

WINTER 2021

# OUTLOOK

THE MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST MAGAZINE



MARRAM  
COMMUNITY TRUST



## IN THIS WINTER ISSUE:

Aotearoa 'Open for Winter'

Recognition comes slowly for our Kiwi Coastwatchers

Aussie bubble busters love their Marram holidays

A digital path to mental wellbeing

And aging Easy Riders on the holiday that spins their wheels



# Aotearoa Open for Winter

# Aotearoa New Zealand doesn't close for winter. Far from it!

Some of the best holiday action can be found after we send summer packing to the northern hemisphere.

We're blessed to live in a spectacularly beautiful country which enjoys a temperate climate and doesn't demand we all move indoors for winter.

Far from being snowed under or hibernating in our overheated homes for weeks on end, we simply put on an extra Merino layer or two and it's business as usual.

The downside - is that as the days get shorter it can get harder to fit everything in and we can forget to take a break, top up our mental health credits and recharge.

## It's time to recharge

Recharge season is officially here and Aotearoa New Zealand comes into its own at this time of year.

When the snow falls in the high country there's a whole new level of scenic beauty to enjoy.

Our magnificent night skies, some of the clearest in the world, become even more spectacular during the winter months.

Winter sports spring into action, hot pools look a whole lot more inviting, and walking on the beach in winter is good for the soul.

Hat hair isn't a thing with winter selfies. Those beanies and pompoms hide any imperfection.

## Plenty on offer during recharge season

How about hitting one of our many ski fields, or ice skating rinks?

Snow-shoeing, snow-tubing, riding the ice luge, curling or yooneering – whoever knew that was a thing?  
[www.nzski.com](http://www.nzski.com)

Ever fancied cuddling a beautiful Huskie?  
[www.timberlinerracinghuskies.co.nz](http://www.timberlinerracinghuskies.co.nz)

Or watching the winter antics of a penguin colony.  
[www.timarupenguins.co.nz](http://www.timarupenguins.co.nz)

Check out the Humpback whales as they leave the Antarctic and pass by Kaikoura in winter [www.whalewatch.co.nz](http://www.whalewatch.co.nz)

Do a southern scenic road trip!  
[www.southernscenicroute.co.nz](http://www.southernscenicroute.co.nz)

Get lost in the world of steampunk.  
[www.steampunk.org.nz](http://www.steampunk.org.nz)

Go to an Art Deco festival [www.artdecofestival.co.nz](http://www.artdecofestival.co.nz)

Head to Queenstown for the largest winter pride festival in the southern hemisphere.  
[www.winterpride.co.nz](http://www.winterpride.co.nz)

Or recharge at NZ's largest culinary festival in Wellington.  
[www.visawoap.com](http://www.visawoap.com)

Museums come into their own as the temperatures drop.  
[www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)  
[www.museumswellington.org.nz](http://www.museumswellington.org.nz)  
[www.armymuseum.co.nz](http://www.armymuseum.co.nz)  
[www.aucklandmuseum.com](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com)  
[www.iceberg.co.nz](http://www.iceberg.co.nz)

## Grab your gumboots

This paradise we call home does not shut down in winter, there's so much to do.

The winter recharge season has started so jump online and book your Maram winter break now whānau.

You owe it to you!



From top: Siberian Huskies, photo: [timberlinerracinghuskies.co.nz](http://timberlinerracinghuskies.co.nz). Timaru's Blue Penguins, photo: [timarupenguins.co.nz](http://timarupenguins.co.nz). Take the Hægglund Field Trip at the Antarctic Centre in Christchurch, photo: [iceberg.co.nz](http://iceberg.co.nz)

Left: The winter sport of Yooneering. Photo: [theremarkables.co.nz](http://theremarkables.co.nz)

Outlook cover photo: Wanaka, Central Otago, Miles Holden  
Lead story photo previous page: Kaikoura seals, Kyle Mulinder



# Recognition slow to come for Kiwi coastwatchers



**A**s we remembered our ANZACS back in April, another war tragedy will have come to mind for many in the Marram community.

The massacre on Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands on October 15th, 1942.

Seven New Zealand Post staff, along with 10 Kiwi soldiers, lost their lives on that day.

The 17 were rounded up by Japanese soldiers and beheaded in a grisly atrocity that few New Zealanders seem to know much about.

So how did these young Post and Telegraph workers find themselves stationed on remote Pacific outposts for three or four years, basically reporting that there was nothing to report.

## **“Ordinary citizens whose skills were needed in wartime.”**

Respected war historian Chris Pugsley (pictured right) says their role was crucial to keeping New Zealand’s trade links to the rest of the world open.

“It was simply contingency planning by the Defence Force. New Zealand was heavily reliant on safe shipping routes to trade with the rest of the world. The P and T workers had the skills needed to monitor enemy presence which could threaten those tradelinks. They were sent as citizen soldiers, with Defence Force soldiers as companions,” he says.

“The Kiwi coastwatchers controlled a huge area of almost 10 million square miles, stretching from the Gilbert and Ellis Islands to the sub Antarctic.

They were commissioned into the New Zealand Army posthumously, but were sent to the Pacific as ordinary citizens whose occupational skills were needed in wartime.”

When the men were left on the Islands it was German surface raiders they were watching for, as Japan had not yet started its war on the west.

However by 1942, Pugsley says they would have been well aware of the dangers they faced, but voted to remain.

“They could see the Japanese were heading south, and then after the bombing of Pearl Harbour and the fall of Malaya they would have been very aware of what was coming.”

## **“Japs coming. Regards to all.”**

Tarawa was taken by the Japanese in early September, 1942.

According to D O W Hall in his book *The Coastwatchers*, the Kiwi’s were as cool as cucumbers ahead of the raid, coding and sending signals about the strength of the enemy. Apparently signals were still being sent after the enemy had landed, before they finally destroyed their radio and code-books as instructed.

Hall says some of those final messages were heroic in their simplicity and understatement. “Japs coming. Regards to all,” or “Two warships visiting us. No launch yet.”



The 17 coastwatchers were soon taken prisoner and for the next few weeks were put to work shifting gravel or unloading shipping at the wharf.

## **US attack seals their fate**

Reports of what happened on that fateful day - October 15th 1942 - are varied, but the story told by local Island boys who watched after scaling nearby palm trees seems plausible.

Early in the afternoon US forces bombed and shelled Tarawa.

During the raid, one of the coastwatchers being held prisoner by the Japanese, broke free and ran down the beach waving at the American planes.

He was hunted down and shot, and the beheading of the other 16 prisoners quickly followed.

## **Padre singing ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ first to die**

Missionary Alfred Sadd was the first to die after refusing to wipe his feet on the Union Jack when ordered to do so by the Japanese.

Instead he picked it up and kissed it.

*Left: Te Reo Hotunui o Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, (The Deep Sigh of the Pacific) at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. A new memorial to recognise New Zealand’s enduring friendship with the Pacific Islands and the service of Pacific Islanders in the two World Wars and later conflicts. Artist: Michel Tuffery. Photo supplied by Ministry for Culture and Heritage.*

Legend has it that after urging the others to give their captors no satisfaction by showing fear, he was killed while singing the hymn 'Onward Christian Soldiers.'

### Recognition slow to come for the Kiwi coastwatchers

It took more than 70 years before the coastwatchers were remembered with a memorial in Aotearoa New Zealand.

In his story *Ghost of forgotten massacre dies*, about the death of the last surviving WW2 coastwatcher, John Jones in 2017, journalist Michael Field claims New Zealand authorities have been mostly indifferent to the dead coastwatchers.

Recognition finally came from their employer, The New Zealand Post Office, in the form of a memorial wall at New Zealand post headquarters in Wellington.

And of course, the Tarawa victims had almost certainly been at the heart of the decision by their employers to set up the The Post Office Welfare Trust 75 years ago.

### Colleague never gives up the fight to have them officially acknowledged

Fellow Post and Telegraph colleague John Jones who was taken prisoner on a nearby island and survived, fought to the day he died in 2017 to have his friends officially remembered.



Fellow post and telegraph operator John Jones campaigned for 70 years to have his colleagues officially honoured. Photo: stuff.co.nz

He believed the radio operators were misled about the risks when they volunteered. He claims they had no military training and had no escape plan because they were never expected to meet the enemy.

For 70 years he campaigned to have them officially honoured, and finally on October 15th 2012 on the 70th anniversary of the massacre a wreath laying ceremony was held at the National War Memorial in Wellington.

### Pacific War remembered 75 years later

And just recently the servicemen and women who served in the Pacific have been remembered with a memorial sculpture at Wellington's Pukeatua National War Memorial Park.

Sculptor Michel Tuffery's bronze Conch shell Te Reo Hotunui o Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa (The Deep Sigh of the Pacific) represents the warmth of a distant ocean.

### Time heals – slowly

Historian Chris Pugsley says recognition is often slow to come, with people unable to fully appreciate what happened until many years after an event.

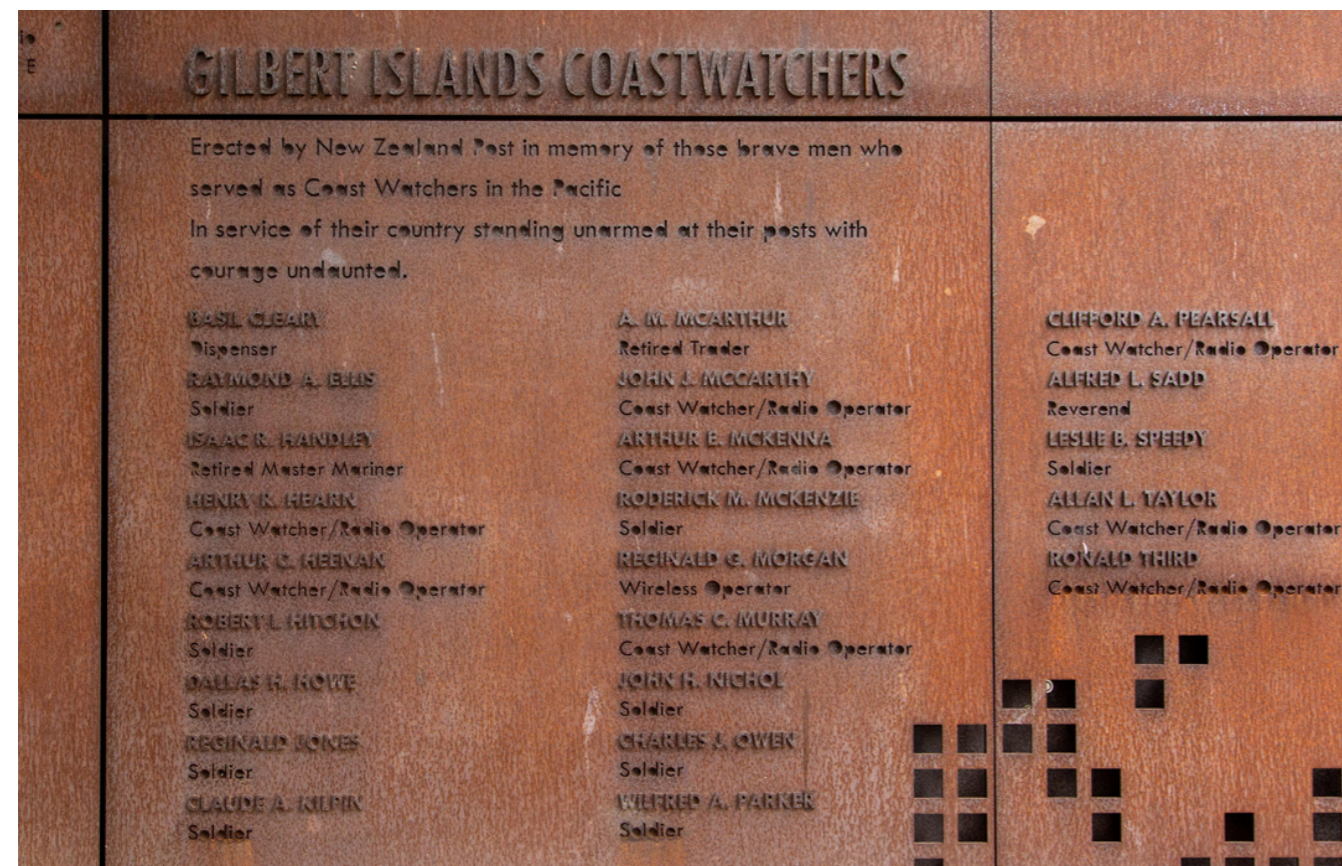
He draws an analogy with the war we're waging right now on Covid-19.

"Who's our frontline today? The cleaners, drivers, supermarket workers, security staff at quarantine facilities. All being paid a minimum wage. What recognition will they get in the future, and when?," he says.

### Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou – We remember them

If you're interested in reading more about the New Zealand coastwatchers:

*The Coastwatchers*, DOW Hall  
*Ghost of forgotten massacre dies*. Michael J Field



The coastwatchers memorial wall at NZ Post HQ in Wellington. Photo: Destina Munro



Wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of New Zealand Coastwatchers service, during the Second World War. 15th October, 2012. Image: Ministry for Culture and Heritage.



**Throwing the spotlight  
on Kapiti's beautiful  
Nature Coast**



**I**t's just 45 minutes from the capital city but it's a world away from the crazy pace, wallet fleecing and parking problems facing holidaymakers in the city.

For a start it's usually up to two degrees warmer, the pace of life is slower, the locals are welcoming and the beaches are endless.

The three Marram homes are situated in a quiet street, next to a park in the Raumati Beach area.

The family friendly, safe beach is a 10 minute walk away, through the beautiful Marine Gardens.

There's at least three options to grab a latte along the way, and you'll pass the fabulous Louis Sargent French Patisserie en route, just saying.

### No parking meters

The boutique shopping, colourful hanging flower baskets and plentiful unmetered parking all add to the charm of the Raumati Village area.

Local retailers are loving meeting you all as you travel the country exploring our beautiful backyard.

From top: Boutique shop Madame Treacle, playground, Marine Gardens and Raumati beach. All just a stone's throw from Marram home.  
Previous Page: Kapiti Island at sunset  
Photos: Destina Munro



Mee Lee is the owner of the iconic Frock Shop in the village.

The shop which has been a fashion destination for women from far and wide for many years, is one of several fashion stores in the village, including an upcycled high end clothing boutique called I love labels.

Mee Lee says they've just had one of their busiest weekends ever and she's loving meeting Kiwis from all over the country who are out holidaying and supporting local.

Just a quick bike ride, or car trip away is the much bigger Coastlands Mall, catering for those who like McDonald's, food courts and bigger franchise stores.

If outlet shopping's your thing then a short car trip north to Otaki will give you access to several top brand outlet shops.

### It's not called the Nature Coast for nothing

For the adventurous holidaymakers there's plenty to excite on the Kapiti Coast. Take the bikes and fishing rods and walking shoes.

Well maintained biking and walking trails link the coastal towns from Paekākāriki, through QE2 Park in the south to Waikanae in the north.



From top: Mee Lee, owner of Frock Shop says she loves meeting Kiwis from all over the country. Frock Shop accessories. Paperdoll Fashion.  
Photos: Destina Munro



The Escarpment Track runs from Paekākāriki to Pukerua Bay.  
Photo credit: onourcoast.com

More recently the new Kapiti Escarpment aka Stairway to Heaven walk is attracting those keen on a walking challenge. If you're not wary of heights and love a spectacular view then this is for you. It's getting rave reviews.

### The jewel in the crown

Kapiti Island, one of New Zealand's most easily accessible nature reserves is the jewel in the crown.

The predator-free island requires visitors to have DOC permits and is reached by approved local boat operators. But once on the island you'll enjoy unique encounters with rare birds such as Kaka, Kokako and Takahe.

Further north in Waikanae you'll find the Ngā Manu Nature reserve with its Kiwi Encounter, native eel feeding and Kea puzzle solvers.

### Stunning sunsets and safe beaches

Some of the best sunsets to be found in Aotearoa New Zealand can be found on the Kapiti Coast. As the sun slips into the sea, silhouetted by the South Island and Kapiti Island, magic happens.

And there's approximately 40 kms of safe sandy beaches offering family friendly swimming and great fishing opportunities.



Above: A red-crowned parakeet - Kākāriki, Zealandia, Wellington.  
Right: Waikanae Estuary. Photos: Destina Munro

### Donuts worth getting up early for

Did I mention the best donuts in the Southern hemisphere are to be found in the Olde Beach Bakery in Waikanae?

Yep, as rated by Tripadvisor. Have to be up early though. Apparently they're usually all gone by 10 am.

If a bit of late night music is your thing, head to the Raumati Social Club. A quirky Friday night venue offering live music, an eclectic group of locals and good coffee or whatever else takes your fancy.

And if you're sick of beaches and want a different sort of water action, check out the nearby Waikanae Outdoor Pool. It's set in beautiful bush surroundings with a hydrolide and picnic tables. It's a cold water pool but on a hot day there's nowhere better.

### When the weather packs in

It's just 45 minutes by car or you can take advantage of the regular train service for a city fix in nearby Wellington. The family will find plenty to love at Te Papa, the Museum of City and Sea, Zealandia, Wellington Zoo or Weta Workshops in Miramar.



Kiwi encounters, Nga Manu Reserve, Waikanae. Photo: Nga Manu

### A place to call home

When you're exhausted by all Kapiti has to offer, head home to the peace and quiet of your holiday home.

The original Postmaster's house, and two brick units facing the setting sun and well maintained by volunteer Maurice.

Easy parking, easy walking, and a pet-friendly unit as well.

What more could you want.





**Aussie bubble-busters love  
their Marram holidays**

**W**hen it comes to value for money nothing comes close according to these senior nomads.

Kiwi expats Ed and Margaret Sant have been taking Marram breaks for more than 40 years and reckon they've stayed in 90% of the Marram holiday homes.

Margaret says they've never been on a Marram holiday they thought wasn't great value.

"Marram's got some lovely properties. They're homes, not pokey little motel rooms. You know where everything is, and they're well provisioned and in great locations too."

### So how did these 'Aussies' become regular users of Marram homes?

Their Marram story began in 1973 when they came to Aotearoa New Zealand from the UK. Ed joined the Post Office and took his first Marram holiday soon after.

Thirteen years ago these Lifetimers crossed the Tasman and took up residence in Julatten, on the Port Douglas Tablelands, near their son.



Lifetimers Ed and Margaret Sant, Photo: Destina Munro

But the call of the country they chose all those years ago is still strong and every year since they've returned to see their daughter in Auckland and enjoy their Marram holidays.

When Ed and Margaret popped into the Marram office in Wellington recently they were halfway through a three-month holiday originally planned for last year, and delayed by Covid.

On the itinerary: Coopers Beach, Mt Maunganui, Ohope, Ohakune, Greytown, Wellington, Nelson, Kaikoura, Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Lake Tekapo, Hanmer Springs and Picton.

The highlights so far, Wellington which they say they've always avoided in the past, and Greytown.

"Greytown's a lovely home and we thoroughly enjoyed the Seals at Palliser Bay, Castlepoint, the Pinnacles and the Wairarapa scenery," Margaret says.

Over the years though it's Queenstown they pick as an all-time highlight.

"The night they opened the Winter Festival there were fireworks on the Lake and it started snowing. As the snow settled and after the noise and excitement of the fireworks, an eerie silence settled on the town. There was nothing moving. We had a spectacular week," Ed says.

### Tips to guarantee a perfect Marram holiday

It's all in the planning according to Ed.

"Book well ahead. We book 12 months out. Plan your trip to ensure an itinerary that takes you everywhere you want using the homes. You can't say we're going somewhere in four weeks and expect to get in," he says.

Just for good measure Margaret throws in some life advice.

"Don't take anything for granted. Make the most of what you have. Stay healthy and remember age is just a state of mind."

### The question that had to be asked

Do you spend this much time traveling in Australia?

Ed laughs. "If we go anywhere in Australia, it's to the airport."

We bought a motor-home and wanted to travel Australia but quickly discovered how boring it was. In New Zealand you can drive for an hour and see completely different scenery, but in Australia you can drive for four days before things change.

To be honest we're there because it's warm and we have family there."



Castlepoint, East Coast Wairarapa. Photo Destina Munro



Putangirua Pinnacles viewed from the lookout at the top of the track Image: Stefan Marks | Creative Commons

**Aging Easy Riders  
on the thrill of  
motorcycle touring**



**W**ith 30 years of motorcycle touring behind him Glenn Clark knows Aotearoa's roads less-travelled like the back of his hand.

Plenty's changed over the years but the appeal of hitting the road, exposed to the elements, with a bunch of like-minded buddies is the same as it ever was.

When I asked if the feel of the wind in your hair was part of the appeal, Glenn (pictured right) laughed uproariously.

"It's about companionship, and having some of the best motorcycle touring options in the world," he says.

And Glenn and his mates from the Ride and Dine (R and D) touring group should know. Most of them, like Glenn who has at least 50 road trips under his belt, have been doing it for 30 years.

These are not recent devotees suffering a midlife crisis and finding the answer in big powerful bikes and sparking warnings from ACC.

The R and D gang are seasoned, well organised and very experienced.

"The road trips are organised and booked two or three months ahead, and it's money upfront to avoid any headaches later", Glenn says.

### Hitting the road post-covid

On the latest trip the Ride and Diners gave the South Island's West Coast a good workout.



From top: Glenn Clark (left), Andy Muir and Wayne Hodgson on tour. The R and D touring club relax after a day on the road. Photos: Bruce McPhail  
Previous page: Glenn Clark. Photo: Bruce McPhail

After crossing Cook Strait on the ferry they leathered up and headed to Kaikoura.

From there it was over to the West Coast for a night in the infamous Blackball Hilton, then back on the bikes for a ride to Punakaiki, through the Buller Gorge, Inangahua, Reefton, over the Rahu Saddle to Springs Junction and then on to Hanmer Springs.

Post Covid a four day trip like that's a dream according to Glenn.

"Before Covid we shared the road with tour buses, campervans and cops. Now it's just us and the cops".

When it comes to accommodation Glenn says being in the Maram community has served them well.

"We mix the comfort, size and convenience of a serviced Maram home with some pretty dreadful old pubs. You really do appreciate the Maram homes after a few days on the road," he says.

"Efficient packing is essential when touring on the bike, and you can do that when you know exactly what's provided in the homes."

So – I had to ask. After 30 years on the road, how have things changed for these now 50 to 70 year old bikers?

More toilet stops, less alcohol and more coffee apparently.

Snoring can be challenging, and at least one person must have glasses to read the menu to the team.

"We used to do bigger days but now we start earlier and finish early too, doing an average 350k's a day," Glenn says.

### It's all about the company of good friends

But in the end, as it's always been, it's about the company of lifelong friends with a shared love of hitting the road on two wheels, and I sense that will never change.

"When the helmets come off at the end of the day and all that grey and white hair tumbles out, we ask ourselves, how did that happen," he says.

Glenn's tips for the perfect bike tour:

For the South Island tour. Base yourself in the Maram Cromwell home. (If not available Alexandra.) It's central to some great rides.

In the North Island the Maram Ohakune homes are the best.

Best times for touring – November – North Island. March – South Island

Story: Sue Burgin

Blackball's infamous "Hilton". Photo: Glenn Clark





**Hopes mental health app  
will be a game changer**

*"If early uptake's an indicator,  
it's going to be phenomenally  
successful."*

## Aotearoa New Zealand has the highest youth suicide rate in the OECD and has done for many years.

Despite efforts by many government agencies, celebrities and campaigns, we haven't been successful in bringing it down.

Those at the coalface trying to turn these statistics around say we simply can't just keep doing more of the same.

Pre-Covid a million Kiwis - that's 20% of us needed help with mental health issues.

Post-Covid we're likely to be looking at two million people requiring help with their mental health and wellbeing.

But the country only has five thousand psychologists and counsellors who at the most will be able to see around 200 people a year.

It currently takes two months or more to see anyone.

That's how big the problem is.

### Changing the narrative

Dr Angela Lim is a paediatrician, passionate about helping our tamariki struggling with their mental health.

Three years ago Dr Lim and a group of colleagues set up [www.clearhead.org.nz](http://www.clearhead.org.nz) - an online one stop digital platform to assist New Zealanders find the help they need.

"We looked at the barriers to getting help and how we might use technology, in particular mobile phones to help," she says.

Then in April this year, an app, [www.smallsteps.org.nz](http://www.smallsteps.org.nz) was introduced.

It offers a toolbox of digital strategies and resources to improve mental wellbeing.



"Ninety percent of us have smartphones but only 80% have access to mobile data, so we formed a partnership with the Ministry of Health that allows us to offer the tools free with no data charges."

If early uptake's an indicator, it's going to be phenomenally successful.

There were 12 thousand users in the first 10 days.

"We never wanted to reinvent the wheel, just identify the gap people are falling through," Angela says.

Feedback indicates people are finding it simple, inclusive and welcoming.

But most importantly, it can put you in touch with a therapist within 24 hours.

### Long wait times not acceptable

Dr Lim says research shows there's a lag time of eight years between someone noticing the first symptoms and eventually getting help.

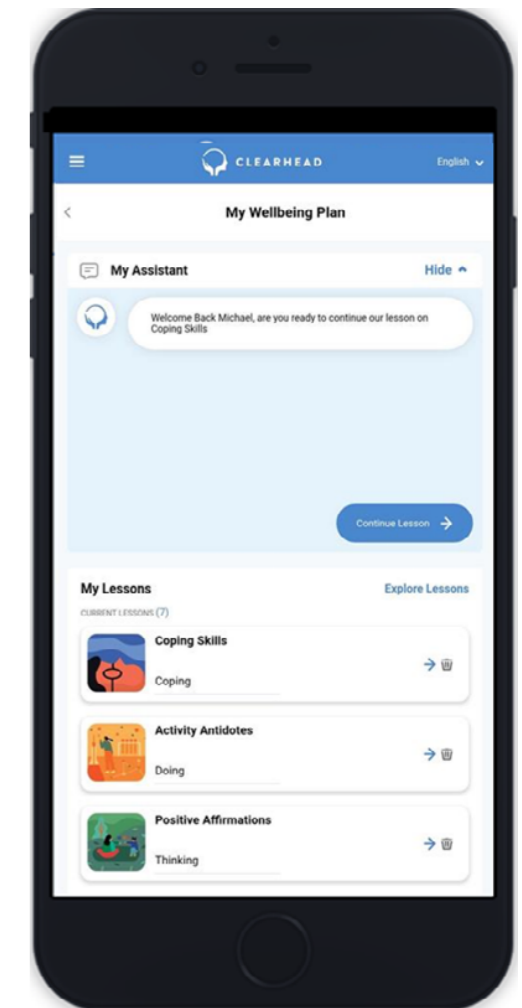
"People keep discounting it, they suffer alone until it reaches crisis point. There are a lot of missed opportunities if you don't give people options."

She says when the call for help comes it's simply unacceptable that people have to wait two months to see someone.

"Through the Small Steps app and Clearhead website we can do a 24-hour turnaround. We have relationships with therapists who've signed on with us. You can be seen in less than a week. When someone reaches out they need to be able to get help immediately, without stigma."

Clearhead also works with organisations to support employee and workplace wellbeing and anyone wanting to work with them can contact [angela.lim@clearhead.org.nz](mailto:angela.lim@clearhead.org.nz)

Footnote: Psychologists, therapists and counsellors are included in Maram's Alternative Therapy benefit.



## YOU KNOW THAT STUFF WE DON'T LIKE TALKING ABOUT?

These days it's really important to take responsibility for our own health and wellbeing.

We can bury our heads in the sand, poke our fingers in our ears and pretend the stuff we don't like talking about won't happen to us.

OR - We can be proactive and go see the experts and make use of modern medical technology to make sure we're never in the position of saying "If only".

Mammograms, smears, prostate checks, mole mapping, endoscopies, laparoscopies - are all included in Maram's Specialist/Surgical Benefit which can be reimbursed at 60% up to \$2,500 per family, per calendar year.

So be brave. Be proactive.

Remember Maram healthcare benefits take the pain out of talking about that stuff.



Paediatrician Dr Angela Lim is passionate about helping tamariki struggling with mental health

# SURVEY

## Loyalty shines through in survey results

Ngā mihi everyone who completed Marram's 2021 survey.

It returned very positive results, clearly showing the loyalty of the Marram Community.

More than half the respondents (58%) have been part of Marram for 10 years or more!

When you find Marram, you stay and that sort of loyalty can't be bought.

### Things you love

There's been a significant increase in awareness around Marram and its benefits since the last survey in 2017. And Marram people are very positive about their involvement in the Marram Community Trust saying they're satisfied it's delivering what's expected.

The same positivity was also seen in responses to questions about your holiday home experiences and the financial assistance for healthcare.

These are encouraging results showing the majority of Marram people take advantage of both the holiday and healthcare benefits.

Seventy eight percent of you were very satisfied with your Marram holiday experience (up from 76% last survey) and 86% thought the homes were excellent or above average value for money.

In a sign of the times, 43% now prefer serviced homes, but that still means 57% are happy to pack the linen.

Your responses showed you weren't only very aware of the Marram community but also great advocates for it, with the majority saying they'd be happy to recommend it to workmates.

### Things Marram will work on

Far more work is needed to ensure Marram is visible in your workplaces.

Marram will be working to supply all the material you need to be informed and confident about using Marram holiday homes and health benefits available to you in the workplace and online. You can help spread the good news, especially to new colleagues.

There's opportunities to add more homes, expand the healthcare benefit, demonstrate how well Marram healthcare works with health insurance, keep making the website as easy as possible to use and publish more information through social media.

### But stick with the ballot. Not everyone is a fan but better the devil you know

Marram's legacy of care remains strong and successful after 75 years but that doesn't happen without the help and support of you and others who benefit. Marram CEO Glenn Clark says your help in completing the survey makes such a positive difference to the Trust's future. "You're making good use of the holiday homes and financial assistance for healthcare, with the COVID emergency making the Marram benefits as useful as ever."

Whānau we love your mahi.



MARRAM  
HOLIDAYS & HEALTHCARE



# Winter watching on NETFLIX

Content Editor Sue Burgin is recommending:

## Blinded by the Light



I have to confess I'm a crazy Bruce Springsteen fan, so from the get-go, this movie was always going to keep me happy. But it was so much more than that.

Set in Luton – I'm guessing I haven't hooked you in yet – it's based on a true story about a young British teen, Javed, who's aspiring to be a writer while trapped on a cultural path clearly controlled by his strict and overbearing Pakistani father.

But when you add the problems of the 80's, Thatcherism and xenophobia to the mix and set it against a background of Springsteen music, things move up a notch.

It's about a tortured relationship between a father and son, the hopelessness of racism, unemployment and the dreams of a young man who wants more than that.

Holding it all together is Bruce Springsteen's music and the juggernaut that was Born To Run.

This film by Gurinda Chadha (Bend it like Beckham) is based on the memoir 'Greetings from Bury Park: Race. Religion. Rock'n'Roll' by Sarfraz Manzoor.

The Boss gave the film 17 songs and his blessing, and that's all I needed to rate Blinded by the Light as a bloody good watch.

## My Octopus Teacher



This Oscar-winning doco will test all the feels.

You'll laugh and cry and at the end, vow never ever to eat octopus again.

It has to be the year's most captivating love story.

Set in an underwater kelp forest off the coast of South Africa, it's the story of how an eight-tentacled mollusc teaches an emotionally bruised diver about life, love and negotiating the inbetween.

Free diver Craig Foster, without wetsuit or scuba gear, narrates his story, diving every day for a year.

He talks us through how, mentally depressed and physically exhausted, he developed a curious friendship with an octopus he found hiding in a crevice.

I did find the parallels he drew between his own personal story with that of the octopus a bit far-fetched at times, but that was far outweighed by the superb photography by Roger Horrocks of the BBC's Blue planet fame.

Would I recommend My Octopus Teacher?

Absolutely. Don't miss it.

## When calls the heart

Everyone has a guilty secret right?

Like the country music collection that is only ever listened to behind the safety of a pair of headphones.

When calls the Heart is my guilty Netflix secret.

Coming out of a few hard months of brutal binge watching of series not for the faint hearted, like Fauda, La Reina del Sur and Ozark, this Canadian maple sugar-coated was just the panacea I needed.

Until it wasn't.

The love story between school teacher Elizabeth Thatcher and Mountie Jack set in a coal town in Canada's northern territories, demands nothing of you.

It dispenses worthy life advice and cliches by the truckload.

It's full of beautiful people with kind hearts. In real life not so much it seems, Mayor Abigail Stanton's hasty exit from the series was forced it seems when the actress playing her, Lori Loughlin became caught up in the recent school enrolment scandal in the US.

There's just the right touch of tragedy and suspense, and even the bad guys are usually likable rogues. Everyone gets a second chance in Hope Valley.

Abigail's Tearooms, The Saloon, and the picturesque schoolroom by the lake form the backdrop to this long-running successful Canadian soapie which first aired back in 2014.

In the end – for everything there is a season – so when the time's right Elizabeth and Jack may be just what you need. Happy viewing.



# REFERRAL

## HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$50?

Who says no good deed goes unrewarded!

**PROMOTION runs May 28th - June 12th**

You already know how amazing it is to be part of the Marram Community Trust, but if you spread the word to a workmate, and they sign up mentioning your name, you'll both receive a gift voucher of your choice! How about \$40 to spend on the next family shop or fuelling up; or \$50 towards your next fantastic holiday.



### DON'T FORGET TO TELL THEM:

- Partner and children are automatically included
- \$50 birthday gift towards a Marram holiday – every year
- Healthcare benefits of over \$6400 per year
- Works with your health insurance
- Includes pre-existing health issues
- And more...

### \*Terms and Conditions

Please make sure to tell your workmate that they will need to choose "Referred by Marram Contributor" when asked how they heard about Marram during sign-up.

Standard Marram T's & C's apply.

# FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We're loving the interaction we're having with you on our social media platforms.

Thanks to all who've engaged on recent posts. We're learning what gets you excited and what information is particularly well received and you can expect to see more of that.

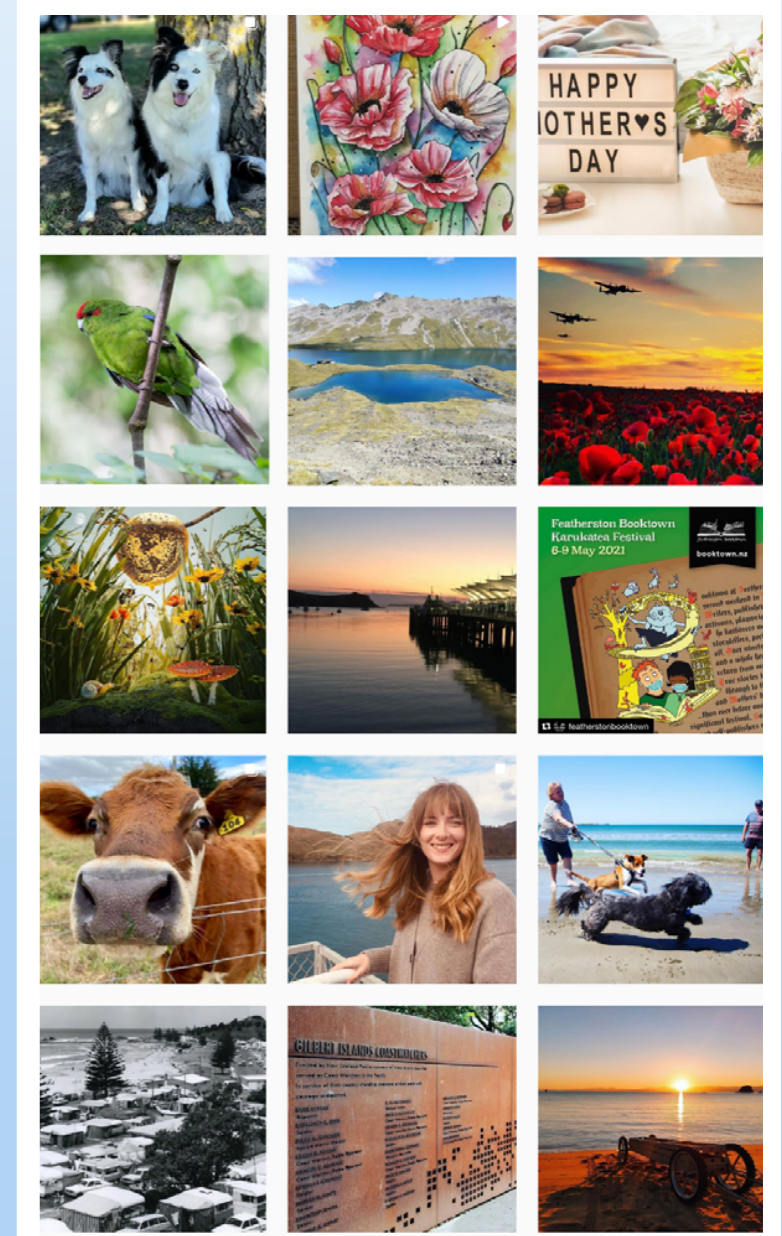
The new build in Wanaka and the refurbishments have attracted the most engagement so far. We also loved reading about your Marram holiday experiences over the years.

Love it or hate it, when used efficiently social media can be a great way to communicate. Marram's always looking for ways to better communicate with you.

There are real people at the end of Marram's social media accounts. We're not in the business of swamping you with faceless corporate messages. We love good news, and interesting things that will help you plan great holidays and make good health decisions.

And all that's asked in return is that we all be kind to each other when using the comment facility.

[facebook.com/MarramCommunityTrust](https://facebook.com/MarramCommunityTrust)  
[instagram.com/marram\\_community\\_trust\\_nz](https://instagram.com/marram_community_trust_nz)



## 10% OFF! Marram Interislander deal



Not only can Marram help reduce the costs of your next family holiday but we can help you to get there cheaper too!

The fantastic **10% discount** offer with Interislander has been extended from **1 February - 15 December 2021**, meaning you have even more opportunity to get a deal on your next trip.

- Reservations must be made via [www.greatjourneysfnz.co.nz](http://www.greatjourneysfnz.co.nz)
- You must be over 18 to claim this discount
- Marram ID must be shown at check-in
- Use code **XMAR1** when asked to apply your discount
- Normal booking conditions apply - eg, Easy Change is 100% refundable if cancelled
- Regular rates apply to bookings made through call centre/groups desk



# HOT OFF THE PRESS

## WE'RE MILKING THIS BIRTHDAY FOR ALL IT'S WORTH

Yep! Another \$50 voucher to spend on a Marram holiday is coming your way.

This birthday just keeps on giving.

We're also adding a 20% discount if you book two Marram holidays.

To redeem your \$50 credit and/or 20% discount: Phone the Marram office on 04 801 2920 to make the booking/bookings.

Remember a change in Covid levels isn't a worry for Marram people. There's a 100% refund if a change to level 3 or 4 affects your travel plans.

Happy 75th Birthday to us.



### \*Terms and Conditions:

- Minimum stay 2 nights
- Promotion doesn't apply to existing bookings
- Bookings must be taken from 1 June 2021 to 31 August 2021
- Can't be used in conjunction with any other promotion

## WANAKA UPDATE

Like all building projects these days, there's been a few bumps along the road to getting our Wanaka build underway, but the good news is things are happening and we are moving forward.

Resource and building consents have been submitted and there's confidence work should be underway on the front units within weeks.

Marram's new build in Wanaka will consist of five units on the old site in Upton Street.

We'll keep you updated.

## EDITORIAL TEAM

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## HOLIDAY HOME REFURBISHMENTS UNDER WAY

A whole lot of love is being thrown at 28 of Marram's holiday homes, making it the biggest refurbishment project undertaken for some time.

Work's almost completed on the Picton and Kaiteriteri homes.

Napier and Hastings will be completed in May.

Then Auckland in June, Greytown and Hokitika in August, and Ohakune, Alexandra and Queenstown East in late October.

You can expect to see new carpets, curtains, furniture, artwork, linen and kitchenware in the refurbished homes. There'll be new colours on the walls, LED energy efficient lighting and recycling options.

And as always, Marram will be upcycling the things no longer needed in the refurbished homes which are refurbished every six or seven years.



The refurbishment team, Fiona Van Eyssen and Murray Crombie find time for a quick selfie while unpacking at the Kaiteriteri holiday home.



# MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST



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