

OUTLOOK

MAGAZINE OF THE MARRAM COMMUNITY

AUTUMN 2017

WILD WESTPORT

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WILD WESTPORT FULL OF HIDDEN GEMS!

By Carmen O'Shaughnessy, Sales and Marketing Manager

The West Coast is perhaps New Zealand's best kept secret – so much more than you'd expect! Unlike anywhere else in New Zealand, it's a glimpse back in time to how the countryside used to be.

When I started writing this, I really didn't realise what a great place this is and why it's so worth visiting. So let me fill you in on what I found and you be the judge!

Look past Westport's rough exterior and you'll discover hidden gems. The landscape is vast, rugged and untamed.

With an annual rainfall to rival a tropical rain forest and a proud history of forestry, coal and gold mining, it attracts a hardy breed of adventurous souls who prefer a catch of whitebait to a latte and brioche.

So, check out these cool things to do.

Top 10 things to do in Westport:



1

Taste some awesome beers! West Coast Brewery is a great place to drop in, take a tour, taste some beers and enjoy a good laugh.



2

Check out the local art galleries as Westport has a heap of them. Honeycomb Gallery, Whanake Gallery or Peter Homewood's Art Gallery are some of the most popular.



3

Hike Charming Creek! And yes it's especially great during or after a good rainfall: a swingbridge, rainforest, tunnels, and waterfalls!



4

Visit Punakaiki and the spectacular Pancake Rocks.



5

Visit the Coaltown Museum. Dedicated to the local history of coalmining days that made it the town it is today.



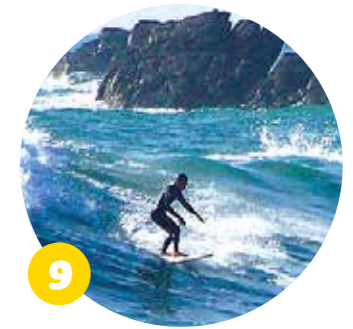
6

Jump on the Denniston Experience, a train ride along the old coal transport road high above the dramatic Waimangaroa Gorge and walk 200 metres into the first of the historic 1880's Denniston coal mines. State-of-the-art audio and visual effects simulate the harsh life of a Denniston miner. A must see no matter what the weather.



8

Go mountain biking! And if it rains it just adds to the fun, nothing like a bit of fun in the mud!



9

Surf at North Beach or Tauranga Bay for some of Westport's famous surf breaks.



7

Give caving a try. Such fun to be had with this ultimate caving experience involving tubing and climbing.



10

And finally white water rafting down the Buller River, one of NZ's epic rivers for this!

So go check out Westport, a great place to spend a bit of time or include in a South Island road trip.

Marram's got you covered there for accommodation with 2 homes available, one's even pet friendly. Pricing from \$60-\$80 per night or from \$200-\$295 for the week, depending on the season.

These homes were completely renovated mid 2014 so have all the modern Marram fittings to make your stay enjoyable!

We also want to keep these two Marram gems in this fantastic location for our future, so frankly we need you guys to use them! It would be such a shame to lose them through low usage.

Go have fun in Westport...

BOOK NOW!



REFURBISHMENTS THIS YEAR!

We've a stack of refurbishments planned for this year starting 1st May; 20 homes in 7 locations to be exact! What Debbie & Fiona (our Property Team) do to these homes surpasses what most motels can manage these days. They keep the housing stock up to date for you and your family. Once they're finished with their reno's, these homes are fresh, modern, clean and hip!

This year in our line-up we've:

Acacia Bay, Turangi, Ngarimu Bay, Martinborough, Rotorua, Paraparaumu and Dunedin.



BAXTER OUR OFFICE-BUDDY!

Hands up for having a dog at work! We all put our hands up early last year, so with a little convincing, the Chief said YES! And what a great idea it's been.

Rufus was our first canine recruit until his mother, Erica went on maternity leave, but it was only a matter of days before Baxter was in! Good old Murray did a quick recruit, so we weren't left too long without a cute four-legged office buddy.

Let us share with you some of the top reasons why enlisting a four legged friend for the office could be the best decision you could make: (BTW Baxter ticks all these boxes big time!)

- 1. Reduce stress** – How can you not feel at ease when looking into the cheerful eyes of a dog? It's an instant mood booster and miraculously all the stress of work seems to dissipate as soon as a pet is around.
- 2. Brings the team together** – A cute dog often becomes a shared interest among employees, creating a new point of conversation.

- 3. Encourages healthy living** – If you've an office dog, it requires regular walking and your colleagues need exercise for the sake of their wellbeing just as much.
- 4. Increased productivity** – Taking short breaks away from your desk to spend time with the dog could work wonders for employees' productivity. Research has found that giving yourself a bit of a breather allows you to give your mind a bit of a break and return to your work feeling refreshed and engaged.



Congratulations ERICA



Erica our Accounts Administrator recently went on maternity leave and welcomed her little boy Leith into the world. Here's a little pic of the two of them.

Welcome CLAIRE AND WHAIA TO THE TEAM!



Whaia



Claire

So with Erica on maternity leave, we welcome **Claire**, our new Accounts Administrator to the team as Erica's replacement for the year. It's great to have her on board helping to keep all the accounts up to scratch.

Whaia has also recently joined us in the Enquiries Team. So if you happen to be phoning or emailing us, you may have the lovely Whaia on the other end, helping you out with your next holiday booking or enquiry.

NOTICE BOARD

REMITTANCE ADVICE - INFO FOR YOU

Remittance advice notices are issued when Healthcare Requests are paid. These outline detail around what has been reimbursed and reasons for why some receipts haven't been reimbursed. Please read this notice as it provides valuable information for you and is a good way to understand your healthcare request payment.

CHECK IN/CHECK OUT: MAKE SURE YOU GET IT RIGHT!

Check in: 2pm (no earlier please)

Check out: 10am – if you book a clean or the house is cleaned for you. 11am – if you clean yourself.

CLEANING SERVICE AVAILABLE

Why don't you book a cleaner? If hassle free is what you're after at the end of your stay, then this is a good option! Most homes have a cleaning service available, so don't forget about this option. Details of booking the clean are on your confirmation papers and also on the holiday home noticeboard. Just give the cleaner a bell.

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP



NEW CHARITABLE BENEFIT

The Trust is currently looking at a new charitable benefit and ways to fund it. We're throwing ideas around at the moment and will let you know when we've something more to tell you.



SCANNING COMING SOON!

Soon you'll have the option of sending your scanned healthcare receipts in by email!

We've been looking at this option for a while, as we want to make things easy as, when it comes to you being reimbursed for your healthcare expenses. We'll let you know when we're ready to go. Don't worry, we're still keeping the option of posting your receipts in. Just giving you another choice!

Watch this space!



MOBILE MARRAM COMING SOON

We're pretty excited that very soon we'll be launching our Mobile Marram website! So if you've had some frustrations with booking Marram holidays on your mobile device, that will soon be all in the past. Woohoo!

The mobile site is focused on making your search and holiday bookings easy!

You can also swap back to our full site if you need any information on the healthcare side of things.

MARRAM'S WORKING...

Just want to share with you some stats on how Marram helped over the last year.

It's great to see so many employees from our Affiliated Organisations involved with Marram - 28% of eligible employees.

In the last year, \$3.7 million was paid out in healthcare reimbursements – that included our contributors, their partners and dependent children.

Also, a whopping 15,507 holidays were taken!

We know Marram really helped out some families as we get so much awesome feedback. Great to hear your stories and the fun times you've had in the holiday homes. It's always appreciated and makes us feel good about what we're doing.

Keep enjoying Marram, keep using those holiday homes and if you're a Contributor, keep sending in those healthcare receipts. Not that we want you sick! But if you happen to be, glad Marram can help out.

\$3.7
MILLION
HEALTHCARE
REIMBURSEMENTS




15,507
HOLIDAYS
TAKEN

FUEL UP YOUR TANK and YOUR TUMMY!

Have a look around your office. Who looks like they need a holiday? Probably everyone huh? Well here's your chance to do a good deed and in return we'll fuel up your tummy and your tank.

ON OFFER, WE'VE GOT:



OR



OR



\$40 Z Gift Card – which can be used for anything at Z, from fuel to mince pies for the whole family.

\$40 New World Gift Card – which you could be putting towards your grocery shop.

\$50 Marram voucher – which you can use to make your next Marram holiday even more affordable.

It's simple – just tell your workmates to go to www.marram.co.nz and sign-up (making sure they enter your details as their referrer) and you'll **both** win a gift voucher of your choice.

The boring stuff: Make sure you tell your workmates to choose "Referred by Marram Contributor" when the application asks how they heard about Marram.

- The promotion only runs until 19 March 2017 so get recruiting now!
- The promotion is only available to current Contributors.
- Marram T&C's apply.

PHOTO COMPETITION

CELEBRATING ALL THINGS SUMMER!

Get your fav summer pic into us! We want to see it!!! Show us the fun you've had over the Summer or some amazing shot you've taken of something.

We've got a **week in a Marram home** to give away to the winner!

Email or Post us your fav pic by **19th March** to be in with a chance. Then watch out...if you're the winner, your photo will star in the next Marram *Outlook* and on our Facebook page.



Email: enquiries@marram.co.nz
and in subject line enter:
Summer photo competition

Mail to: **Marram Community Trust, PO Box 24006, Te Aro, Wellington 6142**

*P.S. Wellingtonians,
you may be limited!*