

LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!

TINY LIVING



Tiny House
Hub

JUNE 2023 | ISSUE 04



Moving your tiny: Call the experts or do it yourself?



A 'little' difference: Political leaders to consider tiny homes in solution to Queenstown housing crisis

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SMELLY & UNSANITARY?

Tiny house living
myths vs. reality

Little Difference



From naive beginnings to community impact in Queenstown

Pete Oswald is a man who's taken tiny living to the next level. He lives in Otago with his family and has been involved in the tiny house movement for a few years now. His journey started in 2018 when he and his wife decided to build a tiny home as a fun project. Little did they know that it would become a life-changing experience that has helped the wider community.

When asked about his inspiration for choosing tiny living, Pete admits that naivety played a big part. "It looked like something fun to do," he said. But as they progressed with their build, they realised that they could make a real difference in the community. "We had no idea that it would shape who we are and help many others," he added.

Pete and his partner Sophie are the founders of Little Difference, an eco-friendly greeting card company. They're a couple who share a passion for sustainability and nature, which is reflected in the products they create.

Their mission is to make a positive impact on the environment by using recycled and sustainable materials for their cards, planting trees for every card sold, and supporting environmental organisations. Pete and Sophie's dedication to their values and commitment to making a difference through their business is truly inspiring.

The couple lived in their tiny home for two years and even raised their daughter in it for a year. Although they enjoyed their experience, moving around became too much of a challenge. They now rent out the tiny house to a young family of four who are struggling to find a place to live in Queenstown.



Pete & Sophie



"Local politicians and tourism leaders are coming to view it on the 15th of June. They want to see how tiny houses could help ease the housing crisis in Queenstown."

Pete and his wife customised their tiny home to fit their lifestyle, and it has several unique features. The most impressive one is the custom-made COF "heavy trailer" with legal capacity up to 6T. This allows it to be legally towed down the road by a "heavy" truck as a category 1 oversize load.

The mezzanine has full standing height, and the log burner has a wetback that heats the hot water.

The living room is spacious enough to do yoga, and it has "Healthy Homes" certification, which was independently assessed and passed at the highest level in every category.

The tiny home has become so popular that local politicians and tourism leaders are viewing it on the 15th of June. They want to see how tiny houses could help ease the housing crisis in Queenstown. Pete and his family are still putting the finishing touches on the tiny home, but they hope to be done by the 15th of June.

Pete and Sophie's tiny home journey is a testament to how tiny homes can have an impact above and beyond their initial function.



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The couple's decision to downsize and build a tiny home was born out of a desire to live a more sustainable and intentional lifestyle, but has evolved into so much more... A safe and affordable home for a new family, and now, an example of a viable solution to ease the housing crisis in the wider region.



Tiny House Expo[™]

If you've been dreaming of your own tiny house, this is a weekend you won't want to miss. All things tiny come together for a weekend full of knowledge, inspiration and connection - even if you're already living tiny, there's something new for you to discover at the Tiny House Expo

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Fri - Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 4pm

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Sophie Stevens & Pete Oswald's
tiny house on the move

TINY HOUSE HUB INFO GUIDE

Moving your tiny: call the experts or do it yourself?

As most would agree, moving home is stressful - and that's particularly true when 'moving house' literally means moving your house and not just your stuff. Whether it's about moving your brand new (to you) tiny to its base or relocating to a new spot, transporting a tiny home requires some planning.

One of the big questions you have to answer is whether you can (and want) to move the tiny yourself or call in the experts to do it for you.

When faced with that decision, there are a few key things you need to consider...

1. What's legal?

Firstly, it's essential to understand what you legally can and can't do. After all, getting it wrong can result in fines of up to \$10,000.

The most significant consideration here is weight. If your tiny weighs more than 3500kg, it cannot legally be towed on its own trailer. Instead, it will need to be lifted off its trailer onto a truck for transport, and back onto its own trailer once at the destination. That means, unless you happen to own a truck with a crane, moving a tiny that weighs more than 3500kg is usually a job for the experts.

To add complexity to this, unless your tiny home is brand new from a professional builder, knowing its weight can be tricky. After all, you can't just pop it on the kitchen scale.

Some of the professional tiny house transport companies offer a convenient weighing service where they come to you with specialised equipment to weight your tiny house.

Alternatively you could weigh it yourself by taking it to a vehicle weigh station. But to get there, you'd need to transport it – and that requires having at least a good idea of how much it weighs. If in doubt, you have to assume your tiny is heavier than you think. Therefore, to be on the safe side, you might decide to let the experts handle the job.

Furthermore, weight isn't the only thing that matters. If your tiny weighs less than 3500kg but exceeds any of the other light simple trailer...





"Getting it wrong can result in fines of up to \$10,000"

... specifications, you will likely need to display hazard signs, obtain a permit or might even need to be accompanied by a pilot vehicle.

Professional transport businesses are usually very familiar with these rules, which might be a reason to engage them, even if you could technically tow it yourself. If you do plan to move your tiny yourself, make sure you understand the NZTA guidance on oversized loads to avoid fines.

2. How far and how tricky?

The distance your tiny needs to travel and how accessible the current and new locations are can significantly impact whether you can do it yourself – and who best to ask for help should you need it. If you're just moving down the road and there is relatively easy access at both ends of the trip, you might be more inclined to do it yourself or ask a friendly farmer and their tractor for help.

On the other hand, if your tiny needs to travel a long distance or if access is tricky at either the old or new location, calling in the experts is often the better option.

3. Do you have the right skills and vehicle?

Towing a tiny house, even a relatively small one, is no joke. They are heavy and offer a lot of surface area for wind to cause issues. In addition, it's your home, and damaging it during transport will often result in emotional and financial stress – not to mention that people could get hurt. Therefore, only people with significant experience towing large, heavy loads should transport tiny houses. If that's not you, it's better to call in the experts.

In addition, you can't tow a tiny with just any vehicle. Even small tiny homes will often weigh 3000kgs and more, so you need a vehicle that can safely handle that load. [Check the manufacturers tow rating online for your vehicle](#) if you're unsure. If your vehicle is rated to carry less than your tiny house weigh's, it might be best to get the experts involved.

4. Can you get transport insurance?

No matter how experienced you or the experts you engage are, moving a tiny house is always risky – and if it goes wrong, the impact can be devastating. As such, you do not want to move a tiny home without proper transport insurance. It's important to note that the insurance you have for your tiny house while parked up might not cover it while in transport. Make sure you check your policy and ask the provider if it's unclear. If you need additional insurance to protect your tiny during transport, you might find this is easier to come by if you enlist professionals. Transport providers often have insurance that might cover your tiny on its journey. However, it's important to check and get complete clarity around what is and isn't covered so you can address any gaps yourself. If you need to organise your own transport insurance, you might find that it's easier (and cheaper) to do so if it will be moved by professionals rather than yourself or a friend with a truck.

Learn more about moving your tiny home.

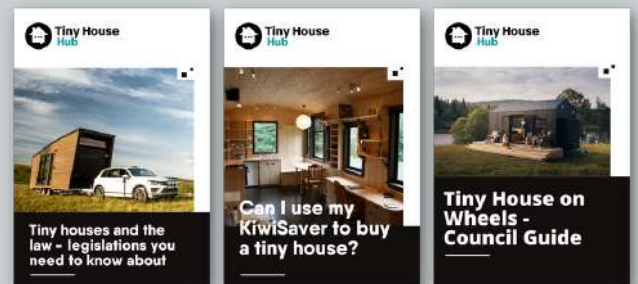
Whether you decide to tow your tiny yourself or get transport experts involved, there are several other things to consider when moving your tiny. Luckily, The Tiny House Hub has you covered. Jump online and check out our How To Guides, especially these three:

1. [Preparing to move your tiny house](#)
2. [Engaging a transport company to move your tiny house](#)
3. [Towing your tiny house](#)



Don't forget that specialist equipment such as diggers, tractors and cranes can be required in the final stages of a delivery.
image by @soniabass_eclecticism

Download FREE guides like this on [Tiny House Hub](#)



“

We know we've developed something helpful, informative and most importantly, needed.

”





Entries close
9th June 2023!



Tiny House Awards

Proudly sponsored by...



Quick! Have you entered yet?

last days to enter the 2023 NZ Tiny House Awards!

Attention all tiny house enthusiasts! The 2023 New Zealand Tiny House Awards are on again and there's not long left to enter! Entries are closing on the 9th of June. We're excited to see what amazing designs and builds will be showcased this year. Sponsored by Tiny Towing Solutions, these awards are a celebration of the best in the business, recognising excellence in tiny house design throughout New Zealand.

With categories including Best Commercial Build, Most Creative Design, and Best DIY Build, there's something for everyone to enter. And with cash prizes of \$500 per category plus a \$2,000 prize for the overall winner, there's plenty of incentive to get involved.

So, what do you need to know to enter? First of all, it's important to ensure that you have high-quality photos and videos, as well as thoughtful text that showcases the unique features of your tiny home. Remember that judging will be based on the entire entry form, so take the time to provide detailed descriptions and visual content.

There are a few rules to keep in mind as well. Tiny homes must not exceed 60m², not including any lofts, decks, verandas, or porches. Entries must be of tiny homes that have actually been built, and we will not accept renders instead of photos. Tiny homes can be on a fixed foundation, skids, or a trailer, and must have been built between 8 June 2021 - 9 June 2023. Additionally, a tiny home cannot be entered if it has been entered into the Tiny House Awards in any previous years.

When sending photos, make sure to include exterior photos and internal photos of each room.



Winner of Tiny House of the Year 2022: Pohutukawa Double Bridge by 'Tiny House Builders'



Winner of Most Creative Build 2022: Whare Marama by The Little Big Tinyhouse Company | Nicole Marsh

Commercial builders can enter up to a maximum of five different tiny homes into the awards, and the Best Commercial Build category can only be entered by the builder who built the tiny home, not the owner who bought the house off the builder. The Best DIY Build category cannot be entered if it was built by a professional builder.

We can't wait to see the amazing entries that come through this year. So, whether you're a commercial builder or a DIY enthusiast, don't miss your chance to enter the 2023 New Zealand Tiny House Awards. Who knows, you could be the winner of the overall tiny house of the year award and the \$2,000 prize!

Entries close 9th June 2023!

[Enter now](#)



Winner of Best Commercial Build 2022: Kōwhai design by 'Tiny House Builders'



Winner of Best DIY Build 2022: Repose Cabin | Jack Anderson



Architecturally designed, Sustainable, cabins and tiny homes.

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A top-down photograph of several wooden blocks with letters on them, arranged to spell out the word 'MYTHS' in the center. Other blocks with letters like 'I', 'E', 'A', and 'N' are scattered around it on a dark grey surface.

MYTHS

TINY HOUSE LIVING: MYTHS VS. REALITY

Have you ever considered living in a tiny house? Maybe you've heard some of the myths surrounding tiny house living and it's made you hesitant. But the truth is, tiny house living can be an amazing and fulfilling lifestyle. So, let's debunk some of the common myths and discover the reality of tiny house living.

Myth #1: Tiny houses are too cramped to live in. Reality: Sure, a tiny house might be smaller than your average home, but that doesn't mean it's too cramped to live in. In fact, many people who live in tiny houses find that they have plenty of space for everything they need. It's all about getting creative with your storage solutions and learning to live with less stuff.

Myth #2: You can't have guests over in a tiny house. Reality: Just because a house is tiny, doesn't mean you can't have guests over. In fact, many tiny houses are designed with entertaining in mind. Some have fold-out tables and chairs, while others have outdoor living spaces that are perfect for hosting a barbecue or dinner party.

Myth #3: Tiny houses are only for single people or couples without kids. Reality: While tiny houses may not be for everyone, they can definitely accommodate families with kids. There are plenty of tiny houses out there with bunk beds and loft spaces that are perfect for kids. Plus, living in a tiny house can be a great way to teach your children about minimalism and living sustainably.

Myth #4: You have to give up all of your modern conveniences to live in a tiny house. Reality: This couldn't be further from the truth. Many tiny houses are equipped with all the modern conveniences you could want, from full-sized appliances to high-speed internet. Plus, living in a tiny house can actually be more eco-friendly than living in a traditional home, as they require less energy to heat and cool.

Myth #5: Living in a tiny house is easy.

Reality: While there are definitely benefits to living in a tiny house, it's not always easy. For one, you have to be very intentional about the things you bring into your home, as there simply isn't enough space for unnecessary items. Plus, tiny houses often require a lot of maintenance, as they can be more susceptible to wear and tear than traditional homes.

Myth #6: Composting toilets are smelly and unsanitary.

Reality: This is a common myth, but it's simply not true. Composting toilets are designed to be odourless and hygienic, and they're an eco-friendly alternative to traditional flushing toilets. In fact, many tiny house owners *prefer* composting toilets because they're easy to maintain and help reduce water usage. Unlike flushing toilets, most composting toilets have a mechanical ventilation system meaning that they smell *LESS* than traditional flushing toilets!

So there you have it, folks. Living in a tiny house isn't all sunshine and rainbows, but it's definitely not as scary as some people make it out to be. If you're considering making the switch to tiny house living, just be sure to do your research and be prepared for the unique challenges and rewards that come with it. Who knows, you might just find that tiny living is the life for you!



"Unlike flushing toilets, most composting toilets have a mechanical ventilation system meaning that they smell LESS than traditional flushing toilets!"

Composting toilet in Sophie Stevens & Pete Oswald's tiny house. See more photos in the 'Little Difference' article.



NEW

Check your builder

Protect your investment with a comprehensive builder report

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Wondering how to find land for your tiny house or motorhome?

Landshare: New Zealand's online directory connecting tiny house owners and land owners.

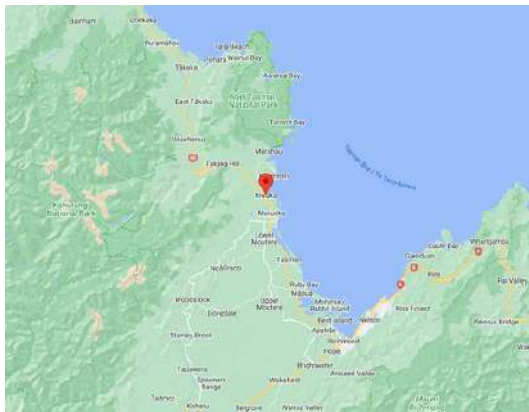


NEW

LAND FOR LEASE



Quiet sites in a consented holiday park with amazing views!



RIWAKA, TASMAN

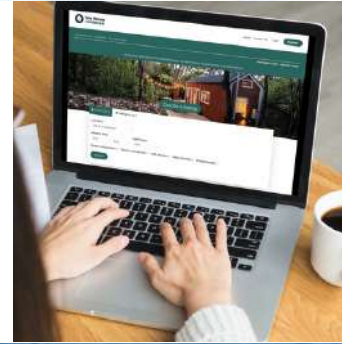
 [Click here to view the full listing](#)
 \$150 per week

- **Available:** Now
- **Site foundation:** Grass with gravel underneath
- **Driveway foundation:** Driveway has a shallow entry with a steepish part for 15m
- **Parking:** Can park 1 vehicle next to your site
- **Water connection:** Yes
- **Power connection:** Yes
- **Off-street parking:** No
- **Pets:** Yes
- **Child Friendly:** Yes
- **Smokers:** Yes
- **WiFi connection:** No
- **Private location:** No

A unique opportunity to park your tiny house within a council consented holiday park. You will need to be self-contained but water available. They're working on getting power to all sites, but at the moment it's only available on a few. There's a dump station, toilets, showers, a laundry and kitchen. Price will go up by \$10-\$20 once there's power. There is a high standard for everyone on the property, so your tiny house will need to be well built and of good quality. Site is 10 minute drive to Motueka, 10 minutes to Marahau or Kaiteriteri. Pets are welcome if they're quiet, well behaved and restrained - and you're expected to pick up their stuff. This includes cats and dogs.

Wanting to make a passive income off your unused land?

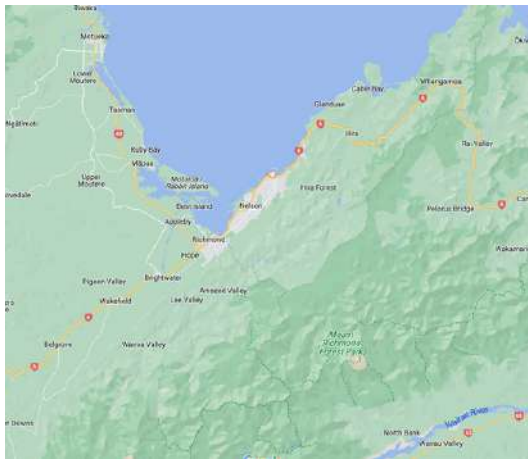
Landshare: New Zealand's online directory connecting tiny house owners and land owners.



NEW

LOOKING FOR LAND

Land lease wanted in Nelson, North Nelson, Moutere, or Motueka



NELSON

[Click here to view the full listing](#)

Looking for:

- **Power connection:** Yes
- **Water connection:** Yes
- **Off-street Parking:** No
- **Pet Friendly:** Yes
- **Child Friendly:** No
- **Smokers:** No
- **WiFi Connection:** No
- **Private Location:** Yes

Phill and Radha are a couple living in a self-built tiny house in Hastings. Phill's a woodworker and musician, Radha's a yoga teacher. Both have successful businesses and are wanting to move to Nelson. They have a lot of experience in sharing property and negotiating the privacy and co-habitation of space.

They have specific requirements, which can be discussed by phone, email, or zoom. Check out their full listing on Landshare and contact Phill and Radha directly with any options.



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