

SPRING 2022

TIROHANGA OUTLOOK

THE MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST MAGAZINE



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- Marram pushes ahead despite COVID delays
- Discounted skin checks back again for spring
- A warning about UV danger on the slopes
- How e-bikes are making Central Otago a very desirable holiday destination
- A little book with a big heart

Editor's Letter

I don't know about you but winter this year seemed incredibly kind to me.

Here we are at the beginning of spring and traditionally the worst of winter should now be behind us. But the seasons are not as concise as they used to be and spring can feel awfully like winter nowadays.

But whatever's thrown our way, I think we're incredibly lucky to have the temperate climate we enjoy here in New Zealand.

It means holidays can be enjoyed pretty much all year round, and if Marram holiday home bookings are anything to go by, you've all been busy out there enjoying the best New Zealand has to offer.

In this edition of Outlook, the destination feature throws the spotlight on Central Otago, or Central as it's known to almost everyone.

In the past, it's been seen as primarily a winter destination with it's stunning landscapes, skifields, rivers and Pinot Noir.

But as Mayor Tim tells us in the feature, every season is perfect in Central.

Whenever I start on a destination feature for Outlook, the local Mayor is always my first port of call.

They set the scene, telling me about their regions and what's going on there.

They're a passionate proud lot, so enthusiastic about locals doing interesting things and the many reasons to holiday in their hood.

Maybe it makes a nice change from the daily grind of rubbish collections, dog laws and outdated infrastructure.

Whatever the reason, they're champions for the regions we holiday in and I'm sure their affection and enthusiasm for their domain goes a long way to making the holiday experience so much better for us.

Sue Burgin

Content Editor - Etita Kōrero

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Full steam ahead despite COVID fallout

More homes with Wi-Fi, more pet-friendly homes and smarter TVs.

Not so much GIB board, contractor availability and smooth supply lines.

Like everyone, Marram has been impacted by the current build and supply issue but the good news is progress is being made to keep the holiday homes in the tip-top condition you expect.

Wi-Fi

Those of you wanting to see Wi-Fi in all the homes will be happy to read it's being gradually rolled out to all homes.

Product Manager Debbie Shute says there's always been a demand for Wi-Fi but technology and cost have been issues in the past.

"We're about keeping costs down and didn't want to have to pass those costs on to the holidaymakers. However, technology changes and more competitive rates mean it's now possible," she says.

Smarter TVs

As the holiday homes are being refurbished, smart TVs are being installed giving holidaymakers streaming capability and access to Netflix.

More pet-friendlies

And the number of hugely popular pet-friendly holiday homes has also been expanded.

Four new homes have been designated pet-friendly bringing the total number to 18.

Raglan, Palmerston North, Lake Tekapo and Picton have been added to the list.

Debbie Shute says this gives people more flexible options, saving on the cost of pet boarding and reducing pet anxiety.

"The pet-friendly homes are fully fenced and gated, making them not only pet friendly but child friendly too," she says.

The pet-friendly homes also come with pet vacuums, dog beds and bowls.

Mini makeovers and tiny homes

Marram is continuing on with the refurbishment programme where supply issues and the availability of

tradespeople allow. For some homes, its been a mini-makeover and not the full refurbishment for now.

CEO Glenn Clark says despite the supply issues and COVID delays, Marram is pressing on with upgrading the holiday home benefit and refurbishing the holiday homes.

"With the pressure on household budgets, Marram expects the holiday homes to become more popular than ever. They offer people the option to holiday close to home, saving on petrol and travel costs, and with the fully equipped kitchens, you can save on the cost of eating out," he says.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing though with Glenn admitting it's been a struggle to get the new Wanaka build completed.

"But as that work continues, we're investigating other options to increase the holiday home stock, like Tiny Homes that are factory-built and can be lifted into suitable sites.

For Sale sign goes up in Rotorua

Marram will soon test the market to sell its homes in Ranolf Street, Rotorua. The eight units have served the Marram Community well over many years, but the Board feels it's time they were replaced with new stock to make the most of a Rotorua holiday experience.

In the current market, it's hard to say if they'll sell so they'll be kept available for your use for as long as possible.

Opening day in sight for Wanaka

The first three homes are nearly fitted out for use and the GIB has arrived for the other two.

A massive storm-water soak pit is being installed under the drive and decks and fences are being built. There's an opening day in sight.

Thanks for your patience. This development has been Marram's worst building experience ever. Everything you're reading in the media about the horrors of building in New Zealand are true.

Meanwhile despite the Wanaka experience, Marram is carefully pressing on with re-development of the Man Street, Queenstown site. Very carefully.

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Know your UV risk on the slopes

The country's ski fields are celebrating a great start to the ski season with the snow arriving early this year.

This is great news for the almost 320,000 of us who head to the slopes to ski or snowboard every year.

But as you dust off the skis and pack the thermals, health providers are warning of the dangers of skin damage from UV exposure for every hour spent on the mountain.

Be risk aware

The higher you go, the higher the risk according to Molemap. For every 1000 metre increase in altitude, the UV radiation level increases about 10%.

The snow's surface acts as a mirror bouncing 80% of the sun's rays back at us.

It's a double-whammy, with UV rays coming directly from the sun and bouncing off snow-covered surfaces. According to Molemap, the best protection will come from a good sunscreen with maximum SPF, reapplied every two hours. They also advise wearing lip balm, UV-protective goggles preferably wraparound ones, and UV-rated clothing covering your neck.

Skin cancer doesn't hibernate

New Zealand and Australia have the highest rates of melanoma in the world, with four thousand kiwis diagnosed with this cancer every year.

So regular skin checks are important at any time of the year, particularly if you have any of the other risk factors such as fair skin, a history of sun damage or a high number of moles or freckles.

Molemap warns skin cancer doesn't hibernate like many of us during winter, and a winter skin check could save your life.

You can check your risk assessment here:

www.molemap.co.nz/myrisk

Hugely successful molemap discount back

If you missed out on the winter skin check discount, you'll be happy to know it's back for Spring.

The response to the winter offer was incredible according to Molemap's Stephanie Larkin who says without doubt lives have been saved.

Four hundred of you took the opportunity to get a discounted skin check and 4405 lesions imaged.

Fifty six skin cancers were discovered as a result of the checks.

Forty six were Basal Cell Carcinomas, six were squamous cell carcinomas and four were Melanomas.

Stephanie Larkin says in the last couple of years there's been a renewed awareness of the dangers we face from UV exposure in New Zealand and she's putting it down to increased education and a new awareness of health and wellbeing in the COVID environment.

New Code: MSPRING22

The 20% spring discount is offered to all Marram beneficiaries for appointments booked and completed between 1st September and 30th November.

You can book now using the code **MSPRING22**, then using the receipt, be reimbursed 60% of the cost through Marram.

Molemap have 40 clinics nationwide and offer full body mapping services along with less expensive skin checks at the discounted rate.

**BOOK NOW 0800 665 362
with MSPRING22**

molemap
BY DERMATOLOGISTS



Central Otago

Where you'll find yourself - but not too many others



There's nowhere like it according to the Central Otago District Mayor Tim Cadogan (pictured above).

"We call it a world of difference down here. It's beautiful and different."

The Mayor says he's seen people's lives changed by a weekend in Maniototo.

"It's very spiritual and ticks all of today's holiday requirements around reconnecting with the land and general wellbeing."

Stunning in any season

You can pretty much drop Otago from the province's name and guarantee everyone will still know where you're going when you simply say Central.

This lower South Island area is well known for its stunning landscapes, Mediterranean climate, world class food and wine and some of the country's best bike trails.

Twenty-five thousand people call Central home. Geographically it stretches from Cromwell in the north to Raes Junction in the south.

The Mayor says there's no best time to visit Central although he admits to preferring Autumn.

"The colours are beautiful, it's not so hot, there's crispness in the morning air, but temperatures can still reach 25 degrees during the day.

Winter can be tough but it's stunningly beautiful, summers are hot and dry and like everywhere, spring is just beautiful."

Succumbing to Central's charm

Mayor Cadogan's been leading the Council for nearly six years and says in that time, the population's grown by 20%.

"People come to do one of the great bike trails and then don't want to leave. With a well-connected airport an hour away in Queenstown and great Wi-Fi connectivity, they head home, pack up and come back for good."

He says visitors are always welcome and although it's been bereft of international visitors recently, New Zealanders have flocked there in their thousands in between lockdowns to enjoy what Central offers.

Walking into a Grahame Sydney painting

Sir Grahame Sydney one of New Zealand's most successful contemporary painters, has been capturing the many moods, faces and changing light of the Central Otago landscape since the 1970s.

Prints of his iconic paintings of things like the Wedderburn Railway Station and Maniototo landscapes are found in many New Zealand homes.

Grahame Sydney lives and paints in Central where he's a strong advocate for the environment. He fears if Wilding Pine isn't controlled within the next five years, the landscape will end up looking like anywhere else in New Zealand.

The E-bike revolution

Central boasts several of the country's best cycle trails and the Mayor says e-bikes have made them more accessible to more people.

From the original and hugely popular Otago Rail Trail to the newest Lake Dunstan Cycleway.

Mayor Cadogan says in five years' you'll be able to get off your flight in Queenstown and bike all the way to Dunedin Airport.

"Airport to airport without going on a road, except maybe to cross one. It'll be the largest connected cycle trail in the southern hemisphere."

Future-proofing Central

Tim Cadogan says Council will be working to protect the area's unique natural beauty while catering for a growing population and encouraging growth.

He says they're working strongly for a real relationship with mana whenua, Ngai Tahu, and a sustainable future.

"There's a plan in place to achieve a 55% reduction in council's carbon footprint in the next five years and reduce waste coming to the landfill by 20%."

Central's incredible night skies, stunning landscapes, horticultural and pastoral lands won't be sacrificed, if this Mayor has his way.



Visitors can't get enough of Central's cycle trails

There's no doubt the magnificent scenery and world acclaimed Pinot Noir are a draw-card for tourists and holidaymakers but increasingly, it's Central Otago's cycle trails described as some of the best in the world, swelling the visitor numbers these days.

Central's Destination Development Manager Antz Longman says it's the cycle trails they hang their hat on.

He says one of the newest, the Lake Dunstan Cycleway which opened a year ago was predicted to draw about seven and a half thousand visitors a year but in the first 12 months around 80 thousand people have cycled the trail.

Not for Amateurs

"Cycling is a year-round attraction and the Dunstan track is a big catalyst for those wanting a shorter one-day experience," Antz says.

Graded at two to three, the 55 km trail links the towns of Clyde and Cromwell, running alongside Lake Dunstan, the Kawarau River and the Clutha, Mata-au.

There's a midway fuel stop at a unique floating coffee cart which has now been joined by Burger Afloat, a popular floating burger joint. So popular, Antz Longman says some Cromwell locals actually bike out there simply for their coffee or burger fix.

Iconic Rail Trail holds it's own

The hugely popular Otago Central Rail Trail, one of the original cycle trails, is still holding the number one position though and has remained a great draw-card for the region reviving local businesses along the way.

It's a grade one trail, all off-road and takes one to five days. There's plenty to love about this trail. Big skies, big landscapes and the romance of the railway and the Otago gold rush.

Into the Heartland

The 73 km, grade one to two Clutha Gold Trail requires moderate fitness and can be walked or ridden. It's billed as a journey of discovery offering a real heartland experience. It follows a path well travelled by Maori, pioneering run-holders, miners and the Chinese.

The trail runs from Roxburgh to Lawrence – don't miss Jimmy's pies as you wheel through Roxburgh.

Taking you into the Wilderness

The 21 km Roxburgh Gorge Trail is an easy grade two to three and includes a 13 km boat ride should you choose to take that option. The remote stunning Roxburgh Gorge has been called New Zealand's Grand Canyon. In Spring the hillsides are covered in purple flowering Wild Thyme.

"Pick the trail appropriate to your ability"

That's the advice from Antz Longman. He says there are many more trails catering for more experienced bikers. Details can be found on www.centralotagonz.com

He says eBikes have opened the cycleways up to many more people and the huge demand will see the trails constantly expand.

Photos credits: Otago Central Rail Trail:

This page from top: Otago Central Rail Trail in Autumn, Tim Hawkins;

Ophir Post Office, Naseby, James Jubb.

Otago Central Rail Trail, Tim Hawkins.

Previous Page: Winter in Hawkduns, Clare Toia-Bailey.



Adrenaline-pumping action in the heart of Central

Bang smack in the middle of some of the most scenic landscapes in New Zealand is probably not where you'd expect to find a world-class motorsport facility, but that's exactly where you'll find the Highlands Motorsport Park in Cromwell.

The park rated a number one tourist attraction by Trip Advisor was conceived by a pet food millionaire while staying at his Queenstown holiday home.

Bringing the thrill of motor racing to Central

Tony Quinn's vision for a world-class motorsport facility took just 18 months from the day he stood with his son in front of several hectares of scrubland in Cromwell, designing their dream track on an iPad, to the opening of Highlands in 2013.

The Scotsman who made his millions across the Tasman owns several motorsport tracks here and in Australia, but describes Highlands as his 'baby'.

More than a Motorsport track

There's plenty for everyone inside the park's beautifully manicured grounds.

If you don't have a need for speed there's a museum of classic cars to explore. Inside you'll find a Rolls-Royce Ghost and the only Aston Martin Vulcan in the southern hemisphere.

Or maybe the VR room with its interactive games might appeal.

The park's cafe offers a birdseye view of the 4.1 kilometre racetrack, as do the famous Loos With a View,

featuring floor-to-ceiling windows of one-way glass, all with an uninterrupted view of the racetrack.

For most though it's the track action that appeals.

4.1 km of race track, three circuits and a team of professional drivers, ensures visitors have an authentic race experience.

Circuit experiences fall into three categories.

A 650-metre outdoor Go-Kart track where you drive yourself with a pro-driver beside you on a purpose-built track.

The very popular You Drive experience puts you at the wheel. It consists of two warm-up laps and a 3rd lap with no speed limit attached.

Then there's the bucket list experience, the Supercar Fast Dash.

This is a fast lap on a 4.2 km track with a professional race driver at the wheel of a Porsche GT3 or Ferrari 488.

Also on offer

A more sedate two laps in a Highlands taxi with a slow commentary or a fast lap where the speed is catered to your liking and can reach 180k's on the straight.

For the thrill-seekers, the Porsche Cayenne Taycan Take-off from zero to 100 in 2.4 seconds is apparently very popular.

You can even book in for a few laps in your own car at certain times.

More details on prices and what's available can be found at www.highlands.co.nz



A win for the planet and cherry lovers

You can find New Zealand's first 100% electric cherry orchard just north of Cromwell in Mt Pisa, Central Otago.

If you're interested in a sustainable future and where your food comes from, then Forest Lodge Orchard is worth a visit.

Owners Mike Casey and his wife Rebecca returned to New Zealand looking for a better lifestyle after working in Sydney in the computer science sector.

"We found a house here in central and then started looking at what to do with the land," Mike says.

The cherry on top

Investigations led them to cherries which grow well in the long Central daylight hours.

Those long daylight hours also worked well for their dream of building a real working example of a profitable business, using only electricity and sustainable practices.

"We wanted to build a real working example of a profitable business using only electricity produced onsite," Mike says.

And three years later Forest Lodge, New Zealand's first zero fossil fuel cherry orchard is up

and running with electric vehicles, irrigation systems and all the other equipment needed, using the latest electric tech and solar power.

Contrived cherries are "not a thing at this orchard"

"New Zealand grows the best cherries in the world but they don't make it to the shops here, the best are sent overseas," he says.

"The export-grade cherries are large, firm and crisp, and aren't ready until early to mid-January. Here we want them for Christmas.

The best cherries are picked off the tree at the right time which may not be Christmas," he says.

Testing at the market last year confirmed New Zealanders are prepared to pay more for a premium carbon zero product.

Forward ordering means gate sales are limited but Mike says visitors are always welcome at the orchard. He's happy to show you what a sustainable, zero fossil fuel, cherry orchard looks like.

www.forestlodge.nz

Photos: this page from left: Mike and Rebecca Casey with Orchard Managers Euan and Rachel White. Next page: clockwise from left: cherries are hand picked; fans keep frost at bay; export-grade cherries; Harvest at Forest Lodge Orchard. Photo credit: Mike Casey, forestlodge.nz



Celebrate Spring in Alexandra

There's nowhere better to celebrate the arrival of Spring than Alexandra in Central Otago and celebrate it, they certainly do.

They've been doing it since 1957 when the first Blossom Festival was held to raise money to build a swimming pool in the town.

These days thousands flock to Alexandra to celebrate Spring in the heart of the stonefruit-growing country.

Weather Gods in charge

This year's festival will be held over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of September, although it's the weather Gods who'll decide when the world-renowned blossom will be at its peak.

Blossom Festival Events Manager, Marty McPherson says even if they don't hit peak Blossom time there's plenty of good reasons to put a visit to the Alexandra festival on your bucket list.

"We get enquiries from all over the world. It's becoming more and more popular as people realise the value of homegrown entertainment. Kids look forward to it with its traditional parade, fireworks and exhibitions. There are also kayak races, musical productions and concerts."

Good-natured and well behaved

Alexandra's population of just over five thousand swells to 15 thousand over the festival weekend and provides quite a boost to local hospitality providers.

In the past, it has made headlines after partygoers have caused problems but those were rare occasions according to Marty McPherson, who says crowds these days are good-natured and well behaved.

"The secret of its success? It's real. It reflects the community, evokes a sense of place and is all about family," he says.

Ready to party at 65 + 1

The Festival was to have celebrated 65 years last year but that was scuttled by COVID. So this year they're celebrating what they're calling the 65th plus one Festival down in blossom central, and according to Marty, it'll be one not to miss.

Marram has two-holiday homes in Alexandra and several more within easy driving distance. There's two in Cromwell, four in Dunedin and eight in Queenstown.

www.blossom.co.nz



Photos: Alexandra Blossom Festival 2020
Photo credits: Previous page; Joe Allison;
This page from top: Clare Toia-Bailey
www.image-central.co.nz



Year round curling on the Maniototo

The only dedicated indoor curling rink in the Southern Hemisphere operating all year round can be found in Naseby in Central Otago.

The Maniototo International Curling Rink's been operating for 20 years but since the opening of the Otago Rail Trail, which virtually runs past the front door, there's been a big increase in interest in the sport.

So what is curling?

According to Wikipedia it's a sport in which players slide stones on a sheet of ice toward a target area which is segmented into four concentric circles. You slide the stone down the ice and have it stop as near to the centre of a set of rings (called a house) as you can.

Sounds easy, but the problem is your opponents will do everything they can to stop you from achieving the goal.

Curling started 500 years ago in Scotland and has been an Olympic sport since 1988.

Ken Gillespie, Treasurer of the New Zealand Curling Association says it's a very competitive sport.

"There's a lot of skill involved and it's a great leveller. People compete against each other but it's a lot of fun."

Book a lane next time you're in Central

Ken says there are four ice lanes at the Naseby rink and they can be booked at a cost of \$40 per person for one and a half hours.

He says it pays to book ahead particularly in the peak season, February, March and April when a lot of tournaments and competitions take place.

"Kids love it. It's a great family activity."

Ice Luge another Southern Hemisphere first

If you're visiting Naseby in the winter you can try your luck on the Ice Luge.

It's right next door to the curling rink in the Naseby Forest and features 400 m of track. You can reach speeds of up to 70 km/h on the specially built track.

Ice skating, Ice Hockey and outdoor curling in the Naseby Snowpark are all available during the winter season, June, July and August.

For more information on opening hours and costs: info@curling.co.nz or phone 03 444 9878.



Photos previous page: Naseby's indoor curling rink operates all year round.
Photo credit: James Jubb, Tourism Central Otago
This page: The Ice Luge with 400 m of track in the Naseby Forest.
Photo credit: Nasebyicerink.co.nz



A little book of smiles throws light on mental health



It took five years but Hope for Happiness founder Samantha Fairhall's determination and drive to help young New Zealanders navigate mental health paid off with the publication last year of her Little Book of Smiles.

What started out as a high school business studies exercise has seen Marama beneficiary Samantha win an Upcoming Entrepreneur of NZ Award, being acknowledged as one to watch.

"It was a beautiful day when it finally went to the publishers, it was quite a journey," she says.

It was never going to happen overnight for this young Canterbury woman who juggles quite a few balls in her busy life. Right now Samantha's working part-time for NZ Post, while studying psychology and adventure sport, playing in a hockey team and training for the

Coast to Coast. Ultimately she wants to join the Police Force and that process is also underway.

Young entrepreneurs at the heart of the story

The concept of a mental health diary was devised by Samantha and four of her Middleton Grange classmates in 2018. They were taking part in the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) which required them to come up with an idea and then turn it into a real business.

"I've always been interested in seeing young people reach their full potential and wanted to connect with them and help them grow. I was also aware mental health was becoming a big problem and that there was a lack of discussion and resources around it in schools," she says.

The group called their business Hope for Happiness and started work on The Little Book of Smiles, an

interactive personal journal, featuring stories, quotes, illustrations, thought-provoking questions and even recipes.

Starting the conversation

Samantha says they hoped to start a conversation around mental health in a place where young people felt safe, encouraging readers to fill in the blank pages with their thoughts and feelings.

But school ended and the group went their own ways, developing new interests before the job was completed. Samantha spent a gap year in the US at Camp America before returning and deciding to pick up the book again and get the job done. She credits Christchurch City Library with putting her in touch with people who could help her with the formatting and publishing process. A friend from her days as a Lifeguard illustrated the book.

And finally, the Little Book of Smiles was published just in time for Samantha's 21st birthday.

A year later, Samantha reports a number of New Zealand schools are using the Little Book of Smiles as a teaching resource.

Looking after your mental health

Samantha says you can't underestimate the role of time spent in the great outdoors, and holidays when it comes to looking after your mental health.

"Head outdoors, distract yourself from the things causing you issues, but write them down and acknowledge what's going on, don't just try to tough it out."

And on holidays she says, "They're so important to me, that's why I became part of the Marama community. As a child, I had 15 years of holidays in Marama homes and I want to make sure my kids have the same opportunity."

If you're interested in reading the Little Book of Smiles and supporting this young entrepreneur, you can order it at hopeforhappinesscampaign@gmail.com

Or on the Little Book of Smiles Facebook page. It costs \$25.



Photos: Previous page: Samantha Fairhall, Founder and CEO of The Hope for Happiness. This page: Samantha, recipient of the One to Watch, at the Young Enterprise Trust, Alumni Awards 2022.



Weaving magic with a pair of knitting needles

By Sue Burgin



Paula Mackay leads the Marram Support Team and when she's not doing that she's knitting, sewing, baking, indulging a love of travel and making sure the family's needs are met.

However if you think after reading that you have the measure of this woman, you're wrong.

She's also an artist who weaves magic with a pair of knitting needles or a crochet hook and works tirelessly to contribute to the community she lives in.

When asked what advice she'd give her 20 year old self 30 odd years on, she says "Contribute and be kind."

"I knew that long before Jacinda did," she laughs.

When asked about people she admires Eleanor Roosevelt pops up. In particular the former American First Lady's quote 'No-one can make you feel inferior without your consent.'

"It's an affirmation I live by and have passed on to my children," Paula says.

Born and raised in the Hutt Valley

Paula was born in Lower Hutt and spent her childhood and school years in nearby Wainuiomata. She loved school and says some of her happiest memories evolve around friendships forged there.

These days she's back in Lower Hutt with husband Andy, close to her son and granddaughter but the rest of the tribe, three children and five grandchildren are across the Tasman in Perth, Margaret River and Brisbane. Regular trips across to see them always

Photos this page anti-clockwise from left: Paula Mackay taught herself to crochet; Paula knits cardigans and booties for the Special Care Babies Unit at Hutt Hospital; Next page: Paula and Nurse Katherine Dumauai, Hutt Hospital. Photos: Destina Munro



involve a bag or two of treats all knitted by a doting Nana.

When Paula's not knitting for the family she's knitting for the premature babies in the Special Care Babies Unit at Hutt Hospital.

Small fit for purpose blankets or tiny cardigans and booties for the special care babies or families with newborns who need them.

It's a job Paula's only too happy to do.

"They're gratefully received and I'm happy for them to go to families who might need them. It's my little way of giving something to the community."

The odd disaster along the way

Paula's knitting skills were taught to her by her mother but it took time to evolve into the passion it is today.

"I didn't knit for my own babies but picked it up again later. We always knew someone who was having a baby," she says.

She taught herself to crochet with the help of a YouTube video and has never looked back.

It's hard to believe when you look at some of the masterpieces Paula's created, but there have been disasters along the way.

"I once went to sew up two cardigans I'd done and discovered I'd done two left fronts and two right fronts. I pulled them apart and started again. My husband says it's good value for money when you knit the same wool twice."

No time for knitting in the office

It seems the only place Paula can't find time to get the needles out is at work.

Paula's been with Marram for 14 years and says her role as Support Team Manager has evolved over that time to include marketing and sales.

"I love the work. I like being busy and being able to have a say for change and being involved in decisions."

She says her biggest challenge is getting the Marram message through.

"I wish we could touch more of the people who could benefit and hate that they're missing out. I'm working hard to spread it."

Gaga's the GOAT

But up there with her (Lady Gaga) on Paula Mackay's playlist is Dean Martin, Neil Diamond, Billy Joel and ABBA.

Paula says a good song is simply one she likes. Music's a big part of life in the Mackay household. A singalong with a glass of wine is not uncommon at the days end.

On the tele it's a British drama series called The Split on Netflix that has her attention.

That and Masterchef, which seems odd given it's husband Andy who cooks all the meals in her house. Paula sticks to the baking which more often than not finds it's way out to family and friends in typical Paula style.

"It's just what I like doing"

Helping others seems to be what drives Marram's Support Team Manager which makes her perfect for the job.

She's less comfortable however with my suggestion that she's an artist and the work she produces with those knitting needles is art.

"It's just what I like doing," she says, but Lady Gaga probably says the same thing.

In my opinion the design, colourwork and hours of love that go into the beautiful blankets illustrated here is nothing short of art.

I'm sure you'll agree.





Photo competition

by Destina Munro, Design Editor - Etita Hoahoa

The pet competition had staff smiling.

It was a tough job! The judges felt the love with the huge number of entries and we smiled and cooed as we viewed all the much-loved dogs and cats. However, it was down to one main prize winner, four runner's up, and 10 consolation prizes. We thought you might like to hear what the judges thought.

Overall winner: Queen Ayaka, by Camille Geronim. What a beautiful portrait. The predominant autumn hues oozed warmth and liveliness. Queen Ayaka is placed nicely in the frame creating a good head and shoulders portrait with the space to her right allowing her to look out of the frame. Excellent of depth of field* control and lovely catch lights in the eye give the portrait a lift. Complete with a beautiful expression. (*Depth of field is the distance in an image where objects appear acceptably in focus or have a level of acceptable sharpness.)

Meg, by Elysie Irvine. We loved the contrasting colours of the black cat on the orange rug. Meg is well placed in the frame with a subtle diagonal line that makes a static image look more dynamic. The directness of the gaze directly connects with the viewer and those gorgeous catch lights in the eye add more life to a portrait. It's never easy photographing black (or white), the exposure of the blacks has been well captured with good tonal representation.

Nacho, by Holly Anstruther-Burson. It's all rolls and softness from the texture and curves of the rug, to the toy, to Nacho's lovely soft face, to the gorgeous pensive eyes. A beautiful colour palette of tone on tone. Everything is warm, snuggly and soft. Gorgeous catch lights in the eyes enliven the expression and square crop works well with this image.

Tiggi and Chase, by Sanjeet Bal. Happiness is two companions by the looks of it. Both dogs are alert and smiling. Great exposure given you have a white and black dog to deal with. The placement of the animals on the edge of the shade is excellent and this helps with exposure issues that one would have in the bright sunshine. Great use of shallow depth of field so the background doesn't detract from Tiggi and Chase. Again Sanjeet has managed to capture those catch lights in the eyes.

Milly, by Jane Thompson. This image was all about the story - one of the main reasons it made the selection. Milly is well placed within the frame and your eyes are immediately drawn to Milly's soft gentle face. The arm encircles Milly creating a sense of a safe haven. Lovely depth of field around the softness of the hand and jersey, with the background on the far left fully out of focus so as not to distract. Lovely lighting and the soft gentle expression speaks of a beautiful and very special friendship between owner and pet.



Photos: previous page: Queen Ayaka, by Camille Geronim. This page clockwise from top: Meg, by Elysie Irvine; Nacho, by Holly Anstruther-Burson; Tiggi and Chase, by Sanjeet Bal; Milly, by Jane Thompson.



YOUR WEEKEND WATCH

A LETTER TO YOU - APPLE+



Reviewed by Sue Burgin

I reckon you come to TV magic in two ways. You either arrive with breathless anticipation, having admired the genre, writer or actor before or you fall upon it by accident, frustrated at a line-up that's offering you nothing. And so it was on a Saturday night recently, having rejected everything on offer on Netflix, I moved to Apple + and found Letter To You, a documentary on the making of Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band's new album of the same name. As a self-confessed Bruce Springsteen fan I knew this would keep me entertained on the basis of great music alone. What I didn't expect was that it would take me much further than that. Rolling Stone described Letter To You as part love letter, part eulogy and part joyous rock 'n' roll celebration.

I agree. It was so much more than just a gathering of the band and the Boss for a recording session on his snow-covered New Jersey estate. The 71 year old looks older, the years etched on his face and he's looking back reflecting on the passing of time, friendships and loss. Songs like Ghost, I'll See You In My Dreams and Last Man Standing have Bruce laying it all on the table – this is a great album. Springsteen has a lot to say and the film makers meld the words beautifully with stunning black and white footage taking it right to the heart. There's one memorable shot of the Boss putting on his well worn signature airman's jacket and heading out into the New Jersey snow, but for me he's still the same kid who went 'Down To The River' all those years ago. I didn't want it to end, but end it did and I immediately went straight to the Apple store to download the album. Highly recommended.

ELVIS - AT THE CINEMA

Reviewed by Glenn Clark

Elvis, the best movie I've seen in years. Directed by Baz Luhrmann and starring Austin Butler as Elvis and Tom Hanks as his promotor, Tom Parker, Elvis follows Presley's rise to fame for his fans and infamy for his critics. Inspired by African American singers, organised and motivated by the reliably dubious Tom Parker and loved by Priscilla Presley, Elvis becomes the King. If you enjoyed the Queen movie, Bohemian Rhapsody (2018) and the Elton John bio Rocketman (2019), you must see Elvis. And you don't have to be an Elvis music and dance fan to appreciate this spectacular movie; just enjoy watching how history was made and the the world changed.



THE LONG WAY DOWN - APPLE+

Reviewed by Sue Burgin

My passion for travel has been well and truly satisfied after a week binge-watching this Apple + series, and my love of Africa stoked as episode after episode reminded me why this continent has such a hold on my heart. Scottish actor Ewan McGregor of Trainspotting and Star Wars fame and his friend Charley Boorman set out from John O Groats at the northern tip of Scotland in 2007 to ride their BMW motorbikes 15 thousand miles all the way to Capetown at the southern tip of Africa. The intrepid pair of besties face the best and worst Africa can throw at them, from dealing with border control to dust storms, tropical electrical storms and the notorious red dirt African roads. They encounter wonderful people, survivors of Rwandan genocide, Masai herdsmen happy to share their food and campfires, child soldiers of Joseph Kony's Lords Resistance Army and Africa's amazing wildlife along the way. And they navigate the natural strains on friendship posed by months on the road in searing temperatures and extreme conditions. There's a lovely raw grittiness to this documentary. Charley and Ewen have cameras mounted on their helmets which take us up close and personal not only to the action, particularly some spectacular falls from the bikes, but also the feelings and emotions of the pair in good times and bad. But there's lots of laughs along the way too. I was always going to love this but didn't expect to actually feel like I'd done the trip with them instead of feeling like a voyeur.



The really good news is Long Way Down is one of three documentaries done by the pair who started with Long Way Round from London to New York via Russia and Mongolia and more recently The Long Way Up, from the tip of South America to California on electric motorbikes. I loved them all. You'll find them all on Apple +

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Performance 2022

REVENUE

The level of financial contribution requested by the Board of Trustees remained unchanged throughout the financial year but the number of beneficiaries contributing declined slightly with the result that contribution income declined by \$106k compared with the previous year. Some of the holiday homes, especially around the Auckland region had to remain closed due to the COVID Alert Levels. However, with rent discounting, overall holiday home occupancy and income was good with income \$46.6k more than the previous year. Some of the increased rental income offsets the increased cleaning expenses for the year as all homes are cleaned between every stay due to COVID. The Trust's managed funds performance on dividends and interest was slightly higher than the previous year. However, with the volatility in stock market performances during the year, the fair value adjustments (unrealised gains and losses) saw a only a \$15k gain for the year compared to the \$2.5m gain in the previous year.

DISTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

The amount distributed in financial benefits for healthcare was \$50.6k more than in the previous year. The Trust continued with the Community Benefit launched during the last financial year end aimed at helping Marram beneficiaries who lost their employment due to the virus. At the end of the financial year, there were 90 beneficiaries on the Community Benefit with their contributions waived for up to twelve months after losing their employment.

Maintenance of 23 homes was completed for the year, property costs were higher than the previous year by \$390k with most of this being maintenance costs to keep the homes at a high standard both outside and inside. Multiple supply chain and COVID issues delayed the project again and again but the Wanaka re-development continues with 5 units to be completed by the end of this calendar year. The Queenstown development also struck multiple issues delaying a start until the development's projected costs can be brought back within the budget approved. Marram continues to save on material damage insurance costs as many years ago the Trust set up its own prudential fund to pay for any damage. Operating expenses increased by \$138k on the previous year, much related to marketing promotional expenses and additional marketing staff. The net result of the Trust's income and expenditure was a deficit after tax of \$607k.

FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

As a result of the reported deficit, the Trust's equity decreased by 1% to \$62.8m. The Trust remains in a sound financial position and that's without revaluing the holiday home portfolio from historic values to market values.

Glenn Clark
CEO

Marram Community Trust Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Income		
Contributions/ Donations	3,802,894	3,909,337
Holiday Home Rentals	2,949,989	2,903,349
Commercial Rental Income	50,533	47,833
Investment Income	207,611	197,492
Fair Value Adjustment on Investments	15,324	2,492,399
Realised Gain/(Loss) on sale of Assets	-	282,642
Covid-19 Wage Subsidy	-	77,326
Total Revenue	7,026,352	9,910,378

Less Benefits		
Financial Benefits	2,728,668	2,678,073
	2,728,668	2,678,073

Less Holiday Home Expenses		
Power & Water	219,320	196,132
Maintenance-Furnishings	262,442	150,713
Maintenance-Land & Buildings	1,024,053	761,419
Property Software Service Contract	5,078	5,047
Rates & Land Lease	379,646	362,930
Property Consultants	-	50,536
Property Inspection & Travel	15,678	8,701
House Person Expenses	89,077	77,727
Depreciation on Holiday Homes	701,454	693,725
	2,696,748	2,306,930

Gross Surplus from Trading	1,600,935	4,925,376
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Less Expenses		
Accident Compensation Levy	5,971	5,386
Amortisation	139,324	107,257
Bank Charges	81,901	80,482
Board Expenses	9,259	6,675
Computer Expenses	336,053	336,212
Depreciation - Other	48,011	31,767
Depreciation - Other Buildings	18,360	18,360
Depreciation - Building Investments	11,639	11,639
Donations	300	-
Insurance	28,687	25,202
Investment Fee	78,900	73,068
Loss on Disposal of Assets	6,482	101,948
Marketing Expenses	20,404	2,851
Office Administration Expenses	9,293	10,840
Other Commercial Expenses	48,361	44,057
Postage	21,905	9,445
Premise Maintenance	34,729	19,353
Printing & Stationery	32,048	32,324
Professional Fee	60,245	69,360
Publicity & Promotion	27,462	16,636
Staff Expenses	79,666	66,507
Staff Training	2,624	4,721
Telephone, Tolls & Internet	17,902	20,223
Travel and Accommodation	833	592
Wages & Salaries	1,106,782	994,013
Total Expenses	2,227,141	2,088,916

Operating Surplus Before Tax	(626,206)	2,836,459
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Taxation	(19,624)	219,530
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Net Surplus After tax	(606,582)	2,616,930
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Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses	(606,582)	2,616,930
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Total Surplus attributable to the Group	(606,582)	2,616,930
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Marram Community Trust Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses		
Opening Balance	61,838,864	59,221,934
Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses	(606,582)	2,616,930
Surplus for the Year	(606,582)	2,616,930
Total Comprehensive revenue and expense	(606,582)	2,616,930
Total Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expense	61,232,281	61,838,864

Marram Community Trust Consolidated Statement of Financial Position As at 31st March 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Current Assets	6,380,786	7,703,640
Non-Current Assets	56,419,186	55,762,347
Total Assets	62,799,972	63,465,987
Current Liabilities	1,567,691	1,627,124
Equity	61,232,281	61,838,863
Total Liabilities & Equity	62,799,972	63,465,987

Marram Community Trust Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Net Operating Cash flow	51,711	1,796,181
Net Investing Cash flow	(1,484,916)	444,978
Net Cash flow	(1,433,205)	2,241,159

These financial statements were approved for issue and on behalf of the Board of Trustees.



Heather Polglare - Chairperson

3/08/2022

Notes to the Summary Financial Report

The Summary Financial Report for Marram Community Trust (The Trust) and its controlled entity Sevenaway Trustside are presented together (the "Group") are presented for 2022. These have been extracted from the full financial reports. These are in NZD and are rounded to the nearest dollar. The full financial reports were authorised on 3 August 2022 and given an unmodified opinion. The summary financial report cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report can be obtained from the e-mail address below. The auditor has examined the summary financial report for consistency with the audited financial report and has issued an unmodified opinion. For further information please e-mail: support@marram.co.nz

The summary financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

1. Statement of Compliance

For the current reporting year, the Group has elected to prepare Special Purpose Financial Statements with accounting policies that are consistent with the requirements of Tier 2 Not For Profit PBE financial reporting requirements with the exception of PBE MAS 12. This is on the basis that the Group is not required to prepare General Purpose Financial Reports.

The financial statements have been prepared for the Group's financiers, the Board of Trustees' and the Group's beneficiaries.



BDO Wellington Audit Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary balance sheet as at 31 March 2022, the summary statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses, summary statement of changes in net assets, summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of Marram Community Trust (the 'Trust') for the year ended 31 March 2022.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements* issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full financial statements. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated August 3 2022.

Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Directors are responsible on behalf of the entity for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISA (NZ)) 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in the Trust.

BDO Wellington Audit Limited

BDO WELLINGTON AUDIT LIMITED
03 August 2022
Wellington
New Zealand

Referral

Starts 26 August to 12 September, 5 pm
GOOD MATES SHARE GOOD NEWS



With increasing pressure on the household budget, Marram is able to help financially with day to day healthcare expenses and holiday accommodation in 150 holiday homes (many pet friendly) throughout New Zealand at below market rates.

You know how well this works for you, so Marram asks you to share that opportunity with as many of your colleagues as possible, rewarding you both in the process.

SPREAD THE WORD WITH YOUR MATES:

If 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 family 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 \$6,400 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

Go to marram.co.nz and sign up today!

HOT OFF THE PRESS

30% OFF

NEWS FLASH - 30% discount extended

The hugely popular discounted rates for Marram holiday homes have been extended.

Inflation's up, interest rates are up, petrol's up, but until 23rd December, Marram holiday home rates are down by 30%.

And the good news just keeps coming. The 100% refund policy has also been extended to 23rd December making booking a holiday stress free.

The 30% discount will be applied to all holidays booked and taken before the 23rd December.

Bookings must be for a minimum two nights or longer. The 30% offer can't be used alongside any other discount.

MORE PET-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY HOMES

Marram now has 18 fully fenced and gated pet-friendly holiday homes.

Raglan, Palmerston North, Picton unit 1, and Lake Tekapo unit 1 have been added to the list.

Other pet-friendly units can be found in Whangarei, Maraetai Beach, Orewa, Ohope, Acacia Bay, Hastings, New Plymouth, Paraparaumu Beach, Lyall Bay, Kaikoura, Hanmer Springs, Cromwell, Hokitika and Dunedin.

All are fully Baxter approved!



Top to bottom: Recent mini makeovers Auckland East and Maraetai

OREWA ABOUT TO FEEL THE LOVE

A full refurbishment of the Marram holiday homes started last month.

The five units on the popular Hibiscus Coast are getting the full treatment with painting, new carpets, furniture, appliances and artwork.

However supply and other COVID-related issues have curtailed the refurbishment program considerably this year.

Instead mini makeovers have been done on the holiday homes in Whitianga, Maraetai Beach and Auckland East, and your feedback has been very positive.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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 linkedin.com/company/76193175/admin/
 youtube.com/user/MarramTrust/videos



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 and Scenic Journeys runs from **1 February to 15 December 2022**, meaning you have even more opportunity to get a deal on your next trip.

- Reservations must be made via www.greatjourneysofnz.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





MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST



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