## LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!



**14 Perfect Plants for Your Tiny House** (And the Ones You Should Avoid!)

The Bone Family's Expanding Tiny Home Journey

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FEATURED LAND FOR LEASE

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NEW SITE FOR LEASE IN WELLSFORD, NORTHLAND

**INSIDE THIS EDITION!** 

## 5 SMART TIPS TO STAY UNDER THE RADAR

Don't let Council ruin your Tiny House Life

## TINY HOUSE CHARITY AUCTION

Raise Funds for Blue Light Charity

## THE TINY HOUSE EXPO:

It All Started with a Dream ...and a Little Drama

# 5 SMART TIPS TO STAY UNDER THE RADAR DON'T LET COUNCIL RUIN YOUR TINY HOUSE LIFE

So, you've got your heart set on living in a tiny house on wheels but don't fancy jumping through all the council hoops to get building consent on land you don't own. Fair enough! You're not alone. Here's the lowdown on how you can set up your tiny house to keep the council off your back while still enjoying your cosy new digs.

#### Step 1: Choose Your Land Wisely

First things first – where you park your tiny house matters. A lot. Here's what I've learned about finding the perfect spot:

- Out of sight, out of mind: The less visible your tiny house is from neighbouring properties and public roads, the better. Think about tucking it away behind some trees or fences.
- Mind the boundaries: Don't park your house right up against the property lines. Give your neighbours some breathing room.
- Blend in with the crowd: If there are already other tiny homes in the area, your house won't stick out like a sore thumb.
  Safety in numbers, right?

- Check for covenants: Some properties have restrictions (covenants) that could ban tiny homes altogether. Make sure to check before you park.
- Avoid gated communities: Parking next to or in a gated community could invite unwanted scrutiny. It's best to keep things a bit more low-key.
- Know the property history: Has the property owner had any run-ins with the neighbours before? If so, you might want to reconsider. A friendly neighbourhood vibe is your best bet for staying under the radar.

#### Step 2: Build Smart and Keep It Movable

Now, onto the tiny house itself. The key to avoiding trouble is ensuring your house is classified as a "vehicle" rather than a "building." According to the Land Transport Act 1998, a vehicle is "a contrivance equipped with wheels, tracks, or revolving runners on which it moves or is moved." Here's how to make sure you tick those boxes:

• Your tiny house should always be on the trailer. If you rest it on blocks or screw piles, it might be considered immovable, and that's when the council might start seeing it as a building.



- Keep those wheels on! Removing them or making any modifications that make your tiny house immovable is a big no-no.
- Your trailer should have previously passed a wof or cof and be able to pass this check again. Ideally, it should also be detachable, so you don't have to take your entire house to the testing station or garage for repairs or a Warrant of Fitness (WoF).
- Make sure your tiny house trailer has a proper chassis, brakes, suspension, and a drawbar that's long enough to make towing a breeze. If it's easy to move, it's much more likely to be considered a vehicle.

#### Step 3: Stay Off-Grid or Keep It Simple

One of the main issues councils have with tiny homes is how they're connected to services like power, water, and waste. The trick is to keep everything as temporary and portable as possible.

#### **Power Options:**

- If you're going off-grid, keep all your solar equipment within the tiny house. Fix solar panels to the roof, and create a small cupboard over the tow hitch for your inverter and batteries. Anything sitting on the ground might be considered a permanent fixture.
- If you're connecting to mains power, use a 16-amp caravan plug that's easy to disconnect. Keep the house close to the plug to avoid voltage drop – the further away you are, the weaker the connection can get.

#### Wastewater Solutions:

 To keep councils happy, use a mobile holding tank for your wastewater, which you can empty at a dump station. No permanent plumbing means fewer issues. "One of the main issues councils have with tiny homes is how they're connected to services like power, water, and waste."



Check the NZ Certified Self-Containment (CSC) requirements to ensure your tank is the right size.

#### Fresh Water Setup:

 The easiest way to get fresh water is by connecting a drinking-water-safe hose to an outdoor tap. Alternatively, have water tanks installed within your trailer. Again, avoid anything that looks like a permanent plumbing connection.

#### Drainage:

 Make sure any drainage connections can be easily disconnected. Use rubber hose clamps and quick-release fittings – no glue should be used.

#### **Step 4: No Fixed Structures**

Thinking about adding a deck, pergola, or some stairs? Make sure they are freestanding. Anything permanently attached to your tiny house could make it count as a building, which is exactly what we're trying to avoid.

#### Step 5: Stay Informed and Ready

It's always a good idea to stay informed and get some professional advice. The Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) offers guidance on tiny houses, and it's worth checking out their recommendations.

#### **Final Tips:**

- Avoid permanent connections: Don't use any fixed systems like heat pumps that are attached to the ground, they should be fixed directly to the tiny house.
- Keep everything easily movable: The more portable your setup, the less chance you have of the council classifying your tiny house as a building.

Living in a tiny house on wheels doesn't have to mean endless red tape and council headaches. With a bit of planning, some smart decisions, and a healthy dose of stealth, you can set up your dream tiny house and enjoy all the benefits of smallspace living without the hassle.







HARVEYS EST. 1918

# TINY HOUSE CHARITY AUCTION

All funds raised from the auction will go to Blue Light, a registered charity that partners with the New Zealand Police to run programmes and activities designed to prevent youth offending and build stronger, safer communities. unit 2go



This year's Tiny House Expo is set to feature an exciting new addition: a live auction of a fully built tiny home, with all proceeds going to support the Blue Light Charity. The tiny house, generously provided by Unit2Go, will be on display throughout the event, which runs from 11th to 13th October at the Auckland Showgrounds, offering attendees the opportunity to explore the tiny home in person before it goes under the hammer at 1:00 PM on Sunday, 13th October.

The live auction will be conducted by renowned auctioneer Robert Tulp from Apollo Auctions, in collaboration with Harveys Real Estate. This auction not only presents a chance for someone to secure their dream tiny home but also supports Blue Light, a charity that works closely with the New Zealand Police to provide youth programmes aimed at reducing crime and fostering positive community relationships.



#### A Tiny House with a Big Impact

Visitors to the Tiny House Expo will have the opportunity to view the tiny house up for auction on-site, with its sleek design, innovative use of space, and high-quality features on full display. The house has been meticulously crafted by Unit2Go, a leader in the tiny house movement, and is equipped with all the essentials for compact, sustainable living.

The auction will take place at 1:00 PM on Sunday, 13th October, and is expected to attract a lively crowd. Potential bidders can register in advance through the <u>Bidder's</u> <u>Registration Form</u> and view more details about the property on the <u>auction page</u>.

"We're excited to offer this incredible tiny house at auction and even more thrilled that all proceeds will support Blue Light's important mission," said Sharla May – Expo Director. "It's a fantastic opportunity for someone to walk away with a beautiful new tiny home while making a meaningful difference in the lives of young people across New Zealand."

#### How to Participate

To participate in the auction, interested bidders can register ahead of time by filling out the <u>Bidder's Registration Form</u>. Attendees are encouraged to visit the Expo early to take a closer look at the tiny house and get all the details before the auction begins.

For a preview of the tiny home, check out the <u>REEL on Instagram</u> by @harveyspapakuranz. Event Details

- Dates: 11th-13th October 2024 (Auction on Sunday, 13th October)
- Time of Auction: 1:00 PM
- Location: Tiny House Expo, Auckland Showgrounds

Join us at the Tiny House Expo to explore this amazing tiny house, along with many others on display in our Tiny House Village. Enjoy our Tiny Living Essentials Series talks, and take part in a live auction that will make a real difference. Don't miss your chance to bid, buy, and support Blue Light!





# THE TINY HOUSE EXPO

It All Started with a Dream... and a Little Drama



SHARLA MAY Director, Tiny House Expo

So, picture this: it's 2017, and I'm in the throes of building my own tiny house. And by "throes," I mean I'm wading through a swamp of information, and enough red tape to wrap a dozen Christmas presents. Every step was a lesson, and often, those lessons came with a hefty price tag. I thought I was ready for the challenge, but honestly, I felt like I was starring in an episode of a reality TV show where the prize was freedom and the consolation prize was... well, financial despair.

After a series of what I now fondly call <u>"learning opportunities"</u> — and some not-so-fondly remembered financial mistakes — I finally made it. And let me tell you, moving into that tiny house felt like hitting the reset button on my life. Suddenly, I had more freedom, less clutter, and more time to focus on what truly mattered to me. And that's when I realised I couldn't be the only one searching for this kind of change. Surely, others were out there, facing the same obstacles, making the same mistakes, and needing a little help along the way.

And that, my friends, is how the Tiny House Expo was born. I wanted to create a space where people could gather, share advise and stories, and get the support they needed to transition into tiny house living without all the drama. Fast forward to now, and we're gearing up for our 9th event from October 11-13 at the Auckland Showgrounds, and I couldn't be more excited!

#### This Year's Expo: The Ultimate Tiny House Starter Pack

So, what's in store for you this year? Whether you're just dipping your toes into the tiny house world or you're already planning your dream build, our lineup of talks is packed with all the essentials you need to start your journey on the right foot, this year's expo is like your real life personal "For You" page — that's packed with all the life-changing information to get started.

#### 1. Getting Legal: Understanding the Rules of Tiny Living

Let's face it, nobody likes dealing with regulations, but knowing the rules can be the difference between smooth sailing and hitting an iceberg. Rebecca McLean from New Zealand Tiny House Builders will break down the legal landscape, making it super simple to understand what's required and how to navigate those murky council waters. So, if you want to avoid that "Oh no, oh no, oh no no no no" moment down the line, Rebecca's talk is a must.

#### 2. Design Like a Boss: Making the Most of Your Tiny Space

Want your tiny home to feel spacious and stylish? Enter Shaye Boddington from Shaye's Tiny Homes. She's going to drop some major knowledge on smart design. She'll be sharing insider tips on everything from multifunctional furniture to clever use of color and light. By the end of her session, your Pinterest boards won't know what hit them.

#### 3. Finding the Perfect Plot: Where to Park Your Tiny Home

Okay, so you've got your dream tiny house, but where on earth do you put it? Ryan Stevens from Our Tiny Project and Bayleys Real Estate is here to help you figure out how to find and secure the ideal spot. He's got all the strategies, whether you're looking to buy or lease, and he'll guide you through the ins and outs of land hunting.

# 4. Show Me the Money: Financing Your Tiny Dream

Let's get real, building a tiny house isn't free, but it's a heck of a lot cheaper than traditional housing. Tim Oliver from Tiny Homes Finance NZ will help you make sense of all the financial options out there. Think of him as your personal finance guru, breaking down loans and tips in a way that makes you go, "Ohhh, I get it now."

#### 5. Living Off-Grid: The Ultimate Tiny House Adventure

Thinking about going off-grid? Jacob Willis from Off Grid Collective will teach you everything you need to know to set up self-sustaining systems. Whether it's solar panels, rainwater harvesting, or composting toilets, he's got the knowledge to get you off-grid and loving it.



# 6. Ready, Set, Tiny: Preparing for Tiny House Living

Rebecca from Tiny House Mastery will guide you through the practical steps of preparing for your tiny house journey. From budgeting to downsizing, she's got all the tips to help you get tiny-ready with minimal stress.

#### 7. Tiny House Prep: The Ultimate Checklist

Feeling overwhelmed about where to start? No worries, Rebecca from Tiny House Mastery has got your back. She'll walk you through budgeting, downsizing, and all the nitty-gritty details you need to tackle before making the leap. Think of this as your "tiny house starter kit," minus the packaging.

#### Why You Need to Be There

So, why should you join us at the Tiny House Expo this year? Because, my friend, tiny house living isn't just a trend; it's a lifestyle that offers freedom, simplicity, and a way to focus on what truly matters. It's about stepping off the hamster wheel and finding a new pace—one that suits you.

Whether you're dreaming of building your tiny home, figuring out where to park it, or just curious about what this whole tiny living thing is all about, the expo has something for everyone. You'll walk away with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to start or continue your tiny house journey!

So, grab your tickets now at <u>tinyhouseexpo.co.nz</u> and join us for a weekend of fun, and inspiration. Who knows, you might just find your people — and your new tiny house dream.





### **Grab your tickets**

# 14 PERFECT PLANTS FOR<br/>YOUR TINY HOUSE(AND THE ONES YOU SHOULD AVOID!)



So, you've got a tiny house! Congratulations on officially joining the ranks of people who've Marie Kondo-ed their way into a smaller, simpler life. But just because your house is tiny doesn't mean you can't have big dreams—of lush, leafy green corners, that is. The trick is finding indoor plants that won't grow big enough to push you out the door, can handle the warm, sunny vibes of your cute little space, and, importantly, won't put your pets in peril.

Let's face it: Tiny houses can get pretty toasty with all those lovely, oversized windows. But don't worry, I've got the scoop on the perfect plants that'll thrive in those conditions and add a breath of fresh air—literally.

#### Spider Plant: The Easiest Flatmate You'll Ever Have

Meet the Spider Plant, the plant that is so low-maintenance it practically takes care of itself. These little beauties thrive in bright, indirect light but are also pretty laid-back with a bit of direct sunlight. Plus, they have this adorable habit of sprouting "babies" on long stems, like a proud mum. You can pop these babies into water, and bam—more Spider Plants.

Pet Status: Totally pet-friendly. Your dog or cat can gnaw on them to their heart's content (though I'd recommend they find a chew toy).

#### Peperomia: The Small but Mighty Plant

Ah, Peperomia. If you're into compact, cute plants that stay small and don't demand much, Peperomia is your plant soulmate. They come in a variety of leaf shapes and colours, so you can pick one that suits your tiny house aesthetic. These little guys love bright, indirect light but don't throw a tantrum in lower light, and they're okay with just a splash of water now and then. Pet Status: Safe for both cats and dogs.

#### Snake Plant: The Superhero You Didn't Know You Needed

I have to give a shout-out to the Snake Plant. This plant is basically the superhero of houseplants. It's nearly indestructible needs water once a month if it's lucky, thrives in low to bright light, and laughs in the face of neglect. Plus, they've got these cool, upright leaves that don't spread out everywhere.

Pet Warning: Not great for pets. If you've got a fur baby who thinks your plants are a salad bar, you might want to skip this one.

#### ZZ Plant: The Cool Kid of the Plant World

Imagine if James Dean were a plant. That's the ZZ Plant—cool, calm, and doesn't give a toss. It's all about bright, indirect light but can handle anything from shade to direct sun. Also, it hardly needs watering—perfect if you sometimes forget that your plants need attention (guilty as charged).

Pet Warning: Unfortunately, ZZ Plants are toxic to pets, so if you've got curious critters, keep this one out of reach.



#### **Pothos: The Trailing Beauty**

Pothos is that friend who looks great no matter what. It thrives in a range of lighting conditions, from low light to bright indirect light, and can handle your sunny windowsill without complaining. Pothos is a climber or trailer—hang it up high or let it cascade down a shelf for that boho-chic look.

Pet Warning: Pothos is toxic to pets, so if your furball has a tendency to munch on greenery, proceed with caution.

#### Calathea: The Drama Queen That's Totally Worth It

Calatheas are like the divas of the plant world. They're beautiful, with leaves that look like they were painted by a very talented plant artist. They love a warm, humid environment and will do their best in bright, indirect light.

Pet Status: Pet-friendly! They may be a bit high-maintenance, but at least they won't poison your pets.

#### Aloe Vera: The Healer in Your Home

Let's talk about Aloe Vera, the overachiever of the plant world. It's not only cute and compact, but it also has healing properties! Need a bit of relief from a sunburn? Just break off a leaf. However, Aloe does love a sunny spot, so keep it near that window with the most sunlight.

*Pet Warning*: Toxic to pets, so keep it out of reach if you've got furry friends who like to experiment.

#### Bird's Nest Fern: The Easy-Going Friend

Now, if you're looking for a plant that says, "I'm exotic, but I don't need much from you," Bird's Nest Fern is your buddy.



It likes bright, indirect light, a bit of warmth, and a touch of humidity basically, everything your tiny house naturally provides.

Pet Status: Pet-friendly! Everyone can live in harmony.

## Fittonia: The Little Drama Queen with a Big Heart

Fittonia, also known as the Nerve Plant (don't ask me why, it's a mystery), is small, striking, and can fit into tight spaces. It's also prone to a bit of drama—sometimes it wilts dramatically if it's thirsty, but just give it a drink, and it perks right back up like nothing happened.

Pet Status: Absolutely safe for your fourlegged companions.

#### Hoya: The Stylish Minimalist

Hoyas, or Wax Plants, are like that friend who looks effortlessly cool in any

situation. They thrive on bright, indirect light and don't need a lot of water. With their thick, waxy leaves, they look great hanging or sitting on a shelf. And sometimes, if they really like you, they'll even bloom with little star-shaped flowers.

Pet Status: No worries here—pet-friendly!

# Chinese Money Plant: The Hipster's Darling

These cuties are all over Instagram, and for good reason. They're adorable, easy to care for, and stay compact. Bright, indirect light and occasional watering, and they're happy as can be. Plus, they're rumoured to bring good luck and money —who doesn't need a bit of that? Pet Status: Totally safe for pets.

#### Air Plants: The Minimalist's Dream Plant

Air Plants are like magic—no soil required. They're perfect for tiny spaces since you can literally put them anywhere. Just soak them in water every couple of weeks and give them a nice bright spot, and they're golden.



Pet Status: Completely pet-safe. Even if Fluffy knocks them down, they'll be just fine.

#### Succulents: The Sturdy Soldiers

Succulents are the answer to your warm, sunny tiny house dreams. They love sunlight, need barely any water, and most of them stay nice and small. But be warned: Some succulents, like Jade Plants, can be toxic to pets. So, if you're going the succulent route, do your homework.

#### Maranta: The Praying Plant That Won't Preach to You

Maranta, or the Prayer Plant, gets its name from its habit of folding its leaves up at night like it's, well, praying. It's cute, compact, and loves warm, humid conditions. A little bit of bright, indirect light, and it's happy as a clam.

Pet Status: 100% safe for pets.

#### Wrapping It Up: Tiny House, Big Plant Dreams

So, there you go! The perfect plant picks for your tiny home oasis. Whether you want to go for the bold and the beautiful or the small and subtle, there's something here for every kind of green thumb. Just remember to check for pet safety if you've got furry friends, and don't be afraid to mix and match to find what suits your style and space. Because, in the end, a houseplant is more than just a plant—it's a little leafy companion that makes your tiny house feel like a home.

🔁 Tiny House Hub



# THE BONE FAMILY'S EXPANDING TINY HOME JOURNEY:

A STORY OF SMART LIVING AND GROWTH



**BONE FAMILY** 

In 2020, the Bone Family – Russell, Sarah, and their two daughters – made the leap into tiny living with a custom-built 3bedroom Kauri Tiny Home from Tiny House Builders Ltd. As a family that had already started downsizing, they were familiar with the benefits of living with less. What they didn't anticipate was how tiny living would not only accommodate their current lifestyle but grow with them as their family's needs evolved.

Russell, working on the Airforce base, and Sarah had found the perfect spot to place their new home, which gave them the ability to remain in the area even though home ownership was not an option. Tiny living had significantly reduced their expenses, allowing the family to be both financially smart and environmentally conscious. In their words, "It was the best move for us. We've cut down our costs and reduced our carbon footprint by going tiny, and the savings from living this way enabled us to invest in our two EVs, further minimising our living costs."

Fast forward four years, and their daughters, now in their early teens, began to desire more personal space. Understanding the importance of keeping the family connected while also giving the girls room to grow, the Bone Family turned to Tiny House Builders once again. Their satisfaction with the original build and service made the decision to expand their home an easy one.



The solution? A custom 2-bedroom tiny pod that connects seamlessly to their existing home via a covered deck. This addition has given their daughters more independence, but it also maintains a sense of connection with the main house. "We love that the new pod and the original house feel like they were always part of the same build," Sarah says. "Tiny House Builders matched the finishes and materials perfectly, so it all looks like one cohesive home."

Customisation played a significant role in making the new space perfect for their teenage daughters. The pod includes identical custom wardrobes for each girl, featuring adjustable shelves, a pull-out desk, and ample room for hanging clothes. Every detail was thoughtfully designed to maximise space while maintaining a stylish and functional aesthetic. One of the unexpected bonuses of tiny living for the Bone Family has been the freedom it has given them in other areas of their lives.

With less time spent on housework and maintenance, they've been able to focus on what matters most – spending time together and giving back to their community. "We're able to live more outdoors, enjoy our time as a family, and help others," Russell shares. "Living in a tiny home has forced us to be smart about what we buy and how we live. It's made us more aware of our finances and our environmental footprint." Their tiny home has become more than just a house – it's a lifestyle

"Tiny House Builders matched the finishes and materials perfectly, so it all looks like one cohesive home."



that allows them to grow closer as a family and live more sustainably. The fact that their tiny home could expand with their changing needs shows just how adaptable and flexible tiny living can be. For the Bone Family, their journey with Tiny House Builders has been about much more than just downsizing – it's been about upgrading their quality of life.

Whether it's a family looking to reduce their footprint, or individuals wanting a more affordable way of living, the Bone Family's story is proof that tiny living is not just for the short-term. With the right planning and design, tiny homes can grow with you, offering flexibility and adaptability for years to come.

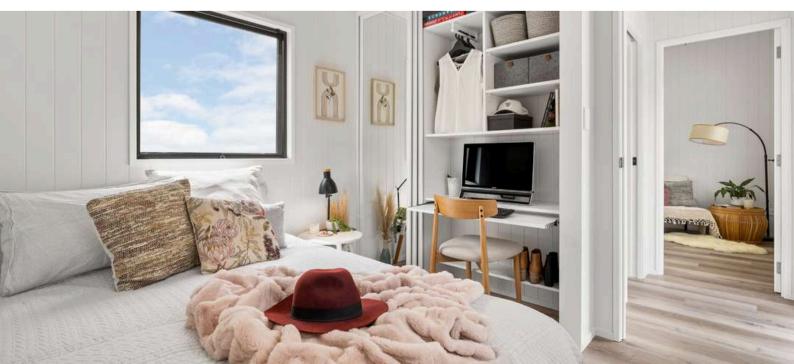
When building with Tiny House Builders we consider not only your current functionality but future-proofing aspects. That's why it's important to work with a builder who is open to customisation and understands your full project, and your long-term needs, future growth, workfrom-home requirements, mobility, land ownership, and future sales considerations.

With careful planning and consideration, you can create a tiny house that works for you now and in the future. If you would like to chat with our team about your tiny home build or <u>view some of our</u> <u>amazing designs</u>, <u>head to our website</u> to find out more.





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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



#### Land Lease Opportunity for Tiny House in Wellsford, Northland!



Click here to view the full listing

- \$200 per week
  - Available: Now
  - Site foundation: Grass
  - Driveway foundation: A gravel driveway will be provided
  - Water connection: No
  - Power connection: No
  - Off-street parking: Yes
  - Pets: Yes
  - Child Friendly: Yes
  - Smokers: No
  - WiFi connection: No
  - Private location: No



## WELLSFORD

Discover sustainable living on this 790 sq metre plot in Wellsford, New Zealand. Ideal for a self-contained tiny house, house bus, or house truck, the property features a gravel driveway for easy access and a picturesque rural setting with rolling hills and lush greenery. Design your off-grid oasis with your own power solution (solar, wind, etc.) and make use of the 1000L water tank on-site. Grid power extension is possible if needed (quote available). Share this beautiful land with a friendly 72-year-old neighbour while maintaining your privacy. Pet-friendly and just 1 hour from Auckland, it's close to Mangawhai Heads beach, Tawharanui Regional Park, and local amenities. Perfect for nature lovers passionate about sustainable living.



## **LOOKING FOR LAND**

Seeking The Perfect Plot: Land For Our Tiny House Dream!



#### Click here to view the full lisitng

#### Looking for:

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





## KAPITI COAST, WELLINGTON

We are early retirees looking for land to place a tiny home in the Kapiti Coast or Horowhenua regions. After travelling fulltime for nine years, we want a quiet, longterm spot to call home, develop a garden, and make new friends. We're open to various options—a sunny spot on a farm, an intentional community, or a private back section. Our ideal home is around 12m x 3m, possibly with space for a pod or workshop. We're quiet, tidy, and reliable, with excellent references from years of house-sitting. We have the resources to build a beautiful, functional tiny home and are open to off-grid options. Let's chat if you have something suitable!

-

## Leasing land for a tiny?

Protect your interests with a land lease agreement by the Tiny House Hub

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