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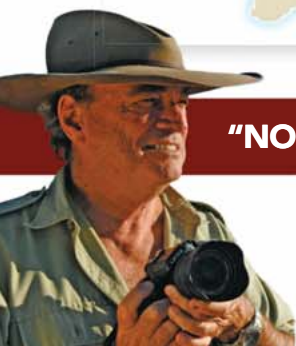


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*Conditions apply. All fares are in NZ dollars and include Australian GST. Fares can fluctuate due to exchange rate movements and are subject to precise exchange rates at time of payment. Early Bird offers are available for bookings made on or before 31 December 2014 for travel in 2015. Wet Season booking deadline is 30 November 2014 for travel in 2015. South Australia booking deadline is 31 December 2014 for Autumn & Winter departures and Easter 2015 for Spring departures.



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The best possible start

IN THE INTERESTS of road safety the Government has, over the past few years, been steadily raising the bar for those who are seeking a driver's licence. The age you can start to get your licence has gone up to 16, the Ministry of Transport recommends up to 120 hours of practice before sitting a restricted licence test, and that test is harder to pass.

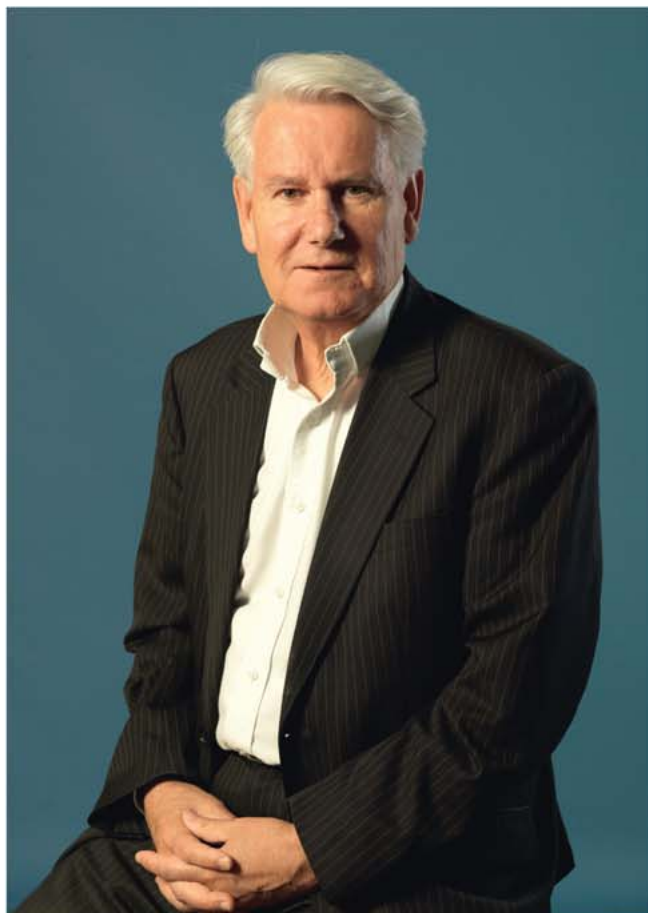
All of these measures reflect the fact that our roads are becoming increasingly complicated. There is more traffic, more distraction, more heavy trucks, pedestrians and cyclists to look out for. Preparing a teenager to drive is an increasingly difficult task and most parents do well, often in trying circumstances. But in this environment there is one element of driver education I believe has become essential, that is, professional input.

Professional lessons, even if few in number, ensure that new drivers are introduced to the specific skills the testers are looking for. They also, crucially, provide a foundation in better driving practice that will inform a lifetime of safe driving.

For this reason your Association is launching AA Ignition, a new programme from the AA Driving School to provide some free professional lessons to our Members' children. AA Ignition is our commitment to a new generation of AA Members, to help them get off to the best possible start in their driving careers. More details on this new programme can be found on p.19.

While AA Ignition will certainly be welcome news for AA Members with children or grandchildren wanting to learn to drive, I am also mindful that there are teens in some communities who want to learn to drive but don't have anyone who can help supervise their driving practice. The AA has been working with the New Zealand Transport Agency on a programme to provide community mentors to young drivers who need supervisors to get the practice they need to get licensed. The results so far have been pleasing.

But there is more that needs to be done. To make our



roads safer we need all drivers to be the best drivers they can be. AA Ignition is the beginning of a new approach to increase the skills of our young drivers. I can't think of a better way to improve the standard of driving on New Zealand roads. 🚗

BRIAN GIBBONS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think lowering the drink driving limit in December will have a big effect on our road toll?

■ Go to aadirections.co.nz to have your say.



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- Litchfield National Park, Katherine Gorge River Cruise
- 1 night Katherine, 2 nights Kununurra
- Bungle Bungle & Lake Argyle scenic flight
- Ord River Cruise, Carr Boyd Ranges
- Argyle Diamond Mine, 1 night Halls Creek
- Fitzroy Crossing, Geikie Gorge Cruise
- 1 night Fitzroy River Lodge
- Derby, Willie Creek Pearl Farm
- 2 nights Broome
- Sunset camel ride at Cable Beach

**Departs 11th May; 6th June
& 20th June 2015**



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'Gold Class' coach/rail combo tour

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- Great Artesian Spa at Mitchell
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- Corones Hotel, RFDS Base, Bilby Experience
- Working Dog Demonstration
- Blackall Woolscour, The Black Stump
- 4 nights Longreach
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- Outback Stockman's Trick Horse & Dog Show
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**Departs 21st May;
11th June 2015**

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CONDITIONS APPLY: All prices, dates and tour content are correct as at 27th August 2014 and are subject to change. Prices quoted are in Australian Dollars and include Australian GST. Prices are subject to change due to exchange rate movements and will be confirmed at the time of booking confirmation. Prices are per person twin share and sole use prices are available on request. pp = per person.

TO THE WORLD

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10 Days \$5195pp Twin Share

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- 3 nights Darwin & daily tours, Wildlands Wetland Safari
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- 2 nights Alice Springs with daily tours
- West MacDonnell Ranges, Standley Chasm
- Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge
- Curtin Springs Station, The Olgas at sunset
- 3 night Ayers Rock
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre, Camel Trek at Uluru
- Sounds of Silence Dinner
- Dot painting workshop, Helicopter flight over Uluru

**Departs 17th May;
16th August 2015**



Grand Splendours of Tasmania

13 Days \$3900pp Twin Share

- Return flights ex BNE/MELB/SYD
- 2 nights Port Arthur, Eagle Hawk Neck
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- Geeveston Heritage Centre
- East Coast Nature World, 1 night Bicheno
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- Sheffield, Railton, The Nut, Stanley Chairlift
- Cradle Mountain, 2 nights Queenstown
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- Huon Valley, Tahune Airwalk, Mt Nelson
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Departs 2nd February 2015



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- Wetlands Eco Tour, Footlights Theatre Restaurant lunch & show
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- Great Barrier Reef Adventure Cruise to Hardy Reef
- Flights from Hamilton Island to Cairns
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- Army Duck & Skyrail at Kuranda, The Tablelands
- Mossman Gorge, Daintree River Cruise, Port Douglas

**Departs 19th May;
02nd June 2015**

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Kathryn Webster
Karl Puschmann
Alice Galletly
Rachel Ellis (Proofreading)

DESIGN AND ART DIRECTION

AGM Publishing Ltd

HOW TO REACH US:

EDITORIAL

AA Directions,
Level 16, AA Centre,
99 Albert St, Auckland Central
PO Box 5, Auckland, 1140
Ph: 09 966 8800
Fax: 09 966 8975
Email: editor@aa.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Kerry McKenzie,
Hawkhurst Media Services Ltd,
PO Box 25679,
St. Heliers,
Auckland, 1740
Ph: 09 589 1054
Email: kerry@hawkhurst.co.nz

**SUBSCRIPTIONS AND
MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:**

Ph: 0800 500 444
ISSN 1171-0179
Published three times a year
Circulation ABC Audit 561,430
Readership AC Nielsen 827,000

PRODUCTION BY:

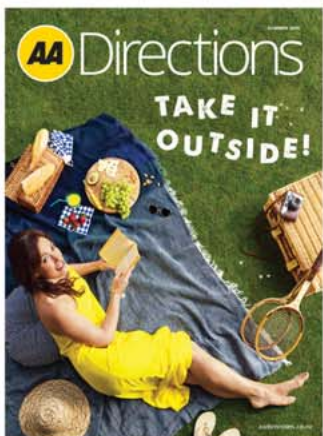
AGM Publishing Ltd,
Auckland

PRINTED BY:

PMP, Auckland

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ON THE COVER

Photography: Melanie Jenkins. Model: Amy from Red 11. Hair & makeup: Elizabeth from Face Me Makeup. Styling: Sara and Juliette from AGM. Dress & hat from La Madu (lamadu.co.nz); picnic accessories from Citta Design (cittadesign.com).

hello



What's not to love about summer? Longer days, more sunshine, warmer mornings, stone fruit... Plus everyone's happiness factor goes up a notch; it's infectious. The trick to making the most of the season is to fill every possible summer moment with joy. We've put together a feature to inspire spontaneous summer fun. It's not about making holiday plans or spending long weekends at the beach so much as venturing out after work, or before work, or during a weekday lunch break. Get outside! Enjoy the sunrise, make a picnic dinner, revel in the warmth of summer nights. It's pretty much as easy as deciding to do it. See you out there.

Kathryn

KATHRYN WEBSTER
EDITOR

CONTRIBUTORS



ELISABETH EASTER

Having started her professional life as an actress, playing Victoria the dinosaur in children's series, *Johnson and Friends*, Elisabeth knew she'd need to find less uncertain ways to make a living. She took to writing. This year Elisabeth won the Adam Play Writing Award for her play *Seed* and, in November her play about Flora Mackenzie premieres. She also writes for newspapers and magazines, including for *AA Directions* this issue, about cycling in Northland (p.72).



PHILLIP SIMPSON

Phillip Simpson gained a degree in marine zoology but shifted his focus to photography in the early 1990's. He made his name in London on some of the UK's best-known magazines. Now in Auckland, Phil shot the portrait of Riley and Steve Hathaway (p.12), moments after they had returned from rescuing an Orca in the Hauraki Gulf. Phil is a lover of bass-heavy music, competes in ocean swimming events and is currently preparing for a trip to Japan.



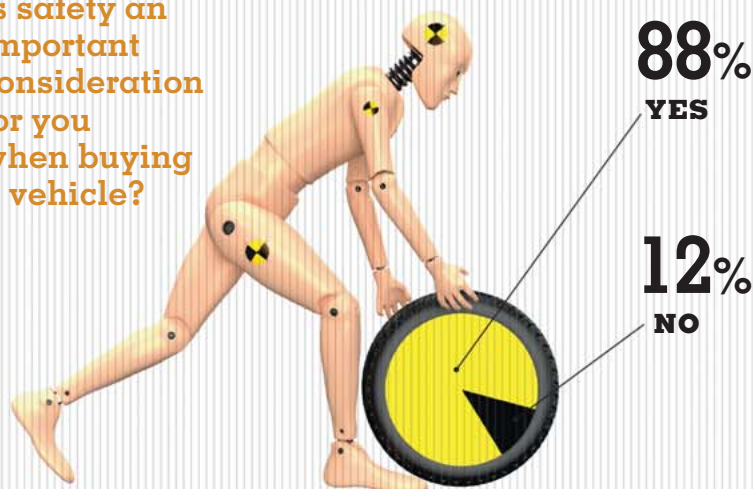
ANDRÉ KINI

André began his working life with the New Zealand Police. After seven years of service he had a calling to do something more creative and trained in graphic design. He's spent the last 14 years working as art director and designer on magazines such as *Urbis*, *Pro-Design*, *Architecture NZ*, *Houses*, *Player* and *The CUT*, and has twice been category winner for Magazine Designer of the Year for his work on *Urbis*. André heads the team that designs *AA Directions*.

OPINION POLL

In the Winter issue of *AA Directions* we asked Members:

Is safety an important consideration for you when buying a vehicle?



This issue's poll question is:

Do you think lowering the drink driving limit in December will have a big effect on our road toll? To have your say, go to aadirections.co.nz

BACKING ISSUE

In your winter edition you published a letter which suggested drivers who 'reverse in and drive out' are less likely to run over a child on a driveway. This is false.

In New Zealand, the majority of child driveway runovers happen in the late afternoons and early evenings, and around 30% are a result of a vehicle moving forward. To be safe, parents should know what the signs are of a risky driveway and should always check for children before driving off, supervise children around vehicles and separate play areas from driveways.

ANTHONY ROLA, SAFEKIDS - AUCKLAND

TOUGH LOVE

Fines don't work. The most effective penalty for those who can't be separated from their phones while driving is for Police to confiscate them for 28 days and give the user some demerit points.

ANDREW WELLUM - WELLINGTON

FAIR GO

We now have a relaxation in the period of Warrants of Fitness for later model cars. I feel this should be extended to caravans and light trailers. I have a caravan which sits unused for six months of the year but has to have a WoF for sitting parked. Motoring is expensive enough without costly and time-consuming trips to a garage. I think once every two years would be an ample period for WoFs for these vehicles.

K. MOUNTER - RANGIORA

CLOSE CALL

In November last year I decided to go to Specsavers to see about my vision which was becoming out of focus around the edges. Another element which bothered me, and I didn't connect, was that I was having dizzy spells.

The very pleasant lady who took me for the tests was kind and thorough. Within a week, I received an urgent appointment for an eye

clinic and, following the tests there, an appointment for a MRI scan.

Before another week was gone, I was told to be in Waikato Hospital Neurosurgery Unit for an operation to remove a large pituitary tumour.

I am now back in action with good vision, better health and no more dizzy spells. For a 69-year-old, this means life renewed. If it weren't for the AA vision of the need for good vision, and the superb service at Specsavers and Waikato Hospital, I may not have found such joy in life. Heartfelt thanks to the AA and to Specsavers.

JIM CARSWELL - TAURANGA

FUTURE PROOF

I have read about driverless cars. I would like to ask the technos who are dreaming up these ideas how they plan to take care of towing and backing trailers and caravans. I would love to see a driverless car backing a trailer with boat down a busy ramp into the water. That would be great entertainment! Then there is the question of catering for driving on winding country roads, some not sealed, in a driverless car. How will a driverless car become aware of black ice? What about long haul trucks and touring coaches? It would be interesting to hear how all areas of driving will be catered for. As for me, long may I be able to proficiently drive myself with the pleasure that gives me.

IAN READ - STILLWATER

CAREFUL CLEANING

Please do not encourage motorists to wash their cars and vacuum them afterwards. (Sale Away, *AA Directions* Winter, 2014.) Many years ago a New Zealander did this and electrocuted himself. In bare feet, he dragged a vacuum cleaner cord through the puddle he had just made. It's far better and safer to vacuum first and wash afterwards.

PAUL WHITEHEAD - KATIKATI

Join the conversation online. Follow AA New Zealand on Facebook or Twitter @NZAA [f](#) [t](#)

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 edited or abbreviated for print.

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

Q&A

Thirteen-year-old **Riley Hathaway** is fast becoming New Zealand's own eco-star. Along with her father **Steve**, an underwater filmographer, she makes and presents a show called *Young Ocean Explorers*.

Can you tell me what *Young Ocean Explorers* is?

RILEY: It's a series of little films that I present. I go out on adventures with my dad in the ocean and show kids how exciting New Zealand's underwater world is. I tell them lots but they don't really realise they're learning. It's really fun.

STEVE: We call it entertaining education.

What gave you the idea for the series?

RILEY: I had to do a project for school and wanted to do something about turtles and plastic because I'd seen something on the news. I said: 'Dad, could I interview your friend Dan Godoy?'. He is New Zealand's top turtle expert. Dad rang him and we got him around.

We filmed me asking him questions I thought my audience, which was my 10-year-old brother's class, would like to hear and Dad put that together with footage of turtles and we made a video.

I showed it to my brother's class and they loved it! No one was talking during it, they were all like 'wow'. They all had something to say afterwards.

STEVE: I didn't expect that incredible response. It wasn't a cleverly cut video. It had beautiful underwater footage but it was roughly thrown together. But watching the engagement with the kids and how they were just totally fixated on it, I realised that it was powerful. When you've got a kid doing the interviewing, other kids want to hear. And seeing beautiful images and hearing cool facts; it's all very compelling.

What first attracted you to the ocean, Riley?

RILEY: Dad's been doing stuff in the ocean, filming, spear fishing and taking us out on the boat, for as long as I can remember. I've just grown up with it. But recently, doing

that project for school, finding out about all that stuff I hadn't really looked into, like the turtles eating plastic and the shark finning and all that horrible stuff that goes on, it really opened my eyes. I want to help protect these beautiful creatures and the ocean.

The abundance of plastic in the ocean and shark finning are heavy topics.

STEVE: They're heavy topics but we've intentionally done stories that are fun. We've done it in such a way that it's a celebration of what's incredible. We want to get kids engaged and emotionally attached so that they want to look after the ocean.

We're not telling them the world's stuffed, the ocean's stuffed and they have to go and pick up plastic. We don't need to say that. In the episode about the turtles, they see a turtle in a necropsy with 500 pieces of plastic taken from its stomach: that's life changing stuff. Then they also learn some amazing facts and see how beautiful the ocean is.

What do you want to achieve with the series?

RILEY: I want to let people know about what's underneath the water. It's so incredible. Ninety-three percent of New Zealand is underwater. That's... that's... quite big! I still can't get over it. Most people don't get to go and see what's under there. I want to let them know about it and show them not to be scared about it, as well.

STEVE: We're not trying to make out that Riley is some rock star kid. She's got some very real fears. In one episode Riley swam with a shark.

RILEY: I was a bit scared at first.

STEVE: And that's cool. We want people to see Riley is a normal kid and to inspire other kids to think, 'far out, that looks amazing I want to give it a go'. We don't want them to live through Riley's eyes. I'm really hoping kids will nag their parents and go, 'that looks awesome! I want to go to snorkelling.' That's my aim. I want to make diving and snorkelling cool again.

You can keep up with Riley and her underwater adventures at youngoceanexplorers.co.nz





Happy Christmas!

The Royal New Zealand Ballet is taking *A Christmas Carol* on tour, retelling Dickens' classic festive tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and the power of joy to restore goodwill and happiness to a cold heart. Lively, colourful, creative and featuring especially composed music as well as familiar Christmas carols, the production is designed to appeal to children as well as adults.

The Vodafone Season of *A Christmas Carol* opens in Wellington on October 30 and tours to Dunedin, Christchurch, Palmerston North, Napier and Auckland – finishing its run at Takapuna's Bruce Mason Centre in mid-December.

➔ For details and bookings, see rnzb.org.nz

MARKING OUR HISTORY

Two hundred years ago, on Christmas Day 1814, the first Christian service in New Zealand was held at Oihi, or Hohi, on the north-eastern shore of the Bay of Islands.

Rev. Samuel Marsden, along with three missionaries, their families and a support party arrived at nearby Rangihoua from Australia, three days before Christmas, 1814. They were accompanied by high-ranking chiefs Ruatara, Hongi Hika and Korokoro; up to 400 Maori from the region also attended the service.

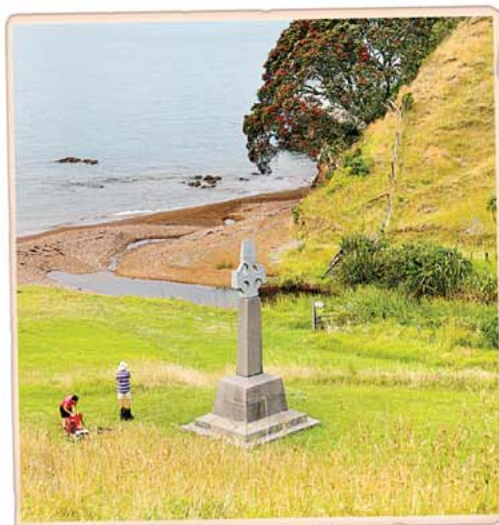
Oihi was also where New Zealand's first European community settled, where the first pakeha school began, where cattle farming was introduced to New Zealand and where the first pakeha child was born. Here also Maori was first written and the first orchards planted with apples, pears and grape vines.

A solid Celtic stone cross alongside a small cove in Rangihoua Bay is close to the spot where Marsden led that first service. Rangihoua Heritage Park, established on land adjacent to it, will be officially opened this summer as part of the bicentennial celebrations.

Descendants of those 1814 settlers will have their own commemorations but two major public events are also planned. On Sunday morning, 21 December, a civic ceremony attended by the Governor-General, local kaumatua and leaders of church and nation will be held. Then on Christmas morning a service will be held around the cross.

Twenty-five years and six weeks after that first bi-cultural church service, the Treaty was signed at Waitangi. So, six weeks after these bicentennial celebrations, Waitangi Day 2015 will mark 175 years since signing.

Yvonne van Dongen



GETTING THERE

The Rangihoua Heritage Park is at the far end of the Purerua Peninsula, 40 minutes' drive from Kerikeri or from SH10 (near Waipapa) via Kapiro, Purerua, Rangihoua and Oihi Roads.



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Harbour Views

Cyclists should begin gearing up for the return of Auckland's largest cycling event, Bike the Bridge. This family event takes place on November 16 and offers three courses: 105km for the hardcore, 50km for the keen and a more subdued 20km for everyone else.

No matter your fitness levels you won't miss anything as all three courses see participants cycling over Auckland's iconic harbour bridge.

As well as being a unique opportunity for cyclists, the event doubles as a fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis. There is a strict limit on how many cyclists can take part, so if it sounds like you, register now at bikethebridge.co.nz.



PHOTOGRAPHY: SCOTTJET.COM

Good Vibrations

If overdriven guitars and earth shaking bass are not your bag, you may want to consider attending Wanderlust, a summer festival with a more relaxed, chilled-out vibe.

The three-day lifestyle event takes place at Taupo's Wairakei Thermal Resort on January 29 – February 1, offering an experience attuned for spirit, body and mind.

The 10,000 attendees will be able to pick and choose from a timetable that includes yoga sessions with renowned international instructors, inspiring lectures focusing on business and spiritual thought, music from acts such as Nightmares on Wax and local favourites Sola Rosa, as well as feasting on the very best of organic foods and going on nature hikes.

Some of the more unusual activities on the programme include AcroYoga, suspension yoga, paddle yoga and meditative rafting.

➔ For more info, including ticket prices, see wanderlustfestival.com



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Blinded by the Lights

This summer the Auckland Art Gallery is powering up *Light Show*, the first major international light-based art exhibition to come to New Zealand.

Light Show received rave reviews during its sold-out season in London and promises to deliver a truly multi-sensory experience in which viewers are immersed in myriad possibilities of colour, texture and space.

➔ *Light Show* runs to February 8. See aucklandartgallery.com for more info



DIGITAL DIRECTIONS

AA *Directions*' website is bristling with features, photo galleries and competitions. You'll find a rich catalogue of travel and motoring articles and inspiring stories of New Zealand. Plus you can download this issue of AA *Directions* to read on your smartphone, tablet or computer. Follow the download link to transfer the PDF file to your mobile device. PDF files are easy to use, compatible with most devices and can be opened in software already installed – so you won't have to download anything else.

➔ Read more and download the PDF at aadirections.co.nz

A MONTH TO REMEMBER

Students spring into action for a very good cause

Students Against Dangerous Driving (SADD) is stepping up its mission to help young people make good choices around getting behind the wheel.

The road safety charity recently had its first Remember September, with a month of events at schools. Students role-played, erected road safety signs, made art works, held 'stopping distance' relays, played reaction and distraction games, hosted emergency service demonstrations and encouraged conversation about driving.

"Dedicating a whole month to educating our peers about dangerous driving was the perfect way to bring the issue closer to home," says Claire van der Veldt, a senior student at Oxford Area School and one of SADD's national leaders. "Remember September gave us a great opportunity to get people talking."

Caltex helped sponsor Remember September. Caltex Public Affairs manager Jeremy Clarke says SADD empowers its students to drive conversation amongst their peers around driver education and safety.

"The actions that SADD is taking and the messages it

is communicating align with Caltex's values," he says. "We are very proud to be associated with SADD and help make Remember September a reality."

Having been focussed on drink driving for 30 years, SADD has widened its focus to help students be more aware of the other risks on the road as well as alcohol.

SADD, which AA Driving School is a sponsor of, now promotes six principles for safety on the roads:

- Sober drivers
- Safe speeds
- No distractions
- Avoiding risk
- Driving to the conditions
- Building experience

These are the known highest risk areas for young drivers and SADD will be challenging young people to come up with their own solutions to tackle them.

The charity is active in nearly three-quarters of New Zealand secondary schools and each year spreads its messages to more than 215,000 students.

➔ To learn more about SADD go to sadd.co.nz



AA Ignition

"What we're really doing here is equipping young people with the skills and thinking processes they need to be safe on the road. That's our motivation."

So says AA Driving School General Manager Nigel Clark summing up the core reason for *AA Ignition*, a \$2 million programme that provides three free professional driving lessons to new learner drivers.

"Professional driver training really is a cornerstone of learning to drive, now more than ever. More cars are on the road, which makes it more likely for mistakes to happen and to escalate out of control."

Nigel says *AA Ignition* provides a foundation on which new learner drivers can build to become confident, responsible and safe drivers.

"Learner drivers need the right combination of professional driving lessons combined with plenty of supervised practice between them. Our three free lessons provide the base and we also advise what skills to practice with a supervisor and how."

The programme is an extension of the single free driving lesson that was rolled out throughout New Zealand last year. So far about 5000 new learner drivers have benefited from the free lesson and *AA Ignition* extends the concept further.

AA Ignition sits within a roadmap called *Learn to drive the AA way*, which provides broader information and advice to new drivers.

AA Ignition was launched on October 6 and is available to new drivers who have held their learner licence for two months or less and are either an AA Member or have a parent, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, or grandparent who is an AA Member.

➔ For more information on *Learn to drive the AA way* and *AA Ignition* go to aa.co.nz/drivers

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Summer Lovin'

Last year the AA went on the hunt to discover New Zealand's most loved beach. Through our Facebook page we asked Kiwis to get clicking and vote for their favourite beach.

Proving that there's not much more New Zealanders love more than 'their' beach, the competition attracted over 600,000 votes – many accompanied by passionate pleas for their pick to win.

However, there can be only one winner. And that was – drum roll please – Ohope Beach in the Whakatane District, which secured a whopping 100,000 votes. This was more than enough for the small seaside community to take out the title.

To mark this achievement the AA presented Whakatane District Mayor Tony Bonne (pictured) with a custom made, celebratory, road sign.

➔ Check out aa.co.nz/mostlovedbeaches to plan a visit to Ohope and the rest of the Top 10.

PHOTOGRAPHY: A.J TAYLOR, ICON MEDIA

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Gilligan's invites you to travel Route 66 with us experiencing, arguably, the most comprehensive tour of the 'Mother Road' available in the world.

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"I believe Gilligan's provides the best value for money tour on the market... 200 miles on any day across Route 66 is as much as you would want to travel" - DAVID C WRIGHT, San Bernadino USA

Gilligan's Wild West Tours has no association with SW MEDIA LTD in conducting these tours

SUMMER OUTSIDE!

Squeeze as much out of summer as you can. Take a spontaneous, after-work trip to the beach. Make breakfast a picnic. Watch the sun rise, watch Venus rise, plant a garden, build a sand castle... Read on for ideas to get you in the mood for a glorious summer, outdoors.

PHOTOGRAPHY: MELANIE JENKINS



TOP PICNIC SPOTS

Sarah Bennett & Lee Slater

A picnic is a simple pleasure, particularly when the weather and the sandflies are kind and the dog doesn't roll in a dead thing. Here are some accessible, **beautiful spots** perfect for an outdoor meal, all with a water source and toilets.

MATAI BAY (NORTHLAND) At the end of Northland's Karikari Peninsula, within an hours' drive of Kaitiaki and Kerikeri, Matai Bay is a slice of coastal paradise with picnic spots galore.

TAPAPAKANGA REGIONAL PARK (AUCKLAND) An hour's drive from downtown Auckland, this gem blends leisure and heritage within a working farm. Enjoy a waterside picnic, then swim or kayak off the sandy beach overlooking the Firth of Thames.

STONEY POINT RESERVE (ROTORUA) On the shores of Lake Tarawera, around 30 minutes' drive from Rotorua, Stoney Point serves up stunning scenery, fine swimming, ample parking, barbecues and a playground.

PUKEKURA PARK (NEW PLYMOUTH) No top picnic spot list would be complete without the Mayfair of New Zealand's monopoly board: a municipal park full of life and downright beautiful. After a picnic, row a boat on the lake, visit the display houses and tea house, or head to the zoo.

WELLINGTON BOTANIC GARDENS The capital's hilly public garden has themed trails, myriad attractions such as the rose garden, begonia house, observatory, and legendary playground.

WHITES BAY (BLENHEIM) This secluded spot is where those in the know go to cool off on a hot, top-of-the-South day. White's Bay reserve is surf-patrolled in summer

and has shady, grassy picnic areas for laying down the blanket.

ORTON BRADLEY PARK (CANTERBURY) A scenic 30-minute drive from Christchurch, this farm park is fun for all the family, with grassy fields, arboretum rhododendron dell, a shallow stream, barbecues and playground.

LAKE KANIERE (WEST COAST) Twenty minutes' drive inland from Hokitika and almost entirely encircled by forest, this scenic reserve is a wondrous place to spend time. Set up base on one of several lakeside picnic lawns.

KIDD'S BUSH (CENTRAL OTAGO) Forty kilometres north of Wanaka on the edge of Lake Hawea, Kidd's Bush is a precious stand of native forest. Find a shady spot on the lakeside clearing, then splash around in the lake or walk among mighty mountain beech trees along the nature trail.

OAMARU PUBLIC GARDENS (OTAGO) Established in Victorian times and boasting multiple magnificent ornaments from that era, Oamaru's gardens are a deep, green oasis in the heart of the town with a play area, aviary, fragrant rose gardens and rhododendron dell.



Find out which parks, beaches and gardens made our 101 Must-Do's this Kiwi summer at 101mustdos.co.nz

EATING OUT



Food writer **Delaney Mes** shares ideas for summer picnics



“If the best thing about summer isn’t road trips, stone fruit, or days at the beach, then it has got to be the food. Packing a picnic need not bring back tortuous memories of scotch eggs going warm in the sun, couscous salad going all over your lap, or soggy sandwiches.

Whether it’s an outdoor music concert, or a day trip to the beach, or an afternoon at the park with some beers, here are some picnic tips.

Snacks are ideal for grazing on all afternoon. Making dips at home is cheap, easy, and very impressive. Try pea and mint: put frozen peas, fresh mint, salt and pepper, and lemon zest in the food processor, then stir through some natural yoghurt with a bit of feta. Perfect for pita crisps, crackers, or chopped up veggies. A couple of cheeses, a few olives, and a ripe avocado all go well on a makeshift platter. Don’t forget to take knives and napkins.

Bacon and egg pie is a delicious classic; eat cold with relish and hot-sauce. It’s hard to go past a fresh baguette too. Add whatever tickles your fancy to fill it with – salad greens, a good cheese or, my current favourite, thinly sliced rare beef with wasabi mayonnaise.

A roast veggie salad, and a sweet treat, grapes, chocolate, or something baked and not too crumbly, will round off the afternoon of picnic feasting.”

Delaney Mes writes a food blog, heartbreakpie.com

WIN!

Be ready to go on a whim, with a picnic kit in the boot of your car. Our prize pack consists of a classic copper thermette for on-the-go water boiling (RRP \$229.99), a super stylish four-person wicker picnic basket (RRP \$144.95) – both from Wilson and Co (wilsonandco.co.nz) – and a Bose SoundLink® Mini Bluetooth® speaker that connects, wirelessly, from smartphone, tablet or other Bluetooth devices and delivers full, natural sound from an ultra-compact speaker that fits in the palm of your hand (RRP \$249) from Bose (bose.com.au).

➔ To be in to win send name and address to Picnic Pack, AA Directions, PO Box 5, Auckland 1140, or enter online at aadirections.co.nz by November 28, 2014.





AFTER DARK

Things to do after the sun goes down...

CAMPFIRE CAMARADERIE

A primeval pleasure and basic human right – assuming there's no fire ban – the campfire is the magnet to which life's iron filings are attracted. Light it and they will come, to share stories (hopefully ghostly), to sing (possibly badly), or to simply sit entranced by the dancing flames.

HOT POOL HEAVEN

Nearly as relaxing as actually being asleep, an evening soak in a hot pool can be enjoyed in natural settings and spas dotted around the country. While most complexes close around dusk, many attached to holiday parks will stay open until the stars come out. Alternatively, find a natural, non-commercial spring so you can simmer away 'til midnight.

FIND WILD THINGS

What do the mysterious critters of the night get up to? Cover the end of your torch with red cellophane to preserve your night vision, then tiptoe through their territory. The pinnacle of after-dark creature sightings is the kiwi, generally only seen on a guided tour. Easier targets are weta, moreporks, possums, hedgehogs and bats in the right place at the right time. Take time to appreciate any moths that you meet; New Zealand's native species are diverse and often very beautiful.

GLOWWORM GALAXIES

The little larvae of the fungus gnat are up there with twinkling stars and sparklers when it comes to magical night light. Despite their minute size, they're easy to find, sprinkled around New Zealand's damp riverbanks, grottoes and earthy overhangs.

SPOTLIGHT

Remember when a torch was a coveted plaything with special powers, rather than just an emergency kit essential? Along with shadow puppets, we remember summer nights playing spotlight, which goes like this: big backyard, park or campground, a bunch of energetic friends, one of whom is 'it'. The others hide while 'it' counts to 30, then goes hunting with the torch beam. The first person illuminated and identified becomes 'it'; the game continues until the boss calls time for bed.



BACKYARD BIVOUAC

Sleeping under the stars is an empowering and romantic notion, challenged by the realities of weather, mosquitoes and dew. Minimise these discomforts by erecting a bivouac: a flysheet tied to trees will do, or go the whole Bear Grylls with sticks and fernery. The kids will love it, until they realise there could be spiders and sasquatches, and then skedaddle back to their beds. Survival skills 101: done.

NIGHT RIDER

Night-time mountain biking – a craze fuelled by high-powered helmet lights and an explosion of off-road cycle trails – involves serious doses of adrenaline and the occasional swallow of insects. It's also enormous fun and is only really dangerous when attempted by the overly ambitious and those who forget to charge their lights.

STARGAZING

Perhaps the ultimate after-dark adventure is exploring the universe; an enduring pleasure involving a blanket, binoculars, and a cup of cocoa or a glass of wine. Good fortune has endowed Aotearoa with exceptional stargazing conditions: specifically clear skies and low light pollution. Download an app such as Google Sky Map; get a copy of Richard Hall's book, *How to Gaze at the Southern Stars*; or see Alan Gilmore's summary of the summer night sky (Summer Stars, p.25).

Sarah Bennett & Lee Slater

101 MUST-DO'S
FOR KIWIS

Ready for an adventure? Check out our 101 Must-Do's this Kiwi summer at 101mustdos.co.nz

SUMMER STARS

Astronomer **Alan Gilmore** charts the summer movements of the heavens

“On summer nights, stars shine luminously overhead and bright planets are visible on the east and west skylines.

Venus, bright and silver, sets in the southwest an hour after the sun through January and will be the ‘evening star’ for much of 2015. In the first half of January, Mercury will be nearby, but appears much fainter.

On the opposite skyline is Jupiter. It will rise in the east around 11:30pm, shining bright and golden with steady light. Lined up on either side of the planet are its four big moons; one or two of the moons can be seen with binoculars, if you hold them steady.

Mars can be spotted as a lone orange light of medium brightness, setting around 11pm in the west. Almost directly overhead you’ll see the two brightest stars in the sky: Sirius and Canopus.

Due north is the group of stars commonly known as The Pot. Above it is the bright bluish-white star Rigel, or Puaka in Maori. Below The Pot is a bright orange star, Betelgeuse, nicknamed the ‘red giant’.

Down and to the left is a bunch of stars. This is the Matariki cluster in Polynesian star lore and is a pretty sight in binoculars. The Milky Way above the Southern Cross contains many compact star clusters and a few glowing gas clouds and these are also good to view with binoculars from dark locations.”

Alan Gilmore is the Superintendent at the Mt John University Observatory.

DATE NIGHT

ART IN THE DARK Ponsonby, Auckland

November 13 – 16. A free event that transforms Western Park into a lit-up hub of installations and sculptures.

THE LANTERN CELEBRATION

Botanic Gardens, Nelson December 13. Installations and entertainment for families.

TSB BANK FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Pukekura Park, New Plymouth

December 14 – January 24. A free event featuring illuminated trees, walkways, and entertainment.

GOURMET NIGHT MARKETS

Coronation Park, Mt Maunganui Each Friday night from December to February.

AUCKLAND LANTERN FESTIVAL Albert

Park, Auckland February 26 – March 1.

ZOO TWILIGHTS **Wellington Zoo** is open until 8pm throughout February.

FISH HUNTERS

Patrick Pettersen can't wait to take the family flounder hunting

“Floundering is good fun for everybody. It's suspenseful and with the spear you get more of a hunting feel than with regular fishing. It's good for the kids to get outside and they enjoy it. It's something we can all do together.

It's simple to get into, you just need a spear, a torch or an underwater light and a low tide. You can do it during the day but it's a lot better from dusk on. You see beautiful sunsets when you're out there. It's inspiring and quite special.

For me it's just getting outside and into the outdoors. At work you're all cooped up, so it's great to get out there and splash around in the evenings.”

Patrick and his boy Flynn (3) floundering in the summer twilight.



CASTLES MADE OF SAND

How to build the **ultimate sand castle**



Compaction is the trick to constructing a monumental sand castle that will stand the test of time – or at least until the tide comes in. There are various ways, but the simplest is the ‘volcano’ method. Build up a circular mound of sand. Flatten the centre down, but leave a berm around the top. Next, flood the sand in the centre with water and stamp it down with your feet. As it flattens and firms up, keep adding sand, water and foot stamps until you’ve got a volcano shape. Now you have a cone of compacted sand, it’s time to channel your inner architect. Use your spade, or a stick, to start carving out your castle. It’s important to start from the top and work down and to carve equal amounts from all sides as you go. If it gets lopsided, it’s likely to crumble.

Once you’ve carved out your castle’s structure, it’s time to decorate. Detail is added in much the same way, by slapping on compacted sand evenly and then carving it off with the edge of your spade or with sticks.

For this detail work, half fill your bucket with water and then add sand. Again, push it down. Keep adding sand and water until the bucket is nearly full with compacted sand. You can now use this sand to add the details to your sculpture.

Take your time; don’t rush and keep a steady hand. Eventually your castle will be completed and you’ll be the family with the coolest castle on the beach.

101 MUST-DO'S
FOR KIWIS

Check out 101mustdos.co.nz to find out which beaches made our 101 Must-Do’s this Kiwi summer



MORNING SURFIN' SAFARI

Auckland surfer **Alan Bunce** makes the most of longer days

“Time is precious and we want to make the most of it. So come summer, my mates and I have something called AGT – ‘Anything Goes Thursday’ – where no matter what the conditions are, we go surfing before work. If you’re not there, you’re in trouble.


We’re a bunch of ex-athletes – all sports mad – and we wanted a sport that was physically challenging but enjoyable. Surfing was it.

We head out to one of Auckland’s West Coast beaches, usually Bethell’s or Maori Bay, at first light. No matter how early you’ve had to get up, you get a real buzz for it and it sets you up for the whole day. And then you only need that one good wave and that can give you a buzz for a week.

All the boys have very busy jobs, but we always get back in time to start the working day. Sometimes we’ve been a wee bit late, but it’s always worth it.”

ABOVE: Surfer Alan Bunce and his mates hit the waves early.

PHOTOGRAPHY: AARON STONE; ISTOCKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



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SUNRISE

Being outdoors goes with the job for **Department of Conservation** (DOC) rangers. Who better to recommend walks to start and end the day?

DOC SOUTH MARLBOROUGH RANGER, CLARE MOORE'S FAVOURITE SPOT TO WATCH THE SUN RISE: "This is the perfect leg-stretching opportunity during a trip between Picton and Christchurch. Okiwi Bay is about 1.5 hours drive south of Blenheim and about 20 minutes north of Kaikoura.

There is a DOC campsite tucked between the road and the base of the spectacular Kaikoura Range. From the campground you can stroll up Okiwi Bay Half Moon Track, which climbs gently and will give you rewarding sea and coastal views after only ten minutes – perfect for catching the sun as it rises.

I recommend this as an easy way to access the Kaikoura ranges. Be warned though; leaping dolphins and playful seals could tip the whole sunrise experience into the sublime!"



GETTING THERE: Okiwi Bay is on SH1 between Ward and Kaikoura.



SUNSET

DOC NORTHLAND RANGER KAREN JOYCE-PAKI'S FAVOURITE SPOT TO WATCH THE SUN SET: "Hei konei ra e te puna i-te ao marama ka hoki nei ahau e kore ano e hoki anga-nui mai. Farewell, this is the spring of the world of light and I shall not turn this way again." – Kupe.

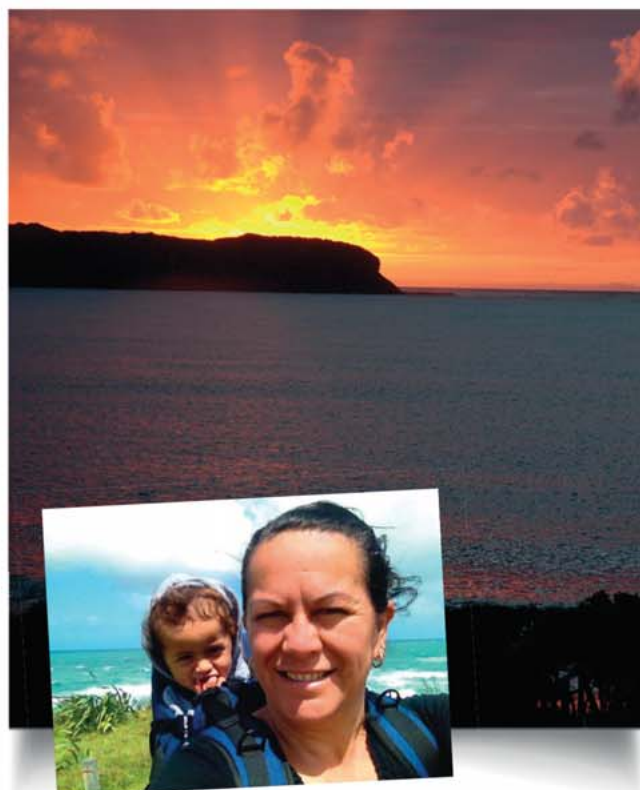
"Arai-Te-Uru Heritage Walk is a path on the southern head of the Hokianga Harbour on Northland's west coast. It's the place where Aotearoa's founding ancestor Kupe said farewell to the country.

The track follows the top of the cliffs, then enters tall manuka and suddenly opens on to the headland and grassed lookout, where a few remnants of an old signal station still stand.

In this beautiful and poignant place, I feel connected to the past and conscious of the days when sailing ships traded in and out of the harbour, negotiating its treacherous mouth."



GETTING THERE: Arai-Te-Uru Recreational Reserve is via the end of Signal Station Road, which is signposted from State Highway 12 travelling south from Omapere.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KAREN JOYCE-PAKI; HEATHER RANDERSON

GROWING GARDENERS

Catherine Bell's summertime involves little people, plants and plenty of patience



“There’s a great element of curiosity and delight derived from being out in the garden, and even the littlest children get enormous pleasure from planting, picking and just getting their hands dirty.

I think it’s vital that kids learn where food comes from, and what better way to do that than planting vegetables, herbs and fruit at home?

Keeping it simple is the key. It doesn’t have to be complicated, and you don’t even need a proper garden. You could get a bucket or flowerpot and fill it with soil and buy a packet of seeds: something that’s quick growing and that children enjoy eating. Strawberries are wonderful, although you might need a net to keep the birds off. Carrots are great too; there’s a great deal of delight that comes from pulling a carrot out of the ground. Herbs like parsley and coriander are good because they grow really quickly. And there are other fun things kids can do in the garden, like going on bug hunts or moving the snails away. They can make signs out of ice cream sticks, paint flower pots and make bug deterrents out of shiny things that you hang over the garden on string.

Of course it doesn’t happen overnight, so a little patience is required, but once the produce is ready the kids should have the opportunity to pick it, take it inside and do something with it, like make a salad. You’d be surprised how many kids love vegetables when they’ve grown them themselves!”

Catherine Bell is the Chairperson of Garden to Table Trust, which operates in 19 schools around the country and teaches children to grow, harvest and prepare food.

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FREE AS A BIRD

Paraglider **Graham Surrey** catches the summer breeze



“Once the weather starts getting warmer there’s more thermal activity so paraglider pilots hang out for summer. One of the really good things is the ability to go for a fly after work. If there’s a nice breeze in the evening, I’ll just grab my gear and go for a couple hours of flying at (Auckland’s) Muriwai or North Head. That’s one of the things I really like about summer, having the freedom to do that.

That freedom aspect is why a lot of people get into paragliding. It’s liberating being able to soar around the sky. Most people have looked up and seen hawks and birds soaring around and wondered what that was like. Paragliding is as close as you’ll get to that.

I find it a really good way to de-stress. When you’re flying you have to concentrate on what you’re doing. It’s a good mechanism to clear the mind, get outdoors and appreciate nature.”

Graham Surrey is the president of the Auckland Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club nzhgpa.org.nz

PHOTOGRAPHY: GRAHAM SURREY

SUMMER SOUNDS

Paul Rose, music festival veteran, reminisces



“My love affair with music festivals dates back to the summer of 1980 and the first Sweetwaters held on a farm just out of Ngaruawahia in the Waikato. I attended that first one as a punter and from '81 through to the last Sweetwaters in '84 I was there in my capacity as a band manager or record label rep.

Things were more primitive back in the day and the festival experience was very different: we travelled to the site on metal roads, bottled water was unheard of, coffee was instant, everything was paid for in cash, telephones certainly weren't mobile and we took photographs with cameras that had rolls of film in them!

In 1982 Sweetwaters moved to a new site at Pukekawa, where the last festival was held in 1984. Along with Talking Heads and The Eurythmics, The Pretenders and Simple Minds performed that year. Jim Kerr (Simple

Minds) and Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) hit it off on site, a romance blossomed and they were eventually to wed. Like most celebrity marriages it didn't last.

Music festivals come and go too, but some become established and last for years. The Big Day Out (BDO) was one of those. It was different from other festivals, in that it was held in an urban environment, had multiple stages and was over and done in a day. I attended all 18 BDOs, either working or just enjoying.

There may be no BDO this summer, but as festival goers we are spoiled for choice, whether it be Rhythm and Vines, Laneway, WOMAD, Splore, Luminato, or any of the others on offer, every taste is covered. I will be at Laneways. I may be older and greyer than I was at that first Sweetwaters, but I still love music.”

OUT THERE EVENTS

Top picks of **summer happenings** outdoors around New Zealand:

CANTERBURY A&P SHOW

Canterbury Agricultural Park,
Christchurch November 12–14

COCA COLA CHRISTMAS

IN THE PARK Auckland Domain,
Auckland December 6

HEADLAND SCULPTURE ON THE

GULF Waiheke Island, Auckland
January 24 – February 15

GARDENS MAGIC Free gigs

in Wellington Botanic Garden
January 6 – January 25

SUMMER CITY Free events on the

waterfront, in parks and gardens,
Wellington January to March

ST JEROME'S LANEWAY FESTIVAL

Silo Park, Auckland January 26

WORLD BUSKERS FESTIVAL

Christchurch January 15 – 25

SOUTHLAND BUSKERS FESTIVAL

Invercargill January 29 – February 1

BUSKERBURGOO, NELSON

BUSKER FESTIVAL Nelson CBD
January 29 – February 2

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015

Auckland, Hamilton, Napier,
Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch
and Dunedin February 14 – March 29

SPLORE MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Tapapakanga Park, Auckland
February 20 – 22

AUCKLAND PRIDE PARADE

February 21

WOMAD Pukekura Park,

New Plymouth March 13 – 15

PACIFICA FESTIVAL Western Springs

Park, Auckland March 14 – 15

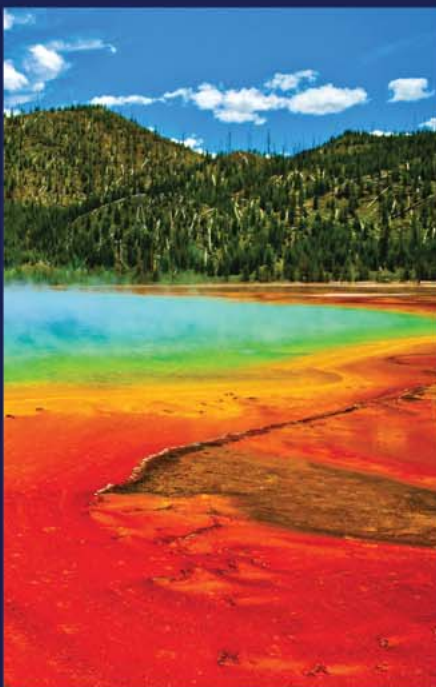
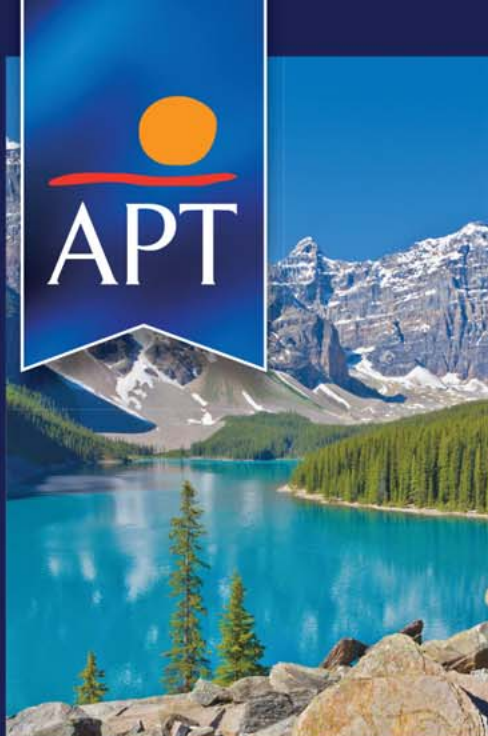


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Learning curves

How to get new drivers ready for the road, by **Kathryn Webster**

"ANYTHING YOU CAN do to give your teen a safer time has to be a good idea," says Ali Mau. Her 16-year old daughter Paris is learning to drive. Ali's determination to prepare her as well as she possibly can before handing over the car keys is a sentiment all parents can relate to. "I can afford to pay for lessons for her," says Ali. "For some people it will be too expensive but I plan for Paris to have at least half a dozen lessons from a professional."

Ali grew up in Australia, where the trend was to have professionals teach you to drive. When she came to New Zealand 20 years ago, one of the things that surprised her was the Kiwi tradition of having parents or siblings do the honours.

She understands the tests involved in getting a driver licence have been more rigorous in Australia than here, too. "Although with the changes to New Zealand rules, it might be the same now – and I hope that's the case. I would rather it was hard."

She's right; it has become harder to pass your restricted licence. And they're on the right track as a family confronted with the business of learning to drive. They're taking it seriously and slowly.

Before the changes to the driver licensing system in 2011, someone with their learner licence was expected to get around 30 to 40 hours' supervised practice in order to gain the skills necessary to pass the restricted licence test. Now, it's a lot more. The AA recommends a learner driver has five professional lessons, at least, and between 10 and 20 hours' supervised practice between each lesson.

"That's significant," says Jim Furneaux, Principal Advisor of Driver Training for New Zealand Transport



Agency. "To get the experience you need to pass the test takes longer because the focus is not on people being at a high standard when they get their full licence, it's to be at a high standard at restricted level, when they start to drive solo."

Those first few months, when they are no longer being supervised by someone beside them in the car is a particularly dangerous time for new drivers. »

ABOVE: Ali Mau and her daughter, Paris.

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"Crash statistics all over the world show that the first six months of driving solo is where the spike is. So we are trying to make sure that people are at the highest driving level possible, to minimize that spike."

And New Zealand has one of the highest rates of road deaths among young people in the developed world. Demanding more supervised practice, increasing the difficulty of the tests, and raising the minimum driving age to 16 addresses this issue head on.

Everyone concedes it's early days. "This new system has only been in place for two and a half years so it's too early to tell how effective these new measures are, but it's trending in the right direction," says Jim.

"Ideally... they'll have professional lessons and lots of supervised practice between those lessons."

Another contributing factor to the cultural shift in how New Zealanders approach driver training is the accessibility of information, giving learning drivers what they need to know, what the tests will focus on, what practice is appropriate. Budding drivers can access the road code, practise theory tests and engage in simulated driving skill programmes online. Taking advantage of online media comes completely naturally to the generation of people learning to drive these days.

Auckland teenager Sophie O'Connell passed her learner's test first time around, soon after turning 16. "I was confident about it," she says. "I had done lots of preparing and lots of online practice."

Although Sophie's mother Bernadette gave her the first lessons in the family car and continues to supervise practice as she prepares for her restricted licence test, they always intended including

professional lessons in the mix.

"Mum thought it best to go to the professionals before I picked up bad habits," Sophie says.

Their method of Sophie attending a lesson and then practising what the instructor focused on is exactly what AA Driving School recommends.

"Ideally, when someone's learning to drive, they'll have professional lessons and lots of supervised practice between those lessons," says Karen Dickson, National Manager of AA Driving School. "Those practice sessions should provide lots of variety of experiences and environments, so they'll be driving in rain one day, at night sometimes, on a motorway, on city streets. Providing all those different experiences is crucial.

"Another really good idea is for the parent, or whoever is taking on the role of teaching to drive, to sit in on the professional lessons. They can sit in the back seat and absorb what is going on without intervening, of course – but picking up on things that will help with the follow-up practice sessions.

"Getting that insight into the professional approach is really valuable," she says. "That's why we've developed a programme of free lessons: to encourage people to learn up-front and then practise the right stuff. The professional element takes a learner to the next level of competency."

The recently launched AA Ignition programme provides three professional driving lessons free to AA Members*. That initiative sits alongside a resource-rich, interactive website, designed to assist learning drivers at each step of the way toward getting licenced.

"We want to be as supportive as we can," says Karen. "We refer to it as 'learning to drive the AA way'."

Helping hands

In the interests of supporting her daughter Sophie learning to drive, Bernadette O'Connell had her driving assessed by AA Driving School Instructor, Tom Williams. »



Taking it to heart

An option for holders of restricted and learner licences is to take an advanced driving course to build on skills and to knock some time off the limited licence period.

Auckland-based 17-year-old Steven Weeks took the AA's Defensive Driving Course (DDC): a programme that involves four lessons, a practical course and online study. Since getting his learner licence, he has had lessons from his mother and from a professional instructor for several months, before deciding to do the DDC.

"It was really helpful. I started to take what was being talked about to heart straight away, things like hazards and braking distances and driving to the conditions. I knew about those things from my professional lessons but the DDC bought it home. It just clicked for me.

"Rather than just reading the statistics, it made it real."

Although doing the course means Steven can get his full licence faster, that was not what inspired him to do it.

"I wanted to do it because I wanted to learn to be a better driver. I just want to be as good as I can be, at everything I do. Especially when people's lives are at risk."

* To be eligible for AA Ignition, participants need to have held their learner licence for two months or less.



» Tom gave her a few pointers, encouraging her to be more aware of what was going on around her, and suggesting she indicate a fraction earlier than she tended to. But overall, Tom found her driving skills good.

"There was a little bit of clarification needed in some areas," he says, "but nothing major. The sorts of things that can be easily

fixed once they've been brought to someone's attention."

Bernadette found the experience encouraging. "Sophie will still get the teaching from the professionals but I'm able to supervise in between lessons knowing that my driving is pretty much OK. Overall it was good, and that was good to know."

Apart from having their own driving checked, what else can parents do to support the learning

process? Tom suggests re-reading the road code to refresh and update their understanding of the road rules. Also, if possible, they should sit in on some of the professional lessons or, if they're not able to do that, they could check in with the instructor after a lesson so that everyone knows where the student is up to and what should be practised.

What went wrong?

Around half of applicants sitting their restricted licence and around 65% of those going for their full licences, pass their tests the first time. Some have to sit their tests several times before passing.

Failure can be due to vehicles not being up to standard (including defective lights, worn tyres or insufficient petrol in the tank), making more than one 'critical error' or making an 'immediate failure' error.

A critical error – accounting for around 58% failures on the restricted test – includes driving too fast or too slow, failing to look, failing to signal, blocking a pedestrian crossing, mounting a kerb, stalling and not stopping fully at a stop sign. The most common fault is not signalling.

Driving dangerously on a test will lead to immediate failure – most commonly speeding excessively or failing to give way.

People going for their full licences most often fail due to not signalling or driving at excessive speed. 🚗

Applicants unhappy with the outcome of driving tests can contact the NZTA (nzta.govt.nz/about/contact) to make a complaint. The AA takes bookings for driving tests and provides venues for the tests to be run from, but the testing is not done by AA staff or contractors.

LEARN TO DRIVE THE AA WAY

For more information on AA Ignition, arranging driving lessons and booking NZTA-approved AA Defensive Driving Courses, go to aa.co.nz/drivers.

AA Centres sell the New Zealand Road Code, practical test guide books and DVDs, and vouchers for online practice tests.



ABOVE: Bernadette and Sophie O'Connell.

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You know how people take shortcuts? I take the scenic route everywhere. 📍





Know Your Limits

The drink driving limit will soon lower considerably.
Dylan Thomsen explains the upcoming changes

ON DECEMBER 1 the drink driving limit for adults in New Zealand is dropping. There is plenty of misinformation and myths out there about the change, so let's start with the facts.

It is about to become illegal for drivers aged 20 or older to have an alcohol level above 250 micrograms per litre of breath, or 50 milligrams (0.05g) of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. The previous limit was 400 micrograms for breath and 80 milligrams for blood. Drivers under 20 have a zero alcohol limit.

But these are not measurements people use in their everyday lives.

Ever heard someone have a couple of drinks then say, "Feels like I'm at .03 BAC?". No, neither have we.

The AA encourages people to ideally avoid alcohol altogether if they are going to be driving, but alcohol is a part of our social activity and some people are worried that the new limit will mean they can't drink at all before getting behind the wheel.

"Unless you're a tiny person, you're going to be able to have two or three small glasses of wine or beers over a couple of hours [and remain within the new limit]," says Allan Stowell, Science Leader at the Institute of Environmental Science and Research.

However, in saying that, people need to recognize that everyone is different and there are many factors that will affect someone's alcohol level.

A 60kg woman will have a much higher blood alcohol level than a 100kg man after two drinks, and could even be bordering the new limit.

Whether someone has been drinking on an empty stomach, or not, will also affect their alcohol level as food helps slow the rate alcohol is absorbed by the body.

The size and strength of drinks people are having also matter. A 'standard glass' of wine is defined as 100ml, but in the real world serving sizes are often bigger than this: one glass of wine can actually equal two standard drinks.

One thing that doesn't make a difference to your alcohol level though, is whether you are a frequent drinker or not.

"A person who drinks regularly, and drinks a lot, is less likely to show symptoms or drunkenness than someone who doesn't drink often, but that doesn't mean that they aren't impaired," says Allan. So heavier drinkers beware: while you may feel that a few drinks don't have any effect, you may not be legal or safe to drive.

Trying to sum it all up in a few words: the new limit is going to mean drivers must "think before they drink," says AA Motoring Affairs General Manager Mike Noon. "The good news is that a lot of people these days don't drink any alcohol at all if they are going to be driving, but there are people who are going to need to change their behaviour."

Even the morning after drinking, people will need to be aware of alcohol's lingering effect. Someone who drinks into the early hours of the morning, then has only a few hours'

sleep before getting up and driving, could still be over the limit.

While that may seem harsh to some, the research is clear. Alcohol levels of .05 and above not only impair the ability to react to things happening on the road, but also affect a driver's ability to make good judgements and decisions. Australia and many European countries have had .05 limits for many years; government analysis indicates the change will save between three and four lives annually. Currently, close to 100 people are killed and 2000 are injured each year from crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs.

"International evidence is that the lowering of breath and blood alcohol levels reduces the number of alcohol-related crashes," says Road Policing Superintendent Carey Griffiths.

"At 80mg (current limit) a driver aged 30 is 16 times more likely to be

involved in a fatal crash than a driver with zero alcohol in their system. At 50mg the risk lowers to 5.8 times." 🚗

Fast Facts

- New adult (aged 20 and over) drink driving limit: 250mcg breath or .05mg blood.
- Most adults will be able to have two standard drinks and stay within the limit.
- Zero alcohol limit for drivers aged under 20.
- Drivers caught with a breath alcohol level between 250mcg and 400mcg will be fined \$200 and receive 50 demerit points on their licence.
- Drivers above 400mcg will face court charges as before.



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He's a Family Guy

Karl Puschmann chats with the AA's Andrew Bayliss about car options for a new family

IT WAS TIME to say goodbye to the Silver Shadow – the name I'd bestowed upon my '97 Honda Prelude. It had served me well during our seven years together, but sadly its low ride and two doors were not suitable for a soon-to-be family man.

When I first got the Shadow my main concerns had been performance, low maintenance and how much bass the speakers pumped out. But now, with a stork's visit imminent, my priorities have shifted.

Now I need – or rather, we need, as my beautiful partner and I share a ride – something safe, economical, practical, with easy access to the back seat for locking in a child seat, plenty of boot space for lugging a pram around, and decent speakers for pumping out bass. Well, some things never change...

To get the skinny on what would be a suitable vehicle for a new family I cornered the AA's motoring guru, Andrew Bayliss. I told him we had around \$15,000 to spend on new wheels, and had our eyes on Mazda's desirable CX5 SUV/Crossover.

I did not care for his first piece of advice: "Forget about buying a CX5," he said. "SUV's are the flavour of the month, so on the secondhand market they hold their value well.

"People like them. They're perceived as 'cool' and that has value. They're outdoorsy for carrying

bikes or snowboards or what-have-you. SUV sales account for 30% of the market so they're very in demand."

"Well, that sucks," I said.

"You're in an odd price range," he mused. "You could buy an older SUV from the mid-2000s but I wouldn't recommend it. It'd have high mileage and be a real gas guzzler. Fuel efficiency has improved tremendously."

I did not care for his second piece of advice either: "Have you considered buying a people mover?"

"No," I replied flatly.

"They're a reasonable proposition. In real terms they're affordable, reliable and can carry five to seven people. Mazda's MPV and Premacy are good. As is the Honda Odyssey."

"We're having one kid, not five of them," I said.

"Your child will have friends," he parried.

"We're not getting a people mover."

"My wife said the same thing," he laughed. "You should look into station wagons. They have plenty of space for everything and they're in your price range. The Mazda 6 is very good. It depends what you want."

Now he'd brought it up I found myself liking the idea of a station wagon. My partner, on the other hand, fancied a hatchback, like the Mazda 3. But I harboured reservations that a hatch would be a tad small.

"Not necessarily," Andrew said.

"They're deceptively roomy. The Mazda 3, Toyota Corolla or Honda Civic would all be good choices.

"They're economical to run and those models have good safety ratings. I'd consider those to be your entry level, size-wise. Toyota's Swift, Echo and Yaris I'd say would be too small for what you want."

Leaning back in his chair, he thought for a moment then said, "I'll tell you what, the traditional mid-size family sedan would be an excellent choice. The Mazda 6 sedan, the Honda Accord, the Toyota Camry are all good options. You used to see everyone driving a mid-size sedan but they've all jumped out of them and into SUVs. This means there are good bargains to be found. With your money you could get a lot of car in that range."

From the initial disappointment I'd begun to like where the conversation had gone, and now I'm on the hunt for a decent wagon or mid-size sedan. Personally, I've ruled out hatchbacks because I think the extra space is a necessity – though the boss may still get her way... 🚗

FURTHER INFORMATION

For advice on buying and selling cars, see aa.co.nz/cars

Go to AA Car Fair to search online for cars for sale: aa.co.nz/cars/cars-for-sale



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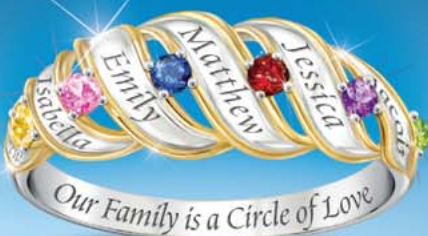
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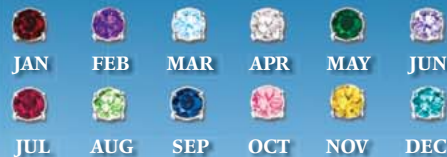
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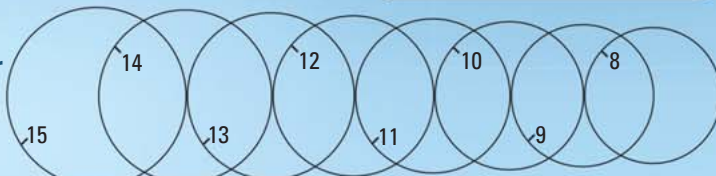


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Name to engrave	Birth Month

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Sharing ghost chips

Peter King examines the changing nature of road safety advertising

TWENTY YEARS AGO people didn't have to like TV road safety advertising much. Ads featured people being idiots – often with bloody results.

In those pre-Internet days, people had little choice but to watch as the authorities explained why road rules should be obeyed. Today the world is a different place. Now millions of people share road safety ads with their friends. What happened?

Some say the difference began with 'Ghost Chips', the ad where a young Maori guy at a party realizes his drunk friend is planning to drive home and works up the courage to suggest he crash the night at the party instead.

"When 'Ghost Chips' came out, some in the media said we had changed. But we're still doing the same thing which is trying to get people to think differently about road safety," says Dr Paul Graham, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Principal Scientist who, together with Principal Advisor Rachel Prince, has been guiding road safety advertising in New Zealand for 12 years.

But if the message hasn't changed, the medium, with the advent of smartphones, tablets, and social media, has changed enormously. And that has made a big difference to the way the NZTA gets its message across.

"Today we talk often about encouraging a conversation with the public," Rachel explains. "And because of social media we get a pretty good idea of how they are reacting almost immediately."

The road safety advertising campaign has always been based on evidence and research. Research is used to understand the audiences and all campaign concepts are listed with the relevant target audience. For example, an ad directed by Taika Waititi showing young Maori children waiting in the car for their pot-smoking dad to return was inspired by the observations of a participant in a test group.

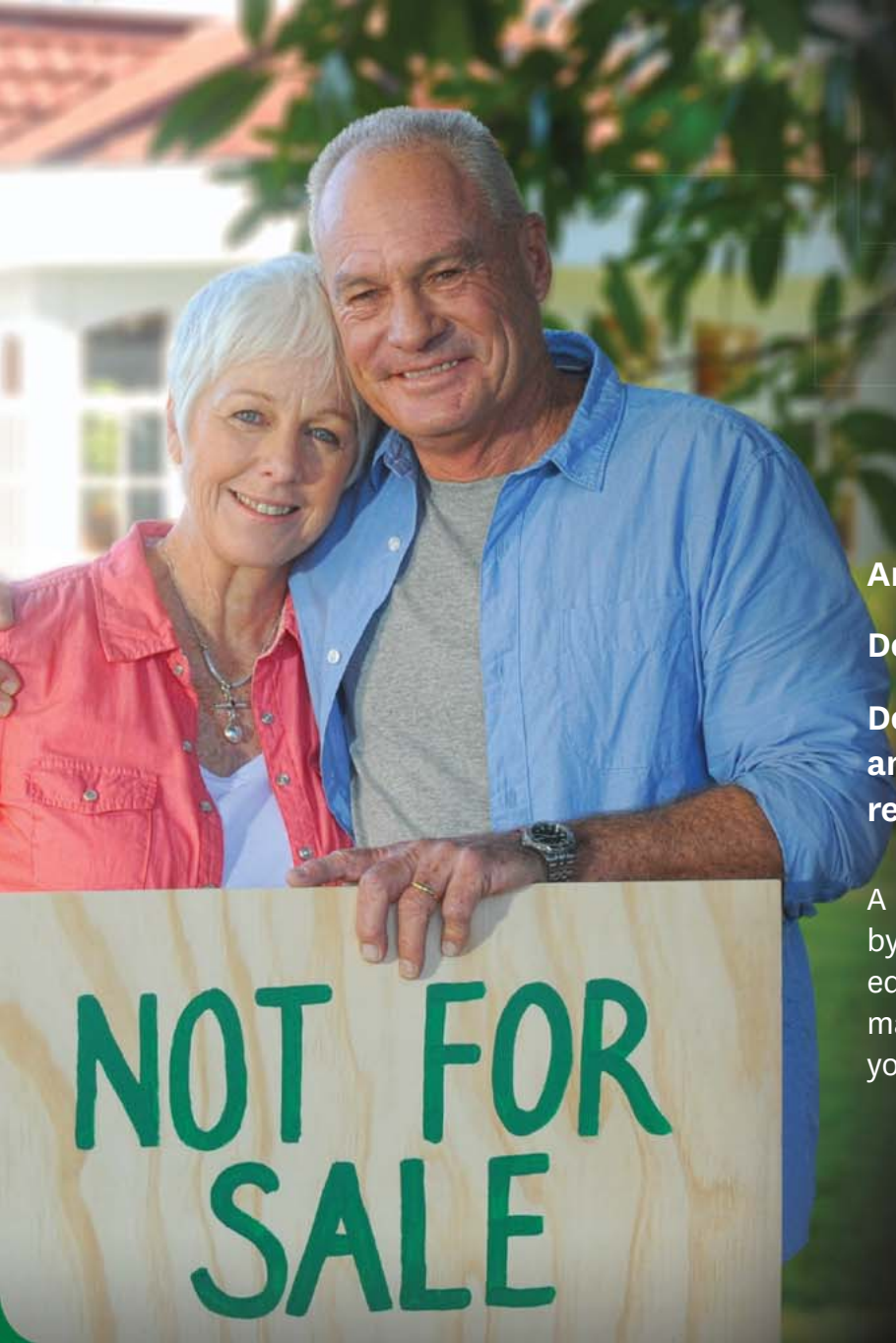
The intensive testing of each campaign hasn't changed. Neither has the use of TV, although these days video can be delivered through multiple media.

"The numbers of people watching TV hasn't actually dropped much, but now they will be watching with a phone or tablet in their hand as well," Paul Graham says.

Perhaps the best example of using both the big and small screens is 'Mistakes', the ad where time slows down and two drivers get out of their cars and talk about their impending crash. Despite having a fairly traditional 'slow down' message, 'Mistakes' went viral on YouTube and has had over ten million views.

ABOVE: Humour and a memorable catchphrase saw 'Ghost Chips' go viral; being willingly shared by its target audience.

"People said we've changed, but actually we're still doing the same thing – getting people to think about road safety."



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ABOVE: 'Mistakes' aimed to humanise other drivers. **BELOW:** An example of the gory shock advertising a generation grew up with.

Telling old stories in new and interesting ways is the challenge faced by the Transport Agency's advertising agency Clemenger BBDO, in Wellington. Clemenger Social Marketing Director Linda Major says road safety has evolved from a disruptive style of story-telling, where the object was to get attention of the audience, even if it was a negative reaction, to a subtler form of story-telling which engages the audience so that it identifies with the message and shares it with others.

"It's better when a message comes from your friends or family rather than an authority on TV. It has more credibility."

Linda says that even parodies of the TV ads made by the audience and shared on YouTube reinforce the underlying message the NZTA is trying to get across, by embedding the story in the audience's consciousness.

Sometimes, however, brilliant road safety messages operate outside traditional channels. One remarkable road safety campaign, which the general public may not have seen, targeted young speeders online. Called 'Flash', it was a 3D racing game on Facebook with music by DJ Module. The player raced his or her car, as is usual in many such games, but at a certain point the driver had to crash. And unlike in other

games, the driver was then told their life was over and their own Facebook photos were used to flash his or her life before their eyes. Once completed, the game couldn't be replayed. Many players felt compelled to share it with their racer friends.

"It was actually quite a strong emotional message, because you couldn't go back," Rachel Prince says.

The Transport Agency has always targeted advertising at different groups using everything from old technology, like printed posters, to new technology, like that used to showcase 'Flash'. These days Facebook is not so much a young person's space, but Linda Major says Clemengers is working out ways to utilise Snapchat and Instagram – phone apps favoured by younger people.

"In a lot of ways social media just makes the job more interesting," she says.

Of course one of the difficulties with the rise of social media has been the temptation for people to use smartphones all the time, even when trying to drive. With technologies like Google's 'Glass' (glasses with a display built in to the lens) due out this year, social media may start to become as much a road safety problem as a road safety solution.

One thing is certain: the relationship between the medium, the message and the reality is going to get more complicated. ■





Topless Beauties

Convertibles are all about the joy you feel with the wind in your hair says **Andrew Bayliss**

ONCE UPON A time, at the beginning of the motoring era, almost no cars had roofs as the motor vehicle began its evolution from horse drawn carriages.

These days the motor car is no longer a luxury item, but one of modern life's necessities. As such, along with safety, economy, performance and styling, practicality is right up there as one of the most significant pieces of criteria when deciding which vehicle to purchase.

Given that most convertibles are anything but practical, they've become something of a fringe purchase, with well under one percent of the total new vehicle sales volume being topless. A convertible is a lifestyle choice, and, for many buyers, they're often a second or third car.

For many, convertible equals 'classic British sports car'. The old classics such as XK or E Type Jaguars and Big Healeys (which were considered the poor man's E Type in their day) are elegant works of art, but are now priced beyond the means of most of us. Consequently, most are tucked away in heated garages to preserve them, only surfacing on fine summer Sundays.

MGs, Austin-Healey Sprites, Triumph

Spitfires, Sunbeam Alpines and the slightly more upmarket Triumph TRs were the convertible choice for the man or woman in the street back in the '50s, '60s and '70s. Sadly, most have disappeared, having been ravaged over time by the dreaded tin worm, otherwise known as rust.

The classic convertible was more susceptible than most cars to corrosion as they almost all leaked like sieves, with their floorpans collecting rainfall, winter after winter, until the bottom quite literally fell out.

Of all the bargain classic British sports cars, the MGB is perhaps the one that has survived in relatively big numbers, with plenty of decent examples offered at quite affordable prices. The MGB was simplicity personified, with run of the mill BMC mechanicals, a powerplant based on the B Series unit from the humble Austin Cambridge, and easy enough for the average home mechanic to fix and tinker with in the weekend.

Then there are the European classics: the Porsche 356s, Alfa Romeo Spyders and Mercedes-Benzes. But these never came to our shores in huge numbers, and the global market now dictates that they fetch some pretty lofty prices.

"The good news is that a convertible needn't break the bank or be any more expensive than a run-of-the-mill sedan."



Classic Volkswagen Karmann-Ghias and humble Beetle Cabriolets can be found, but again, depending on the year and condition, prices are steadily increasing.

The Americans, never known to do things by halves, produced some monster convertibles, particularly in the '50s. These were characterized by acres of chrome, sky high fins and gas-guzzling V8 engines.

Love 'em or hate 'em; no-one can argue they didn't make a statement. The Americans also did a nice line in pseudo-sports cars such as the Mustang, Corvette and T-Bird: all very desirable and collectable today, and priced accordingly.

The good news for those hankering after something cool and breezy to cruise to the beach in over summer, is that a convertible needn't break the bank or be any more expensive than a run-of-the-mill sedan.

The evergreen Mazda MX-5 Roadster is the most readily available, entry-level, sporty little number in New Zealand. When it launched in 1989, it was the right product at the right time. The British car industry had all but folded and along came Mazda with a rear wheel drive, affordable sports car, offering classic sports car styling with up-to-date Japanese reliability. Decent early examples

change hands for no more than the price of an imported hatchback of equivalent age and mileage.

At the newer end of the everyday spectrum, we're spoilt for choice. Mazda still leads the charge with the MX-5, Honda has the S2000, and all the German brands are represented with Volkswagen, Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz all contenders.

The spunky little Mini is a favourite and the French have played in this space too, thanks to Peugeot, Citroen and Renault. There's still the occasional Italian, with Alfa Romeo releasing some beautifully styled drop tops over the years. And you can't forget the entirely loveable little Fiat 500C currently on offer.

At the high end of the market are the ultra-expensive offerings from Rolls Royce, Bentley, Ferrari, Aston Martin and Porsche. These are nice to dream about, but are the very definition of 'Lotto cars' with prices rivalling those found in real estate.

We may not live on California's Pacific Coast Highway, or on the Cote d'Azur, where cruising in a convertible year-round can be a reality, but rolling with the rag-top down is a great way to fully enjoy a hot New Zealand summer's day. ☺

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
1960 Austin-Healey Sprite (Frogeye); Porsche 356; 1966 MGB Roadster; E Type Jaguar; 1965 Mustang Convertible; 2010 Alfa Romeo 4C; 1957 Corvette Stingray; 1972 Triumph Spitfire, Ford Thunderbird 55-57.

New to Market

Nissan Qashqai



Honda Jazz



BMW M4



NISSAN QASHQAI

Nissan's pioneering small, front wheel drive SUV/Crossover is now more comfortable, stylish and packed with more technology. The ST, ST-L and Ti petrol versions have 106kW/200Nm 2.0 litre direct-injected, naturally aspirated powerplants and the ST 96kW/320Nm turbo-diesel is also very capable. All feature Nissan's Xtronic CVT transmission, and have fuel consumption claims of 6.9l/100km petrol and 4.9l/100km for the diesel. The ST is \$35,990, the similarly specc'd ST-L and diesel TS are \$39,990 and \$42,990, and the all singing, dancing TI is \$43,990.

Good: Keen pricing, well-equipped and now a great diesel model.

Not so good: No seven seat option.

BMW M3/M4

Any BMW with the M prefix is a serious piece of kit. The V8 powerplant is replaced with a twin turbo straight six. With 317kW/550Nm on tap, there's 8kW more power and a massive 150Nm more torque than before. Racing from zero to 100km/h in 4.1 seconds, BMW claim fuel consumption of just 8.3L/100km.

As expected, both feature advanced safety and driving enhancements. At \$159,900 for the M3 and \$169,900 for the two door M4, we found the M3 more solid and firmly planted. Given its four door practicality, it'd be easier to live with – not that either would be a hardship.

Good: Blistering performance.

Not so good: Pricing puts it out of reach for most.

HONDA JAZZ

Honda's new Jazz is a delight to drive. Fuel economy is claimed at 5.1l/100km for 1.3 and 5.4l/100km for 1.5 models. Stacked with equipment, it includes a reversing camera and safety features like ISOFIX child seat anchorages and City Brake Assist (CBA) on the 1.5 litre models. Starting at \$23,700 for the 73kW/119Nm 1.3S CVT auto, the rest of the range is powered by a 97kW/155Nm 1.5 litre engine. The 1.5RS is \$25,500 manual and \$26,900 CVT; the RS Sport manual is \$27,000 and \$28,400 CVT. The top of the range RS Mugen is \$29,500 manual and \$30,900 CVT.

Good: Competitive pricing, well equipped and with a quality feel.

Not so good: Reversing camera not overly clear.

MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS

The new Mercedes-Benz C Class is built on the new Rear Wheel Architecture (MRA) platform: 48% is constructed out of aluminium, making it around 40kg lighter. It retains Merc's high standards, with sporty styling and lively performance. Initially a pair of 2.0 litre petrol models, the 135kW/300Nm C 200 and 155kW/350Nm C 250, and a 2.1 litre diesel 150kW/500Nm C 250 BlueTEC are offered; estate versions and two more diesels, a 1.6 litre 100kW/300Nm C 200 BlueTEC and C 300 BlueTEC HYBRID, arrive in November. Pricing starts at \$71,900 for the C 200 through to \$94,900 for the C 300 BlueTEC HYBRID.

Good: Luxurious and refined.

Not so good: The wait for wagons, and high performance models.

JEEP CHEROKEE

Traditionalists may lament the demise of the old boxy Cherokee, but the all-new model beats it hands-down. There are four petrol versions offered, all featuring a slick nine-speed auto transmission: a 2.4 litre 130kW/229Nm 4 cylinder front wheel drive Sport, followed by three grades with a 3.2 litre 200kW/316Nm Pentastar V6. Longitude and Limited models have the Jeep Active Drive 1 on-demand AWD system, while the Trailhawk, for serious bush-bashers, features Jeep's Active Drive Lock – 4WD system. A diesel is due next year. A likeable SUV priced from \$44,990 to \$65,990.

Good: Excellent performance both on- and off-road.

Not so good: Fuel consumption a little on the high side.

VOLKSWAGEN POLO

The new Polo comes in a 5-speed manual or 7-speed DSG automatic transmission powered by a nippy 1.2 litre 66kW/160Nm TSI engine. There are three models: Comfortline, in manual or auto, and Highline and Cross Polo, which are both autos. GTIs arrive in the second quarter of 2015. VW have packed the Polo with features rarely seen at this price, including cruise control, ISOFIX child seat anchorages, cooled glovebox, heated door mirrors and flat tyre indicator. Quoted fuel consumption is 4.7l/100km for all models bar the Cross Polo, which is 4.9l/100km. Pricing ranges from \$22,990 to \$29,990.

Good: Excellent package, lots of features, quality feel and sharp price.

Not so good: Nothing much has changed on the outside.



Mercedes-Benz C-Class



Volkswagen Polo



Jeep Cherokee



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» Fuel economy ratings apply to models illustrated. For ratings on all cars reviewed, plus many others, see energywise.govt.nz/tools/fuel-economy

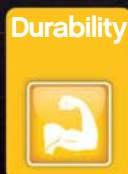
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MIto QV Multiair •	6.0	1.4	125	42,990	-
Giulietta Distinctive Multiair	6.0	1.4	125	-	43,990
Giulietta QV Multiair	7.6	1.8	173	54,990	-

Audi audi.co.nz					
A1 1.4 TFSI S Tronic •	5.3	1.4	90	-	40,800
A1 1.4 TFSI Sport S Tronic •	5.3	1.4	90	-	43,300
A3 1.4 Sportback TFSI •	5.8	1.4	92	-	48,900
A4 Sedan 2.0 TDI	5.5	2.0	103	-	75,400
A4 2.0 TFSI Quattro STron Sed	7.1	2.0	132	-	79,900
A4 3.0 TDI Quattro Tip Sed	7.0	3	176	-	104,500
A4 2.0 TDI Avant •	6.0	2.0	103	-	79,400
A4 2.0 TFSI Quattro Avant	7.1	2.0	132	-	83,900
A4 3.0 TFSI Quattro S-Tronic	9.4	3.0	245	-	117,900
RS4 4.2 FSI Quattro S-Tr.Avant	10.7	4.2	331	-	156,000
A6 Allroad 2.0 TDI	6.0	2.0	130	-	83,900
A5 2.0 Sportback TFSI Quattro	7.0	2.0	155	-	86,300
A5 3.0 TDI Quattro	7.2	3.0	176	-	109,500
S5 3.0 Sportback TFSI Quattro	9.4	3.0	245	-	118,900
RS5 4.2FSI Quattro S-Tr.Cabri	10.8	4.2	331	-	178,000
A6 3.0 TDI Quattro Sedan	8.3	3.0	150	-	119,900
A6 3.0 BITDI Quattro Avant	6.0	3.0	230	-	139,900
A6 Allroad 3.0 TDI	6.1	3.0	150	-	128,800
A7 Sportback 3.0 TDI Quattro	5.9	3.0	180	-	151,700
S7 Sportback 4.0 TFSI Quattro	9.6	4.0	309	-	169,900
Q3 2.0 TDI Quattro •	5.9	2.0	130	-	72,500
Q5 2.0 TDI Quattro •	6.7	2.0	125	-	89,900
Q5 3.0 TDI Quattro	7.5	3.0	176	-	108,900
Q7 4.2 TDI Quattro S Line	13.6	4.2	240	-	143,900
AR 4.2 TDI Quattro	9.4	4.2	240	-	225,000
TT Coupe 2.0 TFSI S Line	7.7	2.0	147	-	90,900

BMW bmw.co.nz					
118i •	7.3	1.6	100	-	56,600
118d Hatch	4.5	2.0	105	-	57,800
125i Hatch	6.6	2.0	160	-	65,700
220i Coupe	6.3	2.0	135	-	71,700
320i	7.9	2.0	115	-	74,700
320d •	5.6	2.0	130	-	75,300
335i	9.6	3.0	225	-	107,400
320i Touring xDrive	6.5	2.0	135	-	84,200
320d Touring xDrive	4.5	2.0	120	-	84,800
435i	7.4	3.0	225	-	126,900
428i Convertible	6.6	2.0	180	-	120,600
535i	8.4	3.0	225	-	132,000
530d •	5.1	3.0	190	-	132,600
M5 7-speed M dual-clutch	9.9	4.4	423	-	210,900
650i Coupe	10.6	4.4	300	-	219,000
M6 7-speed M dual-clutch	9.9	4.4	412	-	267,600
750i	11.0	4.8	270	-	235,700
X1 sDrive 20d •	5.8	2.0	130	-	72,400
X3 xDrive 20d SE •	7.0	2.0	130	-	94,400
X4 xDrive 20d SE	5.2	2.0	140	-	99,500
X5 xDrive 30d SE	8.7	3.0	173	-	129,500
X6 xDrive 40d SE	7.5	3.0	225	-	152,500
Z4 sDrive20i Roadster	6.8	2.0	135	-	87,750

Chery cheryauto.co.nz					
J3	8.9	1.6	87	14,990	16,990
J11 •	8.9	2.0	102	18,990	20,990

Chrysler chrysler.co.nz					
300S	9.7	3.6	210	-	62,990
300 SRT8	13.0	6.4	347	-	87,990
Grand Voyager Limited	8.4	2.8	120	-	84,990

Citroen citroen.co.nz					
C3 1.6 VTi Seduction •	6.9	1.6	88	-	26,490
DS3 DSTYLE •	6.9	1.6	88	-	36,990
DS3 DSPORT Turbo •	6.7	1.6	115	38,990	-
C4 Exclusive VTi	7.0	1.6	88	-	31,490
C4 Grand Picasso 2.0 BlueHDI •	4.5	2.0	110	-	42,990
C4 Aircross 2WD	7.9	2.0	110	-	36,990
C4 Aircross 4WD	8.1	2.0	110	-	43,990
DS4 Auto •	6.4	1.6	120	-	44,990
DS4 Sport •	6.4	1.6	147	48,990	-
DS5 Sport •	7.3	1.6	115	-	59,990
C5 2.0 HDi Exclusive	6.0	2.0	120	-	54,990
C5 2.0 HDi Tourer Exclusive	6.0	2.0	120	-	57,990

Dodge dodge.co.nz					
Journey SXT	10.4	3.6	206	-	41,990
Journey R/T	10.4	3.6	206	-	51,990

Fiat fiat.co.nz					
500 Hatch Sport •	6.3	1.4	74	24,990	26,990
500 Cabriolet Sport	6.3	1.4	74	-	29,990
500 Hatch Abarth •	6.5	1.4	118	42,990	-
Panda Easy Turbo	4.2	0.9	63	23,990	25,990
Punto Easy	5.7	1.4	57	-	19,990

Ford ford.co.nz					
New Fiesta Trend Hatch •	6.1	1.5	89	23,990	25,490
New Fiesta ST EcoBoost Hatch •	5.9	1.6	134	34,990	-
Focus Ambient Petrol Wagon •	6.4	1.6	92	-	34,840

	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
Focus Trend Diesel Wagon •					
Focus Trend Petrol •	6.6	2	125	-	40,840
Focus Sport Petrol •	6.7	2	125	-	42,340
Focus Titanium Petrol •	6.6	2	125	-	47,340
Focus ST EcoBoost Hatch •	7.2	2	184	52,840	-
Mondeo Hatch LX Diesel •	7.1	2	103	-	46,340
Mondeo Zetec Diesel Hatch •	7.1	2	103	-	50,340
Mondeo Zetec EcoBoost •	8.0	2	149	-	48,340
New Kuga Ambient Petrol •	7.7	1.6	134	-	39,990
New Kuga Trend Diesel •	6.2	2	120	-	45,990
New Kuga Titanium EcoBoost •	7.7	1.6	134	-	52,990
Territory TX RWD Petrol •	10.8	4	195	-	49,990
Territory TS Diesel AWD •	8.8	2.7	140	-	64,990
Territory Titanium AWD Diesel •	8.8	2.7	140	-	69,990
Falcon MkII XT Sedan EcoBoost •	8.1	2.0	179	-	48,490
Falcon MkII XR6 •	9.9	4.0	195	-	54,340
Falcon MkII G6E •	9.9	4.0	195	-	59,340
EcoSport Trend •	6.5	1.5	82	-	29,990
EcoSport Titanium •	6.5	1.5	82	-	32,990

Great Wall greatwall.co.nz					
X-240 4WD •	10.3	2.4	100	24,990	-
X-200 AWD	7.6	2.0	105	27,990	29,990

Holden holden.co.nz					
Barina CD Hatch 5dr •	7.0	1.6	77	22,490	23,990
Barina Turbo RS Hatch •	6.5	1.4	103	26,490	27,990
Barina Spark Hatch CD •	5.6	1.2	59	16,990	18,490
Trax LS •	7.6	1.8	103	-	32,990
Trax LTZ •	7.6	1.8	103	-	35,490
Cruze Equipe Hatch/Sedan •	7.0	1.8	104	-	30,990
Cruze Equipe 2.0 Sedan Diesel •	5.7	2.0	120	-	35,990
Cruze SRi-V Turbo 1.6 •	7.9	1.6	132	-	39,490
Cruze CD Sportwagon Diesel •	5.7	2.0	120	-	37,490
Malibu CD Petrol •	8.0	2.4	123	-	42,900
Malibu CD Diesel •	6.4	2.0	117	-	45,400
Malibu CDX Petrol •	8.0	2.4	123	-	45,900
VF Commodore Evoque Sedan •	8.3	3.0	185	-	49,990
VF Commodore SV6 •	9.0	3.6	210	-	55,490
VF Commodore SS V8 •	11.5	6.0	260	-	61,490
VF Calais-V V6 •	9.0	3.6	210	-	66,490
VF Calais-V V8 •	11.7	6.0	260	-	72,490
VF Caprice V V8 •	11.7	6.0	260	-	79,990
VE Ute SV6 •	11.6	3.6	195	-	48,990
VE Ute SS •	14.5	6.0	270	-	54,990
VF Sportwagon Evoque •	8.6	3.0	190	-	52,490
VF Sportwagon SV6 •	9.3	3.6	210	-	57,990
VF Sportwagon SS-V V8 •	11.8	6.0	260	-	71,490
VF Sportwagon Calais-V V8 •	11.7	6.0	260	-	74,990
Captiva 5 LT 2WD •	9.1	2.4	123	36,990	38,490
Captiva 5 LT Diesel 4WD LT	8.1	2.2	135	-	43,490
Captiva 7 LTZ 2WD •	9.1	2.4	123	-	40,490
Captiva 7 LX V6 AWD	11.3	3.0	190	-	54,490
Captiva 7 LS Diesel 2WD •	8.1	2.2	135	-	44,490
Captiva 7 LTZ Diesel AWD	8.3	2.2	135	-	56,490

Honda honda.co.nz					
Jazz S	5.1	1.3	73	-	23,700
Jazz RS	5.3	1.5	97	-	26,900
Jazz Hybrid	4.5	1.3	72	-	31,500
Civic S •	6.7	1.8	104	-	33,900
Civic N •	7.5	2.0	114	-	39,990
Euro Civic S	6.1/6.5	1.8	104	29,900	34,900
Euro Civic L	6.5	1.8	104	-	38,900
Insight SN Hybrid •	4.6	1.3	72	-	36,900
CRZ LN •	1.5	5/4.7	91	42,000	42,000
Accord Euro SN •	8.9	2.4	148	43,700	47,200
Accord Euro Tourer L	9.1	2.4	148	-	53,200
Accord S •	7.9	2.4	129	-	45,900
Accord NT •	7.9	2.4	129	-	55,000
Accord V6 NT •	9.2	3.5	206	-	60,000
Odyssey S •	9.3	2.4	133	-	47,000
CRV S 2WD •	7.7	2.0	114	34,900	39,900
CRV Sport N •	8.6	2.4	140	-	46,600
CRV Sport NT •	8.7	2.4	140	-	57,500

Hyundai hyundai.co.nz					
i20 GL	6.0/6.4	1.4	73	24,990	25,990
i20 GLS •	6.0/6.4	1.4	73	25,990	26,990
Accent Hatch 1.6 •	6.4	1.6	91	28,990	31,990
Accent 1.6 Elite •	6.4	1.6	91	-	35,990
i30 1.8 •	6.5	1.8	110	31,990	35,990
i30 1.6 CRDi Elite •	4.5	1.6	94	-	43,990
i30 Wagon 1.6 •	6.7/6.9	1.6	88	36,490	37,990
i30 Wagon 1.6 CRDi •	4.5/5.6	1.6	94	40,490	41,990
Elantra Series II •	7.1	1.8	110	-	35,990
Elantra Elite Series II •	7.1	1.8	110	-	39,990
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 2.0 •	7.6	2.0	119	-	42,990
i45 2.4 Elite •	7.9	2.4	148	-	49,990
i40 Sedan 1.7 CRDi •	5.6	1.7	100	-	46,990
i40 Wagon 2.0 Elite •	7.5	2.0	130	-	49,990
i40 Wagon 1.7 CRDi •	5.6	1.7	100	-	48,990
i40 Wagon 1.7 CRDi Elite Ltd •	5.6	1.7	100	-	59,990

	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
ix35 2.0 2WD •	8.5	2.0	122	-	39,990
ix35 2.4 •	9.0	2.4	130	-	44,990
ix35 2.0R CRDi •	7.5	2.0	135	-	50,990
ix35 2.0R CRDi Elite •	7.5	2.0	135	-	54,990
Santa Fe 2.4 7Seat •	9.0	2.4	141	-	59,990
Santa Fe 2.2R CRDi 7S •	7.3	2.2	145	-	65,990
Santa Fe 3.3 V6 7S 2WD	9.6	3.3	199	-	67,990
Santa Fe 2.2R Elite Ltd •	7.3	2.2	145	-	79,990
H1 iMax Van Elite 8 Seat	8.5	2.4	128	-	54,990
H1 iMax CRDi Elite 8 Seat	8.5	2.5	125	56,990	58,990

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ANCAP Chief Executive Officer



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	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
Mazda mazda.co.nz					
2 Classic •	6.4	1.5	76	23,245	24,645
2 Sport •	6.4	1.5	76	25,155	26,555
3 GLX Hatch •	5.7	2.0	114	-	32,795
3 GSX Hatch/Sedan •	5.7	2.0	114	-	35,595
3 SP25 Hatch/Sedan •	6	2.5	138	38,395	39,895
3 SP25 Hatch Limited •	6	2.5	138	-	47,495
6 GLX Sedan/Wagon Diesel •	5.4	2.2	129	-	49,095
6 GSX Sedan/Wagon •	6.6	2.5	138	-	49,795
6 2.5 Ltd Sedan/Wagon •	6.6	2.5	138	-	58,595
6 2.2 Ltd Sedan/Wagon Diesel •	5.4	2.2	129	-	60,795
6 Wagon 2.0 GLX •	6.0	2.0	114	-	45,495
MX-5 Roadster Leather	8.5	2.0	118	51,100	-
MX-5 Coupe Leather	8.5	2.0	118	55,190	57,240
CX-5 GLX FWD •	6.4	2.0	114	-	39,695
CX-5 GSX AWD •	7.4	2.5	138	-	44,945
CX-5 GSX Diesel AWD •	5.7	2.2	129	-	47,095
CX-5 Ltd Diesel AWD •	5.7	2.2	129	-	56,495
CX-9 Ltd AWD	11.3	3.7	204	-	58,490
CX-9 Ltd+	11.3	3.7	204	-	65,490

Mercedes-Benz mercedes-benz.co.nz					
A180 •	5.8	1.6	90	-	46,900
A200 •	6.1	1.6	115	-	54,900
A250 Sport •	6.6	2.0	155	-	64,900
A45 AMG •	6.9	2.0	265	-	94,900
B180 •	6.1	1.6	90	-	51,900
B200 •	6.1	1.6	115	-	59,900
B250 •	6.5	2.0	155	-	66,900
CLA200 •	5.7	1.6	115	-	65,900
CLA250Sport •	6.9	2.0	155	-	77,900
CLA 45 AMG •	7.0	2.0	265	-	107,900
C200 CGI •	6.0	2.0	135	-	71,900
C200 BlueTEC •	-	1.6	100	-	73,400
C250 CGI •	6.0	2.0	155	-	86,900
E250 •	6.4	2.0	155	-	114,000
E400 •	7.6	3.0	245	-	131,000
E63 AMG S	10.0	5.4	430	-	215,000
GLA200 CDI	4.6	2.2	100	-	64,900
GLA250 •	7.0	2.0	155	-	76,900
ML250 BlueTEC	6.4	2.14	150	-	99,900
ML350 BlueTEC •	6.4	2.14	150	-	121,900
ML63 AMG	11.8	5.4	380	-	197,900
GL350 BlueTEC	7.7	3.0	190	-	153,900

Mini mini.co.nz					
Mini Hatch Cooper	5.4	1.6	100	36,200	-
Mini Hatch Cooper S	5.8	1.6	141	44,200	-
Mini Cooper Countryman	6.0	1.6	90	44,500	-
Mini Countryman Cooper S	6.1	1.6	140	52,500	-
Cooper Countryman S All4WD	7.3	1.6	140	55,500	-
Mini Cabrio Cooper	5.7	1.6	90	46,200	-
Mini Cabrio Cooper S	6.0	1.6	135	54,200	-
Mini Coupe JCW	7.1	1.6	156	62,200	-
Mini Roadster Cooper S	6.4	1.6	135	55,800	-
Mini Paceman Cooper S	7.6	1.6	135	52,500	-

Mitsubishi mitsubishi-motors.co.nz					
Mirage LS •	4.6	1.2	58	-	18,990
Mirage GLS •	4.6	1.2	58	-	21,990
Lancer LS Hatch/Sedan •	7.6	2.0	115	-	30,690
Lancer GSR Hatch/Sedan •	7.6	2.0	115	-	32,990
Lancer SEI hatch/Sedan •	7.6	2.0	115	-	36,990
ASX XLS 2WD •	8.1	2.0	112	-	36,690
ASX XLS 4WD Diesel A/T •	5.8	2.2	112	-	41,990
Outlander LS 4WD CVT •	7.5	2.4	126	-	43,990
Outlander VRX 2.4 CVT •	7.5	2.4	126	-	54,490
Outlander VRX 2.2D 4WD •	5.8	2.2	112	-	56,990
Outlander XLS Plug in Hybrid •	1.9	2.0	88	-	59,990
Outlander VRX Plug in Hybrid •	1.9	2.0	88	-	66,990
Challenger Exceed 4WD 7seat •	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

Nissan nissan.co.nz					
Micra ST •	6.6	1.5	75	-	22,800
Micra Ti •	6.6	1.4	75	-	24,300
Pulsar ST Sedan •	6.7	1.8	96	-	29,990
Pulsar Ti Sedan •	6.7	1.8	96	-	33,490
Pulsar 1.6 Turbo SSS Hatch	7.8	1.6	140	-	39,990
Juke Ti •	6.3	1.6	86	-	34,290
Juke turbo Ti-S	6.3	1.6	86	-	41,990
Qashqai ST Hatch •	6.9	2.0	106	-	35,990
Qashqai TS Diesel •	4.9	1.6	96	-	42,990
Qashqai Ti Hatch •	6.9	2.0	106	-	43,990
Altima ST Sedan •	7.5	2.5	127	-	43,990
Altima Ti Sedan •	7.5	2.5	127	-	53,290
Leaf 0 Emissions 100% electric •	0	electric	90	-	39,990
370Z Coupe	10.4	3.7	245	59,995	63,495
GT-R	12.0	3.8	352	-	191,000
New X-Trail ST 2WD Pet 7Seats	8.1	2.5	126	-	39,990
New X-Trail ST 4WD Pet 5Seats	8.3	2.5	126	-	42,490
New X-Trail Ti 4WD Pet 5Seats	8.3	2.5	126	-	53,290

	L/100km*	Engine	kW	Manual	Auto
Murano	10.9	3.5	191	-	66,390
Pathfinder Petrol ST 2WD •	9.9	3.5	190	-	54,990
Pathfinder Petrol Ti 4WD •	10.2	3.5	190	-	65,990
Patrol	14.5	5.6	198	-	115,000

Peugeot peugeot.co.nz					
208 Active •	4.5	1.2	60	21,990	-
208 Allure 5dr •	5.8	1.6	88	-	28,990
208 GTI	5.9	1.6	147	38,990	-
2008 Active •	6.5	1.6	88	-	31,990
308 CC •	7.7	1.6	115	-	45,990
308 New Access	7.2	1.6	88	-	29,990
308 New Active SW Diesel	6.7	2.0	120	-	39,990
508 Active Petrol	6.3	1.6	88	-	46,990
508 Allure HDi	4.9	2.0	120	-	54,990
508 SW HDi GT	5.0	2.2	120	-	68,990
508 RXH Hybrid Diesel SW 4WD	4.1	2.0	147	-	74,990
Partner HDi	5.8	1.6	66	29,990	-
3008 Active	6.7	1.6	115	-	37,990
3008 Hybrid Diesel 4WD	3.8	2.0	-	-	59,990
4008 Feline 4WD CVT	8.1	2.0	110	-	45,990
RCZ	7.3	1.6	115	59,990	59,990

Porsche porsche.co.nz					
Boxster	8.2	2.7	195	116,200	121,500
Cayman S	8.2	2.7	202	146,500	151,800
911 Carrera	9.0	3.4	257	199,500	205,500
911 Carrera 4S	9.5	3.4	257	241,300	247,300
Macan S	8.7	3.0	250	-	121,000
Macane S Diesel	6.1	3.0	190	-	118,000
Panamera S	8.7	3.0	309	-	262,100
Panamera Diesel (300HP)	6.4	3.0	221	-	203,800
Panamera S E-Hybrid	3.1	3.0	245	-	264,300
Panamera Turbo	10.2	4.8	368	-	351,400

Renault renault.co.nz					
Megane Hatch •	8.2	2.0	102	31,990	34,990
Megane Coupe – Cabriolet	7.9	2.0	103	-	54,990
Megane Renault Sport RS265 Cup	8.7	2.0	184	53,990	-
Megane RD265 Cup Trophée	8.7	2.0	184	59,990	-
Koleos 2.0 DCI 4x4 •	8.3	2.0	110	-	49,990
Koleos 2.5 4x2	9.3	2.5	126	-	37,990
Fluence	7.8	2.0	103	-	34,990

Skoda skoda.co.nz					
Citigo MPI 55	4.7	1.0	55	18,990	19,990
Fabia Hatch TSI 77 •	7.5	1.6	77	-	23,900
Rapid TSI 90 Liftback •	5.4	1.4	90	-	29,900
Rapid TSI 90 Spaceback •	5.8	1.4	90	-	31,300
Yeti 2.0 TDI 4x4 •	6.5	2.0	103	41,400	42,900
Octavia Liftback TSI 103 •	5.4	2.0	103	-	34,900
Octavia Liftback TDI 77 •	3.9	1.6	77	-	36,500
Octavia Liftback TSI 132 •	5.7	1.8	132	-	39,900
Octavia Wagon TDI 110 •	4.5	2.0	110	-	40,100
Octavia Wagon TSI 132 4x4	6.7	1.4	132	-	43,600
Superb Sedan TSI 118	7.1	1.8	118	-	43,900
Superb Sedan TDI 125 Elegance •	5.3	2.0	125	-	53,900
Superb Wagon TDI 103	5.2	2.0	103	-	48,900
Superb Wagon TDI 125 Elegance	6.1	2.0	125	-	56,900
Superb Wagon V6 4X4 Elegance	9.3	3.6	191	-	62,900

SsangYong ssangyong.co.nz					
Korando Sport 4X2	7.3	2.0	110	27,990	29,990
Korando SPR 4X4 Tdi	7.5	2.0	129	-	41,990
Rexton Teammate 4X4 Tdi	9.0/9.2	2.7	121	39,990	42,990
Rexton W Sport 4X4	9.2	2.7	137	-	47,990
Actyon Workmate 2WD Tdi •	7.6/8.1	2.0	114	29,990	31,990
Actyon Workmate 4X4 Tdi	7.3	2.0	114	32,990	35,990
Actyon Sports 4X4 Tdi	7.6/8.1	2.0	114	39,990	41,990
Stavic 2WD Tdi •	7.8	2.0	114	-	39,990
Stavic 4WD Tdi	8.1	2.0	114	-	44,990

Subaru subaru.co.nz					
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WRX •	8.6	2.0	197	48,990	49,990
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WRX STi Premium with spoiler •	10.4	2.5	221	64,900	-
XV •	7.0/7.3	2.0	110	38,990	40,990
XV 2.0i-L •	7.0	2.0	110	44,990	44,990
XV 2.0i-S •	7.0	2.0	110	48,990	48,990
Forester 2.0 Diesel •	5.7	2.0	110	49,990	-
Forester 2.0i •	8.1	2.5	126	-	39,990
Forester Sport •	9.6	2.5	126	-	47,990
Legacy 2.5i Sport Sed/Wagon •	8.9	2.5	123	-	44,990
Legacy 2.5 Premium Sed/Wagon •	8.9	2.5	123	-	49,990
Legacy GT 2.5i B Spec Prem	8.9	2.5	123	-	59,990
Outback 2.0 Diesel	5.8	2.0	110	54,990	54,990
Outback 2.5i Sport •	8.9	2.5	123	-	49,990
Outback 2.5i Premium •	8.9	2.5	123	-	54,990
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Suzuki suzuki.co.nz					
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S-Cross Ltd AWD	6.2	1.6	86	-	35,990
Kizashi GLX Sport •	7.9	2.4	131	-	39,990
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Jimny JX	7.2	1.3	63	19,990	-
Jimny Sierra	7.2	1.3	63	22,990	24,500
Grand Vitara JX 3dr 4WD	8.8	2.4	122	31,690	33,190
Grand Vitara JX 5dr 4WD	9.9	2.4	122	37,500	38,990
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Traveller



Amanda Billing

Performer, actor, jewellery designer and member of the Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra

I LOVE TAUPO BECAUSE BEING

inland, it reminds me of the Wairarapa where I grew up. It can get so hot and dry and still and the lake is just so beautiful. I have memories of being in Taupo over Christmas time when everyone clicks into holiday mode – the watch comes off and everyone goes 'ahhhh'.

The ukulele band is doing an album release national tour in November, but after that, the summer is free for me; I have no idea what I'll do. For the past 10 years I have been busy (acting in *Shortland Street*), but this summer is mine... ☺

➔ See ukulele.co.nz for tour dates.



Boy's own adventure

Jo Percival breaks some rules about travelling with children

ARMED WITH ROAD trip music and a deep reserve of patience, I slide into the traffic heading south from Auckland. I'm aware that parents usually look for the most direct route when they have children on board, but here I am with my five-year-old in the back and only a vague idea that we'll follow the road around the Firth of Thames.

Our first stop is Clevedon for a mid-morning coffee for me and glass of milk for Gus at the Woolshed cafe. The village is still stretching and yawning on a weekday morning. We pass an athletic-looking group of sliver-haired walkers who cluck and smile at my chirpy boy as he gambols excitedly up the street.

We turn off towards Kawakawa

Bay and Gus is stoked when I tell him that he should keep an eye out for anything interesting; we can stop and investigate when he wants to. He glues himself, wide-eyed, to the view, little hands clutching the window sill.

The Clevedon Coast, much like the mirroring Coromandel coast line, is a productive source of seafood, with oyster farms bobbing in regimented rows on the water. We stop to buy a decadent dozen at the Clevedon Coast Oysters factory shop.

Just outside Kaiaua, Gus spots the giant Wrybill sculpture indicating the start of the shorebird coast, a temporary home to thousands of migratory birds in the height of summer, but not much more than expansive estuary today. We stop for a closer look, and he chooses that

spot by the road side, under a chorus of trilling skylarks, to sit and share the pot of oysters.

Nearby Miranda is home of 'The Largest Hot Water Mineral Pool in the Southern Hemisphere'. Luckily, we've packed our togs. The steaming outdoor pool is the epitome of sedate. A small handful of swimmers cast lazy ripples in the glassy water; hushed conversation is interrupted only by the bellow of cows in the neighbouring paddock.

After a couple of hours on the road, I discover the sweet spot where my music volume masks the perpetual driving noise coming from the back seat: "vvvrrrrrrrrrrmmmm."

The afternoon takes us through to the cheese barn at Matatoki: a working cheese factory, and informal



petting farm, with friendly sheep, alpaca, rabbits and guinea pigs.

After we have shared a delicious cheese board, Kelvin, the cheese maker, invites Gus and I to meet the latest additions to the Cheese Barn family: two tiny, week-old goats. As friendly and playful as puppies, they clamber over one another bleating happily, and suck at Gus's fingers between the fence palings.

"I tell him he should keep an eye out for anything interesting to stop and investigate."

In Thames, we explore sunny Pollen Street, where Gus runs along the wide footpath past craft shops, cafés, second-hand shops, takeaway bars and school kids strumming a guitar and singing songs in Maori.

We breakfast the next morning at Cafe Melbourne, part of The Depot complex in Thames, a warehouse restyled in industrial chic with exposed brickwork and hanging lights. The coffee is excellent.

A few minutes' drive north to Tararu, we visit the Butterfly and Orchid Garden, driving through a caravan park thick with puriri and laden avocado trees to the butterfly house, a dome-roofed building set in the bush.

We're early and the butterflies are still having their breakfast: colourful vials of nectar in bright fabric flowers, and pungent over-ripe bananas. The air is humid and thick with fluttering

insects – so many, it seems strange there is no noise. At the far end of the jungly room, a flight of butterflies just released from the hatchery sit perilously still on the paved floor. I warn Gus to watch where he puts his stompy feet. A large brown butterfly with extraordinarily realistic animal eyes on its wings lands on my sleeve, delighting Gus and he comes in for a closer look, until it flutters into his face and he shrieks with laughter.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Smitten at the Butterfly and Orchid Garden; calm bays and wide views over the Firth; Miranda Hot Pools.

The road north is lined with weather-beaten caravans and brightly painted baches, sitting impatiently by the roadside as if waiting to cross over and get to the beach. Fluorescent orange signs advertise bait for sale and fishing charters; pohutukawa trees are festooned with roosting shags.

Coromandel township is serene. We pass by a collection of shops and cafés, locals chatting through ute windows, roadside flowerbeds with fragrant sweet peas and bright poppies.

Turning inland, we follow the signs to the Driving Creek Railway; the pictures of trains irresistible to a mechanically-minded boy. The railway was established by potter Barry Brickell in the 1970s on 60 hectares of land he bought for a mere \$8,000. Barry originally built the narrow gauge railway, mostly by hand over 15 years, to extract the clay he needed for his work.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Aboard the Driving Creek Railway train; Gus enjoying Waterworks; Thames' chic Depot; on pause, Driving Creek.

A keen conservationist, he also re-generated native bush from the scrub and installed a predator fence around the property.

Gus is entranced by the small, colourful trains and jiggles impatiently until we are allowed to board. Even on this quiet mid-week afternoon the carriages are nearly all full and Paul, our driver and host, tells me that in peak summer the trains carry up to 500 people every day.

“Gus is entranced by the small, colourful trains and jiggles impatiently until we board.”

The slow journey chugging through dense native bush is surprisingly tranquil, even with the pattering engine and whine of metal as the train negotiates corners. Gus insists

on sitting as close to the front as possible, so we scrunch in behind the driver's seat, my knees tucked under my chin. As 'official co-driver', Gus is tasked with changing the train's direction as we zig-zag up the hill. He takes on his assignment with gravity: furrowed brow and full body-weight lunges to heave the metal levers.

On our last morning we drive a short way further north to where the road turns inland at Waitete Bay. Along the coast, the road is a swooping, swooning cascade of curves; a tarsealed seam stitches together the brooding expanse of forestry and bush on one side, and

shimmering sea with rocky beaches on the other.

The Waterworks theme park is our final distraction. Gus runs off in a frenzy as soon as we arrive,

flitting from one watery attraction to the next in case there is something even more fun around the corner. Interactive displays involve levers and pipes, re-purposed buckets and rusty saucepans, pumps rigged up to bicycles, hoses and sneaky shower heads attached to trees. The latter sends Gus into hysterics when he realises I'm standing directly in the line of fire, or rather, water. We're both too chicken to go on the flying fox, but soar around the playground area on the 'flying bicycles', and send wooden boats down a flume in a hotly contested race.

We head back to the car, grinning and slightly soggy. Gus settles in sleepily for the drive home. "Mum," he sighs happily, "this was the best holiday, ever." 📷

VISITOR INFORMATION

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Sharing the dream

Louise Richardson reveals a seaside love story

CALL IT A bach, crib or beach house, but behind every Kiwi holiday home lies a history, the tale of

Aileen Lusty's path to Silverdale, where her 120-year-old Stillwater Cottage is now a magnet for visitors from all over the world, is a particularly fascinating one.

"My husband Ken and I owned land here with a jetty for our boat, but we actually lived in our dream home at Albany," she explains.

"When a developer came along and wanted to buy our Albany site

and build apartments on it we were torn because we loved it. But then we hit on the idea of moving the house in pieces and reassembling it on our section at Silverdale."

While the couple had partially solved the problem, the family still needed somewhere to live while rebuilding, so when the next door property came on the market, complete with settler's cottage, everything fell into place.

"We had to do a bit of tidying up before we moved in as it had gone to rack and ruin over the years," she remembers. "There was kikuyu grass

growing up through the floorboards and even inside the walls, but we loved the house so much we really didn't mind."

A friend with interior design skills helped Aileen restore the cottage and the family spent a very happy eight months there before moving back into their old home in its new location.

Following Ken's death in 2010, Aileen decided that the time was right to try something new and she set Stillwater Cottage up as a rent-out bach.

"Right from the very first night I've had nothing but the very best guests," she says.

Although the property is only 30 minutes from bustling downtown Auckland, it feels isolated and is very quiet. It's set against a backdrop of native bush and wading birds such as spoonbills and herons are often seen at the water's edge, while tui make their home in an enormous kowhai tree. Beaches and parks are close by.

The cottage itself is cosy and well-equipped with all the mod cons and departing guests always sing its praises when they sign the comments book.

In 2013, Coral Palmer wrote: "Stillwater Cottage was a lovely romantic place to escape to. It has little touches that really make a difference like fairy lights in the bathroom, electric blankets and Apple TV. My boyfriend proposed to me while we were here so this is an extra special place that we will

always remember!"

Now married and living in Switzerland with her Slovakian husband Branislav Petricek, Coral remembers the occasion fondly.

"We had cooked dinner together and I was sitting on the floor by the heater, which Aileen had put on before we arrived. Branio came and sat down beside me. He had a funny look on his face and something hidden behind his back. I was shocked, but happy, when he produced a beautiful diamond ring and asked if I would marry him!"

The pair had only met 11 months earlier. "Even though we are from completely different sides of the world, we get along very well, are interested in the same things and have the same sense of humour."

The couple hope to return to New Zealand permanently in a few years to start a family and they dream of

owning their own bach one day.

"Until then we'll keep using Bookabach!" says Coral.

Aileen likes to think that Coral and Branio will return to Stillwater Cottage.

"I have a German family who come every year. Their daughter works locally and when they arrive it's like seeing old friends."

When she isn't busy looking after her guests and keeping the cottage pristine, Aileen is a popular local wedding and funeral celebrant, and yes, she has married one couple at Stillwater Cottage. 📸

LEFT: Aileen Lusty on the grounds of Stillwater Cottage.

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OUT FOR THE DAY

Kathryn Webster enjoys walking and being fed well at Langs Beach

IN THE MORNING, across the garden, the view took off: over bush, over ocean, across Bream Bay to Whangarei Heads. Sea birds hovered in the middle distance; the sky stretched out.

We meandered down the garden path between raised beds, past a chook run tucked under fruit trees and into the bush. Jac was showing us around. We went through a kowhai grove, followed a path high above the coast and out to a wind-blown point called Bald Knob, where the view expanded again.

Down a track, we arrived at a compact shelly beach with noisy waves and pohutukawa caught mid-dance. Jac left us to it; left us with our day packs, the day stretching out before us, and no one else in sight.

It took ages just to get to the far end of that first small beach. Constantly distracted by flotsam, shells, smooth stones and other treasures, we let ourselves be taken in and soothed by the warmth of the day. Around the point, we found Langs Beach, where civilization waited and impressive homes had been raised to take full advantage of their locations and provide topics of conversation

for passing walkers. We went up and over and along the road before dipping down again to pick up a coastal track past crazy, pancake-like rock formations and through sweet dells and secret crannies. A shady spot for lunch provided a spectacle of thousands of seabirds swooping, dithering and gathering in a bobbing frenzy, preparing for some mysterious flash mob moment.

Fuelled by homemade sandwiches we summoned what was required to move on, to find more photos to take, more rambling paths to tread. Up a short ladder, over a sturdy style, it was a low-key, kind-hearted walk; it required effort but not so much that we wanted it to be over. When we stopped for a swim it was good to get our boots off though. And when we followed the curve of a hill and found Waipu Cove just there, take-out coffees went down well. The town's excellent murals distracted us for a while then we walked on, aiming to go up the soft white-sand beach to the spit, to where the ferry terns nest, to take what is described as a contemplative walk over the sand hills to the lagoon. But we'd run out of steam. So we called home base and arranged to be picked up.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Langs Beach; Waipu Cove's murals; view from the coastal trail; listening for tui; on the horizon, Hen & Chicken Islands.



It was quite a climb, quite a trek: beautiful in an entirely different way to the day before.

'Home base' was a lodge-style B&B, home of Jac and Natalie Spyksma: gardeners, walkers, cooks, hosts. We'd arrived the night before, been welcomed sincerely into the modern, light- and view-filled guest wing of their home, given a sumptuous meal of local produce and home grown veges, a breakfast with free-range eggs laid within ear shot, and sent off on the day's walk with a homemade picnic complete with Louise cake.

We could be forgiven for wanting to get back there.

Sure enough, soon after taking our boots off for the day, a snack arrived. A really good snack. And then dinner: herb-coated grilled fish, freshly-harvested vegetables, pavlova and crème brulee. It was either all that lovingly-made food or the hot-day walking, but we slept extra well, despite the distraction of the brilliantly starry sky, lit up in splendour with no city-light murk to contend with.

Late the next morning we set out again. Over the road and across farmland we went, into the bush then up, up, to the trig at the eastern end of the Brynderwyns.

It was quite a climb, quite a trek: beautiful in an entirely different way to the day before.

Steep bush heavy with lancewood, kahikatea, totara and rimu filled the land either side of the trail. Fantails followed and played; an occasional tui and distant, crashing keruru caught our ear and we also heard what we're pretty sure were bellbirds.

Up the top, the views exploded open and we could see way across Bream Bay, north to Whangarei, south to Leigh, west to Kaipara Harbour and even, faintly, the Waitakere Ranges. We sat in the shade with our lunch before heading down another path, the Tanekaha Track, to meet Natalie in the carpark for a ride home.

It wasn't really home, of course. It was someone else's home and we just went back to pack the car for the drive to our actual home. But it felt like we'd gone home for the weekend, with all the nurturing and goodness that implies. All that positive, healthy input kept me going for weeks. 🍷

VISITOR INFORMATION

See www.cateredcoastwalks.co.nz for details on catered walking adventures based at Langs Beach, Northland. See aa.co.nz/travel for more travel ideas.

AA



Lady and the Tramp

Alice Galletly travels the Routeburn Track in comfort

A STRANGE WOMAN STARED back at me in the hotel mirror. She wore a full suit of polypropylene; a hat, gloves and jumper in varying shades of blue microfleece; and a pair of khaki zip-off pants that would have made even the leggiest supermodel look dumpy. I gave a satisfied smile. Dressed head-to-toe in my mother's tramping gear, I looked like a real outdoorsy-type.

For our first serious hike, my boyfriend Tom and I had picked the Routeburn Track. We were seduced by the promise of soaring snowy peaks, majestic waterfalls and two fancy lodges equipped with bars and hot showers. More experienced tramping friends had sniffed at our decision to go guided, but we gave them little thought as we slung on our feather-light packs the first morning.

Rain was falling heavily as the bus dropped our group of 29 at the southern entrance, but if the guides were fazed they didn't show it. The three young women were all dressed heroically in shorts, cheerily handing out lunch packs as well as last-minute snippets of motivation.

"Remember, this is your holiday," said Becca. "So the most important thing is to have fun!" And with that, 29 people in waterproof pants disappeared into the bush.

Instantly, we were in another world. We climbed through a thick forest of silver beech trees whose spindly branches knotted and zig-zagged across each other like Pollock paint. Moss carpeted the floor and smothered the trees, coating the forest in soft green fuzz.

After an hour we reached the optional side-walk up to Key Summit

which, on a clear day, offered majestic views of something. "You won't see much today", our guides warned. "But you should still go up because there are some really neat bogs!"

We trudged dutifully up the track, and I tried to suppress a nagging sense of anxiety. What if it rained the whole time? What if we never saw any alpine vistas? What if I never got a chance to zip these hideous pants off into shorts? But as we stepped on to a wooden boardwalk, my thoughts were interrupted by the patchwork of rusty red, ochre and yellow mosses that carpeted the ground.

"Hey wow", I said to Tom. "This is one hell of a bog".

After a steamy, crowded lunch at Howden Hutt, we stepped out to find the rain had stopped and a small patch of blue forming in the sky. It grew as we walked and soon sunlight



TRAVEL CLUB

PHOTOGRAPHY: ALICE GALLETLY / TOMAS COTTLE

was filtering through the trees and splashing cheerfully on to the path.

The afternoon's route lead us past the skyscraper-sized Earland Falls, where we had to pull on our raincoats to avoid getting soaked by the spray. Further on we were treated to our first proper views – indigo mountains iced in an early dump of snow – before meandering down to a flat, grassy field dotted with ribbonwood trees. I realized that this must be The Orchard, which meant the lodge and a cold beer were just around the corner.

Now, I'm sure it's very rewarding to reach a hut at the end of the day, boil up billy and rehydrate some astronaut

lasagna. But there is something to be said for the three-course meal that awaited us at Mackenzie Lodge that afternoon – and more still for the hot showers and soft beds. Had I spoiled myself for tramping forever? If so, I couldn't care less.

The majority of our group was Australian, but there were Americans, Europeans and Japanese in the mix, too. At breakfast the next morning the others at our table tried Marmite for the first time, while I recounted the national tragedy that was Marmageddon.

"It was awful," I told them, between mouthfuls of eggs benedict, "people got so desperate they ate Vegemite."

But I think something was lost in translation.

We started the day in an enchanted forest, zigzagging up mossy stone steps that may have been built by

goblins. Blood thumped in my chest as I paused to remove gloves and extra layers of fleece, and I wondered if I should have done more than a week's training for this.

Eventually we emerged way up above the trees, still slogging towards the sky, but invigorated by sharp air.

The plants were tough as boots up there. Between sun-bleached rocks and golden tussock, Tom spotted the first patch of tiny Edelweiss (then regretted it, as I spent the next four hours singing the song). Mountain daisies battled it out for the last gasp of summer and clumps of grass, burdened with ice, hung in chandeliers from the rock face.

Most of that day was spent on the open mountain ridge and the views were consistently heart-swelling. Across the Hollyford Valley the mountain ranges unfolded in hues

FROM TOP LEFT: Pausing to take in the view; frozen flora; mountain daisies; the goblin staircase; mountain-top stance.



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of yellow through to purple, stretching for miles to a distant shimmer of Tasman Sea.

After lunch, another optional walk up Conical Hill, the highest point on the track, was offered. The guides warned it wouldn't be easy – that the path was steep and may be slippery with ice – “but it's awesome,” they promised. “You'll truly be scaling a mountain.”

This time we didn't hesitate. We scrambled up the hillside, picking over piles of large rocks and dodging trampers skidding down the other way. Near the top we stopped to admire Lake Harris – that day an ominous lead colour – and to scoop patchy clumps of ice into snowballs.

And then we were at the top: lungs full of cold air, eyes racing to absorb the new view.

It was quite an extraordinary thing: to be standing on top of a mountain in remote Fiordland with peaks marching towards the horizon in every direction. It seemed impossible

that we could have walked here. It was as if we had teleported by mistake to a place humans aren't supposed to see.

“This calls for a celebration” I said to Tom, and ceremoniously zipped off the lower half of my pants.

I would pay for that climb up Conical Hill, and it's even more challenging descent, the next day. I emerged from the track a broken woman – twisted and hunched as the beech trees and shuffling like someone learning to ice skate.

Still, I grinned through the pain. Yes, I had slept in soft beds, eaten gourmet meals, and been free of a baby-elephant sized pack for three days. But I was in enough pain to feel like I had done the Routeburn properly. I felt like a true outdoorsy-type. 📷

“It seemed impossible that we could have walked here.”

ABOVE: Clear and clean but too cold to swim in.
BELOW: Rain affected but didn't ruin the view.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Alice tramped as a guest of Ultimate Hikes. See aa.co.nz/travel for more inspiring travel itineraries in this region.

AA



Taking a top ride

Elisabeth Easter rides Northland's cycle trail

THIS IS THE way to go, I thought, swinging into the saddle. To truly appreciate this part of the country, I needed to blaze through the heart of it, on a bike.

I'm in Northland on Nga Haeraenga, the New Zealand Cycle Trail. The first segment, which opened two years ago, spans 20km and takes riders from Kaikohe to Okaihau. Following old rail lines and skirting Lake Omapere, it's super pretty, with an old rail tunnel dating back to 1915 thrown in for good measure. It's a moderately easy ride. Another 14km opened soon after my recent visit and, when fully completed, the trail will cover about 80km, connecting the east and west coasts. Known as the Twin Coast Cycle Trail Pou Herenga Tai these paths are spectacular, showing off tracts of land that, until now, only farmers and hunters have seen.

Pulling into Paihia on a Thursday afternoon, our timing was spot on,

because that's when the farmers' market brightens up the village green. We stocked up on smoked fish, cheeses, artisan breads, eggs and vine-ripened tomatoes in readiness for our jaunt.

Bright and early the following morning, our adventure began in Opuā, 10 minutes' drive from Paihia. At the bottom of the Opuā hill, instead of turning right for the car ferry to Russell, we took a left along Baffin Street to the track to Long Bridge. This terrifically picturesque section is easy riding. It runs alongside rows of pleasure boats in dry docks, then breaks out into mangrove-lined avenues. Thanks to recent king tides, the water was lapping at either side of the trail.

Old train tracks and an impressive brick tunnel are still visible; it's easy to imagine what a thriving place this once was. Fantails flitted across our path in the hope our wheels would churn up some kai. I gazed

longingly at the tucked-away houses and imagined how idyllic living here would be.

We pedalled to an old, crescent-shaped railway bridge that marked the end of the line. By late summer, cyclists will be able to ride all the way through to Kawakawa or, if they time it right, catch a ride on the heritage steam train that operates at weekends and during school holidays.

A little under 14km return, this ride is a little beauty and I wondered how the next leg could possibly better it.

We met Ray from Top Trail Hire and Tours, who bundled us and our bikes into his van because the next segment on our agenda was the Utukura Valley Trail that starts just outside Okaihau. Sure, we could have cycled from Kaikohe to Okaihau, but Ray suggested he drop us off at Okaihau itself. This splendid little town has a cafe, a pub, a dairy and two schools, and, if the vibrant gardens are anything to go by, the

locals are an industrious lot. One has created railway-themed boutique accommodation on her front lawn.

We rode through town and out into the country. Ray suggested we do it this way round, starting with a very steep downhill. This segment isn't on the rail corridor so has a few more twists and turns than the other routes, making the riding a bit more challenging. The loose shingle meant our brakes needed serious bite, but we knew we had the option of getting off and walking if it felt too steep to ride, and we didn't need to do that.

Thanks to the generosity of six farming families, Utukura Valley Trail cuts a swathe through private land. The rich green grass, the woods, the animals, the river rushing over rugged rocks, and the distant squeaking of lofty pines combined to create some of the finest riding I've experienced on Nga Haerenga.

Eventually this trail will continue all the way to Horeke, home to the country's oldest licensed tavern and those geological marvels, the Wairere Boulders. Ray is confident the trail will have a positive effect on the small towns surrounding the cycleway, and, as it becomes more popular, it'll improve the fortunes of places such as Moerewa, Okaihau, Horeke and Kaikohe.

"There's lots of goodwill for the trail coming from various quarters," he says. "Enthusiasm is growing."

Many riders will want to turn around and do the whole thing in reverse, as we had with Opuia, but the prospect of that big uphill made us grateful to find Ray parked at the end of the track, ready to transport us back to Top Trail HQ, which also meant we had time for a dip at Ngawha Hot Springs. It was the perfect end to a perfect day. 📷



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Cycling from Opuia; mangroves fringe the bay; farmland in Utukura Valley; through an old rail tunnel.

VISITOR INFORMATION

For more detail, see toptrail.co.nz or nzcycletrail.com. For more Northland travel itineraries, see aa.co.nz/traveller.

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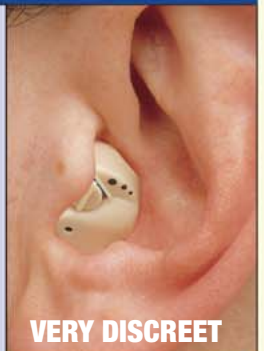
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GONE TROPPO

Karl Puschmann explores Queensland's Great Tropical Drive in a campervan

IT'S HARD TO get a straight answer out of an Australian. Depending on who's talking, the rain arrived yesterday, got comfortable last week, or settled in for the long haul a month ago. The only certainty is it's here now and not going anywhere.

We, however, are. We've five days to see the sights of Queensland's Great Tropical Drive, so a little drizzle is not going to slow us down.

Clocking in at just under 350km, it'd be easy to hoon straight from Cairns to Townsville, the drive's finishing point, in less than five hours. But doing so would mean memories only of dense, floppy-haired sugarcane fields and the odd banana plantation. Like a degustation, you can't scoff the drive; you have to take your time.

Our first stop is at Paronella Park. The attraction has been voted the 'Number 1 Must Do' activity in Queensland, but before arriving, I couldn't work out what it was you actually did there. Turns out you go for a walk around a man's dream.

Jose Paronella spent his life fulfilling a childhood ambition of building a castle. Starting in 1930,

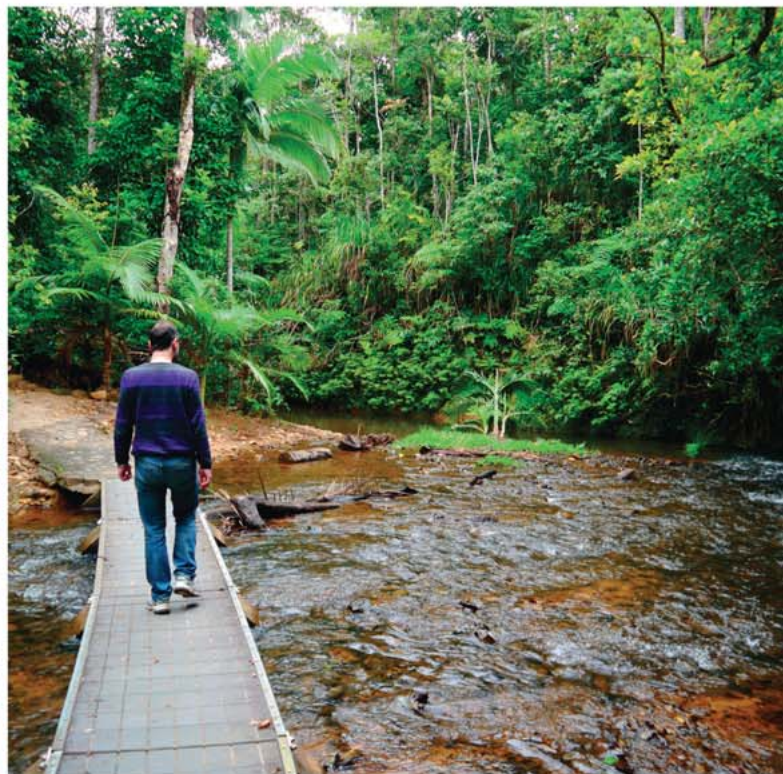
an inspiring tale and undoubtedly the greatest folly I've ever seen. Above all else, it's a nice place to walk around as the splendour of its bygone era comes to life within its mossy ruins.

With a free campervan berth included with admission, the rest of the day's venturing extends no further than the pub across the road where we tuck into a fantastic steak dinner.

"It's a sketchy drive up to Wallaman Falls in a campervan, full of steep corners and potholes."

he drew up plans, despite having no architectural experience, cast thousands of bricks, landscaped its five hectares, and built everything by hand. An astonishing achievement,

Early next morning I'm standing in a rainforest in the Tully Valley listening intently as our guide Doug runs through an extensive list of things that if disturbed, touched, eaten



or looked at funny will – if I'm lucky – kill me. As I learn how to recognise and avoid the plant that causes your skin to burn with the ferocious intensity of a flaming sun for three painful months, I begin to appreciate how carefree tramping through New Zealand's native bush is.

Over five hours we walk the Spirit of the Rainforest tour along an ancient unmarked indigenous path, Doug's machete slashing overgrowth that's stretched onto the trail and tapping fallen logs to scare off any slumbering snakes. Our other guide Caroline shares the forest's stories as well as her family's generations-long personal history with it. It's fascinating and a true privilege and makes for a memorably great day in the bush.

Rain dancing on the campervan roof wakes us the next morning, and we decide to venture out of the seaside township of Mission Beach and go exploring. Nearby we discover the characterful Bingali Bay Café, and over in South Mission Beach we excitedly spot two joeys

chilling on someone's lawn. Our travels lead us to the end of a non-descript cul-de-sac where a jetty leads down to an ominously murky river. 'Achtung!' exclaims a large yellow sign as way of warning that there are crocs in the swampy waters. Naturally, we decide to stalk one out.

I pull the campervan up as close to the water's edge as I dare, and we sit and wait and stare at the water. Eventually, the hushed hypnotic flow of the river begins rippling irregularly, right where the jetty gets swallowed up by the water. Sure enough, slowly gliding past at the river's edge is a croc stalking us right back.

Later, we push the tropical theme to breaking point on this grey day by drinking cocktails poolside before taking an early evening stroll along Mission Beach. Even in rubbish weather, its deep golden sand and shoreline palm trees impress. On a sun drenched day, it'd be glorious.

The following morning we come to appreciate the vastness of Oz as we attempt to sightsee. Minor detours

PREVIOUS PAGE: Queensland's mighty Wallaman Falls. **FROM TOP LEFT:** Paronella Park's handbuilt castle; a gentle rain forest walk near Mission Beach as opposed to the real deal the day before; time for a pint at the pub with no beer; the colourful Bingali Bay Café.



turn into major missions due to the distances involved.


In Ingham we stop at the famous Lees Hotel, celebrated in song as the *Pub with No Beer*, a problem I can confirm they've now sorted, before continuing on to Girringun National Park to see a waterfall.

It's a sketchy drive up to Wallaman Falls in a campervan, full of steep narrow corners and an unpaved section peppered with potholes. Under brollies and plastic ponchos we gaze across the gully at the thundering falls. Plunging 268m straight down, Wallaman is Australia's highest single drop waterfall, and I get slightly vertiginous just looking at it.

It's a welcome surprise to find our final day is hot, bright and cheerful; a tantalising glimpse of Queensland at its best. Better late than never I think, leaping into the natural

pools at Little Crystal Creek in the Paluma Range National Park. The water, which comes trickling down from the mountain, is clear, chilling and refreshing.

After a nosy around Townsville's Reef HQ, a massive aquarium filled with coral reef from Great Barrier and home to dazzling exotic fish, including a very cool hammerhead shark, our journey ends at a beachfront restaurant.

Here, at the sunny end of the road, the trip gains new perspective. It may not have been the tropical trip we'd hoped for, but we found plenty of fun along the way. 

VISITOR INFORMATION

Karl Puschmann travelled courtesy of Tourism Queensland, Qantas and Britz. See aa.co.nz/travel for special Member deals on travel insurance.

Lounging Around

I must be the only person who has ever looked forward to a 4am airport check-in. I was a guest of Qantas and they'd invited me into their airline lounge.

I'm not going to lie. It was pretty great. I enjoyed a decent breakfast buffet, made multiple raids on the muffin tray, and watched some live sport. And while 4am is far too early to hit the sauce, the fully stocked beer fridge and very nice spirit selection had me considering it. At least until my girlfriend saw what I was up to and flashed me a very disapproving look...

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Where the wild street beats are

Garth Cartwright explores New Orleans

ON A HUMID September afternoon I landed at Louis Armstrong Airport. Having visited the city affectionately known as 'the Big Easy' twice in the '90s, I wondered what I would find a few years after Hurricane Katrina submerged the city in a toxic tide.

Across six days I explored New Orleans, getting a sense of its layout, character, flavour, its history and its future. Staying in the Marriot on Canal St placed me at the heart of the city: Canal is the main street, to the east is the historic French Quarter, to the west the burgeoning Warehouse District and lush mansions of the Garden District. Due north leads to Treme, the proudly independent African American neighbourhood, and at the end of Canal is the mighty Mississippi River.

I explored all these neighbourhoods. The French Quarter contains a remarkable architectural beauty in its 18th and 19th century buildings with cast iron railings from which Spanish moss and other plants sway in the breeze. It is also the heart of tourist New Orleans, so is filled both with superb restaurants and tourist tack. The legendary Bourbon St is now a kilometre-long stretch of loud bars, strip clubs, tacky T-shirt outlets and

junk food vendors. It is aimed at stag and hen parties and by midnight is thick with drunken, messy tourists. Avoid. Much more pleasant are the streets further south in the French Quarter: Royal, Chartres and Decatur. Café Du Monde on Decatur has been serving delicious coffee and beignets since 1862 and provides a great patio to watch the activities (street dancers, musicians, horse and buggy taxis) surrounding Jackson Square. The French Quarter is filled with buskers from mid-morning to midnight. Many play traditional Dixieland jazz, but my favourites were the black brass bands who number up to 16 youths and swell across sidewalk and street as they blast their unique syncopated funk.

The Warehouse District is home to most of the city's major museums as well as several new hotels, music venues and restaurants. A huge World War II museum and the nearby Ogden Museum of Southern Art are both worth visiting. The Garden District is best seen from a streetcar and remains home to the city's aristocracy and, yes, they still tend to live in mansions that could have been in *Gone With The Wind*.

Treme acts as an extreme contrast to the Garden District having been the neighbourhood where free black men were first allowed to buy property. The boundary between Treme



"New Orleans natives are among the friendliest people I have ever met."

and the French Quarter is marked by Louis Armstrong Park and Congo Square; the latter being where slaves were allowed to gather on a Sunday and dance and sing, so planting the roots of the remarkable music that has grown from this city to conquer the world. That said, both square and park are nondescript and Treme's charm lies in its offbeat African culture museums and 'shotgun shacks': small, brightly-coloured wooden houses. These lend a Caribbean flavour to a city that is, in many ways, more the capital of the Caribbean than a US city: Catholicism, African religions (ie voodoo) and a laidback approach to life being characteristics of the Big Easy.

As the sun sets, music erupts across the city. A short walk past the French Quarter is Frenchman St where almost every building houses either an elegant club or a dive bar where jazz and blues and funk and rock bands play. The clubs tend to charge admission, but the dive bars are free with the bands playing for tips. And what bands!

Noted music bars like Tipitinas, The Hi-Ho

Club and The Maple Leaf are all a taxi ride away and don't think of skimping on the fare and enjoying a balmy evening walk to get there. New Orleans can be a violent city and naïve tourists occasionally become casualties. Don't let that put you off visiting. The central tourist areas are thoroughly policed and very safe: I walked from the Marriott around the Warehouse District and French Quarter at all hours of the day and night.

New Orleans natives are amongst the friendliest people I have ever met. Their drawling accent and local slang – "who dat?" is the city's favourite expression – is as rich as this city's remarkable music and Creole cuisine. "Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans?" sang the city's most famous son, Louis Armstrong. Today I can finally answer, "yes, I do know." 📷



FROM TOP LEFT: Steet music in New Orleans's French Quarter; at night, the music moves indoors; St Louis Cathedral.

VISITOR INFORMATION

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Last Name:

Birthdate: Day Month Year

Address:

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☐ Boy ☐ Girl

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Please ✓ books you are ordering	Regular \$14.99	Big \$19.99	Big Hardcover \$39.99	Total
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Sofia the First	5839	5840	5840H	
Disney Planes	5735	5736	5736H	
Sesame Firsts	5843	5844	5844H	
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AA

My AA



Abbie Mackay

AA Traveller
Marketing Manager

ABBIE'S JOB INVOLVES working on the AA's travel websites and social media, managing campaigns like NZ's Most Loved Beaches and AA's 101 Must-Do's, and creating leisure and travel-related content for Members.

This means she'll be extra busy as the travel season in New Zealand draws near.

"Travel is quite seasonal so we're getting into the busy period now," she says. "This year we're launching an updated 101 Must-Do's For Kiwis, which will focus on things to do this summer: events and activities that are really big at the moment or have seen some exciting changes, like The New Zealand Cycle Trail. It might also include places which are about to undergo a change so are worth checking out now." »



» Abbie is a keen traveller herself, and admits that working in the industry means she's often dreaming of her next getaway.

"I had done a lot of overseas travel before starting this job, but since I've been in the role I've been inspired to travel more in New Zealand. For example, I'm going to Queenstown and Wanaka this New Years rather than heading overseas. And that's one of the messages we want to get out there to Members and all Kiwis, that there's so much to do in NZ, it's unique, and it's easy to head away somewhere amazing even if just for a weekend."

Abbie organises lots of great travel and event-related benefits for Members, but says one of the biggest challenges is making sure all Members know about them.

"We have lots of Member benefits on offer: discounts on movie tickets, accommodation and travel insurance. These aren't as well-known as our roadservic, and some other benefits, so we're always aiming to increase awareness.

"We send out emails and put information in *AA Directions*, but social media is also a great way to announce new benefits, events and offers. We've got nearly 42,000 fans on the AA Traveller Facebook page and that's become a great place to promote NZ in general as well as the services that we offer."

Despite things being extra busy at work, Abbie is looking forward to the arrival of warmer weather.

"I can't wait for beach time, barbeques, heading away for long weekends and day trips, and ticking off a few of this summer's 101 Must-Do's myself."

Glovebox guide

Tips to keep yourself and your passengers safe if your vehicle breaks down and you can't pull a safe distance away from the road:

- 1 Park your vehicle as far to the left-hand side of the road as possible.
- 2 Turn on hazard lights.
- 3 If it is dark, raining or foggy, turn on your vehicle's parking lights.
- 4 If it's safer to remain in the vehicle, ensure all occupants sit in seats as far from traffic as they can and fasten their seatbelts.
- 5 If you feel it is safer for you and your passengers outside of the vehicle, ensure you:
 - leave the vehicle from the side away from traffic (usually the passenger door).
 - take all passengers with you.
 - find a safe area away from the road or behind a roadside barrier.
- 6 If your life is at immediate risk call 111; if there is danger but not life threatening, call *555 to inform Police.
- 7 AA Members can call *222 from their mobile phone for AA Roadservice assistance, log a callout on the AA Roadservice app, or use an emergency roadside phone if available.
- 8 Wait for roadside assistance; do not attempt to fix the vehicle yourself.
- 9 **Do not approach** the roadside assistance vehicle when it arrives: stay in your vehicle or in the safe area you have moved to and wait for the service officer to approach you.
- 10 Follow roadside assistance instructions.

Keep these tips handy, or download at aa.co.nz/breakdownsafetyguide



KEEPING YOU IN THE CLEAR

Your car's windscreen is one of the few things between you and the elements. Rushing wind, rain and hail, dirt and stones at up to 100kph per hour: it takes a beating so you don't have to!

The windscreen also plays a vital part in the structural integrity of your car and, for newer models, may house electronics and sensors.

But your windscreen isn't indestructible. If it's already chipped, a slammed door or even the normal vibrations associated with driving could turn that chip into a major problem – and that's something no one wants at high speed.

Help is at hand. The AA's mobile auto glass specialists can come directly to you. Once they've assessed the damage, AA Auto Glass will either repair the chip or replace your windscreen on the spot. They carry a full range of windscreens as well as custom side glasses and rear glasses.

Members receive discounts on AA Auto Glass products and all glass comes with a no-fault repair warranty. We also carry out work on behalf of most major insurers.

➔ Call an AA Auto Glass specialist on **0800 300 120**



Fair Deal



When the time comes to replace your car, there are a few options for selling your old one.

Trading it in is a relatively no fuss way but you're not necessarily going to recover the car's true market value. You are more likely to get a better price if you sell it privately.

Online selling platforms now dominate private car sales and AA Members have one that is free to use, AA Carfair.

There is no catch; AA Members can simply go to aacarfair.co.nz to list their car for free. There are thousands of car listings and car reviews. Potential buyers can also access other services on the site, including advice with finance and insurance, AA Vehicle Inspections and Vehicle History Reports.

➔ For more, go to aacarfair.co.nz



Damaged Windscreen?

Exclusive deals on windscreen repairs for AA Members.

- 10% discount on windscreen replacements
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- We come to you

Call **AA Auto Glass** today on **0800 300 120** or visit aa.co.nz/autoglass to make a booking.

10% is off the recommended retail price of AA Auto Glass windscreen replacement services.



Auto Glass

Movies for Members

Movie fans will be stoked to hear that AA Members can now save up to 40% off* movie tickets. Go online to aa.co.nz/eventcinemas to pre-purchase your movie vouchers at the discounted prices. The savings apply to all adult, child, senior and family passes. You can also send movie vouchers as a gift.

Vouchers can be redeemed within six months of purchase at all EVENT Cinemas New Zealand, The Embassy Theatre, and Rialto Cinemas Newmarket and Dunedin.

➡ Visit aa.co.nz/eventcinemas to purchase tickets

* Saving of 40% is based on the maximum standard adult price and applies to adult eSaver tickets. Terms and conditions apply. See aa.co.nz/eventcinemas for full terms and conditions.

Become our official movie reviewer!

Fancy yourself a film buff? We're looking for someone skilled in the art of movie watching to be the AA's official movie reviewer for 2015.

For one year our reviewer will receive a double pass to EVENT Cinemas every month to review a film of their choice, be it the latest action blockbuster or a weepy drama, it's up to them!

Their review, photo and by-line will be posted on the AA Directions website and we'll share the reviews at facebook.com/aa.co.nz.

If you think you've got what it takes, send a 150-200 word sample movie review to movievouchers@aa.co.nz by 30 November 2014. The winner will be notified via email no later than 13 December 2014.

➡ For more information including terms and conditions see aa.co.nz/moviereviewer.



Hot Wheels

Big Boys Toys is coming to Auckland's ASB Showgrounds in November and will feature the New Zealand unveiling of the McLaren P1 supercar and appearances by 3-Time Indy Car Champion Scott Dixon.

As well as the best in extreme sport, including FMX, BMX and stunt car driving, the Tui Public House will feature comedians and bands, and Big Boys Toys' first ever Truck Show.

AA Members can purchase tickets online at aa.co.nz/bigboystoys until midnight, November 6, 2014 at a special discounted rate of \$17 – that's 15% off the 'early bird' price. Tickets can also be purchased at the gate by showing your AA Membership card for \$22.

➡ Big Boys Toys runs from November 7–9. Go to aa.co.nz/bigboystoys to book.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ISTOCKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Great Summer Guarantee

The great Kiwi summer is nearly upon us! If you're counting down the days until summer holidays and looking for ideas to make the most of the sunny season, look no further...

We've curated a list of 101 Must-Do's THIS Kiwi summer!

You'll find ideas on what to do and where to go over the next few months, from events and activities to classic spots, hidden gems and new discoveries. Whether you're looking for something to do with mates, on your own or as a duo, there'll be something to inspire you to get the best out of this summer. And many of our recommended 101 picks are free.

➔ To find out what made it to this summer's 101 Must-Do's and to be in to win some sweet prizes, visit 101mustdos.co.nz

101 MUST-DO'S
FOR KIWI'S

AA Traveller



PHOTOGRAPHY: ISTOCKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Heading overseas? Buy your travel insurance with AA Traveller and receive 15% off your policy.*

*AA Members get 15% off standard policy pricing. Non-Members get 10% off standard policy pricing. Discounts apply until 12 January 2015. T&Cs apply.

AA

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0800 500 444 or visit an AA Centre**

PARKING PROPOSAL MISSES MARK

AA Members are dubious about Auckland Transport's parking plans, according to a survey of Auckland Members. The city's proposal to increase parking charges to encourage use of public transport is relevant to all New Zealanders, as local government officials could follow suit and review their own parking rules.

The AA's advisor on infrastructure, Barney Irvine, says that while most Auckland AA Members support the development of public transport, they don't yet see it as a viable alternative.

"About 12% of our Members work in the CBD but the rest are spread out all over the city and commuting by car is the only realistic option," he says.

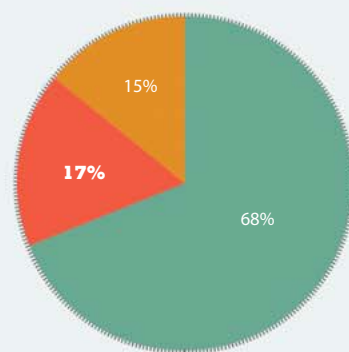
Barney says that if Auckland Transport wants the proposal to succeed, the public transport network needs to be developed. He says Auckland Transport also needs to show that parking price hikes would be offset by increased convenience for motorists when it comes to finding and paying for parking.

"We need to see more carrot, less stick," he says.

➔ Visit aa.co.nz/government-submissions to read our submission

How do you feel about increasing parking restrictions to encourage greater public transport?

■ Oppose ■ Support ■ Unsure



1100+ Members surveyed

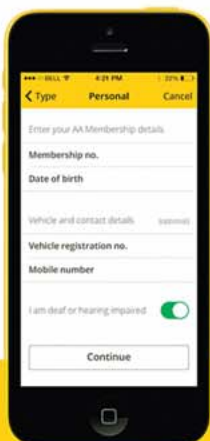
ROAD SIGNS

A number of deaf and hearing-impaired AA Members are making good use of the AA Roadservice app to request help when their vehicle breaks down.

The AA has worked in conjunction with Deafradio, a Deaf-run NZ Sign Language (NZSL) hub, to launch a video in NZSL to spread awareness about the app. The video can be found at seeflow.co.nz/roadserviceapp.

The app has many features, including making use of the GPS capability of your smartphone device to automatically send the AA your breakdown location – especially useful when you're in unfamiliar territory.

The app can be found at aa.co.nz/mobile-app and is available for iPhone, Android and Windows Phone 8.



If you're deaf or hearing impaired, you can turn the toggle on. This will help the AA communicate more easily with you.

MAKING ITS MARK

Qualmark is now in partnership with TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel website.

"Accommodation providers in New Zealand who have made the commitment in achieving an independent Qualmark star rating will have their rating automatically displayed within their listing on TripAdvisor," says Tim Keeling, General Manager of Qualmark New Zealand.

"The addition of Qualmark star ratings on TripAdvisor simply allows the consumer to be more informed, and that can only be good for business."

Qualmark is a joint venture between the AA and Tourism New Zealand.



On the road cover

Car insurance can seem complicated and full of jargon, so we've come up with a couple of commonly asked questions to help you understand how it all works, and make sure you have the right cover for you and your vehicle.

Are red cars really more expensive to insure? It's a common myth that red cars are more expensive to insure because they look flashier and faster than other coloured cars. The truth is that the colour of your car doesn't have any bearing on the cost of your insurance. We do consider the year, make and model of your car, as well as any modifications and accessories that have been added after the car came off the assembly line, but the colour of your car is not a factor and it will only go the speed that you drive it!

If I buy another car, do I need to update my insurance policy, or will my existing insurance automatically cover me? Your existing car insurance is not transferable to another car, so you will need to update your policy with your insurer. This is because each insurance policy is a separate contract tailored to the specifications of your particular vehicle, including year, make and model.

There are over 7,000 types of vehicles in New Zealand, and each is grouped to help AA Insurance determine premiums. This is based on our claims data that tells us how often each vehicle type is involved in a claim, and how much that claim costs. Based on this information, which is constantly refined, we can apply key rating factors to an initial base premium in order to come up with an individual's vehicle insurance premium.

While you are required to provide up-to-date information to your insurer if you replace your car, AA Insurance does offer a grace period of up to seven days cover for your replacement car, if it meets certain criteria. However, you will need to contact us within the seven day period to continue cover for your replacement car. If you aren't an AA Insurance customer, then it will pay to check your coverage with your own insurer.

➔ For more questions on car insurance visit aainsurance.co.nz/insurance-tips.



Insurance
Policy



CANTERBURY UPDATE

AA Insurance continues to work hard for its Canterbury customers affected by the earthquakes. At the end of August, the following progress had been made:

84%
properties
sorted

171
homes with major
repairs/rebuilds
completed or work
underway

\$258
million
paid

278
major repairs/
rebuilds in the
planning and
consenting phase

1,575
minor repairs
completed

Hosts with the Most

AA Traveller has unveiled 2014's top motel and holiday park hosts who provide their guests with exceptional hospitality.

"This year's winners of our AA Traveller hospitality awards demonstrate how the little things can make a difference for guests and how easy it is to make people feel at home while staying away from home," says Moira Penman, General Manager of AA Traveller.

Jump-starting cars, booking boat trips and changing tyres are some of the little things Helena and Craig Stratford of Mercury Bay Holiday Park, Whitianga, have done for their guests. They are the winners of the holiday park award, the AA Traveller Spirit of Hospitality award.

The sign on the wall greeting visitors at the Argent Motor Lodge in Hamilton says 'Arrive as strangers leave as friends', and reflects the values of owners Richard and Clare Gallagher. They are the winners of the motel award, the AA Traveller Supreme Host of the Year award.



LEFT: Helena and Craig Stanford.
BELOW: Richard and Clare Gallagher.

AA Traveller

The 2014 finalists are:

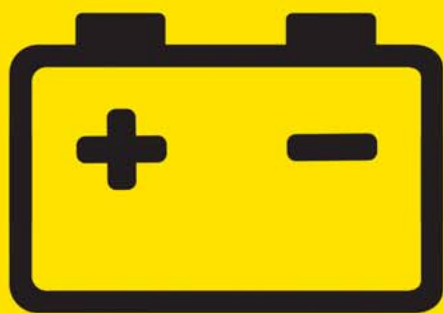
Holiday parks finalists:

All Seasons Holiday Park Rotorua; Aspiring Holiday Park & Motels (Wanaka); Bowentown Beach Holiday Park (Waihi Beach); Mawley Holiday Park (Masterton).

Motel finalists: Astra Motor Lodge (Hamilton); Pioneer Waterfront Apartments (Paihia).



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- July – C Davenport, Richmond.
- June – WS Easton, Kerikeri.
- May – DW Burnett, Auckland.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ISTOCKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

New AA Maps and Guides

Hitting the road this summer? Stop off at an AA Centre and check out our range of 2015 AA Maps and Guides, free for AA Members.

Wherever you are headed we'll show you the way, with new city maps including Waiheke Island, Coromandel, Kapiti Coast and more.



INSPECTIONS UPDATED

A Vehicle Inspection is one of the most useful tools a car buyer can use ahead of the decision to purchase.

Inspectors check a vehicle inside and out and provide a report. Following feedback from customers, the report has been revamped to make it more user-friendly.

AA Motoring National Operations Manager Kyle Lincoln says while the actual Vehicle Inspection stays the same, customers will find the report easier to understand. The report will provide a clearer and more concise explanation of a vehicle's condition in simple, non-technical terms and demonstrate exactly what has been checked, what items are deemed satisfactory, and which might warrant extra attention.

➔ Visit aa.co.nz/inspections or phone 0800 907 788 to book a vehicle inspection.

AA Motoring



Smarter Fuel

Keeping track of fuel savings will now be easier than ever with a new AA Smartfuel app for Apple and Android smartphone users.

It is now easy to:

- Check card balances
- See what discounts may be expiring
- See the last 10 transactions

AA Smartfuel users earn discounts by swiping their card at participating retailers which include BP and participating Caltex fuel stations. Discounts accumulate on the user's account, which can then be redeemed when they buy up to 50 litres of fuel at any of the participating stations.

➔ For more information, go to aa.co.nz/AAsmartfuel.co.nz



PHOTOGRAPHY: ISTOCKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Set Sail



AA Members can set sail for less this summer, with up to 20% off Interislander fares.*

The 92km trip between Picton and Wellington is an absolute must-do for all travel-loving Kiwis – it's even made our list of 101 Must-Do's THIS Kiwi summer. Find out more at 101mustdos.co.nz.

To take advantage of the special AA Member discount, book online at interislander.co.nz and enter one of the following promo codes on the payment page:

- For 10% off Saver change fares: AACARDSC1
- For 20% off Easy change fares: AACARDEC1

You can also book in person at an AA Centre, where a travel consultant can help with any other travel arrangements you need to make.

Don't forget to show your AA Membership card at check-in!

*Subject to blackout dates and does not apply between Christmas holidays (15/12 - 25/01) inclusive on any year and Easter holidays (2/04/2015 - 7/04/2015 and 22/03/2016 - 30/03/2016). Discount amount has no refund value. Normal fare conditions apply. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Only valid for tickets purchased online at interislander.co.nz or in an AA Centre. AA Membership card must be shown at check-in.

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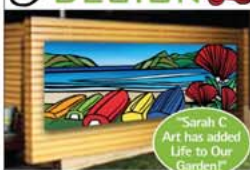
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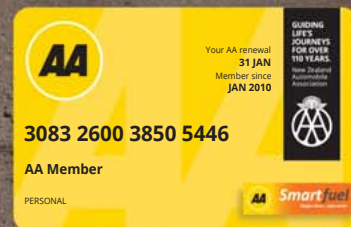


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