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Otago-Southland

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MORE SKILLED INDIAN MIGRANTS

India has overtaken the United Kingdom as the largest source of skilled migrants to New Zealand. The 12th annual Migration Trends and Outlook report says most of the increase from India can be attributed to international students who go on to temporary work then become permanent residents.

The total number of people approved for temporary work visas in 2011/12 was up 2 per cent on the previous year. Temporary workers under the Essential Skills Policy were down 1 per cent. The number of resident visas remained similar though the number of skilled migrants fell 11 per cent.

MIGRANTS FEEL THEY BELONG

Early information from New Zealand’s 2013 census shows that the majority of migrants to New Zealand feel they belong to this country. Eighty-six per cent of those migrants who have been here more than 12 years say they belong either ‘strongly’ or ‘very strongly’, and 64 per cent of those who have been in the country 12 years or less say the same thing. Statistics New Zealand also says the proportion of long-term migrants who voted during the 2008 general election was higher than that of any other group, including New Zealand-born people.

NEW ZEALAND SCORES WELL FOR RACIAL TOLERANCE

The latest results of a global survey initiative, described in Wikipedia as “the only source of empirical data on attitudes covering a majority of the world’s population”, indicate that New Zealand along with our traditional Western partners Australia, Britain and the USA, are the most tolerant societies in the world.

The result comes from a survey question that asked what kinds of people the respondents would refuse to live next to, and included the option “people of a different race” as an answer.

Fewer than 5 per cent of surveyed New Zealanders chose this option. In the most intolerant country (Hong Kong), it was the choice of almost 72 per cent.

For more information and comments on the survey, visit the Washington Post online.

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

Timeline for 2013 Local Elections

The next local elections will run by postal vote from Friday 20 September to Saturday 12 October 2013.

An enrolment drive begins on 1 July, and if by 4 July you have not received an enrolment pack in the mail from the Local Council you expect to be able to vote for, you are not correctly enrolled to vote, and you need to enrol.

The local elections will run using postal voting, from 20 September until midday 12 October, 2013.

We will cover the local elections in the next LINKZ.

CORRECTION – WHEN YOU’VE BOUGHT A LEMON

Readers of this article in LINKZ 52 please note, the 0800 number provided has been discontinued. The best number to call if you have an issue with car loan finance is Financial Disputes Resolution (FDR)

Phone 0508 337 337.
I welcome your interest in the beautiful city of Dunedin. We are a city proud of our heritage and our strong foundations in excellent education which continue today.

Dunedin prides itself on its diversity. The local area was first settled by Māori about 1650, with Scottish Presbyterian settlers in 1848 laying down the foundations of the modern city you see today. The gold rush of the 1860s brought first Chinese then Lebanese immigrants to the area, and since then Dunedin has become a city populated by people from all over the world.

Within Dunedin’s boundaries you will find a treasure trove of cultural and recreational opportunities. We offer great support and opportunities for business with our strengths in education, ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), fashion, engineering and tourism.

We are richer as a community for migrant diversity and the variety it adds to our vibrant city.
Invercargill has traditionally been a Scottish, Irish and English city. At our last census about seven Indian families and five Chinese families lived here. This has changed dramatically since the success of SIT – the Southern Institute of Technology.

In 1993 we had one citizenship ceremony a year, now we have one every month. We can almost call ourselves a multicultural community. The booming dairy industry has also attracted large numbers of people from the Philippines to Southland and we have graduated from fish and chip shops to a multitude of successful ethnic restaurants.

Many students will finish their education and remain, and some may leave, but that is the nature of immigration. In 1949 over 100 White Russian refugees arrived from Shanghai, but they only stayed a few months and then they all fled to warmer, northern regions of New Zealand.

For those who choose to stay, we welcome you.
OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND SHARE A BOUNDARY AND MANY SIMILARITIES, WHICH OFFER DISTINCT SOUTH ISLAND LIFESTYLE OPTIONS AND AN ALTERNATIVE TO NEW ZEALAND’S MORE-HEAVILY POPULATED NORTHERN AREAS.

Dunedin, at the head of a spectacular harbour on the southeast coast, is the main centre of, and gateway to, the Otago region. Invercargill, New Zealand’s southernmost city, is the commercial hub of Southland. These cities, 220 kilometres apart, are linked by State Highway 1, which passes through the inland town of Gore, and the Southern Scenic Route along the spectacular Catlins coast.

With a population of 53,000, Invercargill offers a relaxed pace of life, where career can be balanced with leisure. There are the benefits of a city without the drawbacks. It has wide streets, little traffic, spacious parks and gardens, striking Victorian and Edwardian architecture, and some of the country’s best sporting facilities including the only indoor velodrome. Housing is cheaper than in most parts of New Zealand.

Invercargill is surrounded by rural plains, the wilderness of Fiordland, the alpine adventure playground of Queenstown, a rugged coastline and Stewart Island to the south. Southlanders take pride in their region, with organisations and groups who provide community services and leisure opportunities. They have a regional television station and a community radio station that provides a forum for new immigrants.

Mainstays of the region’s economy are agriculture, led by dairy farming, fishing, forestry, tourism, education and energy resources including coal and hydropower. The aluminium smelter near Bluff, 30 kilometres south of Invercargill, is a major employer.

Otago’s Dunedin is also the principal settlement of an area rich in history and scenic beauty. Scottish migrants called it the ‘Scotland of the South’. Shortly after the town was founded, gold was discovered in Central Otago, and the region boomed. This heritage can be seen in soaring cathedral spires, a magnificent Flemish-style railway station,
New Zealand’s third-biggest island, Stewart Island/Rakiura is part of Southland and lies 30 kilometres south of the South Island, across Foveaux Strait. It has a permanent population a little over 400 people – Eighty-five per cent of the island is included in Rakiura National Park.

Fiordland, on the south-western corner of the South Island, makes up a third of Southland. Dominated by the Southern Alps, it has few inhabitants and no cities, with many parts inaccessible except by boat or air. Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound have helped Fiordland achieve World Heritage status. It also contains the Milford, Routeburn, and Kepler tracks, which are included in New Zealand’s series of Great Walks. Fiordland National Park, covering 7,660 square kilometres, is New Zealand’s largest national park.

Lake Te Anau, covering 344 square kilometres, is New Zealand’s second-largest lake (after Taupo) and the largest in the South Island. With a maximum depth of 417 metres, it is believed to contain the biggest volume of fresh water of any lake in Australasia. It is 65 kilometres long and has three large fiords on its side. The town of Te Anau is at the south-eastern corner of the lake, close to the outflow into the Waiau River.

Central Otago produces award winning wines including the pinot noir, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, merlot, and riesling varieties alongside mountain-fed lakes and rivers. The area has a reputation as New Zealand’s leading pinot noir region.

Queenstown, the South Island’s tourist mecca on the edge of Lake Wakatipu, is surrounded by snow-clad mountains in winter and is popular for water sports in summer. It boasts resorts, golf courses and adventure including three skifields, parasailing, hot air ballooning, rafting, jet boating, gliding, canyoning, abseiling, hang gliding, heliskiing, para sailing, river surfing, mountain biking and bungy jumping.

The harbour town of Oamaru, 90 minutes north of Dunedin displays its heritage with a Victorian precinct and several museums and galleries and features some of New Zealand’s best 19th century architecture. Visitors can also see the world’s smallest penguins nesting at the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony on the foreshore.

The Otago Central Rail Trail is the top ride in New Zealand’s growing network of cycle trails. Both historic and scenic, it follows the old rail route from Clyde to Middlemarch, attracting thousands of riders each year.

— The south rides supreme, see page 42.
Māori had lived in the Southland and Otago areas 600 to 800 years before the arrival of Europeans. Oral lore says the first inhabitants were mystical beings such as the Patupaiarehe, Tūrehu, Kāhui Tipua and te Rapuwai. They were followed by the Waitaha tribe whose ancestor Rākaihautu is said to have created the great inland lakes with a ko or digging stick. The Waitaha were followed by the Kati Mamoe who in turn were followed by the current tribe, Ngāi Tahu.

Otago takes its name from an ancient settlement in the region called Ötäkou which some say is named after an ancestor. The Otago Peninsula and present day Dunedin was the site of several large villages.

The Māori name for Southland is Murihiku, meaning The End or Tail of the Land. The region is also called Te Taurapa-o-te-Waka, meaning The Stern of the Canoe from the oral tradition that Māui fished up Te Ika-a-Māui (The Fish of Māui) while standing astride Te Waka-a-Māui (The Canoe of Māui – the South Island). Stewart Island (Rakiura) is the punga (anchor) of Māui’s canoe.

One of the main Māori settlements in the area was on Ruapuke Island, which had seven fortified pā or villages. During the 1820 to 1850 period this was the base of the paramount chief of Murihiku, Tūhawaiki, otherwise known as the King of the Bluff or Bloody Jack.

The Murihiku and Ötäkou regions provided rich birding, eel, seal and fish resources for early Māori inhabitants. A large number of the 550 Māori rock art sites in the South Island are found near Oamaru in North Otago.

Oral traditions wove the fierce seas of southern coasts and stories of wrecked canoes on to the landscape. The Arai-te-uru canoe was wrecked off Moeraki and its cargo of kūmara was said to have floated ashore to become the now-famous Moeraki boulders. The Tākitimu canoe was wrecked in Foveaux Strait, the upturned canoe forming the inland Tākitimu mountains.

In the late 1700s, seal hunters were the first Europeans to settle in the region, followed by traders and later whalers who began arriving from 1830. Māori quickly became involved in whaling, supplying ships with food and harvesting flax fibre for rope.

Ngāi Tahu Māori lost much land in the south during colonial times. In 1997, they signed a settlement with the New Zealand Government which has done much to revitalise their culture and economy.
SETTLEMENT SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND

Whether you are coming to study, work, or look for work in the cities of the South or their world-famous countryside, a visit to Settlement Support New Zealand (SSNZ) is an excellent way to begin, saving you a lot of time and bother.

SSNZ provides a local point of contact, with pointers to local services you may need, brochures, guides, and other information resources, and access to networking meetings and workshops, employment and language-related assistance.

Between them SSNZ Dunedin and Invercargill cover a large part of the South Island, where the lifestyle options are wide and varied. Fi McKay in Dunedin and Eirlys Beverley-Stone in Invercargill will have the most up to date information about opportunities and activities from the city to the farm, as well as in the busy education and tourist sectors that are key to both regions’ economies.

Fi McKay has run the service at Dunedin City Council in The Octagon, for nearly seven years. She says, “I have always had a passion for connecting people, so this job suits me. I love it”.

After moving to New Zealand from Wales four years ago, SSNZ Invercargill co-ordinator Eirlys Beverley-Stone brings to her role an awareness based on her own personal experience.

Eirlys says lifestyle is the key to Southland’s attraction for newcomers, along with the country’s lowest average house prices, and nationally competitive salaries. Her role covers the whole Southland region and involves frequent travel in rural areas, where numerous migrants are pursuing careers in dairy farming.

When everything is new it is natural to want to talk to someone face to face. At Settlement Support New Zealand, in the deep south and nationwide, you can always expect a positive welcome and practical advice.

Settlement Support is a Government-funded Immigration New Zealand Initiative to provide information to newcomers to New Zealand.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE NATIONAL OFFICE AND ALL SSNZ REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS ARE LISTED ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER OF EACH ISSUE OF LINKZ.
ANOTHER PLACE CALLED
GOD’S OWN COUNTRY

Divya Sivadas could have come to New Zealand as a skilled migrant but chose instead to come on a Student Visa, to extend her education then develop a career in Dunedin.

By Paul Green
In Kerala in the southwest of India people describe their homeland as “God’s own country”. When Divya Sivadas found out that New Zealanders use the same term for their country, it helped her decide where she wanted to live.

Divya had thought about a career and life in another country since she was a schoolgirl and had a collection of newspaper and magazine clippings on emigration to places including Canada, Britain and Europe. New Zealand was not in the picture then but rose to the top of her list when she began preparing in earnest for her move. A colleague of her father was working in New Zealand and described it as a beautiful country.

“It is a modern country but it has that traditional blend, which is what I was looking for,” Divya says.

“A point comes in your life when you realise that the way you look at life is not the same as others around you. I thought it was high time that I moved from my comfort zone.

I am an ambitious person and I thought New Zealand was the right choice for me. Looking back, I am proud of my decision.”

Divya also feels the influence of Bollywood stars speaking well of New Zealand may have influenced her choice, but the decision to come to New Zealand as a student was helped by her father.

With a degree in electrical and electronics engineering, Divya says her instinct, “like every other Indian in my position” was to study for a master’s degree. She applied and was accepted for a master’s course in New Zealand, but her father, with 30 years of administration experience, advised her to think about all her options. “My brother took me to talk to various agencies in India. And because I had two years’ experience of lecturing at university, one of the agencies came up with a suggestion.” At Otago Polytechnic there was an adult education course called Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Learning and Teaching.

Divya was accepted for the course despite her degree being in engineering rather than education. “I was the only one of the 16 students in my course without an education degree – I was like an experiment.”

For her first six months in New Zealand, Divya Sivadas was unaware of services offered by Settlement Support New Zealand (SSNZ) and Careers New Zealand – Government-funded organisations set up to make the transition easier for newcomers.

Then, an immigration workshop organised by the two groups proved to be an eye-opener for Divya. “If you want to make your life in New Zealand easier, I suggest you make sure from the first day, that you know where your Settlement Support office is and go there. Use it, because it’s their job to make sure that people coming here from different countries don’t feel awkward and don’t suffer culture shock.

“If you are going to study, choose your course wisely and choose your tertiary institution wisely.”

The workshop Divya attended included sessions on how to present a CV and talks by employers on what they look for in staff. “My CV was not good enough by New Zealand standards. Indian CVs have little information in them – here your CV talks on your behalf,” Divya says. The information from the workshop made it much easier for her to get a job and helped with “nailing my interviews”.

Divya met Fi McKay, the SSNZ co-ordinator in Dunedin. “She shows migrants where to find supermarkets, government buildings, botanical gardens, recreational facilities and provides all sorts of information,” Divya says. “It’s like a catalogue of how to do things and this makes it easy for you.”
With completion of the course in Dunedin came a one-year Graduate Job Search Work Visa – and a job.

As part her course, Divya had worked with Otago Polytechnic senior lecturer Stuart Allan to design a curriculum for a new course for the New Zealand Diploma in Engineering.

After a job interview early this year, the polytechnic chose Divya as tutor for the course she had designed.

A Student Visa was a great way to get started in New Zealand, Divya says. “As a student you are in a safe place, and you are taken care of. At Otago Polytechnic, the educators are so used to international students that they sort of help you to blend into the social system and the work system. You really get enough time to observe things around you and absorb the culture.”

One reason Divya chose to stay on and work at Otago Polytechnic was the team spirit. “I am really happy with my team mates, we really do work as a team helping each other.” Her colleagues have been valuable.

Divya’s three favourite Kiwi expressions are the ever-present greetings “Kia ora” and “Gidday mate” and “sweet” – the sing-song single word used to express everything from OK to extremely good.

COURSES TARGET SKILLS SHORTAGE

International students are proving a success at Otago Polytechnic, taking advantage of courses targeted at shortages of skilled workers in New Zealand.

Stuart Allan, the programme manager for electrical programmes, has been involved with Otago Polytechnic for many years as a student and a lecturer. He says most students who come from overseas do very well because they are keen to achieve and gain a qualification and move into the workforce.

Eighteen months ago, the polytechnic decided to develop an engineering course that specifically helps overseas students qualify in engineering subjects that are on New Zealand’s list of skill shortages.

Divya Sivadas, whose post-graduate study at the polytechnic helped to develop the curriculum, was chosen to teach the new course. There were 29 applicants for the job, and with her Student Visa, Divya was one of two who were living in New Zealand. The others were from a wide range of countries.

“Divya was way above the rest in terms of experience, had taught previously, had been through our polytechnic system and had achieved a graduate certificate in teaching,” Stuart says.

“The interaction between Divya, and our students, is very good. Having been through the system herself, she has learnt how to learn and is now passing that knowledge on to our students.

Indian graduates, he says, are particularly well-educated. “Their textbooks are two or three times the thickness of any others and they cover all the material exceptionally well. They are also very good at applying that in teaching.”

Divya began as a part-time lecturer in the electrical section of the polytechnic’s architecture, building and engineering department and her hours are being increased to fulltime, which will help with her Residence visa.

The polytechnic has a range of overseas students, from places including Saudi Arabia, India, China and Malaysia.

“Courses give the students the ability to pick up a New Zealand qualification in the time that they are here and apply that to New Zealand’s need,” says Stuart.

“There is a shortage of engineering staff in New Zealand and these students are well qualified at the end of their course to move into those opportunities.”

The graduates are sought after as employees, Stuart says. “Particularly in engineering at technician level – project managers, project supervisors, contract managers – those sorts of roles.”
“Helping me to understand the educational delivery methods and electrical standards here in New Zealand.” Their help was particularly valuable for Divya while she was adjusting her teaching style to suit the polytechnic’s mix of beginners and experienced students.

From the start, Divya decided to approach New Zealand like a child with an open mind. “When you think of moving to another country you can have preconceived ideas of how it will be.”

Everyone was telling her that the South Island had a slow lifestyle and she would be better off somewhere busier like Auckland or Wellington. “But I said, no. I am going to choose Dunedin. It seems like a calm and quiet place. Let’s see what it has for me.”

When she arrived, during a 40-minute drive from the airport to her homestay, Divya was struck by how much Otago looked like home. “Green everywhere, beautiful places, mountains.”

She finds Dunedin quite easy because it’s a small city. “You see the same faces every day. Everything is in town – you don’t really need a car.” However the cold weather, took some getting used to after the heat of India. At first she found it difficult to walk when there was a strong wind in the city, but after almost a year in Dunedin, it feels like home and Divya is hoping to make it permanent.

Divya was also surprised to find how friendly the people are. “They are ready to accept anyone and everyone as a part of their society. And I believe it’s my duty to respect that and reciprocate it.”

In Dunedin, Divya has found city council offices easily accessible to anyone “and there are no long queues”. She is also impressed by the way buildings in New Zealand are accessible to people with disabilities. “My mum is physically disabled and she works in a third-floor office. She has to go up and down 48 stairs every day. No one cares about that in India. But here the infrastructure is built to consider every person in the country.”

The Kiwi accent came as a surprise. You watch a lot of Hollywood and Bollywood movies so you are used to hearing an American accent. “Kiwis speak really fast and their pronunciation is a bit different to what I was used to. The first month was a bit of a problem. But I was in a homestay, living with a Kiwi family and they were so gentle and generous with me. The kids used to come to me and talk a lot. I slowly learned their way of speaking. It’s always good to talk to kids if you want to learn some basic things about a language. It’s also good to watch TV shows and news to learn how to pronounce things and use their expressions.”

“My three favourite Kiwi sayings are: ‘Kia ora’ – a beautiful way to say welcome or hello to someone, ‘Gidday mate’ and ‘sweet’.”

The hardest thing is still being away from loved ones. “I am a pretty homesick person. I call my mum about four times a day. When you make a choice to move, you have to go through hardships.” The warm welcome and helpful advice from people in New Zealand have made it much easier though, she says.
An English family arrived in Dunedin armed with good research, with a great job lined up and a bright future ahead – but still had to overcome surprises, stress and financial hardship.

BY PAUL GREEN
Leaving for a new life was traumatic for Paul and Tina Tunster and their daughters Genevieve and Bronwyn. Family farewells went well but then the family’s last day in Britain turned into a big send-off. “Not what we wanted because we were trying to keep it nice and quiet for the children,” Tina says. The day was filled with visitors, neighbours waved goodbye with the flag of St George at 3am and the family was bombarded with text messages in the taxi on the way to the airport. “I had to turn it off. It was just too upsetting.”

After an emotional flight (the first ever for Bronwyn who was seven) and a few hours rest in Singapore, the family landed in Christchurch. “We had just left a lovely warm June in the UK and the weather in Christchurch was freezing. “They stayed with friends for a couple of days to acclimatise and let the children adjust, then drove south past the snow-covered Southern Alps. “It was just spectacular.”

Just 16 weeks after Paul Tunster had started looking for a job in New Zealand, he began working with Escea, an innovative company in Dunedin. Paul and Tina had thought about moving to New Zealand in 2000 but Paul, a design engineer and qualified gas fitter, had a good job where they lived in Lincolnshire. However, after the financial slump of 2006, redundancy loomed for him again and again. Tina had a part-time job as a school lunchtime supervisor but was fed up with the situation in Britain. “I was missing out on jobs – even as a supermarket shelf stacker – to kids who had degrees.”

The couple decided to migrate. New Zealand was their choice because of the lifestyle it offered them and their daughters. Paul says it was important to them that English was the main language – and industry and education were on a par with the UK.

All the family knew about New Zealand was the “famous things – the All Blacks, bungy jumping, Queenstown, sailing, the America’s Cup”. Paul’s mum and dad had been on holiday in New Zealand three times and liked it. Later the family found there was so much more to New Zealand. “Even after two years here we still have so much to see.”

Tina researched the country thoroughly by internet and the couple went to a jobs expo in Manchester. New Zealand sounded like a nice place to raise a family, Tina says. She looked hard for negatives but could not find any big ones – so she began reading other people’s stories of their experiences.

She did research on where would be the best place for the family to move to and came up with the conclusion that most people who move to Dunedin stay there. Paul began to search for work. There were jobs on offer, he says, but most specified that applicants needed prior approval for living and working in New Zealand. He decided to ignore that and apply, trusting that his qualifications would gain him access.

“Don’t expect another England. For me, that was the best advice I could have read.”
It eventually paid off, leading to an internet interview with Escea Gas Fireplaces. “It was the first time I had ever been on Skype so that was an eye-opener for me,” Paul says. He got the job (which, luckily for them, was in Dunedin). Later, after they arrived in New Zealand, Skype became an invaluable link to family and friends back in the UK.

Paul needed the work contract to get a Skilled Migrant Visa. A medical examination was also required and he was surprised to find that his cholesterol level was “way above what it should be”. That put a brake on things, he says, and was slightly worrying because he had a job waiting for him in New Zealand. “So I went on a crazy diet for four weeks.” He cut all fat out of his diet and took cholesterol-reducing products and was rewarded a month later with an acceptable cholesterol count. The last hurdle was removed and he got his visa.

Tina says she tried to arrive without too many expectations. Her research had prepared her for the fact that although people might be European, the culture was very different. She had been warned: ‘Don’t expect another England’. “For me, that was the best advice I could have read.”

The hardest thing was financial, Paul says. “We hadn’t sold our house in England when we came here. We had left enough money to pay the mortgage for a fair amount of time but in New Zealand we had to live on my wages and a little bit of savings. To start a new life like that is hard because you need to buy a car, rent a house, there are school fees and uniforms, tax and insurance to pay, all from one wage.

“We sold our house in the UK with one month’s money left in the bank to pay the mortgage – so that was stressful.”

Meanwhile, fitting into life in New Zealand brought challenges, including finding new friends. “Kiwis may have enough friends and don’t necessarily need more,” Paul says. “But if you put yourself out there, you’re a part of life before you know it. They are wonderful people here.

“I have never worked for a company as good as Escea. The move has been that much easier because of them

“If you put yourself out there, you’re a part of life before you know it. They are wonderful people here.”
and the help they have given us. They arranged a house for us to stay in for the first few weeks and even organised a get-together for us to meet the other employees."
The family also found that clubs for children were a big help. “Brighton Surf Life Saving Club has been fantastic for us.” Genevieve, 15, is a volunteer lifeguard there and the family has made many friends.

“New Zealand is different,” Paul says. “We thought it would be good for us – but it has been fantastic.”

Asked if he has any advice for people thinking of moving to New Zealand, Paul says: “Always remember why you decided to come. It’s very easy to get bogged down in the process – dotting the i’s and crossing the t’s and everything you have to run through.” He found it helped to remember the reasons for the move. “Even when we arrived here, it helped on the lonely days. We could think back to how we were relatively unhappy in the UK and how much happier we are in New Zealand.”

Tina faced obstacles but was surprised at how quickly she was able to settle. “People are very welcoming, very willing to include you and tell you where things are. I feel more at home here in New Zealand than I had done for many years in the UK. It just feels like our little piece of heaven.”

Despite her research, Tina was surprised by the cost of food and of renting a house. She was aware in advance that in New Zealand many houses are not double-glazed and can be cold. When money was tight, she says it had to be balanced between food and fuel. “It was very hard for a while.”

Searching for a house to buy, Tina was surprised at the range of standards, even within a single price bracket. Negotiation between buyer and seller was also far wider than in England, she says.

Her search for work was not easy at first. After missing out on several jobs, she began volunteer work at a hospice charity shop “or ‘op shops’ as they are called here”. The position of manager became available and Tina got it. “Now I manage an op shop fulltime.”

Tina’s advice to new migrants is not to have any expectations, take New Zealand life for what it is and give it at least two years to settle. “Just try and become a part of it.

“Children are allowed to be children here,” she says. “They have a lot more freedom. Ours were quite concerned about saying or doing the wrong thing when they first arrived because schools in England were stricter.” In Dunedin the schools seemed to have more control of the children but in a much more relaxed way. She finds that children are more respectful here.
Hiring skilled migrants is a key part of the success of a Dunedin company that exports all around the world.

Nigel Bamford values the skills that migrants bring to Escea Gas Fireplaces in Dunedin, which designs and builds industry-leading indoor and outdoor fireplaces for sale in New Zealand and overseas.

Nigel is Escea’s chief executive officer and one of its founders. “More than half our income comes from exports, which is quite common in New Zealand and our export success is much greater when we have staff from those countries or at least who understand those countries. These staff can react in an empathetic way when they’re trading internationally.” Since Escea was established in 2002, it has seen dramatic export growth and has won several awards.

The fireplaces are specialist products and though the industry is not big in New Zealand, it is big overseas, Nigel says. With more than 40 employees, Escea has hired several key people from overseas, mainly for technical roles in design and gas fitting. There is a strong focus on research and product development.

“Hiring people from overseas is a little more challenging than hiring locals,” he says. It often means using Skype and the telephone for interviews. Companies like Escea are travelling the world constantly so Nigel has interviewed quite a few prospective employees while overseas.

“As an employer, if we are going to bring new people into our city from other parts of New Zealand or from overseas, we make an effort to ensure they feel at home. We show them around and quite often, before they arrive, we find ourselves giving advice on things like schools and the best part of town to live in – just to make sure that their first months and years of settling in our city are smooth and happy.”

Nigel believes it’s important for any company considering hiring people from overseas to put a lot of time into educating a prospective employee on the reality of living and working in New Zealand. “Quite often our pay rates are different, quite often people need to be more of a generalist than a specialist. And I think the success of the hiring process for both the employer and the employee really depends on the employee getting a really accurate picture of what they are coming into.

“We use videos, photos, everything we can to try and educate that person on exactly what they are undertaking and they need to realise that what they are going to find here is not what they are used to at home – because if that’s their expectation then the entire process could be a failure.”
An Argentinian agronomist was drawn to New Zealand by its clean green image – and a job he felt he had to have.

BY PAUL GREEN
Guillermo Aldao-Humble arrived in Southland for the first time back in 2003, by way of Australia. He was doing post-graduate plant research at an Australian university when a job advertisement caught his eye. Lincoln University, renowned for agricultural science, was advertising a position that seemed designed with Guillermo’s passion for pastoral farming in mind. “I felt I had to come here for an interview.” This was an investment, Guillermo says, not like taking a cab across Melbourne for an interview. The trip cost him $1000 and he spent three days learning about Waikaia Plains, a Southland farming operation with a difference, and talking to Andrew Bowmar, the owner and managing director. The property lies inland at Ardlussa on the banks of the Mataura River.

The Waikaia position involved working with Andrew – continuously developing the management and infrastructure of an environmentally friendly rotational grazing system called TechnoGrazing. What Guillermo saw confirmed the way he felt. “I said, ‘this is the job. This is the job I want to do’.”

Before he visited Southland, Guillermo knew little of New Zealand. He says he knew about rugby and the All Blacks, of course, and he was attracted by the 100% Pure New Zealand advertisements he saw on Australian television. “And my grandfather was a sheep farmer in Argentina. He had some old books about farming in Australia and New Zealand.” When Guillermo saw the country for himself, “I loved the place, loved the people, wanted this position”.

His visit was on a Tourist Visa, granted on arrival. Back in Australia, Guillermo started planning a Work Visa application. A crucial part of the process was Andrew gaining the Approval in Principal, which is needed by an employer seeking to recruit a worker from overseas. After his work visa was granted, Guillermo worked for a year-and-a-half at Andrew’s farm, and then returned to Argentina. In 2009, Guillermo and his partner Susana, who is known as Nuni, visited Southland and a new work term began for Guillermo and his former employer.
Andrew Bowmar: “Same great place and people; more of this grazing model to develop, evolve and grow!” Guillermo was on a two-year temporary Work Visa and Nuni gained a Family category visa. Guillermo is now on his second two-year visa and Andrew is supporting the couple’s move to have residency approved.

There were many surprises for them. “The grazing system I am working on is amazing. It’s great how we can handle all the stock.” They were also delighted by the kindness and hospitality shown to them by the Bowmar family.

The landscape was amazing too. “I am from Patagonia in Argentina. It’s on the coast and really flat. We see the clouds coming from the horizon and we know how the weather’s going to be for the next three, four or five days. But here the constant changes in the hills, the dynamic patterns of melting snow, the quiet in the autumn – the afternoons – are just amazing.

The biggest challenge that being in New Zealand has brought for the couple is being away from extended family and friends. “But we have modern communications and we are a 16-hour flight away from our relatives if there is any emergency. Also, we are used to having friends in other parts of the world.

“At the end of the day, or should I say at the beginning of the day, our ancestors were migrants from Europe.”

Nuni says the best things about being in New Zealand are the quality of life and the people. “I haven’t found it hard being here.” An industrial designer, jeweller and artist, Nuni has a permanent job as graphic designer in Gore, about half an hour away from Ardiussa. She is also active in Riversdale Arts, a rural Southland-based group that organises a prestigious annual mixed-media exhibition.

Not long after arriving in New Zealand, Nuni became involved with Settlement Support and the Eastern Southland Newcomers Network helping migrants find the confidence and support to enjoy their own culture while settling into a new environment. This involves offering help and advice on challenges including finding a home, a job and schools, making new friends, and understanding the language, accents and culture.

Nuni enjoys community work and says she is doing more of it than she was in Argentina. She likes it not so much for help for herself, but for the chance it gives her to help others.

In a small town, it is easy to get to know a lot of the people, she says. She and Guillermo have made many new friends.
Migrant workers play an important part in New Zealand farming, particularly where there is a shortage of suitable local workers. In Southland they can be found on many dairy farms.

Waikaia Plains Ltd at Ardlussa, an hour north of Invercargill, is a specialist business requiring a specialist approach. Andrew Bowmar, the owner and managing director, says Waikaia has hired migrant farm workers because it could not get local people with the right combination of attributes.

He says the dairy industry has a high profile and local workers are drawn to it because of the career pathway offered. “The dairy industry has a very well-defined model and it works well. But it’s not for everybody. What we are doing here is slightly different and we don’t attract quite the interest that the dairy model does.” Waikaia was looking for someone wanting to spend more time developing skills of pasture and animal management using non-conventional techniques.

The 730-hectare property employs two couples and is stocked with several thousand growing heifers for the dairy industry. The heifers are kept at high stock density and shifted to fresh pasture up to three times a day, depending on the season and rate of pasture growth. The focus is on sustainability and the system produces stronger and healthier grass, while reducing the need for fertilisers.

“We complement the dairy industry but the attributes we are looking for in staff are slightly different even though the basics are the same – animals and grass,” Andrew says. Guillermo’s role is to fit into an open management style where the whole team contributes to decisions regarding stock movements. His ability and knowledge of pasture management and his desire to continue to develop these skills are a key in his role of day-to-day manager.

“Workers from other countries, and South America in particular, tend to embrace our culture and blend that with their own passion and enthusiasm and networks in a very positive way,” Andrew says.

“Obviously it’s a big change for them, moving to a new country and culture, so we try to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible for them.” People make the transition at different rates, and employers have to be aware of that, he says.

It is important to provide the network that the newcomers are missing. This can involve getting them involved in sports and activities they took part in at home, and involved with people who have similar backgrounds to theirs so they can become part of a new community. “When someone new comes from overseas we initially ensure that they are well set up and have the networks and the friends that they need to help them through that transition phase.”

Andrew’s advice to anyone hiring migrant workers in a rural area is to contact local workers from overseas and ask if they are aware of anyone back home who is looking for a job. “They will then be able to give them the background on what to expect, and will provide a support network for them when they arrive.

“Be aware of the different culture they bring and embrace it. It adds a new dimension not only to your farming operation but also to your whole community.”

www.ssnz.govt.nz/dairyfarming
When a couple first made plans to set off for New Zealand, neither expected to be swapping a hectic city life in London for a small town in Southland.
Caroline Hurd first met her Englishman in Redhill, near London in July 2010. Nearly three years later she and Andy Bartlett, an engineer originally from near Bristol, found themselves in a very different lifestyle in Southland, New Zealand.

As French teacher Caroline neared the end of a two-year working holiday in Britain she felt ready for a return to New Zealand. Little did she know that she and Andy would end up in Gore. “It was luck,” says Andy. The pair decided they needed a job for Caroline before making their move, and the most promising teaching job being advertised for the start of the 2012 school year was in Gore.

They also needed a visa for Andy. Approaches to agencies in Britain produced varying advice on the best option. A Skilled Migrant Visa was one choice, Andy says, “but the whole reason I was coming to New Zealand was about Caroline”. So they opted for a Work Visa under the Partnership (Family Stream) category. Visits to New Zealand House in London produced plenty of information and they were able to read about other migrants’ experiences in LINKZ Magazine.

Andy needed no persuading about the lifestyle on offer, or the scenic attractions. An earlier holiday visit to NZ in 2008 – before Andy and Caroline met – had given him a taster of the country and had convinced him that they were heading to one of the most beautiful places in the world. As a couple, they both made the trip here to be part of Caroline’s sister’s wedding, where they also spent Christmas and New Year 2010/11 meeting her extended family.

With a job for Caroline and visa for Andy, they set off. He had expected that finding work might take him a few months. As it turned out, he had temporary work within a couple of weeks with KF Consilium, a Christchurch consultancy specialising in roading and sub-division engineering design and road safety work. He later joined the permanent staff and works from home.

The move to Southland presented challenges but Andy describes the result as a feeling of “instant security” and a settled lifestyle. “And perhaps most exciting for us, it gave me the chance to propose to Caroline in the Te Anau glow-worm caves.” The romance of Lake Te Anau, one of Southland’s top scenic attractions, and the shimmer of thousands of tiny glow-worms in a silent Fiordland cave must have helped his cause. In April this year, Andy and Caroline were married at Lauderdale Estate, near the small Central Otago settlement of Ophir where Caroline’s parents run a restaurant and accommodation on the Otago Central Rail Trail.

Gore, a place where neither of them were known, turned out to be a fresh start for them as a couple, says Caroline, “not just Andy fitting in with my friends in New Zealand”. An Aucklander, Caroline says initially she was a little apprehensive about coming to a life in the Deep South. “My only experience of South Island life was as a student in Dunedin and let’s face it – that’s a city. Probably all I knew about Gore was country music and that it was a farming community.”
Andy had lived in a small town in Britain and so felt he had a bit of an understanding of what life in Gore might be like. “But I am very much a city girl and I was worried about lack of shops and that kind of thing,” says Caroline.

Gore High School was able to offer the couple a house across the road from work for Caroline. As one of the town’s larger employers it also provided instant access to activities and a social life. The couple were surprised by what was on offer in Southland’s second biggest town, with a population of under 10,000 people.

“I have been blown away by Gore. I can’t believe the facilities we have for a town of this size. The shops that we need are here, and if I want anything else I can go to Dunedin or Invercargill,” Caroline says. “We have the Catlins, Queenstown, skiing, adventure – everything just on our doorstep – it’s been a really, really pleasant surprise for both of us.”
Andy agrees. “One of the great things about Gore is that it’s right in the centre of the Deep South. A lot of people don’t realise how many options that gives you. We are only 45 minutes from Invercargill, which is our major centre, an hour and a half from Dunedin, an hour and a half from Te Anau, and an hour and a half from the car park at the Remarkables ski field.” Easy access to the mountains is a big bonus for Andy, a keen skier and trained ski instructor.

It’s been very easy to get to know people in Gore, he says. Staff at the school have been supportive, and Andy Bartlett, with 13 years’ civil engineering experience, was confident of work in the South Island, especially with the Christchurch rebuild underway.

He believes that for any migrant seeking work, it is vital to be able to sell your skills. His preparations involved setting up profiles on jobs website SEEK and networking site LinkedIn.

Another key for Andy was making early contact with The Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ). Through IPENZ, the professional body representing professional engineers from all disciplines in New Zealand, he was able to get his experience and qualifications recognised before he came to New Zealand.

This allowed him to register as a graduate member of IPENZ. “It meant I could immediately enter the continued professional development and competency pathways which a critical part of getting your chartership here.” That process can initially look daunting, Andy says. “However, you know your skill set and New Zealand professional bodies can be very clear on where your qualifications and experience place you in the marketplace.”

Engineering work has similarities all around the world but Andy finds there is a definite Kiwi way of doing things. Even a stint working in Australia had not quite prepared him for New Zealand work, he says. “You find yourself having to understand a way of working that is quite unique. The New Zealand method of doing things is just different enough to present a real challenge.

“I have been doing a lot of reading and working through the standards and design guides to make sure that every time I tackle a new design problem I understand exactly how I need to do it the New Zealand way.”
Every year about 100,000 international students come to New Zealand to study - and some can also work while they study here.

Because most international students who want to work while studying will not be familiar with New Zealand employment law, Immigration New Zealand has created the NZ Study+Work website in response.

There may be important differences in the laws that protect people who work in New Zealand compared to working elsewhere.

It is important that all international students in New Zealand know their work rights as well as their responsibilities as workers, if they are working while studying here.

Many international students have visa conditions that permit them to work up to 20 hours a week – but because New Zealand working conditions are often different from what they are used to, students may be vulnerable to exploitation, especially when they do not know their rights.

For example, anyone who works a period of between two and four hours is entitled to one paid 10-minute rest break. It is easy to imagine how new employees in New Zealand, such as international students, may not know about this, and other work conditions.

The new website, developed by Immigration New Zealand’s Settlement Unit, provides a ‘one-stop shop’ for information about employment rights and responsibilities, health and safety in the workplace, work conditions attached to student visas, and settlement resources that students may access.

The website is mobile-compatible, and available in English, Chinese, and Korean. An employer section also provides information for employers of students.

The new website will also be regularly updated to ensure student workers and their employers are kept informed of the current regulations - for example, the adult minimum wage in New Zealand is revised every year, so it is important that both employers and employees keep up to date with this information.

In New Zealand there are laws to protect all workers, and this includes international students. They can now confidently find out about their rights and responsibilities if they intend to work in New Zealand at: www.nzstudywork.com

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FAMILY, TRIBES AND CANOES
Headed by kaumātua, the whānau (extended family) is the basic unit of Māori society. Koroua (male elders) and kuia (female elders) have special roles in guidance. Pākeke (adults) comprising matua (father), whāea (mother), mātua (uncles and aunts) are respected as parental figures. Teenagers are taitamātēne (male) and taitamawahine (female) and children tamaiti (singular) or tamariki (plural). Rangatahi is another generic term for young people. Mokopuna are grandchildren.

The hapū (sub-tribe) is the important sub-tribal unit comprising several whānau, usually named after a founding ancestor. A number of related hapū form an iwi (tribe). A waka or canoe group made up of several iwi is a looser federation of tribes typically descended from ancestors who arrived on the same founding canoe.

MANA AND AUTHORITY
Hapū were the key decision-making bodies in pre-European times. Today that authority tends to reside with iwi although many hapū continue to assert an independent right to self-determination. This shift occurred because the Government has always preferred to deal with larger groupings because of the complexities of dealing with multiple smaller entities. For example, the Ngāpuhi tribe is comprised of over 100 hapū, each of which formerly acted independently of others. Hapū were also weakened when land losses saw more than 60 per cent of Maori families move to the cities seeking work and better opportunities. Thus, they have increasingly acted under the auspices of the larger grouping of iwi represented by modern legal bodies such as tribal trusts or rūnanga (governing bodies).

MANA AND LEADERSHIP
In pre-European times, Māori society was stratified into three social rankings, rangatira (aristocrats), tūtua (commoners), and taurekareka (vassals). Rangatira traced senior lineages from the founding ancestors while tūtua were from junior lines. The mātāmua or tuakana, first born sibling of each gender, were senior to all teina (juniors) males or females in their families.

The highest ranking male was sometimes a rangatira (chief) or ariki (paramount chief). The first born female was respected as an ariki tapairu. Today, only two tribes retain leaders from unbroken lines of descent, Ngāti Tūwharetoa at Lake Taupō under Tumutumu Te Heuheu, and Kingi Tūheitia, the Māori King of the Waikato region. Taurekareka, also known as mōkai, were vassals or servants often from defeated tribes. Taurekareka were usually not held in custody or under restraint, but were required to do
**Te Reo Māori**

**THE MIHI – A BASIC SPEECH**

Māori rituals of encounter include speeches of acknowledgement called mihi. These include references to natural and spiritual forces, tribal ancestors and lore, greetings to important visitors, farewells to the departed, and thanks to workers, family and friends. The following is a very basic mihi to a group of people.

The beginning is a well-known opening. The second part acknowledges the meetinghouse which can refer to any building where there is a meeting and the Earthmother that sustains all life. The next section acknowledges the ancestors, recently deceased persons where known, and the living. The closing thrice is standard.

This mihi is appropriate for a beginner. A person can enhance their speech by standing and speaking with a clear, steady and polite tone. Kia kaha, be steadfast, good luck.

### OPENING

| E ngā mana, e ngā iwi, tēnā koutou | Greetings to the powerful ones and the tribes |

### MEETING HOUSE AND EARTHMOTHER

| E te whare tēnā koe | Greetings to the meetinghouse |
| E te whenua tēnā koe | Greetings to the land/Earthmother |

### DEPARTED AND THE LIVING

| E ngā mate kua hinga, haere | The departed, farewell |
| E ngā kanohi ora, tēnā koutou | Greetings to the living |

### INTRODUCING YOURSELF

| Ko tōku . . . . | My name is . . . . |
| Ka hari ka mihi ki a koutou | I am pleased to greet you |
| Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou tēnā koutou katoa | Therefore, greetings, greetings, greetings, Greetings to all |

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Photo: Auckland Museum

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most of the menial work such as preparing food, carrying firewood and paddling canoes.

Tohunga (learned experts) were selected at birth to be trained in sacred knowledge, the arts, oral history and genealogy. Although usually from the rangatira class, especially talented individuals might be selected from other classes based on merit.

**TODAY’S WORLD**

Iwi are much stronger today with many signing settlements with the Government over historical land losses. The Government recognises iwi as their primary partners under the Treaty of Waitangi. However, this is not without challenges. Māori who live outside of their tribal areas are often left out of key discussions although they make up the majority of the 80 per cent of Māori living in cities. Because moving to the cities separated many from their homeland communities, about 20 per cent of Māori no longer know which tribes they are from, fewer know which hapū they are from, and even fewer are involved with their tribes in meaningful ways. This is one cause of the problems Māori youth have in education, employment and another areas, and though much work is being done to address this, lasting solutions are some time away.
New Zealand is a democratic country in which Members of Parliament (MPs) are chosen in free and fair elections. Citizens and permanent residents aged 18 and over are required to enrol to vote. Voting is not compulsory. New Zealand has a single-chamber of Parliament which consists of the House of Representatives, which generally has 120 MPs, and the Governor-General (who does not personally attend the House). The House is elected for a maximum three-year term using the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system.

Every New Zealand citizen who is enrolled as an elector is eligible to be a candidate for election as an MP. The Government is accountable to Parliament for its actions and policies. Ministers are answerable to Parliament for their actions and policies and for those of the departments and state agencies for which they are responsible. Most ministers are members of the Cabinet, the main decision-making body of the Government. New Zealand has an unwritten constitution and is a constitutional monarchy. The Queen of New Zealand, Queen Elizabeth II, is the Head of State. The Queen’s representative in this country is the Governor-General. Although part of the process of government, the Queen and the Governor-General remain politically neutral. The Governor-General plays a constitutional role in the calling of elections, the life of Parliament, and the formation of a government.

MMP VOTING
The New Zealand MMP voting system produces a mix of MPs from single-member electorates, or voting districts, and those elected from a party list, and a Parliament in which a party’s share of the seats roughly mirrors its share of the nationwide party vote. Each voter gets two votes. The first is for the political party the voter chooses. This is called the party vote and largely decides the proportion of seats each political party gets in Parliament. The second vote is to choose the MP the voter wants to represent the electorate they live in. This is called the electorate vote. The candidate who gets the most votes wins. Coalitions or agreements between political parties are usually needed before governments can be formed.

REFERENDUMS
A referendum is a vote on a question, and can be called as a result of a petition by citizens or by the Government. Referendums are either binding or indicative (non-binding).
A binding referendum requires the result to be acted upon or implemented. An indicative referendum does not. Citizens’ initiated referendums are indicative or non-binding.

**ELECTORATES**

An electorate is a voting district for Parliamentary elections in New Zealand. There are two types of electorates: General and Māori.

The Parliamentary Library provides electorate information, including outline maps, recent election results, enrolment and turnout data, and population statistics.

**HISTORY OF THE VOTE**

New Zealand’s first Parliamentary elections were held in 1853. Forty years later, New Zealand became the first country in the world to grant women the right to vote in Parliamentary elections.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS**

Local elections, held every three years, are due this year, with voting to close on October 12, 2013. These elections are for city and district councils, regional councils and district health boards. In some parts of New Zealand, elections will also be held for local and community boards, licensing trusts and some other organisations. Local elections are held by postal vote. Voting papers will be posted to all voters who are enrolled by 16 August. You must be enrolled to vote.

**WHO CAN VOTE IN THE LOCAL ELECTIONS?**

Anyone who is correctly enrolled can vote in the local elections where they live.

Also, voters who own property within a local council area, but who usually live outside this, can apply to go on the ratepayer roll. They will then be able to vote in the area where they pay rates, and the area where they live.

If you are registered on the unpublished roll, you will need to apply to the electoral officer at your local council to receive voting papers.

Overseas voters must be correctly enrolled with an overseas postal address in order to receive voting papers. Voting papers for local elections cannot be downloaded.

**WHO RUNS THE LOCAL ELECTIONS?**

Most of the work is done by local councils themselves. Other organisations include: the Department of Internal Affairs, the Local Government Commission, Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry of Health. The Electoral Commission’s role in the 2013 local elections is to ensure that the electoral roll is up to date and provided to each local council.
KEEP YOUR HOME WARM AND DRY

ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS WITH NEW ZEALAND HOMES IS MOISTURE COLLECTING INDOORS. DAMP HOMES ARE UNHEALTHY AND HARDER TO HEAT.
You can combat damp by:
- insulating (under floors and in ceilings and walls)
- ventilating (including extractor fans in bathrooms and kitchens, open windows, dehumidifiers or forced ventilation systems, keeping vents clear)
- heating (aim to keep a minimum indoor temperature of 16 degrees Celsius)
- replacing unflued gas heaters with electric or flued heaters.

You should also treat the causes of moisture. These include leaking pipes, and condensation or flooding around showers and baths. Moisture can also reveal a leaky building, which could involve extensive repairs.

Mould, water stains and musty smells in houses built or renovated since the early 1990s can be the first signs of a leaky or non weathertight house. Owners who think their homes could have weathertightness problems should seek early expert advice.

It is important that leaky homes are repaired promptly and properly to stop further damage. Owners of tenanted houses likely to have weathertightness issues should regularly check their properties and ask tenants to report signs of problems.

Advice is available at www.consumerbuild.org.nz

WALLS
Modern homes with monolithic fibre-cement claddings are often sold as “low maintenance” homes, but most of these exteriors need more maintenance than a weatherboard house. Check with the cladding manufacturer, as you may be required to wash the cladding at specific intervals to keep the warranty valid.

It is particularly important to wash cladding if your house is near the sea and where wall areas are sheltered from rain. Use a soft brush and low-pressure hose – do not use a water blaster.

If your home was built after the early 1990s and has any risk of being a leaky building, you need to make a careful inspection of the cladding at least once a year. The main things to look for are:
- places where water can get into the framing
- signs that water has already got in.

Water might get in through holes, cracks, loose cladding, fixings (like aerials), joints that have separated, around doors and windows, anywhere where the sealing has failed, and any area where water can pool against the cladding.

Look for signs that moisture might be soaking up into the cladding, often indicated by darker colouration along the bottom edges of the cladding.

Keep an eye on vulnerable areas:
- Make sure cladding is at least 175mm above the lawn or garden, or 100mm above paved surfaces
- Check pergolas, cantilevered decks, poorly formed flashings (waterproofing strips) that do not protect doors and windows, and meter boxes which are not sealed or flashed
- Inspect areas where bolts, screws or handrails penetrate the cladding.

BRICK HOUSES
Most brick houses are brick veneer, with a cavity between the timber framing and the brickwork. You need to keep the drainage cavities at the base of the walls clear – check regularly that soil and plants are not blocking them. Never let insulation material fill the cavity behind the brick veneer as this will seriously alter the weatherproofing performance of the cladding.

CONCRETE BLOCK HOUSES
Most solid concrete block homes are constructed of reinforced masonry. They rely on the externally applied waterproof coating for weathertightness and this must be maintained to keep water out.

BALCONIES AND DECKS
Common on apartments and many modern homes, enclosed decks and balconies require good design and regular maintenance to ensure adequate drainage. They should be built with a slope to allow water to run off to a collection point such as a downpipe. Drainage outlets must be kept clear of leaves and other items.

Balconies enclosed with solid walls often suffer weathertightness problems and need to be frequently checked for signs of rotting, swelling, cracks, and rust around bolts and flashings.

ROOFS
Once a year you should check roof cladding, chimneys and flashings (waterproofing strips that protect vulnerable areas). Things to look for include flashings that have corroded or lifted, and crumbling chimney mortar. Overhanging branches can cause damage, so it’s important to keep trees trimmed. Check maintenance requirements with the manufacturer of your roofing material.

DRAINS AND GUTTERS
Blocked and damaged drains can cause flooding so it’s important to contact a professional drain cleaner if there are problems. Roots can cause clay (earthenware) drainage pipes to crack, so take care where you plant trees. Guttering and spouting need to be cleaned out at least once a year.
Influenza
Don’t get it, don’t give it

If you are new to New Zealand you are probably settling in to a job or school, a new home and lifestyle, and the last thing you need is to be ill with influenza or “flu”.

You can save yourself and those you love from the miseries of influenza this winter by having a flu vaccine. You may even qualify for free influenza vaccination.

If you are registered with a medical practice ask them whether you qualify for free vaccination, and book an appointment. If you’re not eligible for free vaccination you can get one from a doctor, nurse or some pharmacies for a small charge.

Influenza can be severe, even occasionally deadly – it’s more than a “bad cold”. You don’t want to get this disease and pass it on to an elderly person, pregnant woman or a young child as they are particularly at risk of complications.

Influenza can make other existing conditions, such as breathing or heart problems, worse, with some people ending up in hospital and some dying.

Around 400 New Zealanders die, directly or indirectly, each year from influenza. Last year the disease put more than 1000 people in hospital. Nearly 50,000 people visited their GP with influenza-like illness.

The predominance of the A(H3N2) influenza virus strain in Northern America this season is a concern to local health experts if it spreads more widely here than it did in 2012. Infections with this virus can be particularly severe for the elderly and those with an ongoing medical condition. The New Zealand vaccines for 2013 cover the virus strains most likely to circulate this year, including A(H3N2).

It’s important to be vaccinated before winter as it can take up to two weeks to develop immunity from vaccination and it’s possible the virus could come early in the season. Many people believe they can develop a “natural immunity” without the vaccine. Being generally healthy, however, won’t stop you from getting influenza.

You are never too fit to get hit by influenza. Generally, you can only be immune to a particular strain of the virus if you’ve had it before. As virus strains change each year, most people are unlikely to have natural immunity. That is why annual immunisation is so important to protect against the strains most likely to circulate.

Influenza vaccinations are free in New Zealand from March till the end of July for:

- People aged 65 and over
- Anyone under 65 (including children) with long-term health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, respiratory disease (including asthma), kidney disease and most cancers
- Pregnant women
- Children aged from six months to five years who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness.

What else can you do to keep yourself and your family safe from influenza?

- Wash and dry your hands often
- Stay away from people who are sick
- Stay away from work or school if you’re unwell
- Stay away from young children, elderly and those with significant medical conditions if you’re unwell
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.

For advice about influenza immunisation visit www.fightflu.co.nz

For free health advice, call Healthline 0800 611 116.
Before his 49-year-old wife died of influenza last year, Mark McIlroy had never considered that the flu could be deadly for fit, healthy people.

“Until Catherine’s death, I’d thought it was something that only older people or people with health conditions needed to worry about,” he says. “We made sure our children received all of their childhood vaccinations but we didn’t think a winter flu vaccination was important for us. We didn’t have any underlying health risks and were generally fit and healthy.”

When Catherine became unwell last winter she first thought she had a cold or mild bout of flu. She had a tickle in her throat and was a little feverish but the following day felt well enough to celebrate Mark’s birthday with friends at a lunch and then dinner.

During dinner, however, Mark says she had to excuse herself to go to the bathroom, where she vomited. On Friday, the third day of her illness, she could only take fluids and spent the day in bed resting. On Saturday morning she went to get out of bed but couldn’t raise herself. At about midday Mark called Healthline for advice and a nurse recommended that he call an ambulance. When Catherine arrived at Wellington Hospital she was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit and Mark stayed with her until late that night, when staff advised him to go home for some rest. Very early on Sunday morning Mark received a call from the hospital suggesting that he and the rest of the family come to see Catherine as she had become critically ill. The following morning, only five days after she first became unwell, Catherine passed away.

“It’s really important for young people to get the flu jab, just like everyone else, because influenza can hit you hard at any age,” says Mark.
The New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS) collects, tests, manufactures, stores and provides blood products for thousands of people who need transfusions.

In New Zealand blood collection is based on the principle of voluntary, unpaid blood donation. This is recognised as the first and one of the most important mechanisms by which the safety of the blood supply is assured. NZBS protects the status that blood is a gift. It neither imports nor exports blood.
WHAT TO EXPECT

Blood donation in New Zealand is a great way to make a contribution to your community but it may differ from the experience in other countries.

1. Donors make an appointment to visit a donor centre or mobile blood drive. On arrival, you register and fill out a health questionnaire. Every donor is interviewed by a registered nurse to check whether there are any health issues. The nurse makes sure the donor understands the process, and checks haemoglobin levels.

2. The donation process is relatively simple. After being interviewed, you’ll be seated on a comfortable chair, your arm will be cleaned and a single-use, sterile needle will be inserted into a vein in your arm. The blood is collected in a sterile bag, which usually takes 5-to-14 minutes. A unit of blood (around 470ml) will be collected.

3. After donating blood, you will be asked to rest on the chair for 5-to-10 minutes. When you are ready, you will be offered refreshments in a recovery area. Staff will keep an eye on you for another 10-to-15 minutes to make sure that you are feeling OK before you leave.

ELIGIBILITY FOR DONATING BLOOD

Eligibility criteria are in place to protect the donor and to protect the patients receiving blood or blood products. Some of the eligibility criteria relate to countries a person may have recently travelled to or emigrated from.

YOU CAN NOT DONATE BLOOD IF YOU:

• Spent more than a total of six months in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland or France between January 1, 1980 and December 31, 1996, or received a blood transfusion in any of those countries since 1980
• Are HIV positive or at risk of HIV, Hepatitis B or C virus
• Have had gastroenteritis, diarrhoea or stomach upset lasting more than 24 hours, in the past month
• Have had a baby in the last nine months or have breastfed your baby in the last three months.

YOU MUST NOT GIVE BLOOD FOR FIVE YEARS:

• After leaving a country in which you have lived and which is considered to be high risk of HIV infection (includes sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia). The full list is available on the website www.nzblood.co.nz

• Following oral or anal sex with a man, without a condom
• After engaging in sex work (prostitution) or accepting payment in exchange for sex in any country other than New Zealand.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

• New donors are accepted from their 16th birthday up to their 66th birthday
• You must weigh at least 50 kilograms
• You must be in good health at the time you donate.
• You cannot donate if you have a cold, flu, sore throat, cold sore, stomach bug or any other infection
• If you have recently had a tattoo or body piercing, you cannot donate for six months from the date of the procedure
• You must have eaten some food during the four hours before donation
• If you have visited the dentist for a minor procedure you must wait 24 hours before donating; after major work, wait a month
• You must bring identification with you each time you donate. You can use your passport or drivers licence as long as it is in English.

To find your local donor centre or mobile blood drive venue, visit www.nzblood.co.nz or call 0800 448 325.
Most students in New Zealand attend state-funded schools and there is a range of school types. Most teach in the English language, but some schools teach in Māori. Most state schools are secular (non-religious). State-integrated schools used to be private and have become part of the state system. They teach the New Zealand curriculum but keep their own special character (usually a philosophical or religious belief). State-integrated schools receive the same Government funding for each student as other state schools but their buildings and land are privately owned, so they usually charge compulsory fees called “attendance dues” to meet property costs. This revenue can be used only for improvement of school buildings and facilities or other charges associated with the school land and buildings. At all schools, boards of trustees, which govern the schools, may ask parents for an annual donation and may suggest a specific amount.
A school cannot request payment as a condition of enrolment, and must be able to provide access to the curriculum free of charge to all its enrolled domestic students. However, schools may ask parents or caregivers for donations, which are voluntary contributions towards running the school.

It is usual for the school to ask parents to provide materials for classes such as exercise books, pens and pencils. Schools may also ask for money to pay for trips. Parents should talk to their child’s teacher or the school principal if they have any concerns about this.

Schools may also charge fees for take-home items, and activities or events that are additional to the curriculum, provided the school has informed parents of this and they have agreed to pay the charges.

These fees can cover clothing and equipment or items needed for lessons such as workshop technology. When requesting payment, schools must show clearly what amount is voluntary – payment can only be requested, and what amount is a fee – payment must be made. Donations are exempt from GST (goods and services tax) and qualify for an income tax rebate.

If you are asked for a donation or fee from a state school and can’t pay it, contact the school principal. In some cases, you may be entitled to financial support.

Some schools require their students to wear uniforms. The costs of uniforms vary and schools will provide information about what items are needed and where to get them.

FREQUENTLYASKED QUESTIONS

Can a board demand a fee from parents for interviews when they seek to enrol children at school?
No.

Can a board seek a bond from parents at the time of enrolment?
Yes, but it cannot be made a condition of enrolment.

Can a board legally ask for payment in advance for activities during the year?
Yes, but a board cannot insist on payment in advance. Some boards seek a “once only” payment from parents at the start of the year to avoid asking for continued sums throughout the year. Such a payment may cover items as varied as class trips, the cost of materials in practical subjects such as workshop technology, swimming lessons, visiting drama groups, etc.

Can a board legally invoice parents for sums owed to the school?
Yes, but the invoice should not show the school donation as a compulsory payment.

Can a board legally charge for programmes in English for Speakers of Other Languages?
No. When these programmes are provided within school time, a board may not charge for them. Schools may charge for programmes provided outside the curriculum, though parents cannot be required to enrol children in these.

Can a board legally charge fees for school camps?
Not if attendance is a compulsory part of the school’s curriculum or part of the content of a particular course. Many boards include an outdoor education camp as part of the curriculum but ask for parents to contribute towards the cost of food and travel.

If parents do not pay the school donation, can a board refuse to provide the student any items which are directly funded by the school donation?
Not if this results in unfair discrimination against the student.

Details and advice on the school system are available on the Ministry of Education website, www.minedu.govt.nz.
New Zealand’s only indoor cycling velodrome, in Invercargill, is a centre for training and competition for the country’s top riders but also offers sessions for riders of all levels including beginners and keep-fit groups. The road racing calendar includes the elite Tour of Southland and the gruelling Tour de Lakes, taking in scenic views of Otago and Southland. There are also numerous organised fun rides.

Mountain biking is popular everywhere, with spectacular rides attracting tourists near Queenstown and Wanaka and trails for every level of rider ability throughout the region.

In the past few years, a Government-initiated project – The New Zealand Cycle Trail – has developed 18 bike trails throughout the country. Many have been inspired by New Zealand’s first great cycle ride, the Otago Central Rail Trail. Each year thousands of cyclists of all abilities spend three or four days on this 150km route, enjoying the historic atmosphere of old tunnels, bridges and viaducts. Local wines and food add to the attraction as cyclists, walkers and horse riders share the gravelled track that stretches from Clyde to Middlemarch, passing mountains, hills and gorges. Accommodation and refreshments are provided at refurbished railway stations, other historic buildings and small towns. The vast Maniototo plain, old gold mining settlements, and fruit growing areas of Central Otago offer outstanding scenery, with the trail winding through many parts that are not seen from the roads.

Another great ride, the 172km Around the Mountains ride, starts with a trip on the steamboat TSS Earnslaw from Queenstown, then loops through Southland valleys, taking in some of New Zealand’s most secluded rural settings.

Otago is also home to the Queenstown Trail and yet more options are being added. The Clutha Gold Trail and Roxburgh Gorge Trail are due to open this year, providing even more riding suitable for families, beginners and experienced cyclists.

**USEFUL WEBSITES**
- www.cyclingsouth.org.nz
- www.cyclingotago.co.nz
- www.otagorailtrail.co.nz
- www.nzbybike.com
- www.nzcycletrail.com
Immigration New Zealand funds the SSNZ initiative so that new migrants are able to easily find the information they need to settle quickly and stay.

New to New Zealand?
SETTLEMENT SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND (SSNZ) can help you

If you are not sure which office to contact, please call freephone 0800 SSNZ4U (0800 776 948) from a landline and your call will be transferred to the office closest to you.

DIRECTORY

It can take a while for you and your family to get used to your new home. You need to find out about housing, jobs and training, schools, health services, tax, rubbish collections, public transport, childcare, as well as local activities and events where you can meet people in your new community. Settlement Support New Zealand (SSNZ) offices located around the country can connect you with your local community. SSNZ is your first point of contact for information, services and advice. Friendly and understanding co-ordinators are ready to answer your questions and point you in the right direction.
Immigration New Zealand funds the following specialist services to support the settlement of new migrants, and to enable New Zealand employers to easily locate the skills their businesses need.

**CAB Language Link – free help in your language**
Citizens Advice Bureau is an independent community organisation providing free, confidential information, advice, support and advocacy. CAB Language Link is funded by Immigration New Zealand to provide the CAB service to newcomers in over 20 languages. To contact CAB Language Link about any issue, phone 0800 78 88 77 or go to: www.cab.org.nz and click on the ‘Help in your language’ button.

**Chinese New Settlers Services Trust – workshops about living in NZ for Chinese and Korean newcomers**
The Chinese New Settlers Services Trust provides a series of workshops across Auckland that help Chinese and Korean newcomers learn more about settling in New Zealand. For more information, phone 09 570 1188 or go to: www.chineseservice.org.nz and search for ‘Settlement Support’.

In Auckland and nationwide...

**New Kiwis**
Are you looking for employment? www.newkiwis.co.nz is a free job site for skilled Returning Kiwis and New Migrants who are seeking employment. Benefits:
- Access a network of around 20,000 NZ employers
- Employers advertise vacancies and can search for you
- Access to an information centre with relevant information for newcomers
- Understand the NZ job market with specialist online training courses.

In Wellington and Canterbury...

**Newcomer Skills Matching Programme – Wellington**
Connecting Canterbury Employers and Newcomers’ Skills Programme – Christchurch
These programmes match newcomers with the skills that employers are seeking in the Wellington and Canterbury regions. They assist newcomers to New Zealand with career guidance, CV reviewing, and interview techniques; and improve access to employment opportunities that match their skills. For more information about the Newcomer Skills Matching Programme:
- **In Wellington** phone 04 470 9949,
  email kirstie.mill@eccc.org.nz or go to: http://tinyurl.com/weccskills
- **In Canterbury** phone 03 353 4161,
  email juder@cecc.org.nz or go to: www.cecc.org.nz