

SPRING 2023

TIROHANGA OUTLOOK

THE MARRAM COMMUNITY TRUST MAGAZINE



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Marram's Financial Report 2023
- It's time to start talking to our men about health
- No traffic jams just stunning scenery and heaps of history on the West Coast
- Celebrating 50 years with NZ Post
- How to bake the BEST Cheese Scones in your Marram kitchen
- And our TV reviewer finds plenty to love about a couple of documentaries in this issue

Editor's Letter

El Nino has arrived and settled in since we last spoke. Depending on what part of the country you're from, this will be either a good or a bad thing.

La Nina wasn't very kind to much of the country over the past 12 months but El Nino (little boy, in English) is expected to turn things around, bringing drier weather to the East Coast and more wet weather to the West Coast.

What can we do? Not a lot really except be glad for New Zealand's temperate climate and go support the East Coast holiday spots suffering from the fallout caused by three years of La Nina.

Marram's pleased to report its holiday homes in the East Coast locations affected by the floods and constant rain, suffered very little damage.

In this Spring edition of Outlook, we're highlighting the South Island's West Coast, a region that's made constant rain and mist-covered hills and wetlands a visitor attraction

There's so much to love in this historical area, once the economic engine room of colonial New Zealand. It boasts stunning scenery, vast National Parks, glaciers and coastal vistas, and history, forged by a gold rush, coal mining and timber milling.

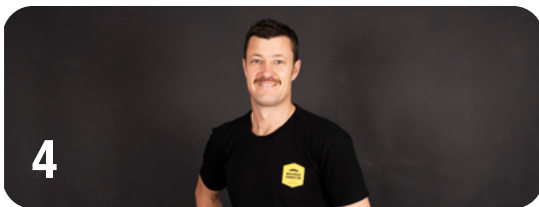
What's up with the reluctance of our menfolk to talk about health? They're paying a big price and the health feature on page 4 looks at our role in changing things.

It's September so Marram's Financial Report is in the magazine for you to take a look at.

Meanwhile, Hasta la vista La Nina – and Bienvenido El Nino, please be kind.

Sue Burgin

Content Editor - Etita Kōrero



In this issue:

- 4** There's a lot to talk about when it comes to men's health and the conversation needs to start now.
- 6** Is there anywhere more endowed with scenic beauty and steeped in history than the South Island's West Coast? The travel feature may help you answer that question.
- 15** Everything you need to know about how to whip up the best cheese scones ever in your Marram holiday home kitchen.
- 16** Meet Hamish Weir Marram's Finance Manager who's been mesmerised by numbers since he was three years old.
- 18** Check out some of the winning entries in the popular Love Winter Photo Competition.
- 19** And what keeps someone in the same job for 50 years? Brian Wyatt has the answer on page 19.
- 20** A couple of documentaries about a couple of polarizing characters are reviewed in Your Weekend Watch.
- 24** Marram's Annual Financial Report.

Marram Community Trust
PO Box 24006
Wellington 6142
New Zealand
Ph: 04 801 2920
Fax: 04 385 3558

Etita Kōrero - Content Editor:
Sue Burgin
email: sue.burgin@marram.co.nz

Etita Hoahoa - Design Editor:
Destina Munro
email: destina.munro@marram.co.nz

Doing your bit to save the planet one step at a time

Doing our bit to tread lightly on the planet

So encouraging to hear about the little steps Marram people are taking to minimise their carbon footprint.

If the enthusiastic response to a recent quick Marram Facebook poll is anything to go by we're meeting the challenge in some innovative ways.

We're biking, driving electric vehicles, walking, composting, recycling and learning not to rely on plastic.

Some are going above and beyond, like Adnan who sends food scraps to the Auckland City Council where it's converted to liquid fertilizer and used to grow more kai.

Kerri vigilantly washes all items destined for the yellow recycling bin to make sure they're totally fit for recycling.

Sue has a worm farm, Brenda's buying pre-loved items and Jacqui's bought a second-hand hybrid car and is loving the fuel savings she's making.

True Kaitiakitanga, guardians of this beautiful place we call home

And while we're all out there doing all we can, Marram's committed to improving efficiency in all the holiday homes with initiatives like installing EV chargers at selected locations.

As furniture in the homes needs replacing, it's being replaced by New Zealand-made products made from sustainable natural materials.

All new carpets and flooring will also be New Zealand-made natural products.

Wherever possible things no longer needed in the homes will be upcycled.

Things like kitchenware and appliances will only be replaced when needed. Eco-friendly products like soap, cleaning products, rubbish and doggie bags will be used, and guests in the holiday homes will be asked to reduce water and waste wherever possible.

Every small change we make in our homes and communities won't only reduce greenhouse gases and protect the climate but also save us money.



The conversation we need to have is underway

by Sue Burgin

Are you brave enough to take part? Your friend seems different, quieter and not his usual self.

Are you brave enough to ask him how he is? And then, are you brave enough to continue the conversation and talk to him about it?

Health stats released during Men's Health Week in June this year make sobering reading.

They show the health outcomes of New Zealand men are considerably poorer than women when it comes to health and life expectancy.

On average they live four years less than women, they're 20% more likely to die of a heart attack and almost 30% more likely to get diabetes. Worse still, they're three times more likely to die by suicide or in a road crash and Māori and Pasifika men live significantly shorter lives than other ethnicities on average.

The shocking end result is that one in four of our Kiwi men won't live to retire.

This is why we all need to start talking about men's health.

The conversation's started but we could be doing better

A group of fired-up Mo-bros and Mo-sisters have been encouraging us to have these conversations for 12 years now, through community education and the very popular annual Movember event staged every November.

Robert Dunne, New Zealand Country Director for Movember, is encouraging and optimistic in the face of these grim statistics.

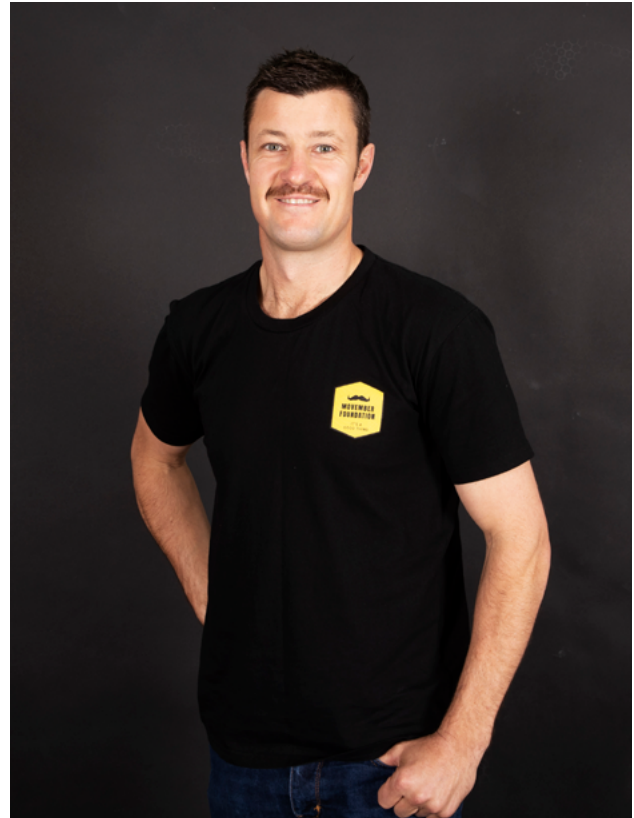
"The stuff that gets airtime is generally centred on government, what's happening with funding and abrasive statistics. The stats are just a snapshot in time, the truth is there's a lot of good stuff happening out there. Behaviours are changing and steps are being taken. I come across amazing people doing amazing stuff all the time," he says.

"But we could be doing better. The answers are simple and right in front of our noses – we just have to get men to make the move."

The way we engage must change

Robert says there's a place for traditional medical pathways but the health system's under strain and we can help take the pressure off by looking after ourselves and others better.

"The way men engage with the medical profession needs to improve. Men don't feel comfortable in certain environments. We need more specific men's clinics and literature specific to men, and we need to start those difficult conversations."



New Zealand Movember Country Director, Robert Dunne

He says starting those conversations and encouraging action when we recognise a change in someone can be a lifesaver, because the science tells us we get better outcomes when we act early.

A sense of community helping farmers

There's a lot of work being done in the rural communities around acknowledging you're not ok and seeking help.

Farmers are very much at the start of a journey and a lot needs to be done, but they're out there going for it according to Robert, and getting great results.

"It's a fine balancing act but they're trying hard and making the most of a sense of community that many others don't have."

He says life's so busy and full these days for so many people.

"Shops don't close Sundays, every day's a work day and there's no longer a day of rest."

Women have a role to play

Mums, sisters, partners and daughters are the most influential in men's health discussions according to Robert, who says they can notice change and look out for signs.

"We joke about how women talk about anything, anywhere, anytime, but in fact, they benefit from that. For years men have been taught to get on with it and sort yourself out."

Workplaces Leading the Way

Robert has no doubt about the role workplaces play in getting on top of these awful statistics. He says it's huge and along with clubs and schools, that's where the biggest impact can be made.

"Companies are trying to be really innovative in this space and bosses are putting a lot of energy into it."

He thinks a level of care and support for people during COVID has continued with bosses developing more trust in workers and allowing more flexibility.

"Any moustache is a good moustache in Movember"

A huge part of Robert's work is planning and preparing for Movember, the popular event which sees thousands of New Zealanders get sponsored to grow a moustache during the month of November.

"Every Movember we have awesome conversations with people who've had great changes during the month. The real challenge is to re-set and get stuck in again come January.

It's about getting men to change their behaviour.

Most men know when they're in a difficult place and know how to get out of it. We just need to make it habitual.

Movember needs our support

The charity started in Australia 20 years ago and is now global.

It's totally funded by donations and has no government funding.



A large percentage of those donations come from those taking part in or supporting someone taking part in the Movember challenge.

If everyone who takes part then has a proactive men's health conversation, we'll all be rowing the boat in the same direction.

This additional layer of advocacy is a powerful health tool.

"Movember exists to help men live happier, healthier and longer lives," he says.

So how do you start the conversation?

The Movember team suggests you call on ALEC for guidance.

A – ASK someone how they're doing – something as simple as 'You don't seem yourself lately – are you feeling OK?'

L – LISTEN. Give them your full attention.

E – ENCOURAGE ACTION. Help them to focus on simple things that might improve how they feel.

C – CHECK IN. Follow up after your chat. This reinforces that you care and can help you too.



No traffic jams on the West Coast

by Sue Burgin

It's an untamed natural wilderness with 600 km of coastline, five National Parks, spectacular scenery and a great backstory.

According to Heath Milne, Head of Development West Coast, you have room to breathe on the coast, the general pace is calmer and more relaxed, and traffic jams just aren't a thing.

"West Coasters have a reputation for being tough and uncompromising but in fact, they're interesting and welcoming," he says.

He wants you to know the West Coast is open for business and like thousands of other Kiwis you need to come on down.

Sustainability is more than just a buzzword

Regenerative tourism, which demands visitors, have a positive impact on the environments they visit, is a genuine practice on the coast.

Heath Milne says tourism is going through a time of change with local operators recognising it's not just the right thing to do but also good for business.

Projects like Okarito Gorse Busters are meeting with huge success in controlling gorse in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Here, visitors are encouraged to take time out with like-minded people to control the unwanted pest.

"They leave happy, knowing they've contributed," he says.

Eighty-five percent of the entire West Coast is public conservation land, including the five National Parks, and conservation initiatives like Predator-free South Westland are thriving.

In fact, they're close to eradicating all rats, stoats and possums in the 100-thousand-hectare area in scenic South Westland.

As a result of this predator-free initiative, native birdlife, flora, and fauna are now flourishing.

Four world-class cycle and walkways

With a population of 10,000, Greymouth is the biggest town on the West Coast, followed by Westport and then Hokitika.

Then there's a bunch of interesting small towns which Heath Milne says are experiencing a real renaissance at the moment.

"Reefton's a good example with its cool little retail precinct.

While there visit Little Biddy Gin distillery and taste a local product currently taking the world by storm."

The Coast boasts four world-class cycle and walkways.

At the top end, the Old Ghost Road, a long-forgotten gold miner's road has been revived as a mountain biking and tramping trail.

The family-friendly, Grade Two Kawatiri walking, and cycleway, runs from Westport to Charleston.

Paparoa, the latest Great Walk, crosses the Paparoa Ranges between Blackball and Punakaiki providing breathtaking views.



And finally, the easier Grade two West Coast Wilderness Trail from Greymouth to Ross.

Steeped in history

There's plenty to get excited about on the West Coast. "The history of the area is phenomenal, but the story hasn't been told well," Heath Milne says.

Bruce Bay in Westland was the first New Zealand landing point for Māori who discovered Pounamu in the region. A period of conflict followed over access to the green stone.

By the 1860s, it was gold that had European settlers rushing to the West Coast.

In the late 1800s, with gold becoming harder to find, there was a move toward timber and New Zealand's largest sawmill was built there.

By the 1900s, coal had been discovered on the West Coast and coal mining became the dominant industry, helping fuel New Zealand's developing economy.

Visitors will find remnants of the old mining villages and campsites all over the coast.

You can also visit the site of NZ's worst industrial disaster at the Brunner coal mine in Westland's Grey Valley. Sixty five miners lost their lives following an explosion at the mine on the 26th of March 1896.

Today there's only a couple of working mines left on the coast.

West Coast hospitality hard to beat

And finally, perhaps one of the best reasons to visit the West Coast is the people.

According to Heath, West Coast hospitality is legendary.

"We're particularly welcoming, especially of other New Zealanders. There's a big desire to share what we have with others."

He says the resurgence of Kiwis exploring their own backyard following the COVID lockdowns has resulted in visitors staying longer and exploring deeper.

"I think people have realised we're not just a drive-through, quick-stop destination anymore."

Photos: previous page: Old Ghost Road cycle rail. Photo: Richard Rossiter. This page: Nature tour. Photo: Glacier Valley Eco Tours.



Walking on the Wild Side in Punakaiki

The West Coast is chocka with great walking tracks.

There are challenging multi-day walks through the Paparoa National Park, one of New Zealand's great walks, and an abundance of short family-friendly walks as well.

Walks like the Pancake Rocks and blowholes just south of Punakaiki Village, where a short, well-maintained DOC track leads you to the region's famous Pancake Rocks and the impressive Putai Blowhole. This 15-minute walk is suitable for everyone and is wheelchair friendly.

Doc Ranger Jacob Fleming, Supervisor at the Paparoa National Park Visitors Centre in Punakaiki says this is an area of the West Coast you don't want to miss.



Pancaked rocks and blowholes

The Pancake Rocks are limestone formations that began forming on the seabed around 30 million years ago. Earthquakes were responsible for raising them to the level we see today.

Under the sea, there are many passages and caverns facing the sea, which is why when there's a big swell, the sea surges through them, resulting in some spectacular blowholes around high tide.

Just north of Punakaiki you'll find The Truman Track, another short walk the Ranger recommends.

"To start with the drive from Hokitika is spectacular and when you get here there's so much to do, and it's all free," he says.

For the more adventurous

The Pororari River track, the pedestrian entry point to the Paparoa Great Walk can be as long or short as you want.

This walk takes you along the Pororaki River Gorge with its towering limestone cliffs, punctuated by majestic Nikau Palms.

The more adventurous can continue and will eventually join the Paparoa Great Walk track or the Cave Creek Memorial Track, Kotihotihoh.

Start at the Paparoa National Park Visitor Centre

Before embarking on any of these walks, Jacob recommends you pop into the Visitor Centre and talk to the friendly staff about weather conditions and what you might need to know.

He says they rarely close a track and it's up to visitors to make their own decisions around safety.

If all this walking makes you hungry, Punakaiki Village boasts a café and a tavern and there are kayaks for hire to use on the river.

Walk off lunch

After lunch, he recommends a scenic 15-minute drive north to Fox River where you'll find a nice beach walk and more sea caves.

So, if you're staying in a Marram home in Hokitika, Nelson, Hamner or Christchurch, consider putting a roadie to Punakaiki on the agenda.

Jacob says visitor numbers are almost back to pre-COVID levels, but it's generally quieter on the West Coast right now.

His best advice is – plan your trip around the weather forecast and always bring a raincoat.



Stepping back in time

No visit to the West Coast is complete without a visit to the iconic Shantytown Heritage Park, located between Hokitika and Greymouth.

You'll need to put aside a solid half day to explore everything on offer at the historic park.

Laugharne Kemp, Shantytown's Events and Marketing Manager, says the biggest regret they hear from visitors is that they haven't budgeted enough time to do all there is to do.

A day in Shantytown can be as interactive or as passive as you like, and if you're brave enough to get your hands wet and dirty you could go home at the end of the day with your very own nugget of West Coast gold.

A big open-air museum

This recreated 19th-century village, with its heritage trains, sawmill, gold claim, and iron foundry opened in 1971, but takes visitors back to an era when life on the West Coast looked vastly different.

"It's a big open-air museum. With around 30 period-specific buildings there's plenty to explore," Laugharne says.

The colonial buildings either started life elsewhere or are replicas of the gold rush era. The church for instance originally started life in No Town in the Grey

Valley, in 1866, after being transported in kit set form by horse and barged up the Grey River.

Hannahs Shoe Shop is a nod to New Zealand's largest shoe manufacturer and retailer, Robert Hannah who opened his first shoe shop in Charleston near Westport in 1868.

There's gold in them thar hills

All tickets to Shantytown include a ticket to ride the park's heritage train on a short trip along an old sawmill track through the rainforest. Once you return to the sawmill, you'll disembark and walk to the gold claim and sluice area.

Twice a day the Sluice Canon will be fired, dislodging gold-bearing gravel from the hillside which travels down the water race to the gold claim area.

Here, hopefully, you find your own gold after being schooled by your own gold-panning tutor. Laugharne says you're guaranteed success this way, but there's also a wild claim area where you're given a shovel and a pan and left to your own devices.

Then, after a busy few hours making like a pioneer, you can fuel up at King Dick's Café or have a bevvy at the Gold Nugget Saloon.

The kids might prefer to explore the Schoolroom, dress up for old-time photos in the saloon or visit the Sweet Shop.

For full details on all you can do in Shantytown, events, and ticket prices, check the website:

www.shantytown.co.nz





Previous page: Shanty Town Heritage Park.
This page from top: Interactive experiences available with steam engines and gold panning. Photos: ShantyTown Heritage Park.

Treasures from a time when Coal was King



Life wasn't easy on the West Coast coalfields back in the late 1880s.

It was dirty, risky, back-breaking work.

For a deeper dive into the era immortalized in Jenny Patrick's novel, *The Denniston Rose*, schedule a visit to the Coaltown Museum in the heart of Westport.

Coaltown's a popular West Coast attraction showcasing the coal mining history of the Buller and Westport areas and the Pakeha and European settlers involved in the mining and export of West Coast coal.

A waterfront strike hastens the end of West Coast coal boom

Coaltown's Collections Cataloguer and Trustee, Ralph Rataul, says the region's coal production began in the late 1800s and peaked before 1920. Denniston had the country's most productive coal mines, but life was tough up on the plateau. In its heyday, there were up to 14,000 people in its settlements. Today there are no more than 50 people living on the plateau.

It was the Waterfront Dispute of 1951 that sounded the death knell for the industry.

"The Navy stepped into transport the coal and introduced a new model. It was a very disruptive moment for the industry which never regained momentum," Ralph says.

Popular exhibits

One of the more popular exhibits at the museum is a simulated underground mine. Visitors can also watch

a film showing the mine's massive Q Wagon in action, taking coal down the extremely steep incline at the Denniston mine.

The miners in those days were mostly UK immigrants who brought the concept of unionism to New Zealand with them. As a result, the country's first wave of unionism was born on the West Coast and this features in another Coaltown exhibit.

Exciting changes ahead

2023 has been a busy year of developmental change for the popular museum according to Ralph who says visitors can expect a completely renovated gallery to be in place by the end of the year.

Coaltown will become part of the Pounamu Pathway, linking it with the larger West Coast narrative.

For more details on the Pathway project:

<https://tearapounamu.co.nz>

Ralph Rataul suggests you check the museum's Facebook page if you're planning a visit to check what exhibits might be affected by the renovation work.

Operating hours and prices can also be found here

<https://westport.nz/heritage-and-arts/>

Photo: Brake head, Denniston mine. Photo credit : Peter Robertson.



Formerly known as the Blackball Hilton

In fact, still known as Formerly the Blackball Hilton today.

That's because the American Hilton Hotel chain wasn't impressed at this little West Coast pub paying homage to the Hilton name and pulled out the big guns to force a name change.

Adding Formerly to the name was the typically West Coast way of dealing with what was turning into a costly problem.

An old-school pub true to its origins

The pub's interesting back story is just one of the reasons you should stop off at this Blackball icon for a bevvy or bite to eat while visiting the West Coast.

Publican Cynthia Robins says it's an old-school pub that's true to its origins and the epitome of West Coast hospitality.

It started life in 1910 as The Dominion Hotel when Blackball was thriving thanks to a flourishing coal industry.

However, the Dominion went into decline in the 60s following the closure of the mine and eventually closed for a few years.

It was a man called Mike Graham who took over the pub in the 1970s who named it the Blackball Hilton.

Cynthia says the hotel's had about seven owners and each one has done a little more to it.

"But it's still pretty much original, with the original bedrooms and bathrooms. It's a designated historic building and you can't change much."

Pub Grub draws praise

These days there are only 300 people living in Blackball but the town still has two pubs and a Workingman's Club taking care of their thirst.

An annual event that attracts big crowds is a pub crawl which sees people literally crawl between the three, partaking in various activities.

Cynthia says Formerly the Blackball Hilton is known for serving great food which has people travelling from as far away as Reefton to dine.

Local Venison and the world-famous Blackball Salami feature on the menu.

The West Coast Code

Cynthia says West Coasters are resilient, capable of getting on with the job and welcoming to visitors. "There's a very definite code around here. Everyone does their bit to get the job done, and they don't necessarily ask for permission," she says.

She promises you'll find lots of interesting characters along with the good food at Formerly the Blackball Hilton.

When asked whether the pubs embraced any of the more modern elements of life, she laughs.

"We offer flushing toilets, hot and cold water and the internet."

So many reasons to pop into Blackball's old-school pub next time you're heading north to Greymouth.

Formerly the Blackball Hilton, Blackball, West Coast, Photo credit: DWC.



From the Marram kitchen

The Holiday Traybake

by Sue Burgin

Who doesn't love a good cheese scone?

Scones whipped up in the blink of an eye and baked to crispy perfection were a staple of my childhood beach holidays. Because they're easy and everyone loves them.

You have all the equipment you need to whip up a batch in your Marram holiday home kitchen.

All you need to bring to the party is a bag of self-rising flour, an egg, and a bag of grated tasty cheese.

Honestly, these will be the best cheese scones you've ever tasted if you follow a few rules:

- Don't over-mix. Stop mixing as soon as the ingredients come together.
- Use cold ingredients. The colder the better.
- Always mix scones with a knife.
- Bake in a very hot oven - 200 degrees.
- Don't skimp on the cheese and it must be Tasty.

Ingredients

- 2 cups self-raising flour
- Generous 2 cups tasty cheese
- Salt
- Pinch cayenne pepper, optional
- 250 mls very cold water
- 1 egg

Method

Sift flour into a bowl. Add salt and grated tasty cheese. Mix egg and water together and then pour into dry ingredients and mix until it just comes together. The mixture should be quite wet. Flour your hands and gently form a ball on the bench, forming a rectangle. Use a knife to cut into squares or wedges, and place close together on a greased and floured tray. Brush remnants of the egg mixture on top for a nice crispy finish.

Place in the middle of the oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes.

Serve with lashings of hot melting butter with impunity! After all, there's no butter in the recipe. Bon appetite.





Hamish Weir

by Sue Burgin

He can identify an impressive number of bird calls and has a fascination with numbers that started at the age of about three but there's nothing 'nerdy' about Marram's new Finance Manager.

Hamish Weir laughs as he recalls how he'd reel off numbers and demand to know what came next driving his poor mother mad, as a youngster back in Otago many years ago.

"And holiday trips were interesting, peppered as they were with my sister's ABBA or Osmond's tapes and my Treasury of New Zealand Birdsong soundtrack."

Spreading his wings

His interests have widened somewhat over the years and these days you'll find him on the basketball court, coaching and refereeing Kāpiti College senior girls' team, in the garden indulging a love of growing produce for the family or cooking delicious Asian-inspired food in the kitchen. That's when he's not in the Marram office wrangling numbers.

However, Hamish admits he's always retained that interest in ornithology.

Proud family man

Hamish is a fiercely proud family man, father of Elliot, Amelia, Imogen, and first-born son Josh who passed away at eight weeks after being born prematurely.

"Those were difficult days, but he taught us so much for such a small person," Hamish says.

Elliot, Amelia, and Imogen are a great source of pride for this dad, who shows me pictures of his oldest daughter Amelia snowboarding in the French Alps while on an exchange visit from Otago University where she studies psychology and neuroscience.

Elliot is also at Otago doing a master's degree and working as an Otago Regional Councillor after being elected at last year's local body election.

His youngest daughter Imogen is Head of School at Kāpiti College. Hamish is also the Deputy Chair of the Kāpiti College Board.

The big OE

A passion for travel has taken Hamish all over the world.

As a young man straight out of university with a BCA under his arm he headed to Europe, securing a job in the UK where he could take advantage of the proximity of so many other countries, to travel.

Around the time the Berlin Wall fell, and the Balkan war was flaring he travelled into Poland and up into the USSR, where he experienced some anxious moments being chased through a Moscow hotel by the KGB.

Another harrowing experience was being yelled at by an East German guard with a very large automatic weapon having stepped through a hole in the recently demolished Berlin wall.

"But I was soaking up all the history and culture and developing a lifelong love of travel," he says.

Photo previous page: When he's not crunching numbers, you find Hamish in the garden. Photography by Destina Munro.

Family life

After meeting his wife Jo when he returned home, he settled down to raise a family.

But that old travel bug bit and Hamish and Jo with their young family spontaneously decided to pack up and head off on another adventure, this time to the Cook Islands.

"We went for the lifestyle and Rarotonga absolutely delivered," Hamish says.

The next four years were spent working for a beach resort and then at the Cook Islands Audit Office.

This was followed by nearly four years in Hanoi in Vietnam and Chiang Mai in Thailand.

"It couldn't have been more different. It was a real assault on the senses, but we loved it. When Hanoi got too much, we'd escape out of the city to relax in the national parks," Hamish says.

For most of his time in Vietnam and Thailand, Hamish worked in financial management at a big café and bakery chain.

Returning to Aotearoa

Then seven years ago Hamish and Jo decided to bring the family back to New Zealand.

Hamish spent time working for the New Zealand Community Trust and Parents Centre before moving to Marram nine months ago.

He says working in a not-for-profit organisation makes him happy.

"I wanted to do more in that space. People are a big part of what makes me happy and I'm always happy when I see how the work being done helps a lot of people. Marram was a perfect fit."

Playing favourites

If Hamish isn't to be found on the basketball court, in the garden or cooking for the family, there's a chance he'll be taking time out indulging another passion, listening to the music of Irish band U2.

He's been to five U2 concerts and counts a 50th birthday trip to Vancouver to see Bono and his band as a life highlight.

He says Bono inspires him with the way he uses his influence to do good stuff.

He still loves his sport. "I'm a Hurricanes supporter if they're not playing Otago," he laughs.

And rates Dead Poets Society as the best movie he's ever seen.

Anything you're not so keen to tell us about Hamish?

A minor misdemeanor comes to mind immediately.

This man with a penchant for numbers and birdsong was once arrested and marched out of a cricket game. (Something to do with a neighbour taking a laser light stick to the hallowed ground.)

"It was midway through a very exciting game, but it didn't go down well when I asked the officer who threw me into the cell if there was any chance of a TV to watch the cricket," he says. "I wasn't charged but they wouldn't let me leave until the game was over."

He's laughing about it now, but I sense he wasn't at the time.

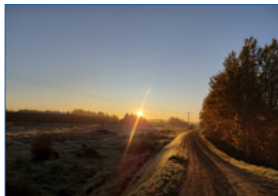
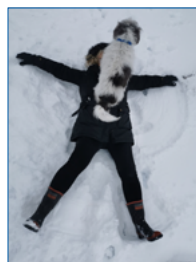
LOVE WINTER PHOTO COMPETITION

Winter, Summer, Autumn or Spring. What a beautiful country we live in.

These stunning images were among hundreds submitted by our Marram community for the recent Love Winter Photo Competition. Your photos captured every aspect of winter, showing the joy it gives all of us. It wasn't easy for the judges to whittle the entries down to four winners, but here they are along with ten other entries awarded special merit Marram gift packs.



Winners: Clockwise from top: Linda Gates, winter morning at boat club; Carolyn Banks, Morning walk up to the Pinnacles; Monika Kathuria, Fairlie; Delina Webster, morning walk with dog.



Congratulations to the following people who will all receive a Merit gift pack for their entries:

Top row:

Calli Perrott, Family holiday in Queenstown; Sandra Jacks, pet friendly Picton; Calli Perrott, Queenstown walk; Donna Smith, snow angel.

Two middle images:

Monika Kathuria, Wanaka to Queenstown; Marie Pineda, Lake Tekapo;

Bottom row:

Melissa Guevarra, Fun at Glenorchy; Ross Lamont-Bennett, wintry morning walk; Carolyn Banks, solitude at Mt Maunganui; Raizel Reyes, the joy of son playing in the snow for the first time.

Marram beneficiary celebrates 50 years with NZ Post

It was 1973 when Brian Wyatt walked into the Kaiapoi branch of the Post Office and started a career that's lasted five decades.

In January this year, his colleagues gathered around a huge cake to celebrate a milestone not many achieve – 50 years in the same job. Friend and colleague Craig Fairhall shares Brian's story in this tribute he's written for Outlook.

His positions have changed over the years, and he was involved in numerous Post Shop closures and staff restructuring but through it all, Brian somehow managed to survive the cut.

The past 33 years have seen him ensconced in the Christchurch Central Box Lobby, initially in the old Central Post Office in Hereford Street, formerly the Christchurch City Council building.

Since the 2011 earthquakes, he's been just across the road on the temporary Cashel Street box lobby site which has seemingly become a permanent home. It's been operating for 12 years now.

Ask Brian a question about most things post-related and he will either give you the answer or tell a good story about who or what business might have been a previous occupier of that box number. His memory and knowledge of such things is second to none.

Starting well before dawn most days of the week, has never been a problem for Brian. While he has a reputation for being a couple of minutes late for every shift, he always arrives ready with a laugh and a smile.

In his spare time, Brian indulges his love of tennis or watches stock car racing, with the summer months revolving around these two sports. Two sports that accurately reflect his philosophy of not taking life too seriously.

Brian's a very valuable member of the team at the Cashel Street Box lobby and even after 50 years on the job, retirement is still a decision to be made in the future.

"Maybe in a year or so," he laughs.

When asked about the changes he's seen in the postal service over 50 years, Brian says the Post Office was more of a social service in the old days.

"We looked after the telegraph, banking, motor registration and applications for telephone service. These days it's a lot more efficient and there's not so much time to chat away to customers."

And from the team at Marram, a big congratulations Brian. Thank you for your service.



Brian Wyatt recently celebrated 50 years with NZ Post (photo supplied).

And the secret to being happily employed by the same company for 50 years? Well, change doesn't sit easily with Brian. "I don't like it and I never ever felt like moving on. I enjoy the camaraderie and it's a good organisation to work for."

Congratulations Brian on an incredible achievement that not many people can lay claim to these days.

Written by Craig Fairhall.



Photo: Staff outside the entrance to Cranford Street Post Office in St Albans. Staff, from left, Mr Brian Wyatt, Postmaster with Mrs Judith Bond, Mrs Sylvia Jones and Miss Therese Mackey. (Photo: supplied, NZ Post.)

YOUR WEEKEND WATCH

ALMOST AUSTRALIAN - NETFLIX



Reviewed by Sue Burgin

British-born actor Miriam Margolyes is perhaps better known for her role as Professor Sprout in Harry Potter, but she's also a master of the travel documentary it seems.

The self-professed Grey Nomad steps out of what she calls her personal bubble of like-minded people for this Netflix series, to find the answer to a question she's struggling with: after living in the Lucky Country for 44 years, has she earned the right to be called Australian?

She's an Australian citizen after all, and lives in a home she shares with her Australian partner Heather in New South Wales, but what are Australian values, and does she share them?

To find out she sets off in her campervan to travel across Australia to find out what life's like for the inhabitants of the towns she passes through.

Her disarming sense of humour and apparent lack of a social filter allows her to quickly cut to the chase as she delves deep to find out what being Australian means to them.

Some are living the Australian dream, but others are struggling.

A dark truth begins to emerge. At one stage after spending time with Moj, an Afghani refugee who lost his parents in the war, and who is now in the middle of another fight with Aussie immigration officials for the right to stay, she is reduced to tears.

In the Outback, she visits a farming family whose dream has been shattered by drought.

And then after talking to Claire, a middle-aged woman living out of a van, and learning that women over 55 are the fastest-growing homeless group in Australia, a disillusioned Margolyes muses that the Australian dream might just be fiction.

It's not all doom and gloom though, this self-described, "78-year-old fat Jewish lesbian", has empathy and humour in truckloads.

And the answer to the question?

Well, you'll have to watch *Almost Australian* to find that out.

Photo credit ABC TV

CUBA AND THE CAMERAMAN - NETFLIX

Reviewed by Sue Burgin

This is the story of life in Cuba under Revolutionary Fidel Castro, told over a 45-year period by one man and his camera.

Documentary filmmaker, John Alpert's love affair with Cuba and Fidel Castro started when he first visited the country as an idealistic teenager, attracted by the revolution happening there.

Struggling with the heavy cumbersome camera equipment of the day, he commandeered a baby's pram to push the gear around and as a result caught the eye of Cuba's authoritarian leader who agrees to a very rare interview.

A long-standing friendship develops between the two, giving him precious access to the media-shy leader. He's the only journalist allowed to accompany Castro on his historical visit to the US and produces historical, intimate footage showing a very different side of the Cuban strongman.

But it's his documenting of the lives of ordinary Cuban families that gives us the best insight into life in Fidel's Cuba.

The way he captures their human stories certainly makes up for the political blind spots he's been accused of having.

He follows their fortunes, and struggles, from the optimism of Cuba in the 70s to tougher times in the 90s following the fall of the Soviet Union and the death in 2016 of Fidel Castro.

Over a period of nearly 50 years, he revisits the same group of colourful, interesting characters. Some are hard to find, no longer at their last address, in gaol, or having escaped to an easier life in the US.

All have suffered through food shortages, job losses and the restrictions imposed by a political regime that was meant to make things better.

But the human spirit is strong and nowhere is it more obvious than in the remote Cuban countryside where he documents the lives of three wiry bachelor brothers



running the family farm. They were already in their 60s when he first met them, and life was good until it wasn't.

When most of the world turned its back on Cuba, things got rough on the farm but the brothers, in their 90's by now, struggled on.

In a particularly heart-wrenching moment, when he arrives for his last visit in 2016, his friends are no longer there to greet him. All three are finally buried on the farm they'd called home for more than 100 years.

This is a powerful documentary with an authenticity and historical perspective often denied when told by historians.

By giving a voice to those who lived the story this man and his camera have given us a real gem.

I highly recommend it.



"Cuba and the Cameraman" is directed by Jon Alpert (centre) Image: Netflix

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Aleisha Penny – Support Team Manager

Aleisha says she knew when she read the job description that this was the job for her.

“It married together my two passions, health and accommodation.”

A proud Taranaki woman, she was born and raised within cooe of Taranaki Maunga, in Stratford and Eltham.

After completing a hospitality course she moved to Wellington to work in hotels, eventually ending up in event management at the Museum Hotel.

Then it was on to what Aleisha calls her second career in health and health data management.

Fast forward seven years, and here she is at Marram where she’s happily working in both.

When she’s not working, Aleisha loves the outdoors and walks the hills of Wellington making the most of the spectacular views. She also enjoys a good true crime podcast and listening to rock music.

But most of all she loves throwing on a pair of boxing gloves and pummeling the life out of a boxing bag at the gym.

Aleisha joined Marram as Support Team Manager in May.



MOLEMAP DISCOUNT

You simply use the code **MCHECK23** when you make your booking.

This lets MoleMap know to apply the discount at time of payment. You can then use your receipt to apply for a 60% of the cost through Marram.

MoleMap’s offering full body mapping and less expensive skin checks at the discounted price.

BOOK NOW - 0800 665 362

molemap.co.nz

molemap
BY DERMATOLOGISTS



BLOGGING WITH BAXTER

Have you read Baxter’s Blog yet?

Marram’s poster boy has some firm opinions and likes to share them. From a dog’s view on things like daylight saving to reviews of pet-friendly homes, you’ll find it all in Baxters Blog on www.marram.co.nz

TELLING YOUR WORKMATES ABOUT MARRAM

Could put you in the draw for an E Bike and vouchers*

Starts 25 August to 11 September 2023, 5 pm



It pays to talk to your workmates about Marram.

If, as a result of the good things you tell them, they sign up between 25 August and 5 pm 11 September 2023, mentioning your name* you'll both receive either a \$50 fuel or grocery voucher, or \$60 to spend on your next Marram holiday.

Plus you'll both go in the draw, so one of you may win a new MeloYelo, Ascent MD or Traverse MD and helmet, valued at over \$3,500.

There'll also be 2nd and 3rd prize draws for a \$200 and \$100 Prezzy card.

Tell them about Marram's affordable holiday homes and healthcare benefits, and how they save precious dollars on health costs and allow you to create great holiday memories.

With household budgets under pressure at the moment, sharing all the good things about Marram would be the decent thing to do.

REMEMBER:

- 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 conditions;
- And more...

*Terms and Conditions

Please make sure to tell your workmate 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.

The e-bike prize is not redeemable for cash or transferrable.

In the event that the prize specified in the competition becomes unavailable for any reason, Marram may substitute a prize of like or equal value.

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Performance 2023

REVENUE

The level of financial contribution requested by the Board of Trustees remained unchanged throughout the financial year. The number of beneficiaries contributing increased significantly during the final quarter of the financial year, resulting in an increase in contribution income of \$160k compared with the previous year. Holiday homes were able to operate for the full year without the previous year's pandemic disruptions and this combined with some rent discounting, saw overall holiday home occupancy reach historic highs and an increase in income of \$461k over the previous year. Some of the increased rental income offsets increased cleaning expenses, a greater number of fully serviced homes and the roll out of Wi-Fi to almost all homes in the current year. The Trust's managed funds performance on dividends and interest was down on the previous year. The volatility in stock market performance during the year saw the fair value adjustments (unrealised gains and losses) on managed funds record a loss of \$635k for the year compared to the \$15k gain in the previous year. The Trust had a realised gain of \$1.050M following the sale of its eight holiday homes in Rotorua.

DISTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

Following the introduction of additional benefits at the start of the year, the amount distributed in financial assistance for healthcare was \$436k more than in the previous year. The Trust continued with the Community Benefit launched during 2021 aimed at helping Marram beneficiaries who lost their employment due to redundancy. At the end of the financial year, there were 93 beneficiaries on the Community Benefit with their contributions waived for up to twelve months after losing their employment.

A full maintenance and refurbishment programme of 29 homes was completed for the year, property costs were higher than the previous year by \$478k with most of this being maintenance to keep the homes at a high standard both outside and inside and the installation of Wi-Fi. COVID lockdowns and supply chain issues delayed the Wanaka re-development until the 5 modern units were opened to beneficiaries from November 2022. Then focus turned back to the re-development of the Man Street, Queenstown site, now moving at pace in the post-COVID environment. Next steps are obtaining resource consent and selecting a construction company. 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 only \$22k on the previous year. The net result of the Trust's income and expenditure was a deficit after tax of \$284k compared to a deficit of \$607k in 2022.

FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

As a result of the reported deficit, the Trust's equity decreased by 0.5% to \$60.9m. 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 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Income		
Contributions/ Donations	3,963,186	3,802,894
Holiday Home Rentals	3,411,162	2,949,989
Commercial Rental Income	50,144	50,533
Investment Income	384,428	207,611
Fair Value Adjustment on Investments	(634,824)	15,324
Realised Gain/(Loss) on sale of Assets	1,049,559	-
Total Revenue	8,223,656	7,026,352

Less Benefits

Financial Benefits	3,164,687	2,728,668
	3,164,687	2,728,668

Less Holiday Home Expenses

Power & Water	248,139	219,320
Maintenance-Furnishings	379,724	262,442
Maintenance-Land & Buildings	1,281,161	1,024,053
Property Software Service Contract	5,230	5,078
Rates & Land Lease	407,060	379,646
Property Consultants	3,681	-
Property Inspection & Travel	27,448	15,678
House Person Expenses	100,160	89,077
Depreciation on Holiday Homes	721,896	701,454
	3,174,499	2,696,748

Gross Surplus from Trading

	1,884,470	1,600,935
--	-----------	-----------

Less Expenses

Accident Compensation Levy	5,988	5,971
Amortisation	121,917	139,324
Bank Charges	76,728	81,901
Board Expenses	15,670	9,259
Computer Expenses	265,023	336,053
Depreciation - Other	133,259	48,011
Depreciation - Other Buildings	18,360	18,360
Depreciation - Building Investments	11,639	11,639
Donations	40	300
Insurance	27,232	28,687
Investment Fee	73,299	78,900
Loss on Disposal of Assets	-	6,482
Marketing Expenses	25,932	20,404
Office Administration Expenses	13,009	9,293
Other Commercial Expenses	49,425	48,361
Postage	28,249	21,905
Premise Maintenance	26,764	34,729
Printing & Stationery	28,293	32,048
Professional Fee	61,616	60,245
Publicity & Promotion	32,870	27,462
Staff Expenses	86,633	79,666
Staff Training	3,473	2,624
Telephone, Tolls & Internet	24,080	17,902
Travel and Accommodation	301	833
Wages & Salaries	1,119,374	1,106,782
Total Expenses	2,249,174	2,227,141

Operating Surplus Before Tax (364,703) (626,206)

Taxation (81,030) (19,624)

Net Surplus After tax (283,673) (606,582)

Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses (283,673) (606,582)

Total Surplus attributable to the Group (283,673) (606,582)

Marram Community Trust Consolidated
Statement of Changes In Net Assets
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expenses		
Opening Balance	61,232,281	61,838,863
Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses		
Surplus for the Year	(283,673)	(606,582)
Total Comprehensive revenue and expense	(283,673)	(606,582)
Total Accumulated comprehensive revenue and expense	60,948,608	61,232,281

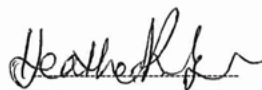
Marram Community Trust Consolidated
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31st March 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Current Assets	6,818,557	6,380,786
Non-Current Assets	55,798,867	56,419,186
Total Assets	62,617,425	62,799,972
Current Liabilities	1,668,817	1,567,691
Equity	60,948,608	61,232,281
Total Liabilities & Equity	62,617,425	62,799,972

Marram Community Trust Consolidated
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Net Operating Cash flow	79,150	51,711
Net Investing Cash flow	(1,726,445)	(1,484,916)
Net Cash flow	(1,647,295)	(1,433,205)

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


Heather Polglase - Chairperson

25/07/2023

Notes to the Summary Financial Report

The Summary Financial Report for Marram Community Trust (The Trust) and its controlled entity Sevenaway Trustaide are presented together (the "Group") are presented for 2023. 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 25 July 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 requirement of Tier 2 Not For Profit PBE financial reporting requirements with the exception of PBE IAS 12 and PBE FRS 48. 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 2023, 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 2023.

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 25 July 2023.

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
Wellington
New Zealand
25 July 2023



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 2023**, 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



Ā TĀTOU KŌRERO - OUR STORY

Marram Community Trust
PO Box 24006, Wellington 6142, New Zealand

ph: 04 801 2920 | fax: 04 385 3558 | support@marram.co.nz | www.marram.co.nz



[instagram.com/marram_community_trust_nz](https://www.instagram.com/marram_community_trust_nz)



[facebook.com/MarramCommunityTrust](https://www.facebook.com/MarramCommunityTrust)