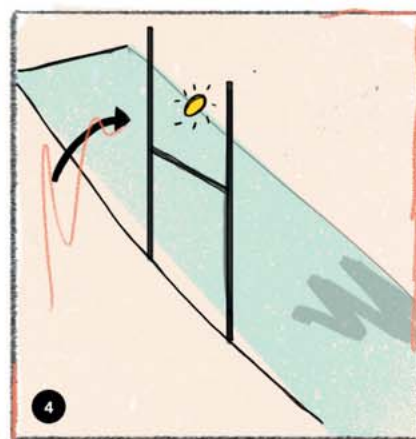
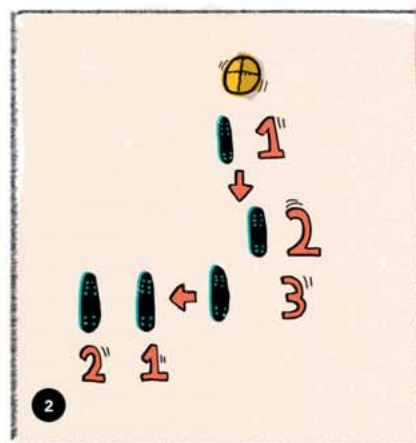
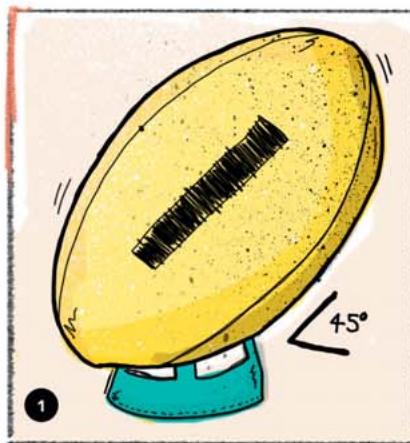
6 | As you near the ball, position your non-kicking foot as close to the tee as possible, making sure your head is directly over the ball and your shoulders are facing the posts. Shift your weight onto this foot as you swing

your kicking foot into the ball.

7 | As you curve in to the ball, you will generate more power and be in an optimum position to strike the ball with your kicking foot. You want to kick the ball with the area between your ankle and your instep. A rugby ball's 'sweet spot' is roughly a third up from the tee.

8 | Follow through with your foot once you've kicked the ball. In other words, keep your leg swinging.

9 | Celebrate your glorious conversion!



7 CORRECTLY USE A SEMICOLON

- Use a semicolon to join two independent, but related clauses together. For example: "I'm going to Wellington next week; I hope I see a Hobbit."
- Semicolons are also used to break up a complicated and lengthy list. For example: "For the party I need you to buy candles, the kind you stick in cakes; sausage rolls, which will be in the frozen section; white bread, and hundreds and thousands for fairy bread; and four bottles of wine."



8 RESUSCITATE SOMEONE

- 1 | Lay the person on their back.
 - 2 | Tilt their head back and lift the chin.
 - 3 | Look for normal breathing.
 - 4 | Place your hands in the centre of the chest. Push down hard 30 times then give two breaths mouth to mouth.
 - 5 | Continue this cycle of compression and breaths until you save their life and become a hero.
- Download the St John NZ CPR app to your iPhone in case you forget!

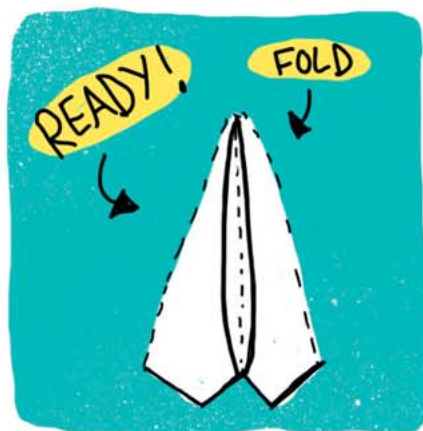
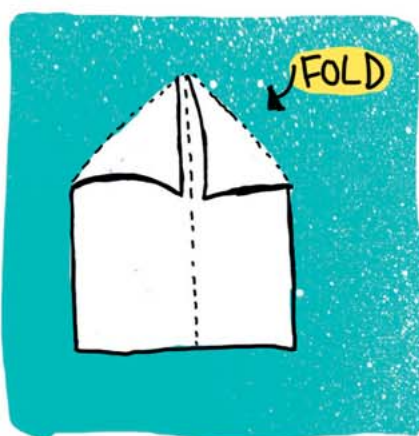
9 MAKE PEANUT BUTTER

- 1 | Unless they are pre-roasted, bake two cups of shelled peanuts in the oven for six to eight minutes at 180°C, shaking every so often so they don't burn.
- 2 | Pour the peanuts into a food processor with 1 ½ tablespoons of vegetable oil (not olive oil, as this will make it taste funny).
- 3 | Blend the peanuts until they reach the desired consistency.
- 4 | Add a little brown sugar or honey, and salt to taste.
- 5 | Spoon the peanut butter into an airtight container and refrigerate. It should last up to two months in the fridge, unless you eat it all straight away.



10 JUGGLE THREE BALLS





11 MAKE THE BEST PAPER PLANE

1 | This paper plane is called The Dart, widely regarded as one of the best paper planes you can make. It's a classic for a reason.

2 | First fold an A4 piece of paper in half vertically (longways) and then open it back

up. This will be your reference crease.

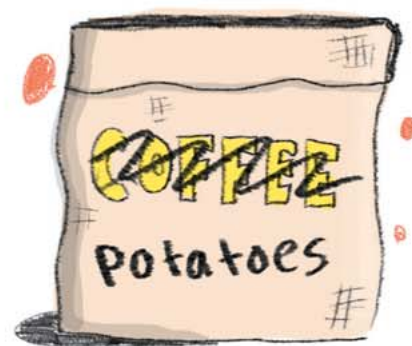
3 | Fold the top left and right corners down 45° into the reference crease so they form a tip.

4 | Fold both sides you just created diagonally into the

crease. You should now start to see the 'dart' shape form.

5 | Fold the whole thing in half, so that all the folds you just made are on the outside.

6 | Fold down your wings and prepare for flight!



12 GROW POTATOES WITHOUT A BIG GARDEN

- You will need: a recycled coffee sack (ask your local coffee shop), three or four seed potatoes, and garden soil.
- Prepare the potatoes by letting them sprout for several days.
- Roll the edges of the sack down so it's about 15cm high (this can be tricky, so get a friend to help).
- Fill the sack with about 8-10cm of loose soil.
- If your potatoes are large and have several sprouts, cut them into pieces with a sprout in each.
- Place the potatoes on the soil at least 15cm apart, with the sprouts facing the sky.
- Cover potatoes with soil and lightly water.
- As the potatoes grow, add enough soil to cover half of the new stems, rolling the sides of the sack to accommodate new soil. Continue to do this until you reach the top of the bag.
- After about 100 days, the leaves start to turn yellow. Congratulations, your potatoes are ready!

13 TAKE A PHOTO

1 | Look at the scene and decide what you're photographing before looking through the viewfinder or at the camera screen.

2 | If your camera has auto-focus, lock on to the main subject of your photograph and then reframe.

3 | Move your subject away from the middle of the frame. Think in thirds and place what you're photographing in the right

or left third, or the upper or lower third.

4 | Remember to try vertical as well as horizontal shots.

5 | If your subject is in the distance, consider framing the image with something in the foreground, such as the branch of a tree.

6 | When photographing people, ask them to huddle and move in close. A tight shot is usually

the most effective.

7 | Avoid complicated, cluttered backgrounds.

8 | Watch the light. Don't shoot into the sun and keep your subject out of extreme sunlight to avoid heavy shadows. Use natural light when possible but, if you're indoors or in deep shade, use a flash.

9 | When you're photographing children, get down to their level.

14 WAX YOUR CAR

- Wash your car like a pro. This means skipping the car wash and cleaning it by hand, with soapy water and a sponge.
- Completely dry the vehicle's bodywork.
- Park the car in a shaded area.
- Use a cloth to apply a thin coat of wax on the car's paintwork. It is best to do this panel by panel.
- Keep the wax off your car's plastic and rubber surfaces.
- Wait a couple of minutes for the wax to dry. This is a good time to apply wax to the next panel.
- Using a microfibre cloth, apply light hand pressure and buff the wax off using a circular motion. Then move onto the next panel.
- Put on your shades because, when you're done your car will be bright and sparkling!



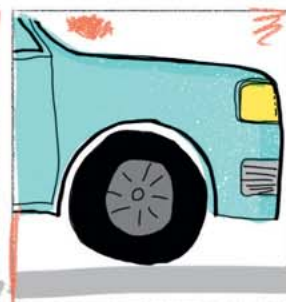
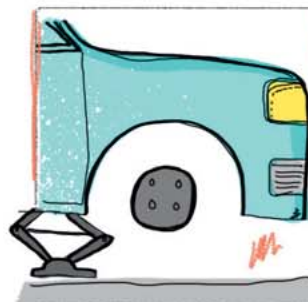
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START A BLOG

- Come up with an idea. Will your blog be about food? Politics? Pictures of cats dressed as celebrities? It can be as broad or specific as you like, but it will be easier to sustain if it focuses on something you're passionate about.
- Decide where to create your blog. Wordpress and Blogger are the two most popular blog sites, and both are free.
- Decide on a name. It should be unique, easy to remember, and give some indication of what the blog is about.
- Choose how you want it to look by selecting a design theme. Both Wordpress and Blogger offer ready-made themes for you to choose from, some of which are customisable.
- Start blogging! Post as often as possible and include pictures as well as text.
- Share a link to your blog on Twitter and Facebook, engage with the online community by commenting on blogs you like, and prepare to be world-famous on the internet.

16 CHANGE A TYRE

- 1 | Park your vehicle on flat, firm terrain and switch off the engine.
- 2 | Apply the parking brake. If your car is an automatic, ensure it's in 'Park'. If your ride is a manual, put the car in first gear.
- 3 | Locate the spare wheel, jack and wheel brace. These are usually found in the boot.
- 4 | Place the jack under the recommended lifting point. Your car's instruction manual will show you where this is.
- 5 | Raise the jack to support the vehicle, without lifting the wheel off the ground.
- 6 | Loosen the wheel bolts no more than a quarter turn.
- 7 | Crank the jack higher to raise the tyre off the ground.
- 8 | Remove the wheel bolts and the tyre.
- 9 | Fit the spare tyre and the bolts.
- 10 | Firmly tighten the bolts in a diagonal sequence.
- 11 | Lower the car as much as necessary for the wheel to rest back on the ground.
- 12 | Tighten the wheel bolts properly.
- 13 | Completely lower the car and remove the jack. Remember to put your flat tyre in the boot.



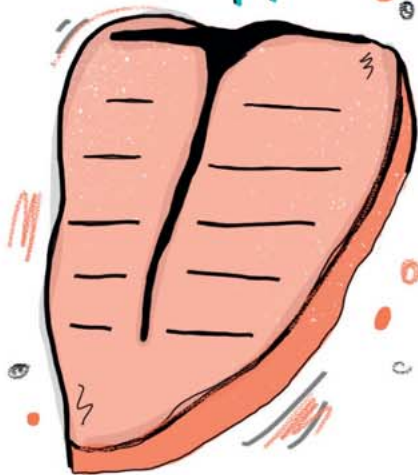
HOW TO

17 COOK A PERFECT STEAK

Chef Martin Bosley's method for Porterhouse steaks:

- Heat a grill, ridged grill-pan or frying pan.
- Use a sharp knife to make several cuts through the fat of the steak and slightly into the meat. This will stop your steak from curling as it cooks.
- Lightly oil the steaks before putting them onto the heat.
- For juicy and medium-rare steaks, cook for about seven minutes per side, turning once and seasoning with salt and pepper once you have done so.
- Remove from the heat, wrap loosely in foil and leave them to rest for five minutes before serving. Bon appétit!

Bon appétit!



18 IRON A SHIRT

- 1 | Set up your ironing board, with the square end and the iron to your right.
- 2 | Fill your iron's water reservoir with cold water, turn it on, and set it to the correct fabric.
- 3 | Start with the shirt's sleeves, ironing them flat from shoulder to the top of the cuffs.
- 4 | Lay the cuffs flat and iron the inside and then

the outside, working the tip of the iron around the buttons.

- 5 | Iron the front side of the shirt with buttons on it, again working around the buttons.

- 6 | Iron the back of the shirt, and then the remaining front side.

- 7 | Fit a shoulder of the shirt over the pointed end of the board, and iron the

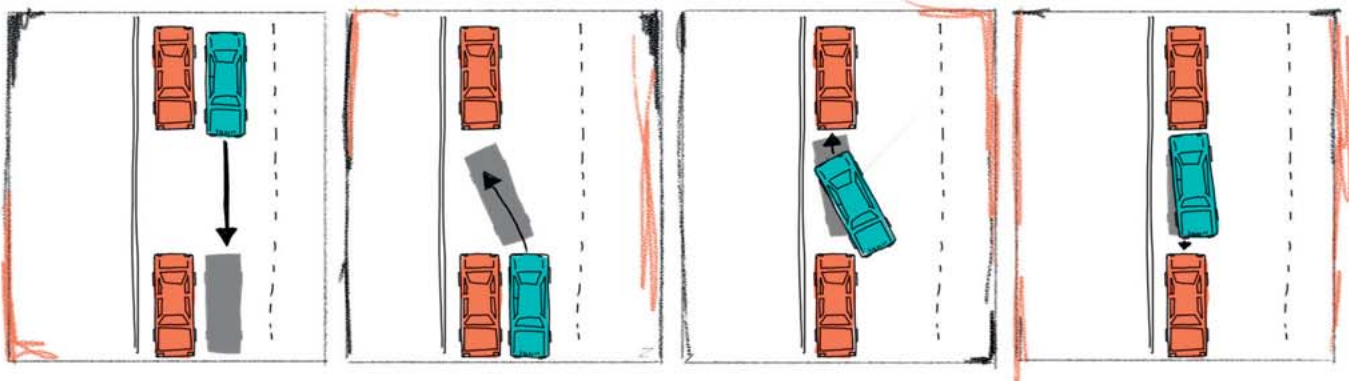
shoulders and yoke (the section that joins the collar of the shirt to the body). Repeat with the other shoulder.

- 8 | Lastly, iron the collar, laying it flat on the board and ironing both the inside and outside.

- 9 | Hang your shirt on a hanger immediately.

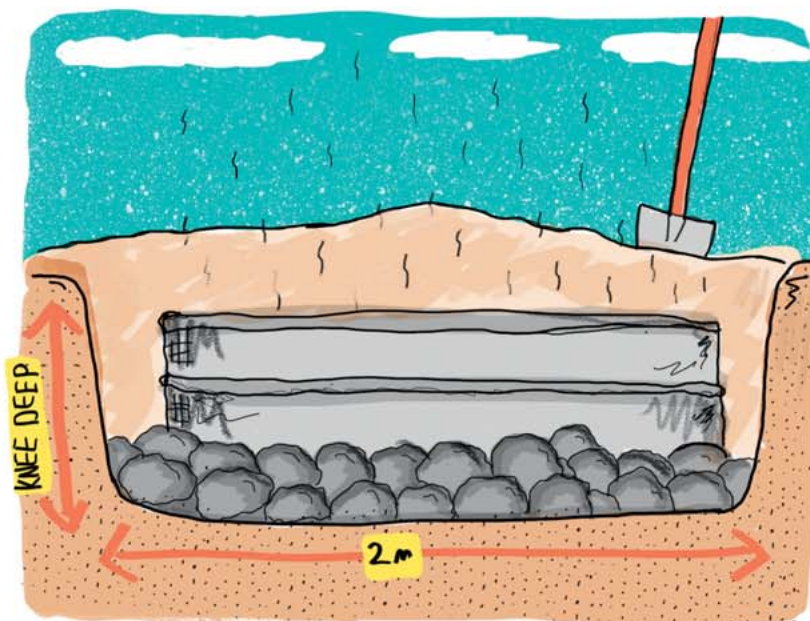
• Tip: Spray stubborn wrinkles with water before ironing them.

19 PARALLEL PARK



20 LOBBY FOR CHANGE

- 1 | Identify your cause. If there's a group already involved, join.
- 2 | Start a letter writing campaign. Politicians and businesses take more notice of posted letters. Emails are far easier to ignore.
- 3 | Utilise social media to get your message out to the people.
- 4 | Make an appointment to have a meeting with those whose views you are hoping to change. Remember to stay polite and courteous.
- 5 | Stage an old-fashioned protest. Gather some like-minded folks, make some signs, think up a snazzy chant and situate yourselves appropriately.



21 CREATE A SECURE ONLINE PASSWORD

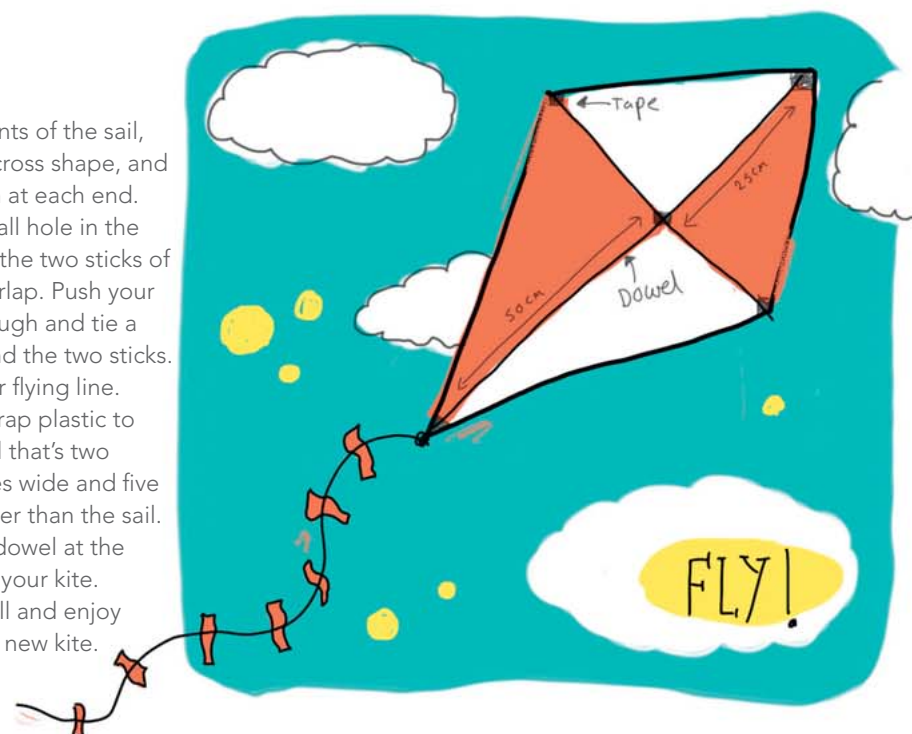
- Think of a favourite song lyric eg: *'You can't touch this, stop... hammer time!'*
- Take the first letter of each word eg: Ycttsht
- Replace two letters with numbers that look similar eg: Yc7t5ht
- Add a random capital letter eg: Yc7t5Ht
- You now have a secure password you can easily remember by singing the lyric.

22 PUT DOWN A HANGI

- Find a sheltered spot to dig your hangi, as wind will cause trouble.
- The hole needs to be at least knee-deep and roughly two metres in diameter.
- Make a fire with long-burning wood, such as macrocarpa.
- Heat volcanic stones on the fire for two to three hours before placing in pit.
- Put your kai in steel wire baskets lined with cabbage or banana leaves or tinfoil. Meats go on the bottom layer and veges on top.
- Place wet sheets over the baskets and lower them into the hangi pit – ensuring the fabric doesn't touch the hot rocks.
- Put wet sacks over the lot, to stop dirt getting into the food.
- Fill hole with dirt. Ensure no steam is escaping or your hangi won't cook properly.
- Leave kai to cook for three to four hours, dig it up and dig in.

23 MAKE A KITE

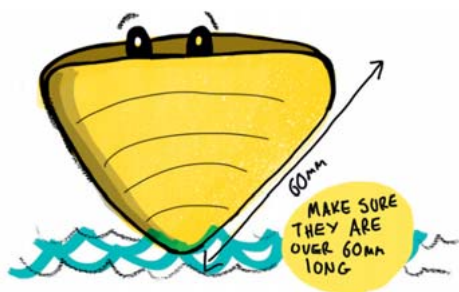
- Fold a plastic rubbish sack in half. From the top, measure down 25cm and 50cm across. Mark a dot. Now go back to the top and measure 100cm down. Mark a dot.
- Connect the dots to make a half-diamond and cut along the lines. Unfold. This is your sail.
- Place a stick of dowel wood on the centre line of your sail, attached with strips of insulation tape. Place another stick of dowel between the two widest points of the sail, making a cross shape, and tape down at each end.
- Poke a small hole in the sail where the two sticks of dowel overlap. Push your string through and tie a knot around the two sticks. This is your flying line.
- Use the scrap plastic to make a tail that's two centimetres wide and five times longer than the sail. Attach to dowel at the bottom of your kite.
- Go up a hill and enjoy flying your new kite.





24 TREAT YOURSELF ON THE CHEAP

- Take a day off work on your birthday.
- Brighten your day by buying flowers.
- Buy your favourite magazine.
- Take a relaxing soak in the bath, with your new magazine.
- Go to a movie on a wet afternoon.
- Put \$20 a week aside for a meal out once a month.
- Book a bach now, for a mid-winter weekend getaway.



25 FIND A PIPI

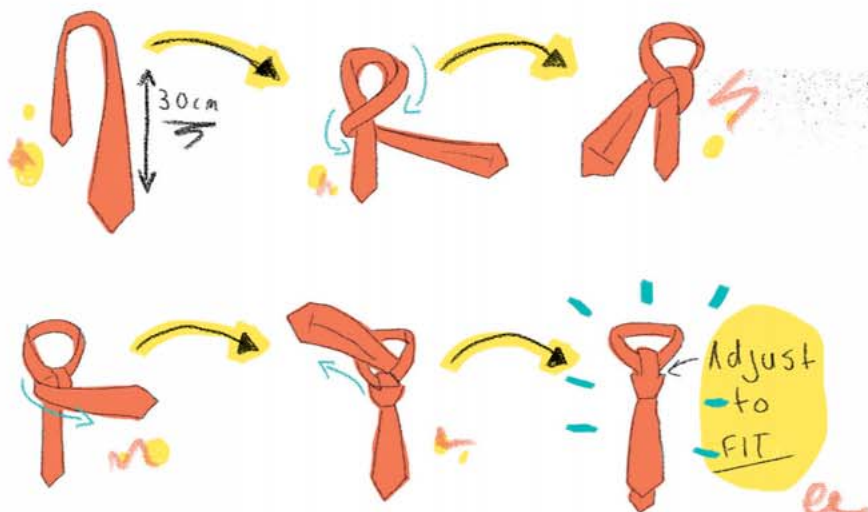
- Pipi like exposed sandbanks, in the middle of, or near the mouths of estuaries. Adults tend to be near or below the tideline; juveniles prefer sandier spots.
- Look for little raised lumps of sand and dig – you'll usually find them just below the surface.
- Pipi hang out in bunches so, if you find one, you'll find a few.
- The daily limit is 150 per person and, while there isn't a legal minimum size, 60mm long is considered the smallest you should take.



26 PUTT

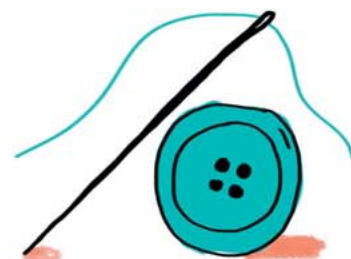
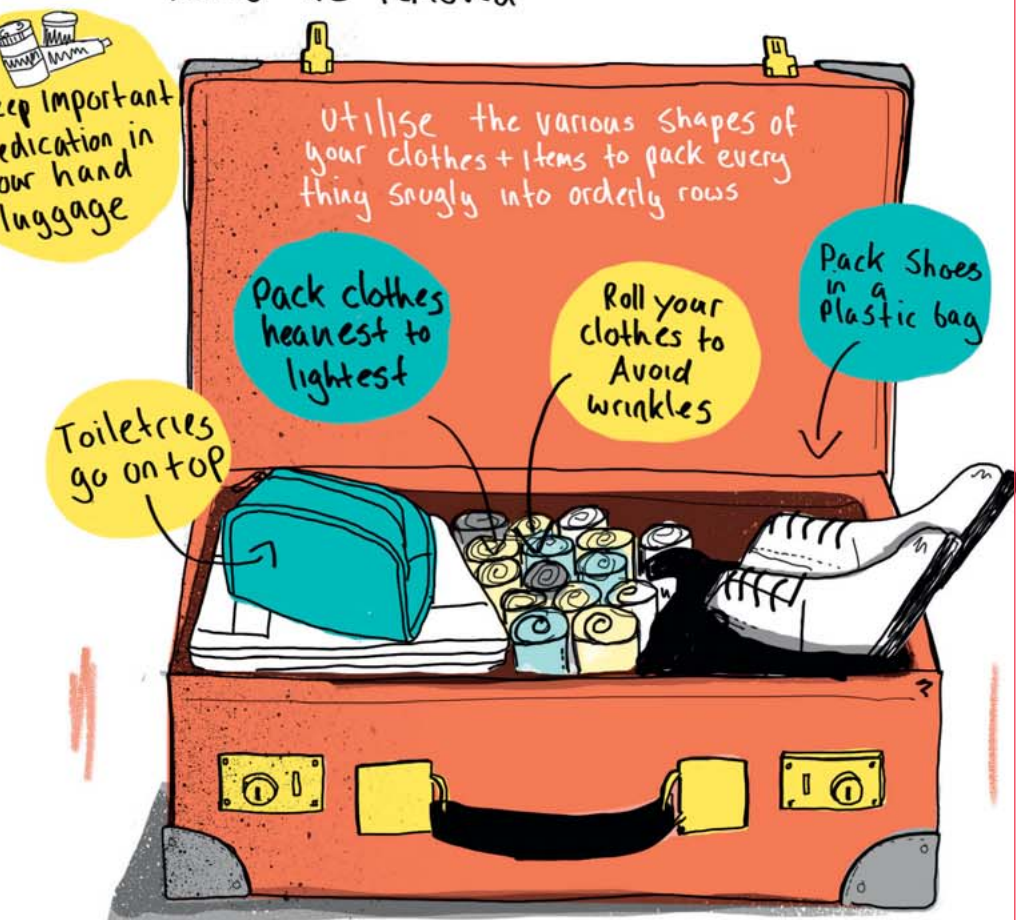
- The easiest way to improve your golf score is to become a better putter. Your ultimate goal is to sink the ball in just two putts.
- First determine the slope of the green and whether the ball is going to break left or right. Uphill, putt harder; downhill, putt softer.
- When aiming, many pro golfers like to visualise the ball dropping into the hole. Ideally, you want to hole the ball but, failing that, you want to get it as close to the hole as possible to set up an easy next putt.
- Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart, with the ball positioned in the centre. Let your arms hang loose by your side.
- Grip your putter where your hands naturally rest. Bend your knees, keep your head down and your eyes locked on the ball.
- Stiffen your body except for your shoulders. Keep these nice and swiny. When ready to putt, rock your shoulders in a smooth, rhythmic fashion and stroke the ball cleanly.
- Do not raise your putter any higher than your knees and be sure to keep a silky momentum to your stroke.
- Your stroke should follow through the exact same distance as your wind-up e.g., if you pull your putter back 10cm, you should follow through 10cm after you stroke the ball. Remember to keep your head down for a few seconds after hitting the ball.
- Practice makes perfect and the perfect part about putting practice is you can practise putting practically anywhere – your office, your lounge or, best of all, out on the greens.

27 TIE THE SIMPLEST TIE



28 PACK A BAG

Write a packing list so nothing important is forgotten and Superfluous items are removed



29 SEW ON A BUTTON

- 1 | Thread a needle and make a knot at the end of the thread.
- 2 | Check where the button should be, by lining it up with the buttonhole.
- 3 | Hold the button in place with one hand.
- 4 | From the back, push the needle up through the fabric, through one of the buttonholes and pull tight until the knot hits the fabric.
- 5 | Push the needle through another hole – if there are four holes, dive through the one diagonally opposite the hole you've come up through. You're at the back of the fabric again.
- 6 | Push the needle through again, aiming for another hole – pull tight.
- 7 | Back you go, through the last of the four holes.
- 8 | Repeat this process, so that every hole has two lines of thread running through it.
- 9 | Finish at the back.
- 10 | Push the needle through a small piece of fabric and the collection of thread, back on itself to create a knot, and snip the thread.

30 MAKE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Your emergency kit needs to contain enough supplies to sustain you and your loved ones for at least 72 hours (three days). You need:

- Three litres of bottled water per person, per day. Check this water every 12 months to ensure it hasn't gone mouldy.
- A good supply of non-perishable food i.e. canned or dried.
- A can opener.
- A small primus or gas cooker.
- A powerful torch.
- A radio. Don't count on your cellphone working.
- Plenty of spare batteries.
- A basic first aid kit.
- In case you need to evacuate your home, have a 'Go Bag' ready. Inside should be toiletries, toilet paper, a blanket or sleeping bag, and a change of clothes.
- Don't forget to include supplies for your pets.



SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA



Big news.
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The ŠKODA Superb - NZ Large Car of the Year 2012

The ŠKODA Superb has just been judged New Zealand Large Car of the Year by the AA and the Motoring Writers' Guild. The AA praised the ŠKODA Superb's innovative, practical and well-thought-out design "which makes it a car that is hard to beat."

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GAME CHANGERS

Three inspiring Kiwis are using their talents to help others. They tell us their stories

Music in Malawi

Anna Wooles has been raising money for Malawian children's education through music.

Anna: I first went to Malawi in 2011 to visit my Mum and Dad who manage a wildlife park on the Nyika Plateau. Mum's also a teacher at the school in the village, and she invited me along one day and asked me to sing something to the kids.

I sang a song called 'Magnus' by Gretchen Parlato, which I had recently been taught by Gretchen herself while doing my jazz residency at Stanford University. The song is extremely complicated rhythmically, but they picked it up immediately and were magical. I was blown away.

I made this little video recording, and sent it off to Gretchen. She was really impressed and her agent asked me if Gretchen could play it at her Carnaby Hall concert – which meant these little kids in their village were being projected way up in the most prestigious venue in New York. It was so exciting, but it wouldn't have affected the kids in any way unless I had done something about it. I needed to milk it for the children.

That's when the Magnus in Malawi project was born. I decided to go back and record more music with them, which I could then make into an album to raise money for their secondary educations. You see, there's no secondary school on the plateau and the closest village is about a five-hour drive away. Most parents can't afford to send their children to school



in another village, and so most kids are not able to go.

After fundraising in Wellington for recording equipment, I went back to Malawi for three months last year. I worked with the kids every day, and taught them different songs. I played them quite a bit of music that we listen to over here to see what would appeal to them – and, interestingly enough, for most of them it was Gillian Welch and Bob Dylan. I thought they'd be all for the flash modern-sounding synthy stuff, but they like folk! I was so impressed.

So, now I've got a lot of fantastic material of them singing that I'll be sifting through and arranging, then laying them down with other

instruments. Once the album is finished, I'll work out exactly how much one term is going to cost, so if someone buys the album they can know exactly what they're paying for – say, one term's study for one child.

I'm doing all this because it feels like the very least I can do. Having been there and after getting to know the kids, and seeing how many want to go on to secondary school, but can't — it just seems like a no-brainer to try and help.

➔ **To keep track of Magnus in Malawi, and to buy the album when it comes out mid-year, visit facebook.com/magnusmalawi**



Waste Not, Want Not

Since launching Foodshare a year ago, Deborah Manning has been tackling the dual problems of waste and hunger in Dunedin.

Deborah: I had been working in Dunedin as a lawyer for several years and felt a personal need to do something different, something more for my community. I saw a need to bridge the gap between businesses throwing away fresh, nutritious food at the end of the day and the food banks and social service agencies in desperate need of it.

I started to research food rescue organizations, and approached the people who are now on our board to ask whether they would be interested in helping me get this off the ground.

Foodshare operated for six months in start-up mode, where a friend and I collected the food and transported it in chilly bins to the agencies. After six months we felt confident the system worked so, then, we needed to become financially viable as a business. Like any charity, it's about finding the money to operate, so we fundraised and approached businesses for sponsorship.

Now I have volunteers who work for Foodshare and we each have a day – today was mine. I started at

9am and collected about 100 loaves of bread from Couplands bakery and then went to Wishbone – which was basically the first business that came on board. I already had about 30kg of tinned food that I'd picked up from a local wholesaler (because if a tin gets dented, they can't sell it) and I took it all to the food bank allocated for today. They put it in their fridges and, as their clients come in, they fill up their bags with lovely sandwiches and pies, quiches and fresh vegetables, and loaves of bread – all of which would have otherwise been thrown away.

The food that we collect is all food you would buy yourself. We say to our volunteers when they're sorting it, 'If you wouldn't eat it yourself, then throw it away. It doesn't go out to anyone else'. But, most of it is pre-packaged anyway, so it's easy to maintain the integrity of the food.

Like any business that's growing, I could put as many hours as there are in the day into it. It's really just a matter of trying to grow it slowly, so that we get it right. Each week I approach new businesses and continue to fundraise and get grant applications in so that we can grow.

I would love to see a food rescue organization in every major city in New Zealand within five years. How we get that to happen is by starting off small, convincing businesses that it's a good idea; and, at the same time, convincing councils, the Government and the administrators of funding grants to see the value in investing in businesses like Foodshare.

It's incredibly rewarding to be involved in something like this, and I've found the businesses in Dunedin are delighted to find a way to give back to their community. I've just had a phone call from Otago Polytechnic to say they have a whole lot of leftover food from a lunch and if we want it, we can have it. So, we'll take that to one of the agencies feeding people and there's lunch or dinner. And it was all just going to be thrown away.

➡ www.foodshare.org.nz

My Granddaughter, I Love You

Personalised Music Box

Plays the melody 'You Are So Beautiful'

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Exquisite Treasure
for only
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Fully mirrored music box, hand-crafted of bevelled glass with elegant etching on four sides

Customise the heart shaped charm with your granddaughter's name **FREE**



Delicately etched with the touching sentiment:
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Today, Tomorrow, Always'



PERSONALISE IT!

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INCLUDES A POEM CARD!

Dearest Granddaughter,
Your life is a true reflection of Beauty, Laughter and Love,
A precious gift to cherish, sent from up above.
When you look into this mirror, my love you will see,
A reflection of the blessings you give to me.

A Musical Masterpiece As Special As She Is!

This limited-edition music box is an exquisite work of art and a meaningful expression of love for a dear granddaughter. Hand-crafted of mirrored bevelled glass with scrolling floral etching, it boasts a silvery heart charm that can be personalised with the name of your choice – **FREE** of charge. The charm is tied on a soft pink ribbon to a faceted twin-heart handle sculpted in silvery metal. A memorable gift any granddaughter will treasure, this exclusive keepsake plays 'You Are So Beautiful' and comes with a **FREE** poem card especially for her.

Great Value; Limited Time Only!

This lovely musical treasure is available exclusively from The Bradford Exchange for just \$99.99, payable in two easy, interest-free instalments of \$49.99, *plus \$9.99 postage and handling. What's more, you need pay nothing now. Strong demand is expected. Don't miss out, simply complete and return your coupon today with the name you'd like engraved on the charm!

For quickest delivery, order online:

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Quoting reference code: 20280

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Postcode: _____

Phone: (optional) _____

Email: (optional) _____

If you wish to order more than one music box, please enter the names that you require (1 name per music box – max. of 10 characters each)

Name 1 (1st Box)

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Please select ☒ your preferred reservation option:

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HONDA

Creating space

Gapfiller builds creative, temporary projects in abandoned lots around Christchurch. Their most ambitious is the Pallet Pavilion – an events venue built from pallets – which is managed voluntarily by Glen Jansen.

Glen: The Pallet Pavilion is one of 25 projects that Gapfiller has created in Christchurch since the earthquakes but, as they're busy creating more, they didn't have the resources to manage this venue and to put on events. They approached my daughter Amy about it and, because I've organised events in Queenstown over the past few years, she asked if I would help out.

Initially, I didn't want to because I could see it was a massive task. But, I thought about it and, as Christchurch has been good to my son and my daughter, I wanted to do something to give back. I knew this venue could give the arts and culture and, well, the people really, a place to breathe.

Gapfiller told me whatever events I wanted to put on, I could. So, we've done things like a paper, scissors, rock tournament, a Scrabble tournament, we're thinking of having a Sumo wrestling tournament. It's a fun thing. But it's long hours. The first couple of months, Amy and I were doing 120 hours a week – 17-hour days... It was tough, but always good fun.

Since mid-December last year we've put on over 60 events – a lot of musical events, but also children's parties, film nights, even wedding receptions.

If it's a community group or a charity, we don't charge and, if a group says they can't pay very much, that's fine also. We just schedule them in. Donations help us defray a little of the costs of power, cleaning and security. Because the pavilion is made out of wooden pallets, it's obviously a fire risk, so we employ a security company for protection overnight and that is very expensive.

When it's not being used for an



"I knew this venue could give the arts and culture and, well, the people really, a place to breathe."

event, then the pavilion's open and people can just come in and relax. There's free Wifi, so people check their emails and watch movies; we have power outlets freely available and we've also got a café open now.

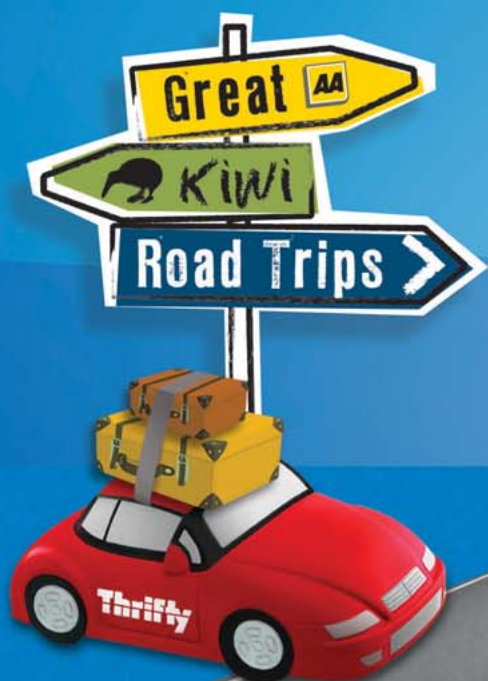
Would you believe it's really busy at 2am-3am in the morning? People come here between drinks or if they're on their way back from the clubs. They just come in and hang out.

I've done some quite interesting stuff in my life but this, this takes the biscuit. It really does.

➔ www.gapfiller.org.nz 

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Keeping New Zealanders moving



Driver



How to have fun

Daryl Roycroft and his replica Lotus Seven

"THE LOTUS SEVEN is a great little car. I've admired them ever since they were built, but as a youngster I couldn't afford one.

I bought this car as a failed project. I got it in a few hundred pieces and spent about three years putting it together, doing a whole rebuild.

I get a lot of looks everywhere I

go. People stop and ask about it all the time. I've had people ask if they can have their photo taken in it. When you've built it yourself it's quite a good feeling when people go 'Wow!'

It's a head turner; it's a conversation starter; it's good fun. Even when I'm not driving it, it's good fun." 📷



The Power of Planning

Peter King visits a successful anti-drink-driving programme in Northland

SHAME IS A BIG part of stopping people drink-driving. But, the emphasis on shaming drink-drivers is problematic because nobody talks about how much the punishment hurts: loss of licence, loss of jobs and even, in some cases, loss of access to children.

"It's not like you run out and tell everyone you've been a dick and got caught drunk-driving," says a woman participant at the Drive Soba programme in Whangarei.

The dozen or so people I met on the Drive Soba programme all knew people who'd had convictions for drink-driving before they were caught again, but they hadn't learned from the punishment meted out.

Like them, those friends hadn't said anything either.

Drive Soba is the brainchild of Bronwen Wood, a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor with a Masters degree in Forensic Psychology, working for the Northland District Health Board. Unlike many drug dependency programmes and the two Alcohol Courts in Auckland, Drive Soba isn't aimed at alcoholics. The people on this course don't need to have had alcohol for breakfast – they are articulate, ordinary people who can solve their own problems. Occasionally, they like going out and getting trashed. That isn't illegal and the course isn't about stopping people doing what they like to do. It's about helping them do it safely and more economically.

They are a mixed bunch: young men, inevitably, but also women and men in their 40s. Being based in Northland, many are Maori and the course has been designed to accommodate Maori culture. But, the main message of the course applies to any cultural group: if you go drinking, leave your car at home because, if you take it, you'll do something dumb.

Yes, over 12 weeks it teaches participants a lot of useful things about alcohol and planning in advance but, in the end, the fundamental lesson is that drinking alcohol wrecks your judgement, so you need to have your plan to avoid driving sorted out before you leave home.

"The main message of the course... if you go drinking, leave your car at home because, if you take it, you'll do something dumb."

"So, you plan for your mates to pick you up, they come and they've all been drinking and you're, like, 'bro!'" says one young man.

It's about making a plan and having a backup plan, and even a backup, backup plan.

"It's the sort of stuff that should be taught as part of the driver's licence," says another participant. "They have all this stuff about checking your mirrors but, honestly, that's just not that important..."

The group agrees. At halfway through the programme's 12 weeks, they have already learned things they feel someone should have told them years ago.

Of course, some of them had been told. But two things about this programme are different. It is done in a group, rather than individually, and the group provides feedback and support (everyone claps when one man tells them he's off his bracelet); secondly, the majority know that if they show up in Court again, they will go to jail – and none of them want that.

It's about breaking habits.

I ask the group how many times they'd driven drunk before they were caught. In the United States, Mothers Against Driving Drunk estimated 86 times. No, they say, nothing like that! Ten times? More, they say. Twenty? Hmmmm, 20 to 30, up to 50, they agree.

The course has had 462 people through it over five years, but only 292 (63%) completed it. Of those who have, only 18 have reoffended. Drive Soba has helped 274 people find ways to avoid reoffending. More important, though, is that the messages are circulated through the community by those who attend the course. Participants pass on what they've learned to their family and mates.

It's not only about changing offenders' attitudes, though; officialdom also needs to learn some lessons. Gillian Archer has been the Road Safety Coordinator for Whangarei and Kaipara for 11 years. She's fought some battles to get funding for Bronwen Wood's programme.

"We were told that drink-driving programmes don't work," she recalls, but having observed Drive Soba groups doing the programme, Gillian was sure that generalization was wrong. Getting funding from the Road Safety Trust has made it possible to provide certainty to judges and probation officers that the programme is available to those suitable for it.

It's clear to anyone who reads regional road safety casualty reports that something positive has been happening in Northland over the past couple of years.

"When I started we were always the worst," says Gillian, "but there's been a huge amount of work by the Police, Northland DHB and the councils, and things have definitely changed."

Although there hasn't been any formal evaluation of the ripple effect, there's strong anecdotal evidence that turning drink-drivers into anti-drink-drive advocates works.

"Don't drink and drive; it's just not worth it," they tell me, from hard-learned experience. It is a message they're prepared to share. 🚗

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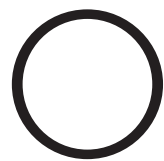
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Change warranted

Mark Stockdale explains why Warrants of Fitness need not be so frequent



OUR WARRANT of Fitness system will change next year. Light vehicles first registered after

January 1, 2000 will only need to get an annual warrant; older cars will continue with six-monthly checks. New cars, after an initial inspection, will be exempt until they are three years old.

New Zealand's current six-monthly inspection is the most frequent in the world. Many countries only inspect vehicles every two years or on change of ownership. Cars here are typically tested every 6,000km, compared to 19,000km in the United Kingdom and 32,000km in Germany.

But our frequent inspections have not resulted in fewer crashes involving vehicle faults than in other countries. Just 2.5% of our road crashes involve vehicle faults – and less than 0.5% where they are the sole cause. That's about the same as countries with no or fewer inspections. This can't be explained by differences in vehicle fleets or road quality. Our average fleet age is only two-to-three years older than test-free USA and Australia, and we drive the same type of vehicles, with the same safety features and reliability. In any event, 40% of vehicles in fatal crashes involving mechanical faults don't even have a current WoF.

New Zealand's WoF frequency hasn't kept pace with improvements in vehicle technology, reliability and safety, nor the corresponding reduction in the road toll which is a third of the 1970s levels, despite the fleet doubling in size since then.

A recent study showed that the benefits of a twice-yearly test are too small to outweigh the costs to motorists, supporting the view that frequency can be reduced without compromising safety. A saving of \$50 or so a year from one less inspection might not sound much, but it's estimated that reducing WoF frequency for vehicles registered from 2000 onwards will save over 900,000 motorists \$159 million a year in inspection and time costs.

AA Members' views were instrumental in achieving the changes made by the Government. We undertook a survey last year and the majority (71%) were in favour of fewer inspections.

Rather than frequently inspecting every item, we should focus on the things that most contribute to crashes – brakes, lights and tyres. Between 2007 and 2011, of the fatal and serious crashes involving vehicle defects, 68% related to unsafe tyres. It makes sense to regularly monitor these key features, and not limit them to WoF checks once or twice a year.

The upcoming changes include increased Police enforcement of unsafe vehicles and improved education to help motorists keep their vehicles roadworthy at all times.

Reducing the WoF frequency will bring New Zealand closer to international best practice, but the annual inspection will be the minimum requirement, not a maximum. Motorists who don't want to wait a year between inspections will still be able to take their car in for an inspection every six months or even more often, if they wish. ■

The AA recommends motorists check tyre condition and air pressure once a month



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Mitsubishi iMiEV



Nissan Leaf

POWERED UP

How practical are electric cars in real world conditions? **Donavan Edwards** investigates

ELECTRIC VEHICLES are here, now. To see how functional they are in day-to-day life, the AA Motoring Services team got behind the wheel of two 'pure' electric vehicles (EVs) and the first long-range e-car available in New Zealand.

We started with Mitsubishi's quirky little iMiEV. This tiny car has seating for four and adequate boot space for shopping trips.

Starting the iMiEV we were greeted with silence instead of the usual clatter of internal combustion engines, which was unnerving at first, but switching on the radio helped us feel more at home!

The iMiEV is fitted with a rear-mounted electric motor, producing 49kW of power and 180Nm of torque, to power the rear wheels. It zips around town without emitting any pollutants, although the lack of noise poses a risk to pedestrians, especially those who are sight-impaired, and cyclists.

On the motorway we accelerated hard to get the skinny tyres up to the legal speed limit. While it's capable of cruising at 100km/h without too much trouble, it's better suited to inner city roads.

The iMiEV has 88 lithium-ion battery cells, located beneath the passenger compartment, which make up the 330V power supply. Mitsubishi claims the car can travel up to 160km fully charged but, by our reckoning, just over 100km of motoring under normal driving conditions is more like it.

NEXT WE DROVE the 2011 'World Car of the Year' winner, the Nissan Leaf. This full size, futuristic-looking car with seating for five and a practical boot, is an impressive, environmentally-friendly family car.

We pushed the start button and, again, there was silence. Selecting Drive with its high-tech joystick, we headed off. To encourage the driver to be light-footed, the Leaf has a selectable eco-drive mode, which has the display on the instrument

panel 'growing' leaves; the more leaves you have, the less battery power is being chewed up.

Performance is on a par with similar-sized petrol vehicles and uphill were tackled with confidence.

On the motorway, the weight of the 192-cell lithium-ion battery pack (located under the passenger compartment floor) kept the vehicle nicely planted on the road, while the 80kW/280Nm delivered from the electric motor had us easily hitting the speed limit.

If it weren't for the futuristic design and lack of sound, no one would know this vehicle was electric. Nissan claims the Leaf can travel up to 170km before it's in need of a recharge but, depending on driving style, we believe 120km is more realistic.

FINALLY, IT WAS the turn of Holden's new Volt. This car differs from the Leaf and the iMiEV in that it is not a pure EV. It uses a petrol-powered 'range extender' motor to



Holden Volt

charge the battery; an electric motor propels the car.

The Volt's sleek design contributes to its economy, too. Holden says the aerodynamic design elements add five kilometres to its range in electric mode.

We drove the Volt from Auckland to Russell. The car's 111kW/370Nm electric motor had us quietly cruising the motorway and, when the battery power was depleted, the range extender kicked in to charge it. When we demanded more power, the range extender would rev higher to supply sufficient charge to the 288-cell lithium-ion battery pack.

The vehicle felt composed and handled the twisty Russell road confidently. It was a fun car to drive.

Holden's official claimed range is 87km on pure electric mode, but the results from our round trip indicate a more realistic figure of 64km on a full charge, with predominantly motorway driving.

On arrival in Russell, we plugged the Volt into a regular electrical wall socket to fully charge overnight.

The range extender, a 1.4L petrol engine, uses premium 95 octane juice to fill its 35-litre fuel tank. On this trip our average fuel consumption reading was 5.5L/100km which, along with the battery power, had us back in Auckland with petrol to spare.

FOR DRIVERS CONFINED to city limits, the two pure EVs are very practical vehicles. For those leaving the city, the Volt will take you as far as you need to go with an occasional petrol stop.

The Mitsubishi iMiEV is currently priced at \$59,990; Nissan's Leaf has a \$69,600 sticker price. Holden's Volt tops the board at \$85,000.

Whether you label the Volt a Long Range Electric Vehicle or a Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle, it's the closest thing to making EVs mainstream.

The iMiEV and Leaf are great cars to drive but, unless you want to stop every 100km or so to plug the car in for a recharge, they don't have the practicality necessary for open road use. However, given that the average New Zealand motorist travels around 35km per day, they're ideal for city commuting. Fast-charging points can recharge battery packs in just 30 minutes, but they are not yet readily

available at convenient, public locations – and it's unlikely they will be any time soon.

IN OUR OPINION, a few key issues need to be addressed for EVs to really take off.

If the electrical hum that e-cars make was replaced with the exhaust sound of an internal combustion engine, motorists reluctant to embrace this new technology might feel more at ease in them – and the safety hazard posed for pedestrians would also be addressed.

Battery technology will undoubtedly improve to lengthen the range EVs can travel, and a commitment to building more public charging stations will also contribute to a wider acceptance of e-cars. Currently, there are only two public charging stations in New Zealand – one in Wellington and one in Taupo.

New Zealand is an ideal country for EVs, due to the abundance of naturally-generated energy here. Approximately 70% of our total energy is produced from wind, geothermal and hydro, with fossil-fuelled stations making up the difference. The Government has shown its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by exempting electric vehicles from paying road user charges up to 2020. Rebates for purchasing EVs would also encourage a shift away from fuel burners and into the electric future. **E**

“For drivers confined to city limits, the two pure EVs are very practical vehicles. For those leaving the city, the Volt will take you as far as you need to go...”



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NEW CAR PRICES



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MiTo 1.4 Multiair QV •	6	1.4	125	42,990	-
Giulietta Multiair •	6	1.4	125	46,990	49,990
Giulietta QV •	7.6	1.8	-	54,990	-
159 Turbo Ti Petrol •	8.1	1.7	147	54,990	-
159 JTD Diesel 2.4 Ti •	6.8	2.4	147	-	59,990
159 Sportwagon 2.4 Ti •	9.5	2.4	147	-	62,990
159 Q4 Sportwagon Ti •	11.6	3.2	191	-	79,990

Audi www.audi.co.nz					
A1 1.4 TFSI S Tronic •	5.3	1.4	90	-	39,800
A1 1.4 TFSI Sport S Tronic •	5.3	1.4	90	-	42,800
A3 1.4 TFSI •	5.8	1.4	92	-	47,400
A3 1.8 TFSI Cabriolet •	7.6	1.8	118	-	61,800
A4 Sedan 2.0 TDI •	5.5	2	103	-	71,900
A4 2.0 TFSI Quattro S Tron Sed •	7.1	2.0	132	-	88,500
A4 3.0 TDI Quattro Tip Sed •	7	3	176	-	108,500
A4 2.0 TDI Avant •	6	2	103	-	75,900
A4 2.0 TFSI Quattro Avant •	7.1	2	132	-	92,500
S4 3.0 TFSI Quattro S Tronic	9.4	3	245	-	125,400
A5 3.0 TDI Quattro	7.2	3	176	-	118,700
S5 3.0 TFSI Quattro	8.1	3.0	245	-	133,400
A5 2.0 Sportback TFSI Quattro	7	2.0	155	-	94,300
S5 3.0 Sportback TFSI Quattro	9.4	3	245	-	128,900
A6 3.0 TDI Quattro Sedan •	8.3	3	150	-	121,200
A6 3.0 TFSI Quattro Sedan •	9.4	3	213	-	136,200
A6 3.0 TDI Quattro Avant •	6	3	180	-	141,200
A7 Sportback 3.0 TDI Quattro	6	3	180	-	147,000
A7 Sportback 3.0 TFSI Quattro	8.2	3	220	-	147,000
Q3 2.0 TDI Quattro •	5.9	2.0	130	-	70,900
Q5 2.0 TDI Quattro •	6.7	2	125	-	87,900
Q5 3.0 TDI Quattro •	7.5	3	176	-	108,900
Q7 4.2 TDI Quattro S Line •	13.6	4.2	240	-	151,200
A8 4.2 TDI Quattro •	9.4	4.2	240	-	217,700
R8 5.2 FSI Quattro	14.7	5.2	309	286,900	296,900
TT Coupe 2.0 TFSI S Line	7.7	2	147	-	90,900
TT RS Coupe 2.5 TFSI Quattro	-	2.5	250	138,400	144,800

BMW www.bmw.co.nz					
118i Base Line •	7.3	2	100	52,500	55,600
118d Sport-Hatch Base Line •	4.5	2	105	53,700	56,800
125i Sport-Hatch	-	2	-	61,600	64,700
123d Coupe SE •	5.9	2	150	69,950	72,800
118i Convertible SE	6.3	2	102	63,700	66,800
320i Sport/Modern/Luxury •	7.9	2	115	73,200	77,300
320d Sport/Modern/Luxury •	5.6	2	130	73,800	77,900
335i Sport/Modern/Luxury •	9.6	3	225	104,900	109,000
325i Convertible	7.9	2.5	160	104,800	108,900
520d SE •	5.1	2	135	-	110,700
528i SE •	8	3	190	-	123,900
550i SE •	10.4	4.4	300	-	167,500
520d Touring SE •	5.7	2	135	-	114,000
750i	11	4.8	270	-	234,500
X1 sDrive 20d •	5.8	2	130	66,900	71,000
X3 xDrive 20d SE •	7	2	130	86,600	89,700
X3 xDrive 30d SE •	8.6	3	160	-	110,400
X5 xDrive 30d SE	8.7	3	173	-	125,000
X5 xDrive 40d SE	7.5	3	225	-	152,000
X6 xDrive 50i	12.5	4.4	300	-	176,000
Z4 Roadster sDrive35i	9.4	3	225	126,400	130,400

Chery www.cheryauto.co.nz					
J1 •	6.7	1.3	62	12,990	-
J3	8.9	1.6	87	16,990	-
J11 •	8.9	2	102	21,990	23,990

Chrysler www.chrysler.co.nz					
300 Limited V6 Diesel	7.2	3.0	177	-	62,990
300C Luxury Petrol	9.7	3.6	210	-	67,990
300C SRT-8	14	6.4	317	-	87,990
Grand Voyager RT Ltd	8.4	3.7	142	-	84,990

Citroen www.citroen.co.nz					
C3 1.6 VTR Exclusive •	6.9	1.6	88	-	27,990
DS3 DSTYLE •	6.9	1.6	88	-	37,990
DS3 DSPORT Turbo •	6.7	1.6	115	39,990	-
C4 Turbo EGS Exclusive •	7	1.6	115	-	39,990
C4 Grand Picasso 2.0 HDi •	6.8	2	103	-	44,990
DS4 So Chic EGS •	6.5	1.6	115	-	44,990
DS4 Sport Chic •	6.4	1.6	147	48,990	-
DS5 Sport Chic	6.5	1.6	115	-	59,990
C5 2.0 HDi FAP •	6	2	120	-	49,990
C5 3.0 V6 HDi FAP	7.4	3.0	177	-	74,990
C5 2.0 HDi FAP Tourer •	6	2	120	-	52,990
Berlingo •	5.8	1.6	66	29,990	-

Daihatsu www.toyota.co.nz					
Daihatsu Sirion Hatch •	5.8	1.3	64	18,990	19,990
Daihatsu Sirion SX •	6.7	1.5	76	-	23,490
Daihatsu Terios 4X4	7.7	1.7	77	26,240	27,250

Dodge www.dodge.co.nz					
Journey SXT	10.4	3.6	206	-	39,990
Journey R/T	10.4	3.6	206	-	46,990

	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
Fiat www.fiat.co.nz					
500 Lounge 1.4 •	6.3	1.4	74	26,990	29,490
500c Convertible •	6.3	1.4	74	29,990	32,490
500 Abarth Esesesse •	6.5	1.4	118	42,990	-
500 695 Tributo Ferrari •	-	1.4	-	-	79,990
500c Abarth Esesesse •	6.5	1.4	118	-	46,990

Ford www.ford.co.nz					
Fiesta 1.6 LX Hatch •	3.7	6.1	1.6	89	23,990 25,490
Fiesta 1.6 LX Diesel Hatch •	4.4	1.6	66	26,990	-
Fiesta 1.6 Zetec Hatch •	4.4	6.1	1.6	89	26,990 -
Focus 2.0L Trend Diesel •	6.6	2.0	120	-	40,490
Focus 1.6 Ambient Petrol •	6.4	1.6	92	-	32,990
Focus 2.0 Trend Petrol •	6.4	2	125	-	35,990
Focus 2.0 Sport Petrol •	5.3	2	125	-	41,990
Focus 2.0 Titanium Petrol •	6.6	2	125	-	46,990
Focus 2.0 ST EcoBoost Hatch •	7.2	2	184	52,490	-
Mondeo 2.0 Hatch LX Diesel •	7.1	2	103	-	45,990
Mondeo 2.0 Zetec Diesel Hatch •	7.1	2	103	-	49,990
Mondeo 2.0 Titanium Diesel •	5.6	2	120	-	54,990
Mondeo 2.0 Titanium EcoBoostT •	8	2	149	-	52,990
Kuga Turbo Titanium AWD •	10.3	2.5	147	-	53,990
Territory TX RWD •	10.6	4	195	-	49,990
Territory TS RWD •	10.6	4	195	-	54,990
Territory TS Diesel RWD •	8.2	2.7	140	-	54,990
Territory TS Diesel AWD •	8.8	2.7	140	-	64,990
Falcon MkII XT Sedan EcoBoost •	8.1	2	179	-	48,490
Falcon MkII XR6 •	9.9	4	195	-	53,990
Falcon MkII G6E •	9.9	4	195	-	58,990
FPV F6	12.3	4	310	-	77,990
FPV GT	13.7	5	335	-	87,990

Great Wall www.ateco.co.nz					
X-240 AWD	-	2.4	100	31,990	34,990

Holden www.holden.co.nz					
Barina Hatch Sdr •	7	1.6	77	22,990	24,990
Barina Spark Hatch CD •	5.6	1.2	59	16,990	-
Barina Spark Hatch CDX •	5.6	1.2	59	19,490	-
Cruze CD 1.8 Sedan •	7.0	1.8	104	30,400	31,900
Cruze CD Hatch •	7	1.8	104	30,900	32,400
Cruze CD Sedan Turbo 1.4 •	6.9	1.4	103	-	33,900
Cruze CD 2.0 Sedan Diesel •	5.7	2.0	120	-	36,900
Cruze SRi-V Turbo 1.4 •	6.4/6.9	1.4	103	38,900	40,400
VE Commodore Omega SIDI •	9.3	3	190	-	49,990
VE Commodore SV6 SIDI •	11	3.6	195	-	55,490
VE Commodore SS •	14.3	6	270	-	61,490
VE Calais V V6 SIDI •	11.6	3.6	195	-	66,790
VE Calais V V8 •	14.3	6	270	-	72,390
VE Caprice V V8 •	12.3	6	260	-	85,490
VE Ute SV6 •	11.6	3.6	195	-	49,000
VE Ute SS •	14.5	6	270	-	55,400
VE Sportwagon Omega SIDI •	11.4	3.6	180	-	52,390
VE Sportwagon SV6 SIDI •	11.6	3.6	195	-	57,890
VE Sportwagon Calais V V8 •	13.6	6	270	-	74,690
Captiva 5 2WD •	9.1	2.4	123	38,490	39,990
Captiva 5 2WD Diesel •	8.1	2.2	135	-	44,990
Captiva 7 SX AWD 2.4	9.1	2.4	123	-	41,890
Captiva 7 LX V6 AWD	11.3	3	190	-	55,890
Captiva 7 SX Diesel 2WD •	8.1	2.2	135	-	45,890
Captiva LX Diesel AWD	8.3	2.2	135	-	57,890
Combo Panel Van	6.2	1.4	66	30,400	-

Honda www.honda.co.nz					
Jazz 1.35 •	5.8	1.3	73	24,700	27,500
Jazz Sport •	6.7	1.5	88	-	29,500
City S 1.5 •	6.3	1.5	88	26,900	29,500
Civic 1.85 •	6.7	1.8	104	32,900	34,900
Civic 2.05 •	7.5	2	114	-	38,500
Civic IMA •	4.4	-	82	-	43,500
Euro Civic S	6.1/6.5	1.8	104	32,900	34,900
Euro Civic L	6.5	1.8	104	-	38,900
Insight SX Hybrid •	4.6	1.3	72	-	35,600
Insight E Hybrid •	4.6	1.3	72	-	38,800
Insight N •	4.6	1.3	72	-	40,000
CRZ •	1.5	5/4.7	91	44,900	44,900
Accord Euro L •	8.9	2.4	148	-	51,000
Accord Euro Tourer L •	9.1	2.4	148	-	53,200
Accord V6 VL	10	3.5	202	-	56,600
Odyssey S •	9.3	2.4	133	-	47,000

Hyundai www.hyundai.co.nz					
i20 GL •	6/6.4	1.4	73	25,490	25,990
i20 GLS •	-	1.4	-	25,990	26,990
Accent Hatch/Sedan 1.6 •	6.4	1.6	91	-	31,990
Accent Sedan CRDi Hatch/Sedan •	6.3	1.6	94	-	35,990
Accent 1.6 Elite •	6.4	1.6	91	-	35,990
New i30 1.8 •	6.5	1.8	110	34,490	35,990
New i30 1.6 CRDi Elite •	4.5	1.6	94	-	43,990
New i30 Wagon 2.0 Elite •	6.7/6.9	1.6	105	36,490	37,990
i30 Wagon 1.6 CRDi •	4.5/5.6	1.6	84	40,490	41,990
Elantra •	7.1	1.8	110	-	35,990
Elantra Elite •	7.1	1.8	110	-	39,990
Veloster 1.6 GDI •	6.5	1.6	103	-	39,990

	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
Jeep www.jeep.co.nz					
Veloster Elite 1.6 GDI •	6.5	1.6	103	-	44,990
Veloster GDI Turbo •	6.8/7.6	1.6	150	49,990	49,990
i45 2.4 •	7.9	2.4	148	-	45,490
i45 2.4 Elite •	7.9	2.4	148	-	49,990
New i40 Sedan 1.7 CRDi	-	1.7	-	-	46,990
i40 Wagon 2.0 Elite •	7.5	2.0	130	-	49,990
i40 Wagon 1.7 CRDi •	5.6	1.7	100	47,490	48,990
i40 Wagon 1.7 CRDi Elite Ltd •	5.6	1.7	100	-	59,990
ix35 2.0 2WD •	8.5	2.0	122	-	40,490
ix35 2.4 •	9	2.4	130	-	45,490
ix35 2.0R CRDi •	7.5	2	135	-	

➔ For a full, up-to-date list of new car prices, see www.aa.co.nz

	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
3 GLX Hatch •	8.2	2	104	-	32,795
3 SP25 Hatch/Sedan •	8.6	2.5	115	-	41,195
3 GSE Hatch Skyactiv •	6.2	2.0	113	-	37,395
3 MPS Hatch •	10	2.3	185	49,195	-
6 GLX Sedan	8.8	2	108	-	41,945
6 GSX Sedan	8.9	2.5	125	-	43,945
6 Sport Hatch GSX	8.9	2.5	125	-	45,895
6 Sport Hatch Ltd	8.8	2.5	125	49,595	51,095
6 Sport Wagon GLX	8.8	2	108	-	43,795
6 Sport Wagon GSX	8.5	2.5	125	-	45,695
MX-5 Roadster Leather	8.5	2	118	51,100	-
MX-5 Coupe Leather	8.5	2	118	55,100	57,150
RX8	12.1	1.3	170	56,695	-
CX-5 GLX FWD •	6.4	2	114	-	39,690
CX-5 GSX AWD •	6.9	2	114	-	43,390
CX-5 GSX Diesel AWD •	5.7	2.2	129	-	46,990
CX-5 Ltd Diesel AWD •	5.7	2.2	129	-	55,990
CX-9	11.3	3.7	204	-	59,990

Mercedes www.mercedes-benz.co.nz					
B 180 BlueEfficiency •	-	1.6	90	-	49,900
B 200 BlueEfficiency •	6.1	1.6	115	-	57,900
B 200 CDI BlueEfficiency	4.7	1.8	100	-	57,900
C 200 CGI Classic •	7.2	1.8	135	-	69,900
C63 AMG	13.4	6.2	336	-	166,900
C 180 CGI Coupe	8.9	1.8	115	-	69,900
E 250 CGI Avantgarde	7.3	1.8	150	-	109,900
E 250 CGI Coupe	7.5	1.8	150	-	123,900
E 250 CGI Cabriolet	7.9	1.7	150	-	135,900
CLS 350 CGI	8.3	3.5	225	-	162,000
S 500 CGI	11.9	5.4	320	-	265,000
CL 500 CGI Coupe	12.1	4.7	320	-	285,000
SLK 200K Roadster	6.9	1.8	135	-	88,500
SLS AMG "Gullwing"	13.2	6.2	420	-	460,000
ML 250 BlueTEC	6.4	2.1	150	-	99,900
ML 350 BlueEfficiency •	8.9	3.5	225	-	122,900
R 350 CDI	11.6	3	165	-	124,900
GL 350 CDI	9.7	3	165	-	152,900
G 350 BlueTEC	11.2	3	373	-	179,900

Mini www.mini.co.nz					
Mini Hatch Ray •	5.4	1.6	72	29,200	31,200
Mini Hatch Cooper •	5.4	1.6	90	36,200	39,200
Mini Hatch Cooper D •	3.8	1.6	82	40,700	43,700
Mini Hatch Cooper S •	5.8	1.6	135	44,200	44,200
Mini Cooper Countryman •	6	1.6	90	45,900	49,900
Mini Cooper Countryman D •	4.4(5.6)	1.6(2)(82)(110)	49,900	52,900	
Cooper Countryman D All4	4.9(6)	1.6(2)(82)(110)	52,900	55,900	
Mini Cooper Countryman S All4	7.3	1.6	135	57,900	60,900
Mini Cooper Clubman	5.5	1.6	90	41,200	44,200
Mini Cooper Convertible •	5.7	1.6	90	46,200	49,200
Mini Cooper Convertible S	6	1.6	135	54,200	57,200
Mini Coupe JCV	7.1	1.6	155	62,200	65,200

Mitsubishi www.mitsubishi-motors.co.nz					
i-MiEV •	-	elect	49	-	59,990
Colt LS CVT •	5.6	1.5	72	-	23,490
Colt Plus CVT •	5.5	1.5	77	-	28,590
Lancer ES Hatch/Sedan •	7.6	2.0	115	28,590	30,690
Lancer SEi Hatch/Sedan •	7.3	2.0	115	-	36,990
Lancer VRX Hatch/Sedan •	8.7	2.4	127	-	40,890
Lancer Evolution GSR	9.6	2.0	180	-	73,990
ASX LS 2WD •	8.1	2	112	-	36,290
Asx LS 4WD	8.1	2	112	-	39,690
Asx Sport Diesel	5.9	1.8	112	47,990	-
Outlander LS 4WD CVT •	7.5	2.4	126	-	43,990
Outlander VR-X 2.4 CVT •	7.5	2.4	126	-	54,490
Outlander VR 2.2D 4WD •	5.8	2.2	112	-	49,990
Challenger GLS 4WD •	9.8	2.5	133	-	58,990
Challenger EXC 4WD •	9.8	2.5	133	-	63,990
Pajero LWB 3.2 DIDC GLS •	9.2	3.2	150	-	77,090
Pajero LWB 3.2 DIDC Exceed •	9.2	3.2	150	-	87,590
Pajero LWB 3.8 V6 MIVEC Exceed •	13.5	3.8	184	-	87,690

Nissan www.nissan.co.nz					
Micra ST •	6.6	1.5	75	-	22,600
Micra Ti •	6.6	1.4	75	-	24,100
Juke ST •	6.3	1.6	86	-	31,990
Juke Ti •	6.3	1.6	86	-	33,990
Tiida Ti Sedan/Hatch	7.8	1.8	93	-	34,100
Wingroad L Wagon CVT	6.4	1.8	94	-	34,400
Qashqai ST Hatch	7.9	2	102	-	37,700
Qashqai Ti Hatch	7.9	2	102	-	40,800
Maxima 350 •	10.2	3.5	185	-	52,990
Leaf 0 Emissions 100% Electric •	0	electric	90	-	69,700
370Z Coupe	10.4	3.7	245	75,700	77,700
GT-R	-	3.8	352	-	189,900
X-Trail ST-L 4WD Petrol •	9.5	2.5	217	-	43,990
X-Trail Ti Leather 4WD Petrol •	9.5	2.5	132	-	49,990
X-Trail TS 2.0 Diesel •	8.1	2	110	-	46,990
Murano	10.9	3.5	191	-	65,950
Pathfinder Ti Leather TDI •	10.1	2.5	128	-	76,900
Patrol •	-	3	118	-	78,300

	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
Peugeot www.peugeot.co.nz					
207 XT •	-	1.6	-	-	23,990
207 Sportium	-	1.6	-	-	25,990
308 CC •	7.7	1.6	115	-	55,990
308 New Access •	7.2	1.6	88	-	29,990
308 New Allure •	6.7	1.6	115	-	41,990
308 New Allure Diesel •	6.1	2	120	-	45,990
308 New Active SW Diesel •	6.7	2	120	-	45,900
508 Allure HDi •	4.9	2	120	-	54,990
508 SW HDi GT •	-	2.2	-	-	68,990
Partner HDi	5.8	1.6	66	29,990	-
4007 Allure 4WD	7	2.2	-	-	49,990
4007 Allure SE 4WD	7	2.2	-	-	52,990
3008 Sport •	7.8	1.6	115	-	47,990
3008 Sport HDi •	6.6	2	120	-	49,990
3008 Luxury HDi •	6.6	2	120	-	54,990
4008 Allure 2WD CVT	-	2	-	-	39,990
4008 Feline 4WD CVT	-	2	-	-	45,990
RCZ	7.3	1.6	115	64,990	64,990

Porsche www.porsche.co.nz					
Boxster	10.6	2.7	180	120,300	126,300
Cayman	9.3	2.7	180	130,000	136,000
911 Carrera	11.9	3.6	239	226,000	234,000
911 Turbo	12.8	3.6	353	342,000	350,000
Cayenne	13.9	3.2	184	-	139,500
Cayenne Diesel	9.3	3	176	-	140,500
Cayenne Hybrid	8.2	3245/279	-	-	197,500
Cayenne Turbo	14.9	4.8	368	-	270,000
Panamera S	10.8	4.8	294	-	260,000
Panamera Turbo	12.2	4.8	368	-	350,000

Renault www.renault.co.nz					
Megane Hatch •	8.2	2	102	31,990	34,990
Megane Coupe - Cabriolet •	7.9	2	103	-	54,990
Megane Renault Sport RS265Cup •	8.7	2	184	53,990	-
Megane RD265 Cup Trophée •	8.7	2	184	59,990	-
Koleos 2.0 DCI 4x4 •	8.3	2	110	-	49,990
Koleos 2.5 4x2 •	9.3	2.5	126	-	37,990
Fluence	7.8	2	103	-	34,990

Skoda www.skoda.co.nz					
Fabia Hatch TSI 77 •	5.3	1.4	77	25,500	28,000
Fabia Wagon TSI 77 •	5.3	1.4	77	28,000	30,500
Yeti 2.0 TDI 4x4 •	6.5	2.0	103	45,500	48,000
Octavia Liftback TSI 90 •	6.3	1.4	90	34,500	37,000
Octavia Liftback TDI 77 •	4.7	1.4	77	36,500	39,000
Octavia Liftback TSI 118 •	6.6	1.8	118	-	41,500
Octavia Wagon TSI 118 •	6.6	1.8	118	-	44,000
Octavia Scout 4x4	6.2	2	103	49,000	51,500
Superb Sedan TSI 118 •	7.1	1.8	118	-	46,000
Superb Sedan TDI 125 •	6.1	2	125	-	59,500
Superb Wagon TDI 103 •	6	2	103	-	51,000
Superb Wagon TDI 125 •	6.3	2	125	-	62,000
Superb V6 4x4	10.2	3.6	191	-	69,000

SsangYong www.ssangyong.co.nz					
Korando Sports 4X2 TDi	7.3	2	129	31,990	34,990
Korando SPR 4X4	7.5	2	129	-	44,990
Rexton II SPR	9.1	2.7	137	-	59,990
Rexton II Sports	9.1	2.7	121	-	49,990
Kyron SPR	9	2.7	121	-	49,990
Actyon SPR 4x4 •	8	2.0	104	-	37,990
Stavic Sports	8.7	2.7	121	-	44,990

Subaru www.subaru.co.nz					
Impreza 2.0 Hatch/Sedan •	6.8	2	110	34,990	36,990
Impreza 2.0i-S Hatch/Sedan •	6.8	2	110	39,990	41,990
Impreza 2.0i-SL Hatch/Sedan •	6.8	2	110	44,990	46,990
XV •	7/7.3	2	110	38,990	40,990
XV 2.0i-L •	7	2	110	44,990	44,990
XV 2.0i-S •	7	2	110	48,990	48,990
Forester 2.0 Diesel •	5.7	2	110	47,490	-
Forester X •	9.6	2.5	126	40,990	41,990
Forester XS •	9.6	2.5	126	-	45,990
Legacy 2.0 Diesel	5.7	2	110	51,990	-
Legacy 2.5i Sport Sedan	8.9	235	123	43,990	45,990
Legacy 2.5 Premium Sedan	8.9	2.5	123	-	51,490
Legacy 2.5i Sport B Spec	8.9	2.5	123	61,990	61,990
Legacy GT 2.5i BSpec Prem	8.9	2.5	123	67,990	67,990
Outback 2.0 Diesel •	5.8	2	110	54,490	-
Outback 2.5i •	8.9	2.5	123	46,990	48,990
Outback 2.5i Premium •	8.9	2.5	123	-	53,990
Outback 3.6 Premium •	10.3	3	191	-	65,990
Tribeca •	11.6	3.6	190	-	69,990

Suzuki www.suzuki.co.nz					
Alto GL •	4.8	1	50	17,250	19,550
Splash GLX •	5.1	1.2	69	18,990	20,500
Swift GL •	5.5	1.4	70	20,500	-
Swift GLX •	5.5	1.4	70	22,500	23,990
Swift Ltd •	6.2	1.4	70	23,500	24,990
Swift Diesel •	4.2	1.3	55	25,990	-
Swift Sport •	6.5	1.6	100	27,500	28,990

	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
SK4 2.0 GLX 2WD Sporthatch •	7.3	2	107	25,990	27,990
SK4 2.0 LTD 2WD Sporthatch •	7.3	2	107	27,990	29,990
SK4 2.0 GLX i-AWD Hatch •	8.7	2	107	27,990	29,990
SK4 2.0 Sedan •	8.7	2	107	-	29,990
Kizashi 2.4 GLX •	7.9	2.4	131	35,990	37,990
Kizashi 2.4 Ltd •	7.9	2.4	131	41,990	43,990
Kizashi Sport	7.9	2.4	131	-	48,500
Jimmy JX	7.2	1.3	63	19,990	-
Jimmy Sierra	7.2	1.3	63	22,990	24,500
Grand Vitara 2.4 3dr •	8.8	2.4	122	31,690	33,190
Grand Vitara 2.4 JXL 5dr •	9.9	2.4	122	37,990	39,500
Grand Vitara 2.4 Ltd 5dr •	9.9	2.4	122	43,990	-

Toyota www.toyota.co.nz					
Yaris 1.3 3dr •	6.5	1.3	64	-	23,290
Yaris 1.3 5dr •	6.5	1.3	64	23,790	25,290
Yaris 1.5 Sedan •	6.7	1.5	80	-	30,540

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New to Market

Nissan Pulsar



Peugeot 208



Hyundai Veloster



PEUGEOT 208

Peugeot's small hatchback comes in two sexy European body styles – a sporty three-door and a five-door hatchback. Inside, Peugeot has moved away from the regular-look steering wheel and fitted a small, slightly oval-shaped wheel. The CD player is replaced with a seven-inch touch screen display – sure to please the younger generation – offering radio, Bluetooth, and USB or audio streaming. Two engines are available: a three-cylinder 1.2L mated to a five-speed manual 'box, priced at \$23,990; and a 1.6L engine with a four-speed auto from \$25,990 to \$29,990.

Good: Cheeky, European styling.

Not so good: The ride is a bit on the firm side.

HYUNDAI VELOSTER

On the driver's side of the Veloster, it appears to be a sporty two-door coupe; on the passenger's, it looks like a five-door hatch. The third door, on the safe side of the road, makes for easy access to the rear seats. The Veloster is fitted with a 1.6L petrol motor supplying 103kW/167Nm and there's a 50kW/265Nm turbo available for those after a more exhilarating drive. The standard 1.6L engine is mated to a new six-speed dual-clutch transmission, while the 1.6L turbo model has the choice of a six-speed manual or automatic. Prices range from \$39,990 to \$49,990.

Good: Looks hot and the third door is convenient. **Not so good:** Rear window vision is restricted.

NISSAN PULSAR

The Nissan Pulsar nameplate is back in the New Zealand market for the first time since 2006. First with a sedan and a hatchback model will follow mid-year. The Pulsar Sedan is a spacious vehicle with an impressive 510L boot space, modern design features and a new longer stroke 96kW/174Nm, 1.8L petrol engine mated to a Constantly Variable Transmission (CVT). Fuel consumption is claimed at 6.7L/100km. In 2006, the Pulsar Q-sedan retailed for \$30,195 and seven years later it is less, with the ST sedan retailing for \$29,990. The Ti sedan is stickered at \$33,490.

Good: Value for money; spacious.

Not so good: No reverse camera or navigation option.

TOYOTA COROLLA

Toyota's reputation for reliability will ensure continued sales success for the Corolla. The modern body design is attractive, the cabin is conservative and the trusty 1.8L power plant produces a useful 100kW/175Nm. The GX model is available with a six-speed manual gearbox or a Constantly Variable Transmission (CVT). The rest of the range has CVT only. Fuel consumption is 7.1L/100km for the stick shifter and 6.6L/100km for the CVT. Pricing kicks off at \$33,490 for the base model up to \$45,490 for the top-of-the-range Levin ZR.

Good: Toyota brand equity and practicality. **Not so good:** No alternative engine options to choose from.

HOLDEN VOLT

The futuristic plug-in electric car has finally arrived. The Long Range Electric Holden Volt has a range extender (a petrol-powered 1.4L engine) to charge the 288-cell lithium-ion battery when there is no charging station nearby. It's a nicely designed vehicle and the 111kW/370Nm electric motor pulls the car around with ease. Unlike pure electric vehicles, the Volt can go as far as the battery pack plus the 35 litres of 95 octane juice will allow. New technology is always expensive, and this is reflected in the Volt's \$85,000 price tag.

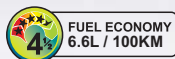
Good: No more range anxiety, and instant torque is available from the start. **Not so good:** Hefty price tag; it's not a pure electric vehicle.

MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER

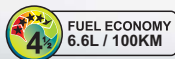
The new Outlander sees a subtle slim grille and an electrically-operated, one-piece tailgate replacing the outgoing model's imposing grille and two-piece boot. A fuel efficient 2.0L petrol engine, mated to a CVT transmission for the 2WD, sips a claimed 6.6L/100km. Two 4WD models are available: a 2.4L petrol motor, using 7.5L/100km, mated to a CVT gearbox; and a 2.2L diesel engine, burning 5.8L/100km, bolted to a conventional six-speed automatic transmission. Prices range from \$33,990 for the 2WD five-seater to \$56,990 for the 4WD seven-seat diesel.

Good: Nicely priced, good standard kit. **Not so good:** The old two-piece tailgate will be missed by some.

Toyota Corolla



Mitsubishi Outlander



Holden Volt



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See our New Car Prices listing, online and on p.51-52 of this issue.



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Traveller

Lydia Ko

Kiwi golfing prodigy

"I think Queenstown is the most beautiful place in New Zealand. The environment is really special and it has a fun atmosphere. It's cool walking around town with all the tourists from overseas. Because it's such a beautiful place, it's really relaxing just spending time down there and taking it easy.

I'm too young to drink or go to any of the wineries, so I can't do that. I love to play golf.

Some people might think that because I play it so much I get over it, but playing golf in Queenstown is a real experience. They have world-class golf courses down there. If you are a golfer, then you have to go down to Queenstown and play all their best courses. It's an amazing place to play." 📷



THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

Karl Puschmann sees another side to some North Island tourist spots

IN JUST 6.93 seconds on a sunny afternoon at the Cambridge Raceway my dreams of a rags-to-riches story come to a panting, puffed out end. I am not in the money, though I don't yet realize this. For now, and for all I know, I still have a very real chance of cleaning up. I clutch my ticket, anxiously awaiting the results.

Horses are everywhere in Cambridge, their popularity inescapable, being trumpeted before you even arrive. As you trundle along the tree-lined straight of SH1 from Hamilton, signs offering the breeding services of champion studs sprout from the greenery. An easy right and you're on Victoria Street, Cambridge's main drag, driving past its charming Victorian Town Hall where, frozen in brass, a life-size mare watches over her sleeping foal. A quick stroll to the

rather good – though unimaginatively named – Cambridge Bakery reveals mosaics of past champions embroidered into the brickwork of the footpath.

Today, though, I'm not here for a flutter on the fillies. Instead, I'm having a punt on the sport's scrappy little cousin – the greyhounds.

These dogs – or, more accurately, dog-shaped bullets – hoof around the track at blistering speed, the pack powering past in a barely perceptible blur. They're so fast that, for a novice such as myself, the races border on incomprehensible. It may be all over in less than seven seconds, but I have to wait for the announcer to recite the names of the winners five seconds later to determine whether I'm now wealthy or not. I am not.

My dog picks may not have been on the money, but my spur of the

moment decision to spend a couple of hours at the track certainly was. On the vast veranda of The Clubhouse, the track's bar, restaurant and betting office, the vibe's relaxed. Couples of all ages sit at tables wrestling with impressively-sized burgers while they enjoy a drink, kids run around on the ample grass areas, and a handful of people keep an eye on the track. It's all very casual.

Inside is where the serious punters are. They are mainly men and are doing either one of two things: deciphering grids of puzzling numbers posted on the wall or staring intently at television sets broadcasting the action taking place behind their very backs. It's a quick and easy decision to take my pint outside.

"Who do you fancy out there, mate?", a cigarillo chomping gent asks once I'm settled in at a table.

"The safe money's on Pint Star," I reply, with self-assured false confidence. Answering with no more than a good humoured grunt, he turns his attention back to the track. To his credit he says nothing when the announcer neglects to mention Pint Star's name amongst the winners. Turns out luck hadn't smiled on the family at the next table over either. With a mouth full of chips and a tomato sauce stained face, a small boy asks, "Dad, why didn't your dog win?". The boy's father replies: "He didn't run fast enough," and leaves it at that.

Around the lake at Te Ko Utu park, which is just down the road from the raceway, there's also a lot of activity. People tootle past on bikes, play fetch with dogs and find themselves surrounded by bread-hungry ducks eager to take advantage of their generosity. "Looking at your dinner, mate?", an old fella chuckles, as I watch a small gaggle of ducks mucking about by the water's edge. I don't quite know what to say to that. So I leave.

It's drizzling when I arrive in Rotorua, the half-hearted rain doing its darndest to keep a weary sun from peeking out. As I'm not in the tourism capital of the North Island for any extreme, outdoorsy-type adventures, I'm not really too bothered, though it

"Looking at your dinner mate?" an old fella chuckles, as I watch a small gaggle of ducks. I don't quite know what to say to

does put a dampener on the outdoor night market that has set up shop in Tutanekai Street. It's encouraging to see a drop of rain hasn't scared anyone off, as locals and visitors alike dash from stall to stall, checking out the various food, trinkets and wares on offer. It's wet, but not cold as small groups huddle together under the awnings of nearby shops, eating kai out of styrofoam bowls, while a local muso performs lite reggae from the dry of a tent.

It may be drab and grey outside but inside, at Rotorua's historic Blue Baths swimming pools, it's an explosion of colour and sound as the performers of 1958 - *The Musical* hit the stage. I'd spotted a bright yellow flyer advertising the show earlier in the day and had decided to check it out.

I arrive early and order one of the

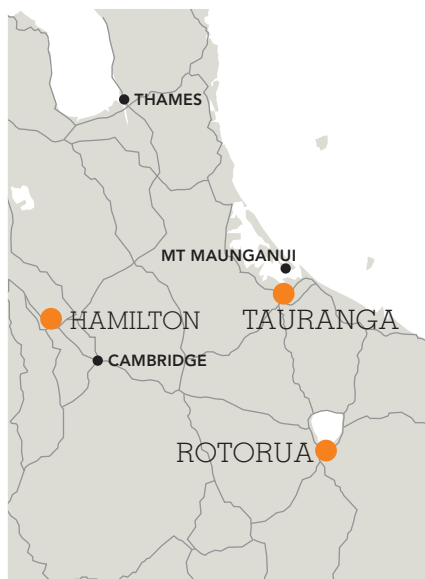
specialty-themed cocktails the house has concocted to complement the show's run. This is delivered a few minutes later via a roller-skating waitress dressed in full 1950s garb and is a shockingly bright shade of pink. I try my best to sip it manfully but, with this particular hue, that's not possible. As the waitress expertly sashays around the art deco foyer, I'm amazed to learn she's only just learnt how to roller-skate. "I started last week," she laughs. "I really wanted to look the part."

The musical, which was written specifically for the venue, is great fun, featuring an abundance of 1950s classics, great comedic performances and some impressive choreography. I'm glad I chanced heading along.

The next day the sun is back on full beam, so I decide to hit the beach. Mt Maunganui is just over an hour away, so I load up the Ford Mondeo Titanium I've been loaned and hit the road. It's an easy drive and I soon find myself on golden sands.

It's a weekday, but you really couldn't tell as the beach is bristling with activity. The water's full of swimmers splashing about and, a little further along, surfers riding the waves. I briefly think about scaling the mountain that gives the town its name, but it's far too hot for that and opt instead to explore the baby

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Luck be a greyhound today; quaint Cambridge; Rotorua's historic Blue Baths Swimming Pools; 1950s fashion is always in style.





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mountain that sits opposite, dividing the pristine blue waters of the beach.

Here and there small trails dart off into the unknown. Curiosity sees me traipsing down many of these paths. One leads to a pocket of fishermen, lines out and relaxed, another to a couple of lads clambering quickly up and out of sight over the rocks, while another leads to a couple of teens, paused hesitatingly on the cliff verge and in serious discussion. One creeps closer to the edge, peers over cautiously, before carefully edging back. She swings her arms theatrically and then leaps off. She plunges into the water below with an almighty splash and an even bigger grin. Her friend jumps a few seconds later.

Later in the evening I'm down to meet friends for a barbecue in Tauranga, so that afternoon I shoot across. It's only a short 15 minute blat away so I arrive earlier than anticipated.

Moseying along the harbour's boardwalk sees me working up a thirst, so I pop into a bar with seaside views. I find a table outside just as the gentle swing of 'Putting on the Ritz' starts up. I'm soon nodding along with the music. Not to the beat or melody, but rather to Fred Astaire's crooning assertion that, "You'll declare it's simply topping to be there". Right now, with the shade of an umbrella keeping the beating sun from burning me up, happily supping away on my drink, I couldn't agree more. 🍷

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Surf's up, dude; the leap of faith; rock climbing; a cracker of a day at Mount Maunganui.
BELOW: Parked up at the Tauranga boardwalk.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ford Mondeo Titanium 2.0L was provided by Ford www.ford.co.nz

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DOWN BY THE RIVER

Karl Puschmann discovers the magic of the Whanganui River

AS THE JET boat bounces its way up the Whanganui River, operator Mark Wickham turns, grins and says; "Ya wanna try a whirly thing?" Not being an intrepid adventurer, I don't actually know what a 'whirly thing' is. But I do know what the correct answer is. I give the thumbs up.

The jet boat lurches swiftly forward accompanied by the racket of its suddenly roaring engine. The vessel's nose rises sharply out of the water, completely obscuring the landscape and then, almost immediately, everything is not where it should be. As we spin, I realize I'm laughing, but also white-knuckling the side rail.

It's a stunner of a day on the river, the sky full of blue and plenty of sizzle in the sun. For the past 45 minutes we've been relaxing our way upstream partaking in what Mark calls a "dry tour". Translated, this means we won't be getting soaked, as is often the case when people go jet-boating. Instead we skim along at a gentle pace, bar the occasional burst of acceleration

through the odd rapid. Every now and then, Mark kills the motor at a place of interest and relays the tales of the river's long and storied history.

But, as we giddily spiral round and round on the water, this is all forgotten – facts of long gone events blown out by so much dizzying wind and adrenaline. Even with this whirly party trick Mark is true to his word, and we disembark his jet boat completely dry.

He's dropped us off on the stony riverbank of The Flying Fox Retreat. Nestled on the doorstep of the Whanganui National Park and surrounded by native bush, The Flying Fox mixes a curious blend of luxury and back-to-basics living.

"It's hot today!" a shirtless John Blythe says, by way of welcoming us. He warmly shakes our hands, then nips over to a thermostat that's hanging on the vast deck that circles the main house. "35 degrees!" he exclaims. "It's hard to get any work done when it's like this."

Work's pretty much the last thing on my mind today, but John's been busy all morning, hammering away on an extension to the house he shares with his partner – and Whanganui's mayor

– Annette Main. "Come on," he says, "I'll show you to your cottage".

Leading us into the shady respite offered by century-old walnut trees, John shows us through organic orchards, points out some secret pathways for quick access down to the river and shows us the small store at the back of his workshop, in case we need to stock up on supplies. My eyes quickly run over the more sensible foodstuffs – sourdough bread, muesli, eggs etc – but linger on the selection of fine cheeses and wines on offer.

"Here's where you'll be staying," John says at one of two small, quirkily individual cottages. The cottages sit a respectful distance apart in a beautifully serene and leafy clearing, and each is designed around a theme.

We're staying in the Brew House, which was originally intended to house a microbrewery. The second cottage is called the James K and functions as a tribute to the poet Baxter, whose connection to the area runs strong.

The two cottages, built by John out of recycled and locally historic materials, are wonderfully open, inviting the peaceful surrounds in to immerse guests in the restful nature of the area.

We take up residence on a large, handcrafted wooden bench that offers an inspiring view of the valley and the enclosing mountains. The vibe is gentle, relaxed, unhurried. The canopy of the surrounding trees keeps the harshest rays at bay, a couple of bottles of wine keep us from getting thirsty, and the sound of old jazz records spinning on the player inside the cottage keep us in the correct mood. It's escapism at its finest.

The next morning, things get serious. Looking us dead in the eye, John says: "There's lots of things you can do on the river to bring yourself harm". This is not what I want to hear and my unease is apparent. "But you'll be right," he laughs. "You'll have fun."

We're about to embark on a three-hour, 16km canoe adventure back down the river and John is talking us through the basics of water safety.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

The James K cottage at The Flying Fox; canoeing down the Whanganui river.

Once he's satisfied that we're not going to find a way to bring ourselves harm, he draws a map of our route, hands us a walkie-talkie, loads the two-seater canoe with a picnic basket and our bags, and sends us merrily along our way with a friendly farewell.

Our paddling starts off a little shakily, with some haphazard turning followed by blind panic, as we find ourselves angling straight towards some rocks instead of tacking away from them. After about five minutes we find our confidence. Ten minutes later, our concentration shifts focus from not capsizing to wholly appreciating the experience; the gentle swish of the oars, the rhythm of the river, the solitude of the neighbouring bush.

When we reach what we figure to be roughly the halfway mark, we row our boat ashore. After munching down on the blueberry and cream cheese muffins John and Annette have packed for us, and washing them down with

organic plunger coffee, we go for a dip before continuing our journey.

Whanganui's put on another scorcher and the cool of the river is refreshing. The bright of the day, unfiltered by a single cloud, adds a sense of hyperrealism to the beauty of this already impressive scene. The only sounds are our splashing and laughing and the occasional sing-song accompaniment of unseen birds.

And it's here, fooling about in the water in a secluded spot along the Whanganui River, that I realize that describing somewhere as magical isn't necessarily trite or lazy or clichéd. Sometimes, just sometimes, it's the only word that fits. ☞

VISITOR INFORMATION

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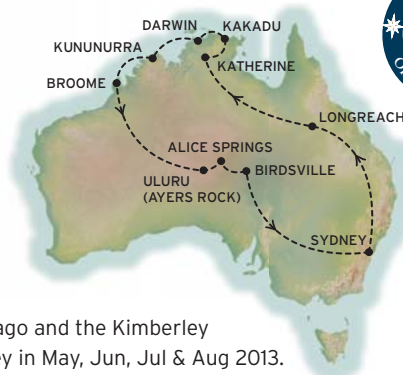
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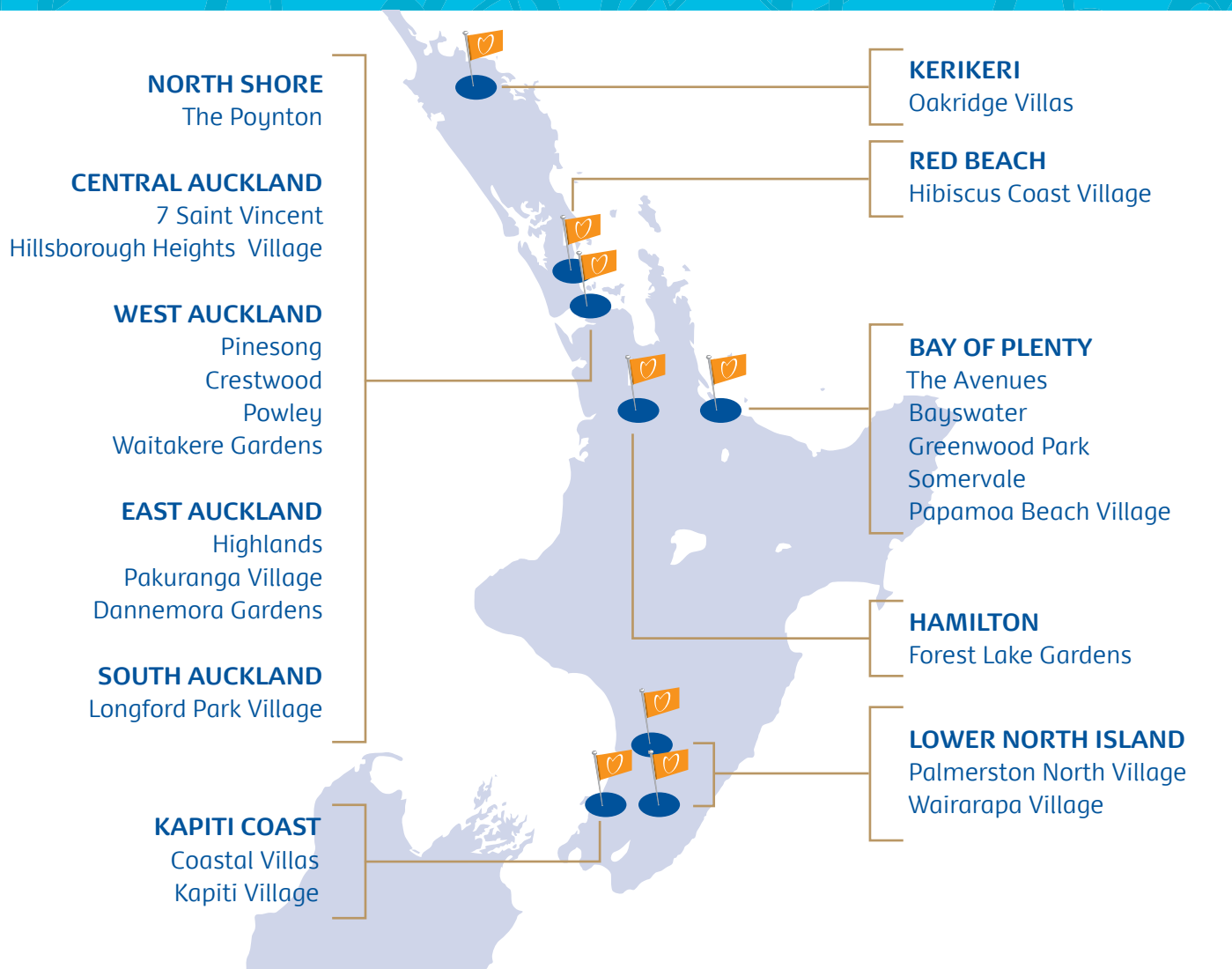
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IT'S A GAS

Caroline Crick enjoys a Girl Guide moment

FOOD COOKED IN the open air tastes extra special to me, so the idea of a short hike through native forest and brunch in the bush is appealing – especially when I'm told the fire we will be cooking on comes out of the ground.

Merve and Shirley Bigden, Murchison Lodge owners, first heard about the local 'gas holes' over a game of golf seven years ago. They'd recently settled in Murchison, south of Nelson, and were getting to know the locals. Their interest was piqued.

"We made our way through farmland and native forest, guided by old preserving jar lids nailed to the beech trees to mark the route," says Merve. "We couldn't believe our eyes when we finally saw them."

The couple spent several years researching the idea of taking private tours up to the site and negotiating with the landowner for access. They opened their Natural Flames business last year, taking groups of up to eight in to see the gas holes.

As we drive into the forest, we stop to inspect an old oil well head, a remnant of previous mineral explorations. "At one stage in the

1960s, there were 40 men up here prospecting for oil," Merve tells us. All that is left of their endeavours is a good road.

We drive on, across farmland, looking out for deer that often graze on the banks of the creek. From the far end of the property, we walk an

"As we drive into the forest, we stop to inspect an old oil well head, a remnant of previous mineral explorations."

hour and a bit through bush. There's a couple of banks to scramble up, a stream or two to cross and a feeling of going deeper and deeper into no man's land.

And then we come across an astounding sight. Cresting a bushy knoll, we look down on a small basin surrounded by green ferns with dancing flames coming out of the ground. The side of the basin – large enough to park a Mini Cooper in – is cracked and ashy, and the flames dance around the face where the

gas seeps to the surface.

Merve constructs a simple tripod to support the camp fire pots and cooks our bush tucker. We sit on small benches above the edge of the basin and ask questions like, "What happens when it rains?" and "Who lit it the first time?"

Local legend has it that two deer hunters smelt gas here and (bravely, I think) dropped a match to see what would happen. "I like to think that they were having a cigar after a successful hunt and threw their match into the bushes," says Merve. "Maybe they even cooked themselves a venison steak!"


Then we have hot billy tea and pancakes drenched with local beechdew honey. The food is heavenly; it takes me back to my Girl Guide days.

Sitting in the bush after an appetite-enhancing walk, listening to birdsong while our host cooks pancakes and brews tea over natural gas – it all combines to create a pretty special experience. **✎**

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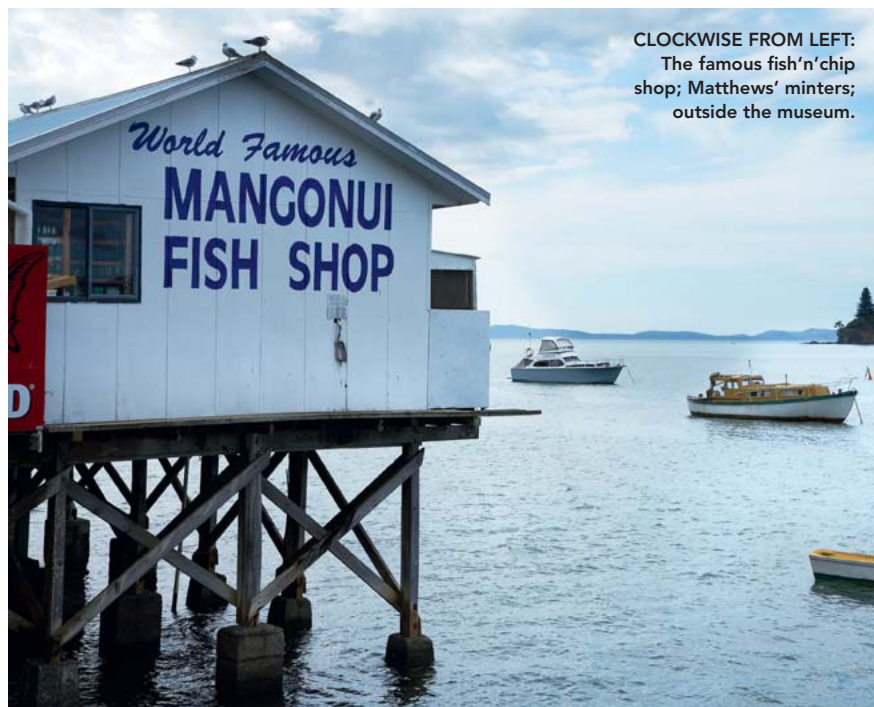
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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
The famous fish'n'chip
shop; Matthews' minters;
outside the museum.



Present in the past

Mangonui's history delights **Danielle Wright**

THERE'S A TELEPHONE booth on the waterfront in Mangonui, marking the centre of town between the famous fish shop and the restored Old Oak Boutique Hotel, originally built in 1861. Two people are leaning against the booth, talking on mobile phones. It's a metaphor for the town, steeped in history, yet with a modern outlook.

The seaside village in the Far North was once a bustling 19th century whaling village, which played its part in providing light for the great cities of the world. Heritage buildings, still impressive, stand testament to the fortunes made here during that time.

A short drive from Mangonui, past the pink sandy beaches of Cable Bay, and history of a more personal nature is on display at Matthews Vintage Museum. We head here for a tour of the privately owned collection, dating back to the 1900s.

We walk past two doves perched on an ancient petrol pump and enter a huge warehouse filled with

a collection of vintage typewriters, cars, tractors, farming and household objects, music equipment and everything in between, collected and restored by Winston Matthews, whose sister Ruth is showing us around.

"Winston started with a Meccano set and his passion grew and grew. Now it needs a museum to showcase it. He's really very talented, though he doesn't like us to say," says Ruth. "He takes what he does for granted, but it's quite remarkable that he has restored it all. Everything in the museum works."

A wall of vintage radios catches my eye. To see them all lined up, so elaborate, gives us a real sense of families huddled around them listening to wartime news, serials, quiz shows and talent quests.

Cars don't usually impress me, but each one in the museum has a nifty feature, such as a boot that converts into luxury open-air seating or a bonnet as a door.

It's one thing to see owners going for a Sunday drive in a vintage car;

it's another to take a close look at the cars and read the stories attached to them. Coming to the museum opened my eyes to the history of everyday New Zealanders in the last century, and the past suddenly seems a fun place to live.

Back in Mangonui, we visit the Saturday market in the local hall and an arts and crafts version further up the road. There is a man polishing greenstone, and bags made out of the tops of jeans. The local Four Square sells artisan products and the newsagent sells the newest books, as well as a DVD called *The Fear North*, a zombie movie starring students from Taipa.

On the outside, Mangonui seems like a sleepy little town relying on its heritage, but from what we saw, it's more progressive and bustling than you might think. Just like the past. **✎**

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A LOCAL GEM

Kathryn Webster finds peace in a remote spot

LOOKING STRAIGHT DOWN from the deck of Wild Fire, starfish are clearly visible on the sea floor. I ask the skipper how deep the water is, here at Stewart Island's Oban Wharf where we are tied up.

"Oh, 20 feet?" he says.

Such is the clarity of the water that an hour later we watch a yellow-eyed penguin diving and swimming to shore, its little bullet-shaped body vivid deep under the surface. We can hear its chick calling. It's quiet dusk, the sky is pearly pink, the sea

is glassy calm. Soon, we're at the far reaches of Paterson Inlet from where we walk across a peninsula to Ocean Beach to spy kiwi in the wild. We see four pecking for grubs in the sand, oblivious to us holding our breath and shaking our heads in disbelief at the magic of it. On our walk back through the dark bush, another kiwi wanders across the track.

On Ulva Island, earlier in the day, I had watched a tui land at its scruffy nest, triggering three frantic, open-beaked babies into action. It's bird paradise on Ulva, with great care

taken to keep predators away, and many species thrive as a result. Even on the way out to the island bird watchers are treated, with clumsy big mollymawks flying low around the boat and, when fish heads are thrown out for them, landing awkwardly, feet-first, to squabble over them.

The cruise also provides historic perspective, taking in the signs of early settler habitation and the detritus of whaling bases. The wind-blown tree line merges green, brown, yellow and a catch of red from blooming rata. Pale sand beaches are scooped out below the bush. Dotted around the coastline, boatsheds squat; houses with fantastic views are tucked into the bush. Beyond the settled areas, the national park stretches back and away.

I walk, one day, from Lee Bay to Port William – a four-hour taste of the three-day Rakiura track. Through stunning, bird-rich, clean, lush bush with views along the coast and down to lonely coves, it's a glorious place to be. The track takes me along gold-flecked beaches, including one with an anxious oyster catcher fixed to her nest and a gang of reeling, squawking cousins above. I take a



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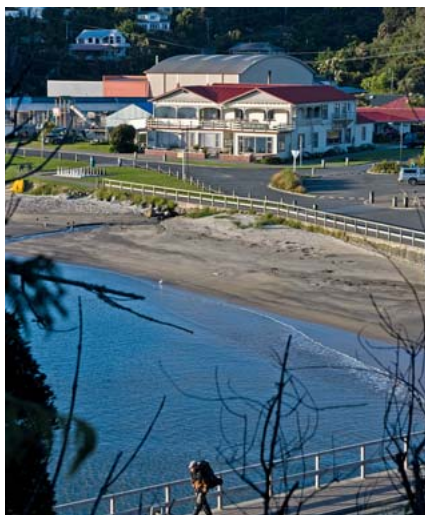
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wide berth. A slight, warm sea wind blows; the day sparkles.

At Port William hut I meet the water taxi, as arranged, and detour up the coastline to drop off some real trampers with heavy packs. On the way back to Oban, rain starts. The horizon fuzzes a little and everything quietens a notch.

Oban features a hotel, school, supermarket, community centre, museum, theatre, DOC office, and a handful of shops and tour operators. Behind it, Observation Rock rises. Short roads run away from it to various beautiful bays and stunning views and nearby settlements, and

PREVIOUS PAGE: On Rakiura track; details around town and on Oban wharf. **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** walking down to Oban; a view from Observation Rock; all roads lead to Oban.

“Dotted around the coastline, boatsheds squat; houses with fantastic views are tucked into the bush.”

walkers are always on them, rain or shine.

In the bay, boats swing at anchor. Local people, all 400-odd, are pretty friendly. Someone referred to it as ‘old school New Zealand’, living how people used to, with strong community togetherness, unlocked front doors and a willingness to share their cars. They say g’day with genuine warmth to visitors, who rent baches, take a room at the hotel or

stay at quiet, small-scale places like Kaka Retreat, where I stay.

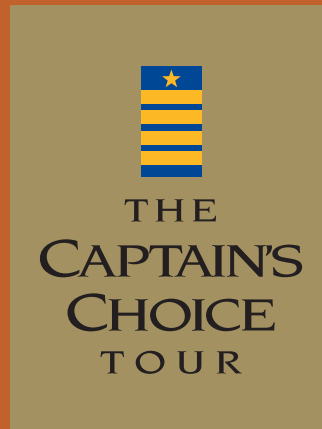
I see a short movie called *A Local's Tail*, which tells the story of Stewart Island from a dog's point of view. It's warm-hearted and funny, and provides an insight into the fishing, hunting, hard-living culture of the island. When I leave the theatre, the rain has cleared and the air is clean and fragrant with wet bush. I walk the sharp, steep, hard walk to Observation Rock for an eyeful of utter beauty. Because that's what this place is about – being rewarded for effort. 📌

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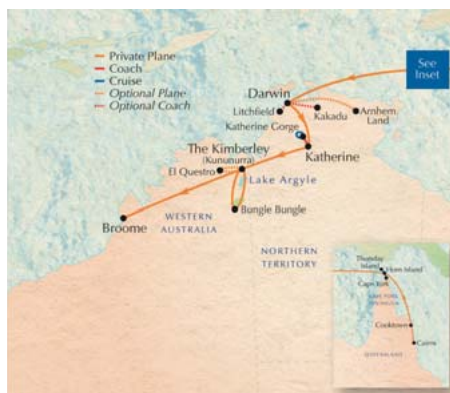
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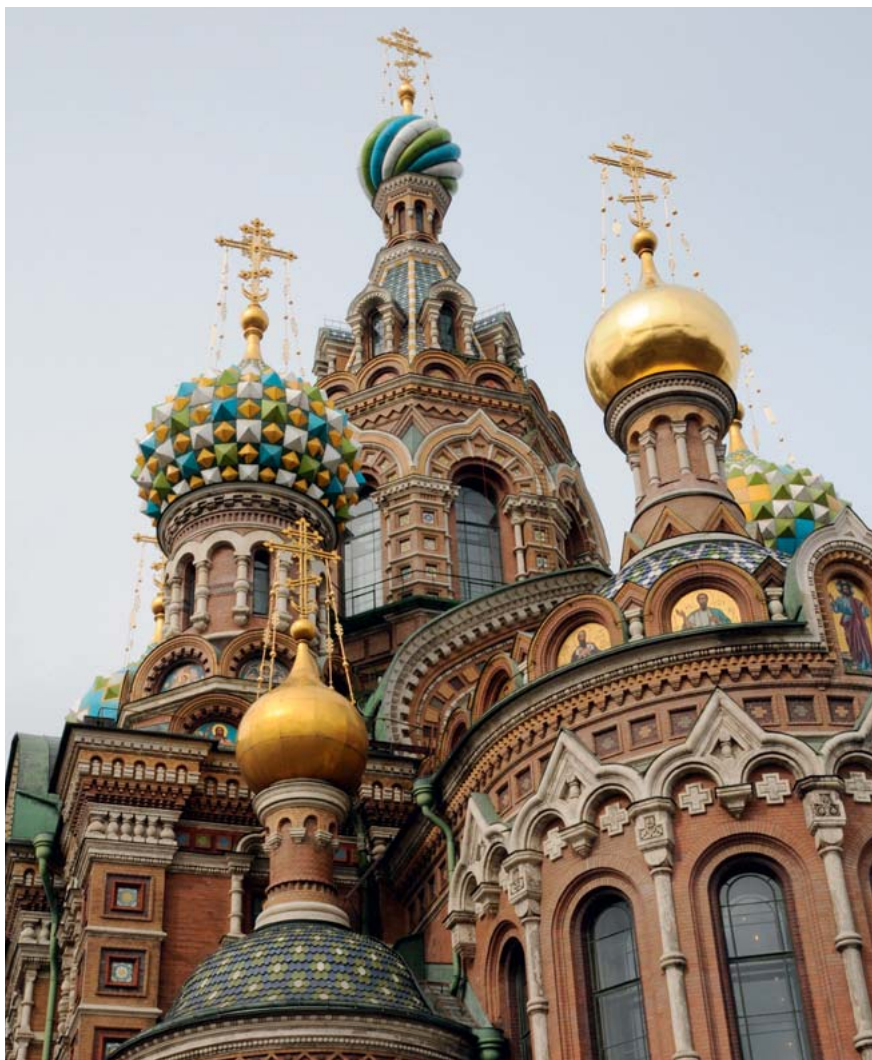
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BIG, BOLD & BEAUTIFUL

Kathryn Webster finds treasure, history and adventure in Russia

BOYS ON SKATEBOARDS zipped and curved through Palace Square, their nonchalance vaguely provocative alongside the lined-up, buttoned-up military. Brassy, rhythmic band music, underscored by marching steps, burst out again and again.

We had joined St Petersburg locals and tourists on the steps of the

Hermitage to watch soldiers practise for Victory Day. I imagined Catherine the Great standing at a window above us, watching menacing crowds gather in this square. This was the scene of three revolutions, including the one in 1917 that changed Russia's destiny.

In the middle of Palace Square is Alexander Column, a 47-metre pillar that stays where it is thanks to

gravity. Nothing bolts it to the ground. I worried, briefly and illogically, about an out-of-control skateboarder crashing into it, toppling it.

The Hermitage, once a royal palace and now one of the world's greatest art museums, is actually five buildings, built along the banks of the river Neva. Inside is another world. Vast sprawling spaces; sweeping marble stairs;

gilded, sparkling, mirrored rooms hanging heavy with three million art works, including two of the world's 10 Leonardo da Vincis. Galleries full of art by Rembrandt, Renoir, Matisse, Titian, Van Gogh, Picasso, Gauguin threaten to overwhelm. But visitors to Russia soon learn that being overwhelmed is on the itinerary. It is massive and impressive, and awash in history and culture.

St Petersburg's river is wide and rushing, with great broken slats of ice moving with the flow, disturbing shimmering reflections of gilded church spires. Its streets are wide and rushing. Nevsky Prospect, the main street, lined with old palaces and criss-crossed with canals and bridges, is broad and too long to walk the length of. Churches, too, are XL.

St Isaacs, an imposing grand cathedral, is now a museum that can be climbed for brilliant views from its roof. The cathedral was used and abused during the Soviet era as a museum specializing in science. Now it is gorgeous again, restored with touches of gold, intricate mosaics and paintings, and towering columns of bright green and blue stone.

Most beautiful is the Church of Spilled Blood, with multi-coloured, onion-domed architecture and an interior of mosaics limited in palette so that, while there is a lot of it and it is heavily patterned, it is subdued. The effect is reflective and calming.

Other churches we stepped into were joyless and solemn. St Nikolsky was busy with Easter visitors. Old women with thin candles kissed gilded images of holy significance, crossed themselves repeatedly, and bowed. The smell of wax and the drone of chanting added to the holy scene.

Outside, in the snow, beggars lined up to grab at departing Christians, hands extended. Vendors sold branches of pussy willow at the church gates.

We were surprised by the snow, in April. Flakes hung on our clothes and dark lines of trees and fences took on a graphic quality, lacy and fragile

"Moscow's Kremlin is magnificent architecturally, with icon-filled churches and tantalizing history."

against the white. The snow gave the city's wide boulevards, tree-lined with paths through their centres, an extra historic quality. I wanted to see Anna Karenina in her long black skirts rushing to get out of the chill.

Vodka is the best medicine for a cold day. We sat at a bar window

watching the locals in their fur coats and puffer jackets, hats pulled down; children so bundled up that they struggled to move their limbs. Elegant women with very high-heeled boots and stylish hats strode by. No sign of Anna.

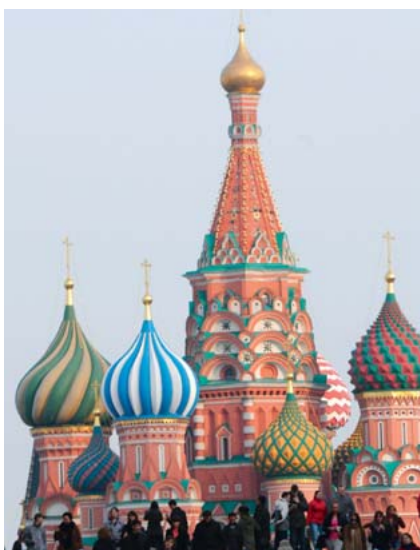
We found an excellent vegetarian café with friendly owners, and went back and back for their mushroom lasagne, sticky cakes and coffee.

Russia, without knowing the language, would be difficult without a guide. We tapped into a tour that left us to our own devices until we needed help – such as taking the train from St Petersburg to Novgorov and then, the next day, on to Moscow.

Novgorov is an old, old city with a kremlin (town fort) holding ancient churches and a museum full of icons, including one from the 11th century. Also in the collection were small double-sided tablets, thought to be used as templates for larger icons. In the inner cool of St Sophia's, candles burned before brooding images with frames intricately carved and studded with jewels, shiny from attention. There are no pews in Orthodox churches – there are just beautiful spaces for people to stand and wait and be in awe, and have soft light fall through high windows to somehow help or guide them.

On the train to Moscow, the night fading to an inky blue horizon, we

PREVIOUS PAGE: St Petersburg, including the Church of Spilled Blood. **THIS PAGE:** Moscow local; St Basil's Cathedral; shop facade.





LEFT TO RIGHT: St Petersburg's St Isaacs from across the river Neva; classical architecture in Moscow; a street artist in Moscow's Ul Arbat.

passed through countryside getting its breath back after winter. Young tourists swapped travel stories. Official rail women instructed us, with sign language, to unroll our mattresses onto our bunks and make nests with bright white linen and blankets that they would collect in the morning. Lights out when it was bedtime. It was all very civilized and easy, yet adventurous.

As was, surprisingly, the Moscow Metro. It was insanely busy and fast, and would have been stressfully challenging without an orientation lesson from our guide, but well worth mastering. We ventured out from our hotel in the 'burbs to see Red Square,

Lenin's tomb, the great GUM mall and the darling St Basil's Cathedral.

Moscow's Kremlin is magnificent architecturally, with icon-filled churches and tantalizing history. It is the heart of the city – though locals gravitate to the Alexander Garden below it, especially on a warm spring day when they promenade arm in arm, with flowers and kisses and laughs. Only tourists stopped to watch the changing of the guards, a noble ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, who is watched over by three armed, uniformed, straight-backed soldiers 24/7.

We visited a fur shop, stroked the alluring pelts of many soft, warm creatures; the watchful assistant arched her thin eyebrow. We visited the Diamond Fund, an uber-secure exhibition of Russia's jewel haul, including spectacular crown jewels and famous chunks of diamonds, sapphires and emeralds the size of bantam eggs.

Hours were spent at the Pushkin Art Museum and its neighbouring trove of impressionist and post-impressionist European art – Matisse, Gauguin and Rodin en masse. Then to a modern art complex called Red October where we found a photography gallery of powerful and arresting windows into life during and after the Soviet era.

And to Ul Arbat, an old pedestrian street, which overflowed with buzz and fun. Buskers, street dancers and portrait painters mingled with interesting, alternative types creating inspiring street fashion moments. A three-piece drum group busked with one manic dancer in front of them.

One evening, after dark, we toured the illuminated city with a guide who revealed the city's theatrical, brutal, intense history and something of its reality now.

I decided that the key to enjoying Moscow is getting to know it. It's not an immediately attractive city – it is sprawling and not very accommodating to pedestrians, especially those with no Russian language. But it sure is interesting.

The night tour ended in Red Square, ablaze with lights and busy with life. Kazan Cathedral, a small, beautiful church in the corner of the square, was surrounded by candle-holding parishioners on their way to a midnight Easter service. They swirled together, hands sheltering flames, called to gather by a chorus of heart-rending, minor-keyed bells. There was no prettiness, no sweetness in those bells. They ached. ■

VISITOR INFORMATION

We broke up the long journey with stopovers in Hong Kong, both ways. Coming home, we stopped just long enough to get some sleep and stretch our legs and the SkyCity Marriott near Hong Kong Airport was an excellent choice for this – www.skycitymarriott.com

● **Cathay Pacific flies daily from Auckland to Hong Kong, with connections to Moscow Domodedovo airport three times weekly – www.cathaypacific.com**

● **On The Go tours provided essential assistance with visas, accommodation and local guides – www.onthegotours.com**

For travel insurance options see www.aa.co.nz/insurance



MAGIC MOUNTAINS

Alice Galletly spends a weekend grazing in the Grampians

A **SMOKY BARBECUE** smell wafts through the eucalyptus trees, calling me away from the river and back to the picnic table. Noel, my tour guide, is putting the finishing touches to lunch. He arranges the onions carefully and squirts a squiggle of t-sauce, presenting the white-bread package with a grin.

"You can't beat a sausage in the bush," he says.

The two of us have stopped for a barbecue in the Grampians – a set of vast sandstone mountains which rise like waves from Australia's Western Victoria plains. All morning we have been exploring their craggy vistas: clambering over rocks to stand on the edge of yawning valleys, admiring the overhanging rock formation they call the Jaws of Death, and watching water cascade over the cliffs of MacKenzie Falls.

I'm hungry – ravenous even – for what will probably be the last time in days. It's the weekend of the region's annual food and wine festival, the Grampians Grape Escape, and I plan to spend the next two days acquainting myself with the local fare.

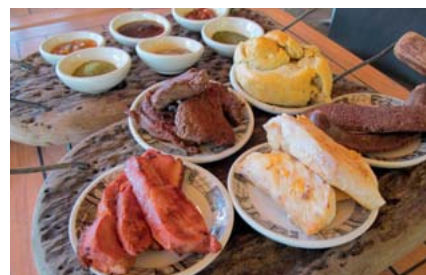
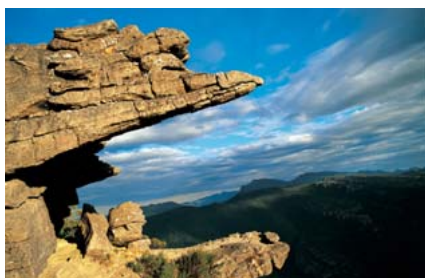
That night I practise for the festival by eating five courses. Around 100 of us are seated at the historic Mountain Grand, and Frank Camorra of Melbourne's famous tapas restaurant, MoVida, is in the kitchen. Somewhere between the salty sliver of anchovy topped with smoked-tomato sorbet, and sheep's milk ice cream with chestnuts and pedro ximenez, I declare that a sausage in the bush can in fact be beaten.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The Balconies, aka the Jaws of Death; Seppelt's underground drives; barbie in the bush; exotic meats; a stall at the Grape Escape. **OPPOSITE:** Peaks of the Grampians.

With food like that you'd think we were in Melbourne, but 'roos bounding across the road on the drive home remind us we're not. We go slow, braking twice as the headlights illuminate startled black eyes, and I, having never ventured beyond Australia's metropolitan centres before, squeal with delight at the furry brown hazards.

The kangaroos are undeniably cute, but that doesn't stop me from tasting one the next day. At the Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre I order a 'bush tucker' sampler, which includes emu sausages, kangaroo, crocodile and wild duck. Do people eat smoked duck sausages and wild fruit chutney in the bush, I wonder? Because, if so, I reckon I could cope.

Back in Halls Gap, a distinctive aroma of pork crackling greets me at the gates of the Grape Escape Festival, and I briefly regret eating such a large





lunch. Determined, I amble across the sunlit grass, making dedicated stops at stalls to try local cheeses, olive oils, and sip spicy shiraz. Every vendor I meet has got something I must try and, in defiance of my waistband, I oblige.

As the sun starts to sink I take the orange dirt road back to Boroka Downs – a secluded eco-resort on the edge of Grampians National Park. The sky is blushing a delicate pink, the sandstone ridges of the mountains are fire-red, and the tussocky field outside my room is crowded with kangaroos. The view through my windows seems almost unreal, like I've wandered on to the set of an ad for Australia.

That night there is another festival dinner, this time with an emphasis on wine matching. I'm not in the least bit hungry, but celebrity chef Adrian Richardson is cooking and so I manage four courses. Somewhere between the slow-roasted duck and

"Somewhere between the slow-roasted duck and the salted caramel brownie I decide that I'm moving to the Grampians"

the salted caramel brownie I decide that I'm moving to the Grampians.

In the morning I visit the historic Seppelt Winery, which is famed for its hand-dug labyrinth of underground drives. Excavated by gold miners, the three kilometres of tunnels have been storing Seppelt's sparkling wines since 1861.

We take a tour of the dark, sprawling tunnels, past row upon row of champagne bottles covered in thick grey dust. At one point we come across an old bathtub, and our guide recounts the story of the time

renowned Australian opera singer, Dame Nellie Melba, visited the winery.

Legend has it that Nellie wanted to bathe in sparkling wine and, so, 152 bottles later a bath was filled. After hesitating at first because of the cold, she got in for a quick, but luxurious dip. When the bath was over, the thrifty cellar hands decided to refill the bottles, but found that 153 came out. After that, everyone drinking Seppelt's sparkling wine joked they were drinking a little bit of Nellie Melba.

Nellie's story confirmed my suspicion that there's something mysterious about the Grampians. After all, I weighed more when I went out than when I came in, and how else can you explain that? 🍷

VISITOR INFORMATION

Grampians Grape Escape May 4 – 5, 2013
www.grampiansgrapeescape.com.au
AA Member Australian travel discounts – www.aa.co.nz/travel





Drive Australia

Australia is a land of starkly contrasting beauty; from the sparkling beaches and limestone cliffs hugging its rugged coastline to the dazzling cityscapes and lush rainforests inland, not to mention the memorable red deserts of the Outback. And these picture-perfect landscapes have one thing in common - they are all spectacular.

Australia is made up of six states and two territories, all offering completely different experiences. Over 10,000 beaches meander around Australia's border - more than any other country in the world. Combine this with a warm climate and thousands of extraordinary things to see and do and it's easy to see why Australia attracts so many visitors.

It's easy to get there with AA Member discounts.



IMAGE: Driving, Jones National Park
© SATC / Adam Bruzzone

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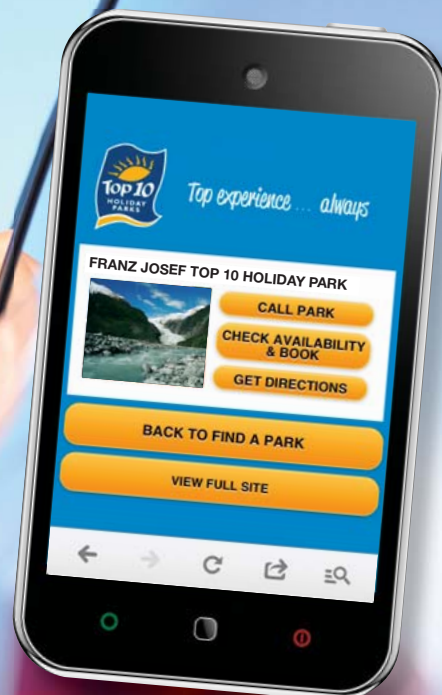


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My AA



Simon Lambourne

The AA's Auckland Transport Spokesperson explains his main mission

AUCKLAND'S TRANSPORT network is in a jam. With many vital public transport and roading infrastructure projects under consideration, an abundance of viewpoints on the various ways to proceed and the enormous amounts of money involved, it's no wonder the processes can seem perpetually gridlocked.

But that's not the case, says the AA's Auckland

Transport Spokesperson, Simon Lambourne, who is working with local and central Government, and other transport organisations to ensure Auckland keeps moving.

"There are so many significant things happening at any one time that keeping abreast of the different transport issues is a challenge," he says. »

"It is so important to get it right. Not only for the sake of our Members, but for the mobility of all Aucklanders, and for the rest of New Zealand."


The Auckland infrastructure projects currently under discussion are some of the most expensive in the country and the AA wants to make sure they are being undertaken appropriately. This is where Simon comes in.

"The main project I'm working on at the moment is identifying alternative ways to fund the investment in transport. We've got a sizable funding gap in Auckland, of about \$10-15 billion, and we need to find ways to source additional revenue to build the infrastructure we need," he explains. "It's an important issue. The Auckland Council and the mayor have acknowledged the important role the AA plays in the funding debate,

"Many Members contact me directly with their feedback."

which is why we're at the table, trying to find a solution and representing motorists and our Members."

Simon is unreservedly a people person, and says that the fun part of his job is getting out of the office and talking with the people making transport decisions and those who will be directly affected by them. But while it may be fun, it's also essential.

"There are a number of ways the AA develops policy on regional issues. Our Auckland district councillors represent the Membership locally, so I work very closely with them. I also work closely with the AA's Motoring Affairs team in Wellington and we regularly survey local AA Members for their views," he says. "Many Members also contact me directly with their feedback on what I am saying in the media or on a topic which concerns them. It's really the combination of all of these which allows us to represent the long-term interests of Auckland's motorists and Members." 

Canterbury Update

AA Insurance is working hard to look after its customers in Canterbury. At the end of December 2012, the following progress had been made:

66% claims closed

\$106.5 million paid

11 homes with major repairs/rebuilds completed or near completion

216 major repairs/rebuilds in the planning and consenting phase

613 minor repairs completed

99% of customers have time frames for when construction on their homes will begin





On the Defensive

New drivers are the most at risk on the road. Having learned the basics with an experienced driver beside them, they're making decisions and facing challenges with potentially very serious consequences.

With this in mind, the AA has developed its Defensive Driving Course, making it available to Learner drivers, as well as to Restricted Licence holders. It fits the Government's Decade of Road Safety strategy, and is in line with global driver education and development.

"The course is based on the understanding that crucial information, before you drive solo, prepares you to make the best possible decisions," said Karen Dickson, National Manager of AA Driver Training.

Over four two-hour sessions,

new drivers – typically teenagers – learn about different driving environments and styles, the effects of peer pressure, and the impact of emotions on driver behaviour – elements that collectively provide skills to better manage driving risk.

"It's the detail that good, experienced drivers intuitively know and put into practice, but are not necessarily sufficiently aware

"The course is based on the understanding that crucial information, before you drive solo, prepares you to make the best possible decisions."

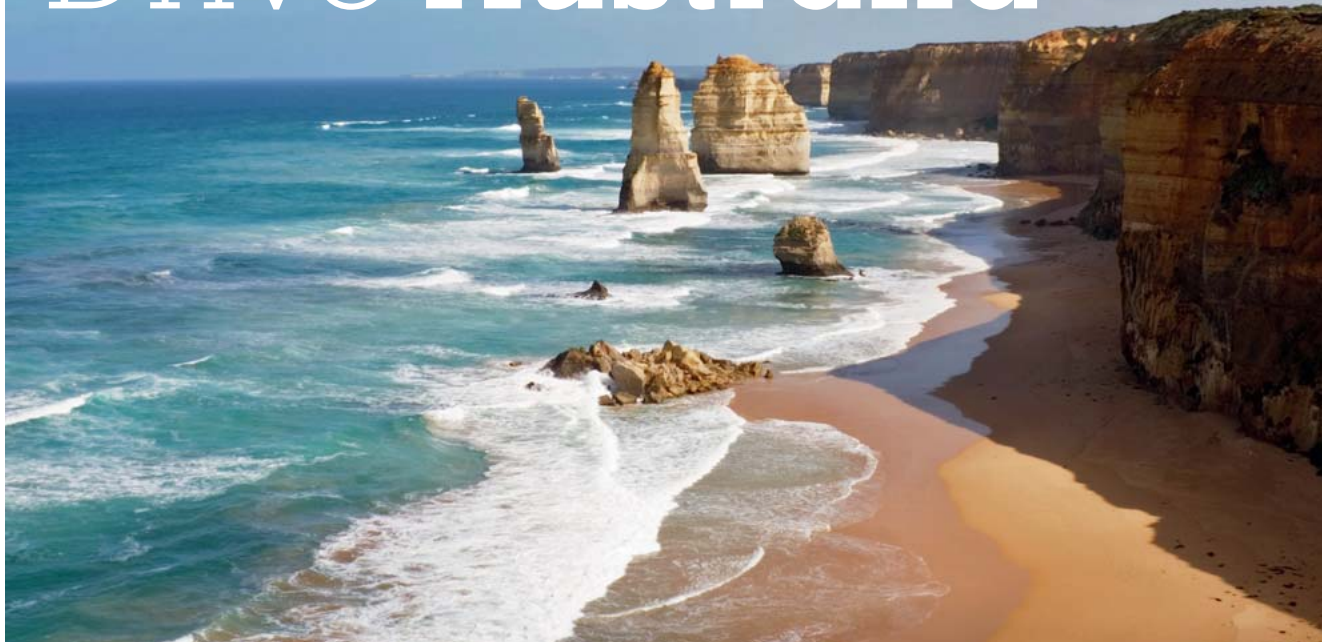
of to share with the person they're teaching to drive. They don't think to tell them about constantly checking your mirrors, identifying hazards, being conscious of reaction times, that sort of thing."

At the end of the course, students have a one-hour coaching session behind the wheel, tailored to the licence held – whether it's in preparation for a restricted or a full licence.

As well as the obvious benefit of spending quality time with professional driving teachers, participants also get six months off their restricted licence period, regardless of when in the process they complete the course.

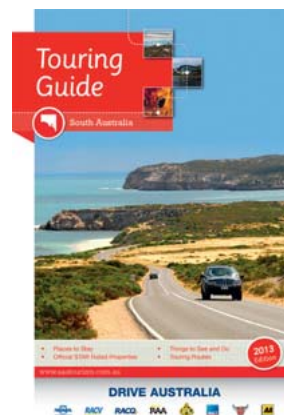
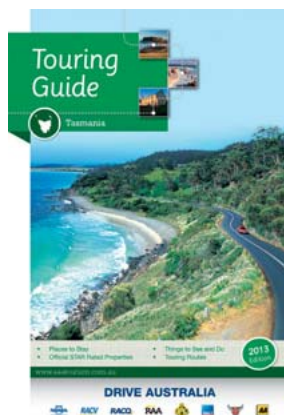
For more information, see aa.co.nz or phone 0800 223 748.

Drive Australia



Did you know that AA Centres carry free Australian touring guides? They cover places to stay, things to see and do, maps, travel tips and touring routes covering all the Australian States. Before planning your next trip across the ditch, pop into your nearest AA Centre and grab a guide or two. They're also available digitally, on AA Travel's website.

➡ Call into an AA Centre or see aatravel.co.nz



Pay the easy way

Many of us are paying our bills online these days and, if you've got a credit or debit card, it's easy to pay your AA Membership fees this way. Go to aa.co.nz/renew (with your AA Membership number handy) and follow the simple steps.

Alternatively, you could put a direct debit from your bank account in place, so you don't need to remember to make the payment each year. That

way, it's all done for you. Phone 0800 500 444 and we can help you with that.

No matter which way you choose to pay, we'll always make sure that your loyalty discount, which is based on the length of your AA Membership, is applied.

➡ Visit aa.co.nz/renew to view the full range of payment methods available and to renew your AA Membership.

Sorting chips & cracks

Most drivers are familiar with the frustration of a chipped or cracked windscreen, often caused by flying debris from other traffic on the road. The good news is that it's easy and affordable to get cracks and chips sorted with AA Auto Glass.

If your windscreen chip is larger than 15mm (the size of a \$2 coin) and in the driver's line of vision, it will fail a Warrant of Fitness.

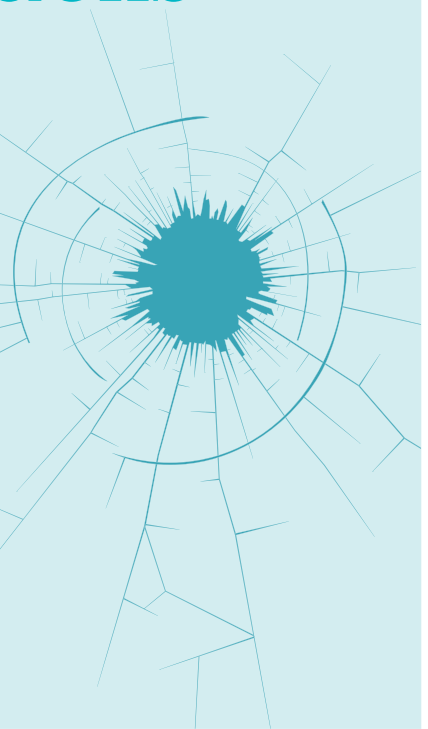
Although damage to your windscreen might seem to be merely a cosmetic issue, there are more serious implications. In modern cars with bonded windscreens, the windscreen helps to maintain the structural integrity of the body shell in the event of an accident. A cracked windscreen can collapse under the pressure of a crash, significantly

increasing the danger to passengers. Windscreens also provide vertical support for car roofs, so offer an important protective element during rollover crashes.

Given the risk, it is important that chipped or cracked windscreens be repaired as soon as possible. Most car insurance policies will cover the cost of windscreen replacement.

Chip repairs generally take about 30 minutes to complete. AA Auto Glass can come to you (in many locations), assess the damage on the spot and, if windscreen replacement is necessary, will organise a time and place convenient to you.

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Avoiding trouble

Uninsured drivers racking up millions in debt

AA Insurance handled over \$6 million worth of claims in 2012 involving more than 2,500 uninsured drivers considered to be at fault in accidents with customers. In some instances, the uninsured drivers had to pay off large debts. One driver hit an AA Insurance customer's vehicle valued at \$45,000, and is now paying off a debt of \$16,000.

In another, an uninsured woman lost control of her vehicle and drove through the lounge wall of a house. She is now paying off a debt of around \$75,000, which doesn't include the cost of repairing her own car.

"These kinds of situations can be easily avoided," says Suzanne Wolton, Head of Customer Relations, AA Insurance. "When you consider that the average annual premium for third-party insurance with us is about \$200 a year and the average claim is more than 12 times that, it makes sense to protect yourself from what could be a lifetime of debt.

"If price is an issue, then third party insurance – which at around \$4 a week is about the cost of a cup of coffee – can be a great option, as at least it will cover you for the damage you might do to other



people's property."

With AA Insurance, there are multiple levels of car cover and, as an AA Member, you'll receive discounts. Plus, if you insure your car with AA Insurance before 30 April 2013, you'll receive a \$50 BP Gift Card*. Call 0800 08 08 41 and use promo code: BP50.

*** For more information about the BP Gift Card offer, see p.8. For full offer terms and conditions, see aainsurance.co.nz/BP50. For full policy and benefit terms and conditions, see aainsurance.co.nz/terms**



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Motorists have earned more than \$50 million in fuel savings since the launch of AA Smartfuel. How much have you saved with your AA Membership card?

➡ Head to AAsmartfuel.co.nz/win and tell us for your chance to win one of three prizes of 50 litres of free fuel, to be loaded onto your AA Smartfuel account.



How to buy a car

Tips and tricks on buying a good vehicle, safely

1 The advantage of buying from a reputable Licensed Motor Vehicle Trader (dealer) is that you're covered under the Consumer Guarantees Act, which means the vehicle must be fit for purpose at the time of sale. The disadvantage is that you may pay more from a dealer.

2 Buying at auction is high-risk for a novice buyer, as you need to have a good idea of the car's value to know when to stop bidding. There are no warranties and also limited opportunities to test-drive cars prior to auction. However, you would expect to pay less for a car at auction than you would for the same car from a dealer.

3 Buying privately may mean that you're able to get the car for a lower price; however, you have no guarantees or comebacks. It is critical to find out as much as you can before you enter into any agreement to buy.

4 Trade safely. Be careful with your personal information and never supply your banking or credit card details to someone you don't know.

5 If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.

6 Eighty percent of buyers purchase their cars on finance. If you need to borrow money to purchase the vehicle, you can arrange a loan – but don't pay too much for it. The AA has

flexible, easy car loans, with interest rates starting from 10.95%. Call the team on **0800 500 555** or apply online aa.co.nz/carloan

7 Get an independent and unbiased opinion on the condition of the car. The AA will conduct a thorough visual inspection of the car and can spot what you can't. Find out more at aa.co.nz/ppi

8 An AA Vehicle History Check tells you if the vehicle has finance owing, whether it has been an insurance write-off or previously stolen. Check the vehicle at aa.co.nz/vehiclehistory

9 Don't pay too much for your car. Check the value before you buy with a Vehicle Valuation report at aa.co.nz/vehiclevaluation



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- Only one discount code can be used per order

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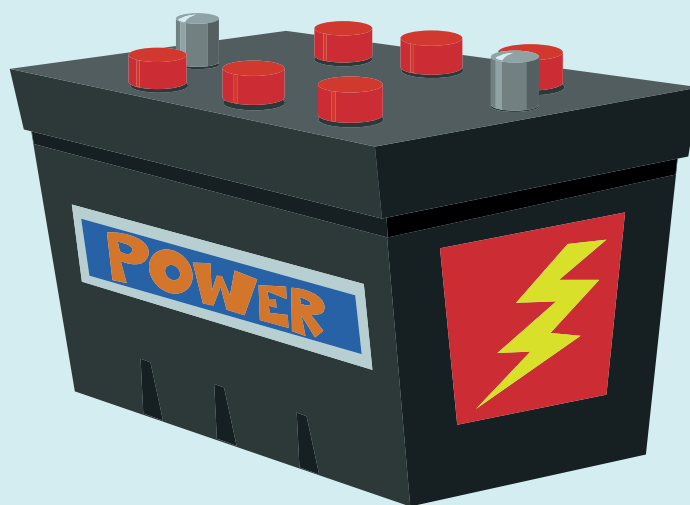
- Take this coupon to your nearest AA Centre and receive a Vehicle Emergency Kit for only \$39.95, saving you up to \$10
- This kit provides peace of mind for drivers, with a variety of emergency essentials including a high visibility jacket, warning triangle, emergency hammer, tools and a dynamo LED light (no batteries required) and more.

CONDITIONS:

- Available online at www.aa.co.nz/ shop by entering the code VEK at checkout or at your nearest AA Centre on presentation of this coupon
- Offer ends 30/04/13
- Only one discount code can be used per order

50% OFF DELIVERY FROM AA SHOP ONLINE

- Shoppers at www.aa.co.nz/shop can choose from a selection of AA Street directories and guides, as well as specialty selected AA motoring merchandise.
- Discount Code to be entered at checkout – hpdelivery
- Only one discount code can be used per order
- Offer ends 30/04/13



Be winter-ready

As winter approaches and the temperature drops, the power needed to start a car's engine increases and this can lead to battery failure

TO AVOID TROUBLE:

Keep your car in the garage.

This will protect it from the cold and starting will be easier, putting less strain on the battery.

Make sure the battery is maintained.

Vibration can cause damage to battery plates, so keep them tight. Ensure terminals are cleaned during major services.

Check your battery water level.

If you have a 'standard' or 'low maintenance' battery, remove the filter cap and check the water level every month. Top it up with distilled water to just above the plates and mop up any spillage.

Listen for early warning sounds.

One of the most common signs of a weak battery is a grinding sound coming from the motor, when starting the car. If this happens, contact the AA Battery Service team.

Check the age of your battery.

Older car batteries are less likely to start your car in winter. If your battery is more than three years old, it may need replacing. If you ever become stranded due to a battery-related breakdown, the AA will help. We will get your engine started, plus make sure you get the right battery for your car at a special Member price.

Members who simply want a new battery – as opposed to dealing with a breakdown situation – can call AA Batteries for an appointment to have a new battery delivered. AA Battery Service delivers and installs in most areas, 365 days a year.

☑ Call AA Battery Service toll-free on 0800 500 222 or *222 from your mobile. For a quote online, go to aa.co.nz/battery



Join in

Follow the AA on Facebook and Twitter for:

- Updates on motoring issues and all things AA.
- Polls, surveys, questions – have your say!
- Special short-term Member offers you won't want to miss.
- Competitions and more.

Have your say

We're always looking for ways to bring AA Members more value and we'd like to hear what you think about that. What benefits do you love? Is it AA Smartfuel discounts, free Specsavers eye exams or savings on insurance, travel and motoring? What would you like to see more, or less of?

✉ Tell us what you think at www.aa.co.nz/membersurvey and you could be rewarded, with the chance to win one of five \$100 fuel vouchers.

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Fun without sun

With winter approaching, the holiday season might feel like ancient history – but the recent 101 Must-Do re-vote proves that the fun doesn't have to end with the sun.

Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa and the Polynesian Spa in Rotorua were voted first and second respectively in the 2012 campaign, both of them perfect for North or South Island winter retreats.

There are over 1600 other Must-Do's on our website (aatravel.co.nz/101); you can browse by region and category, as well as leaving comments to share your experiences.

✉ Don't go into hibernation – check out the 101 Must-Do's, see what other people have to say, and plan your winter holiday at aatravel.co.nz

Final Word from the AA President



New Zealand is at a crossroads of transport funding.

Many of our roads are already carrying more traffic than they were designed to and, over the next 20 years, there are big population and freight increases forecast in various parts of New Zealand. This means that, unless we take action, congestion and safety on our roads are going to get worse.

Similarly, there have been many years of underinvestment

in our public transport network, especially in the larger urban areas of our country.

In order to reap the long-term benefits of an improved transport network, we are going to have to invest in new projects while maintaining what we've got. To do this, New Zealand is going to have to consider alternatives to the ways we fund transport, namely: relying on petrol tax, Road User Charges (RUC) and rates.

The AA is working with central and local Government, as well as other transport organisations, to identify which infrastructure projects will deliver the greatest benefits, when they need to be done, and how they will best be paid for.

There are no quick or easy

solutions. It's going to take time to work through the challenges.

The decisions made over the next few years will impact on our economy and quality of life for generations to come. This is especially true in so far as Auckland's mobility transport challenges and those associated with the Christchurch rebuild go.

I can assure you that the AA is committed to playing its part and that we will strongly represent the interests of our Members, motorists and New Zealanders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Bruno'.

Bruno Petrenas
AA President

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Battery Service

2011 – 2012 NZAA Annual Report

(1 October 2011 – 30 June 2012)



On track

T HIS ANNUAL REPORT reviews nine months of the AA's activities through to 30 June 2012. The shortened year aligns the Association's year-end date with the annual reporting dates of our joint ventures.

It was an outstanding nine months, with Membership growth directly attributable to significant enhancements to Membership value. The new AA Smartfuel programme, for example, provided major savings on the cost of fuel for New Zealand motorists. Likewise, a programme of free eye examinations for Members at Specsavers was a big success – and encouraging motorists to have

regular eyesight checks supports the Association's continued efforts to enhance road safety.

In relation to road safety initiatives, it was decided at last year's Annual General Meeting to expand the Association's focus on driver education and it has now become one of our cornerstone services. Progress in this area will emerge over the coming year.

Overall, the diversity of the Association's activities has enabled us to remain resilient during challenging economic times. Members' demand for services continues, Membership has grown, and our relevance to the New Zealand motoring public is as strong as ever.

MEMBERSHIP

In the nine months to 30 June, Membership grew by a net 14,931, bringing the total to a record 1,344,503. Without doubt, that growth owes much to the establishment of AA Smartfuel, underlining the importance motorists place on reducing their fuel bills.

In this shortened operational year, AA Smartfuel issued more than \$19 million in fuel discounts to New Zealand motorists. That's more than five times the dollar value Members received through our previous loyalty programme, AA Rewards, in a comparable time frame. More than 1,600 retailers currently participate in AA Smartfuel; the key objective now is to increase that number, thus

providing more places to accumulate fuel discounts.

At 30 June, more than 27,000 Members had taken up the offer of a free eyesight examination through Specsavers – an extraordinary response since its launch in April. Many Members, as a result of the professional consultation, detected issues with their vision which might have impacted on their driving.

AA DRIVING SCHOOL

One traditional service we have focused attention on this year is our Driving School and related driver education activities.

Statistics show that those driving on their own for the first time are the most at-risk drivers. In recognition of the importance of teaching and upskilling novice drivers in an ongoing effort to improve road safety, the Association has elevated driver education to cornerstone status by creating its own business division.

Our vision is for new drivers to be among the most skilful and safety-conscious on the road, fully aware of the safety and welfare of other road users.

The strategy is to reinvest all commercial profits from our Driving School into education and supporting safer driving initiatives for novice drivers. This will involve a combination of learning literature, online assistance and the development of a new Defensive Driver course. Planning for these initiatives has been undertaken over the nine months under review and practical outcomes will emerge shortly.

INSURANCE

AA Insurance experienced strong customer growth over the past nine months.

Our revised, more affordable, comprehensive motor insurance product, launched in March, has filled a gap in the market and attracted new customers.

The earthquakes in Canterbury have impacted on reinsurance costs, resulting in substantially increased premiums for buildings. But, on a



positive note, the settlement of claims gained further momentum.

To cope with our expanding customer base, AA Insurance also opened a 150-seat Contact Centre in Hamilton. And, for the second consecutive year, AA Insurance was voted New Zealand's most trusted insurer by consumers at the Readers Digest Most Trusted Brands awards.

ROADSERVICE

Our online team is finalizing a free Roadservice iPhone application, which can send Members accessing Roadservice progress updates and details of the Roadservice officer attending. This application, due to be launched in 2013, will also enable Roadservice officers to locate the Member in need of assistance using exact GPS coordinates. The plan is to make the application available for Android users as well.

The Service Response Centre received 450,141 calls from personal Members for roadside assistance in the past nine months. Pleasingly, 73% were answered within 20 seconds. Of the 344,590 jobs attended, 46% were for flat batteries, 11% for mechanical problems, 11% required towing to a place of repair, and 7% were for tyre changes. Our Roadservice battery team and breakdown contractors

arrived at 59% of the jobs within 30 minutes, and 89% within an hour.

MOTORING SERVICES

AA Motoring Services supports motorists to maintain and manage their vehicles, with services such as vehicle inspections, entry compliance, technical advice, auto service and repair, and WoF testing. Demand for these services fluctuated with the continuing decline in used car sales. This did not slow our expansion plans for the various motoring services, with new AA Auto Service and Repair sites opening in Mt Wellington, Dunedin and Lower Hutt.

During the past nine months, 654,681 driver licensing transactions were processed by AA Centres and licensing agents – a slight reduction on the previous nine-month period due to the increase in the licensing age and changes to the Restricted licence test.

A positive signal of renewed confidence in the used and new car market was reflected in AA Car Loans' lending doubling in volume over the previous year, assisted by competitive interest rates and Members' trust in the AA brand.

Twelve-month AA Mechanical Breakdown Insurance policies also experienced strong growth, especially

the monthly premium option, which proved popular with Members managing their budgets.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy on behalf of Members and the motoring public continues to be a key part of the AA's work. This was particularly evident around the 2011 general election, when AA Motoring Affairs circulated Election Calls, setting out eight changes the AA wanted the incoming Government to address to improve road safety. The Election Calls continue to be pursued with Government.

The Association embraced the call from the United Nations and the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) to make the next 10 years the Decade of Action for Road Safety. In the first year of that safety focus, deaths and serious injuries on New Zealand roads reduced markedly. The contributing factors behind that owe much to the many agencies embracing the call for road safety intervention. The AA continues to work with the authorities to ensure Decade of Action principles are incorporated into transport plans.

Our campaign to change the right-hand give-way rule bore fruit in March and the changeover took

place smoothly. The change was motivated by an expectation that the new rule would reduce crashes at intersections, preventing at least one death and 100 injuries each year.

Alcohol interlocks, successful in other countries, have now become a sentencing option for New Zealand judges, an initiative promoted by the Association. We will also continue to advocate for rehabilitation and the treatment of drink-driving to change destructive behaviour.

The AA has been involved with Vodafone to combat the issue of texting drivers via DriveSafe, a service allowing drivers to put their phone into 'driving mode', which automatically replies to an incoming text with a holding message. This service has been recognised as a world-first, with a global telecommunications award.

The AA Research Foundation has commissioned two major projects: research into the difference between objective and perceived risks on the road and how to reduce the difference; and a five-star/eco-safe project to research improving education on fuel-efficient driving techniques. Outcomes from these research projects will guide future advocacy policy.

In other advocacy activity, submissions were made to Government on issues including proposed changes to the RUC (road user charges) system and consumer law reform. Also, the AA's PetrolWatch, which monitors fuel prices, made numerous calls in the media for price reductions when calculations showed they were warranted.

TOURISM

AA Tourism launched a pre-travel email service for people who book accommodation online through AA Travel. Travellers receive an email 10 days prior to their check-in date, reminding them of their accommodation details, highlighting some of the local 101 Must-Do's while visiting, and suggesting road trips for the area. To add timeliness and relevance, Hot Deals will soon be included.

To help travellers cut their fuel bills, AA Tourism's refreshed website makes it easier to locate accommodation providers where AA Smartfuel discounts can be accumulated. Also, booking accommodation online with an AA Smartfuel card can earn travellers fuel discounts.

FINANCIAL

The accompanying financial statements cover nine months to 30 June 2012.

The final trading result of \$4.1 million for these nine months is a combination of increased income from Membership growth (without the need to increase subscription rates), the Association enjoying strong patronage of commercial services, and prudent cost containment within the organization.

The AA is in a solid financial position to weather the tough economic conditions that businesses continue to face.

The Association expects to maintain a strong financial result without the need for subscription increases, and our strong liquidity position will enable us to continue expanding and broadening our services and Member benefits. 📌



Summarized Financial Statements

THE NEW ZEALAND AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	9 MONTHS ENDING 30 JUNE 2012 \$000	12 MONTHS ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2011 \$000
INCOME WAS RECEIVED FROM:		
Revenue	76,928	100,410
Share of profit or loss in joint ventures	3,772	3,535
Other gains/(losses)	407	(230)
INCOME FROM CONTINUING ACTIVITIES	81,107	103,715
EXPENDITURE WAS INCURRED BY:		
Employee entitlements	42,215	54,482
Delivery and distribution	13,859	17,557
Plant, office and property	6,244	8,181
Advertising and promotion	2,349	3,273
IT and telecommunications	4,986	6,470
Motor vehicle expenses	2,390	3,112
Other expenses	4,909	6,550
EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING ACTIVITIES	76,952	99,625
Operating surplus from continuing activities before tax and grants	4,155	4,090
Grant to NZAA Research Foundation	(96)	(91)
Taxation benefit/(expense)	3	1,127
NET PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION ACTING IN THE INTERESTS OF MEMBERS	4,062	5,126
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME NET OF TAX:		
Revaluation of properties	-	(88)
Gain/(loss) arising on translation of foreign joint venture	12	(40)
Share of other comprehensive income/(loss) of joint ventures	(138)	(34)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD, NET OF TAX	(126)	(162)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION ACTING IN THE INTERESTS OF MEMBERS, NET OF TAX	3,936	4,964

THE NEW ZEALAND AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2012

	2012 \$000	2011 \$000
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	28,717	21,333
Other financial assets	22,923	22,374
Sundry receivables & prepaid expenses	6,249	6,790
Dividend receivable	-	8,000
Related party receivable	-	2,285
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	57,889	60,782
Property, plant and equipment	32,978	33,039
Investments	43,662	40,743
Related party receivable	3,661	2,889
Capitalised lease	30	44
Deferred tax asset	738	735
Goodwill	6,090	6,090
Other intangible assets	1,985	2,505
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	89,144	86,045
TOTAL ASSETS	147,033	146,827
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	15,811	18,485
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,381	2,447
TOTAL LIABILITIES	18,192	20,932
NET ASSETS	128,841	125,895
ASSOCIATION FUNDS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE		
Accumulated funds	100,333	96,409
Asset revaluation reserve	9,139	9,139
Foreign currency translation reserve	31	19
TOTAL ASSOCIATION FUNDS	109,503	105,567
Subscriptions in advance	19,338	20,328
TOTAL ASSOCIATION FUNDS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE	128,841	125,895

For and on behalf of the Board, B W Petrenas, President,
M R Winger, Board Member
28 September 2012

THE NEW ZEALAND AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	9 MONTHS ENDING 30 JUNE 2012 \$000	12 MONTHS ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2011 \$000
ASSOCIATION FUNDS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	105,567	100,603
Net profit for the period attributable to the Association acting in the interests of Members	4,062	5,126
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME:		
Loss on revaluation of properties	-	(88)
Gain/(loss) arising on translation of foreign joint venture	12	(40)
Share of other comprehensive income/(loss) of joint ventures	(138)	(34)
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	(126)	(162)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME, NET OF TAX	3,936	4,964
ASSOCIATION FUNDS AT END OF PERIOD	109,503	105,567

THE NEW ZEALAND AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	9 MONTHS ENDING 30 JUNE 2012 \$000	12 MONTHS ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2011 \$000
Net cash from operating activities	9,963	5,138
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,579)	(4,235)
Net cash used in financing activities	0	(57)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	7,384	846
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period	21,333	20,487
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD	28,717	21,333
REPRESENTED BY CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	28,717	21,333

NEW ZEALAND AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED NOTES TO THE SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

MEASUREMENT BASE

The reporting currency is New Zealand Dollars.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There have been no material changes in accounting policies covered by these financial statements.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

The Group received a dividend of \$6.4 million on 3 September 2012, being their share of a dividend declared by a joint venture on 9 August 2012.

RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	9 MONTHS ENDING 30 JUNE 2012 \$000	12 MONTHS ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2011 \$000
Operating Surplus after taxation	4,062	5,126
Movement in non cash items	(768)	1,230
Movement in assets and liabilities	4,813	(1,030)
Movement in financing/investing activities	1,856	(188)
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	9,963	5,138

FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

These summarized financial statements are unaudited and have been extracted from the full financial statements for the Association for the nine months ended 30 June 2012. The Association has chosen to report a nine month reporting period to June 2012. This will enable the Association to align its balance date with its significant joint venture holdings going forward. As a result, the amounts presented in the financial statements are not entirely comparable. The full financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Reporting Act 1993 and in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP). They comply with New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS) as appropriate for public benefit oriented entities. The full financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The full financial statements were issued by the Board, and approved for distribution by the National Council on the 28th of September 2012.

The summarized financial report may not contain sufficient information for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Group, but copies of the full financial statements and the unqualified auditors' opinion, dated 28 September 2012, can be obtained by Members from:

The Secretary, The New Zealand Automobile Association Incorporated,
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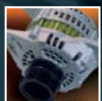


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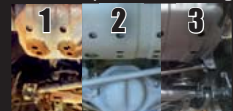
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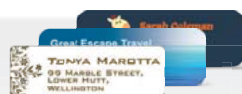
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