

LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!

Image by Living Big in a Tiny House



TINY LIVING

APRIL 2023 | ISSUE 02



Permits for tiny house living: NZ Tiny House Association meets with councils



New safeguards: Order a report on your builder before buying a tiny house



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NEW SITE FOR LEASE IN CLIFTON, SOUTHLAND

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NON-PROFIT TINY HOMES

A post-cyclone housing solution in Muriwai

MULTI-GEN LIVING

Financial freedom, adventure and family connection

Safeguard your investment

How to protect yourself when buying a tiny house

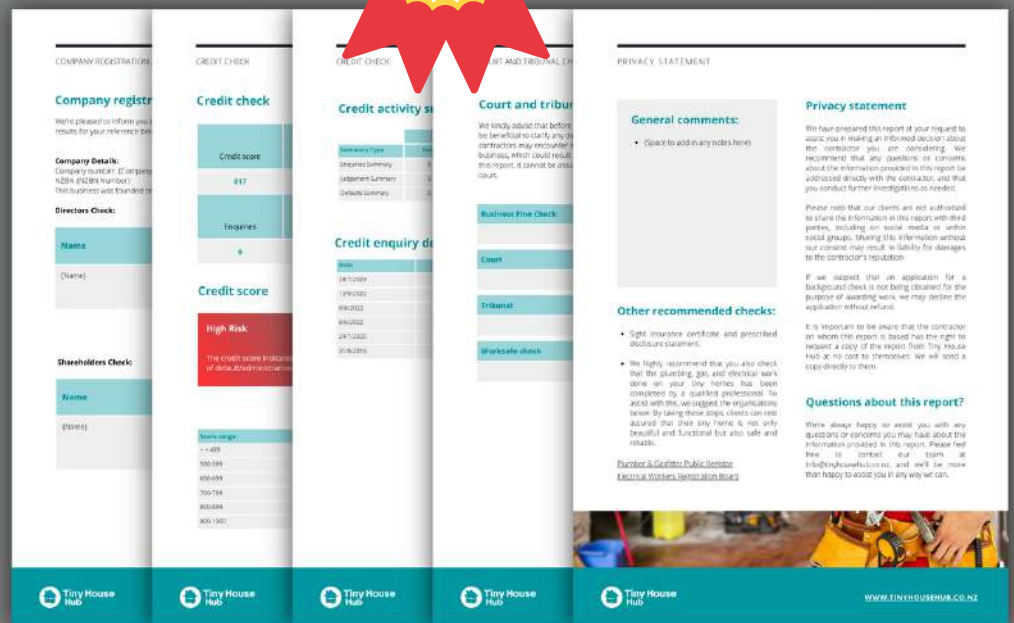
The Tiny House movement is gaining popularity worldwide, including in New Zealand. However, the increased demand for tiny houses has also led to an influx of builders, some of whom are not trustworthy. Reports of builders taking clients' money and disappearing, building substandard homes, and providing misleading information are becoming more common. Additionally, some builders have opened and liquidated companies repeatedly, making it challenging for customers to track their history and reliability.

To address these challenges, the Tiny House Hub has launched a new digital report aimed at helping customers choose a reputable builder. The Builder Reports are comprehensive and include a credit check on the company, a business check, a director's name check, a business fine check, a tribunal check, and a WorkSafe check, as well as a check for any trade or industry complaints. This information is available to customers, making it easier for them to make an informed decision and choose a trustworthy builder.

This is a new and exciting product from Tiny House Hub bringing customers peace of mind when choosing a builder



RECOMMENDED





Our reports cover:

- ✔ **Company credit check**
- ✔ **Director's name check**
- ✔ **Business fine check**
- ✔ **Tribunal check**
- ✔ **Worksafe check**
- ✔ **Trade & industry complaints**

You can confidently invest in a Tiny House Hub Builder Report, knowing that you have done your due diligence

ORDER NOW

Building a tiny house is a significant investment, and customers want to protect their hard-earned money. The Tiny House Hub understands this and has designed the Builder Reports to be easy to understand and affordable, so that customers can make informed decisions without breaking the bank. The reports will help customers avoid falling victim to unscrupulous builders and instead choose a builder they can trust.

Recent incidents in New Zealand have made it clear that the Tiny House Hub Builder Reports are a valuable resource for anyone looking to build a tiny house. You can confidently invest in a Tiny House Hub Builder Report, knowing that you have done your due diligence and chosen a reputable builder.

The Tiny House Hub is committed to helping customers protect their investment and fulfil their dream of owning a beautiful, high-quality tiny home.

Don't let a dodgy builder ruin your dream - invest in a Tiny House Hub Builder Report today and enjoy the peace of mind that comes with making an informed decision.



Making the Case for legal Tiny Homes

The NZTHA's bid to establish a permit system for tiny homes



Sharla May (L) and Rebecca McLean (R) representing the New Zealand Tiny House Association in Wellington in March 2023

On March 2nd 2023, the New Zealand Tiny House Association (NZTHA) were invited to speak at the Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting held by Local Government in Wellington New Zealand. Represented by Rebecca McLean, (Chairperson for the Tiny House Association and Director of Tiny House Builders Ltd), and Sharla May, (Officer of the Tiny House Association and Director of Tiny House Expo, Tiny House Hub, and Landshare).

They are working to resolve the legal discrepancies surrounding tiny homes on wheels, which vary significantly from region to region, making it challenging to build or park them legally.

During the meeting, Sharla May shared insights on the New Zealand Tiny House Community based on data collected through the Tiny House Expo, Tiny House Hub, and Landshare. She then introduced the ten different personas that make up the tiny house community. Rebecca MacLean took over, explaining that the greatest barrier facing the tiny house community is legal inconsistency for tiny homes on wheels. These homes do not fit into any existing legal category and often sit in a regulatory grey area between a building and a vehicle.

Treating tiny homes on wheels as a building frequently violates planning standards, zoning regulations, and building codes, while treating them as a vehicle restricts where and how long they can be parked and occupied. Different local authorities impose additional specifications or requirements for tiny homes on wheels, further complicating matters.

To address these issues, the Tiny House Association is inviting councils to register for a special working group to establish a permit system for tiny homes on wheels on private land in New Zealand.

This system will recognise the temporary nature of tiny homes on wheels, and allow owners to apply for a permit and pay a fee similar to a vehicle registration fee. This approach accommodates the nomadic style of tiny house living and land lease scenarios, while also contributing to infrastructure costs and ensuring community safety through a pay-as-you-go model.

At the meeting, the Tiny House Association received a warm welcome from Mayors and CEO's from all over New Zealand, who were keen to work with the association to find a solution to this problem. Rebecca and Sharla reported hearing from a handful of Mayors who had personally built or brought tiny homes for themselves or family. Many attendees were surprised to hear how diverse the community is after learning about the ten different personas. It's still early days, but the Tiny House Association is committed to keeping everyone updated as things progress.

The Tiny House Association's attempts to tackle the legal discrepancies regarding tiny homes on wheels in New Zealand are a positive move forward. By establishing a permit system for these homes, the association is working towards providing a more permanent solution for tiny house owners in New Zealand, helping them find a place they can truly call home.



Sharla May explaining one of the many diverse persona's drawn to tiny house living in New Zealand



Sharla and Rebecca representing the NZTHA

To support the voluntary work of the NZTHA please consider becoming a member for as little as \$30 per year.

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TINY RETIREMENT

Are tiny houses the way to
affordable and easy
retirement living?

Retirement should be a time of peace and calm – a time to enjoy life without the stress of work or raising children. However, as living costs continue to rise, more and more people worry about how to make retirement work financially. For those renting or still paying off their mortgage, those expenses are often the biggest burden. Even if you're fortunate enough to have paid off your home completely, you may still be considering ways to access some of the equity tied up in your property.

Others might be financially sorted for retirement but are burdened by maintaining a large home, and are looking for ways to simplify life.

With all of this in mind, it's probably no surprise that more and more people are considering tiny house living as part of their retirement plan.

**"Living tiny
simplifies life.
Less living space
means less stuff,
less cleaning and
less to maintain"**



Retiree Brenda Bartlett - in her sewing pod by Tiny House Builders. Image by Living Big in a Tiny House

Tiny houses on wheels (THOWs) are generally more affordable than a normal home – both in terms of purchasing cost and ongoing expenses. Therefore, a tiny could be a path to homeownership for people who can't afford to purchase and pay off a traditional home before reaching retirement age.

Many people also like how living tiny simplifies life. Less living space means less stuff, less cleaning and less to maintain. As we get older, this simplified lifestyle can be particularly attractive. After all, who wants to be responsible for cleaning and maintaining a big four-bedroom family home when you don't actually need all that space anymore?

However, while retirement in a tiny house has many benefits, there are a few things you want to consider carefully before jumping in.

How will you finance your tiny home?

While tiny homes are generally cheaper than traditional houses, high-quality ones still come with a decent price tag. Furthermore, with them being a minority housing solution, getting a loan can be tricky, especially when you're not generating income anymore (or approaching that stage of life).

Those who can sell a fully paid-off house will generally find they have more than enough for a tiny home on wheels. However, if you're not in the lucky position to have a home to sell or enough cash in the bank, you might find it's not that easy to make the tiny retirement dream come true.

If retirement in a tiny house is something you're considering, start talking to a financial advisor about it to see if it's an option and what you can do to make it happen.

What laws and legislations might impact your plan?

Legally speaking, [tiny houses on wheels continue to operate in a grey zone in New Zealand](#). There are no specific legislations yet around what you can and can't do as far as tiny houses are concerned. Most of the time, it's not as easy as finding a nice spot for the tiny and living happily ever after. [Many local councils are cautious about tiny houses](#), and you might find that you need building or resource consent to park your tiny where you want to live – which can be tricky and expensive.

Of course, this applies to anyone, not just those considering tiny living as part of their retirement. However, this level of complexity and uncertainty can be harder to deal with as we get older.

Before committing to retirement in a tiny house, ensure you understand the legal situation. [Several resources on the Tiny House Hub website discuss the legalities in more detail](#), and it's also recommended to talk to your local council about your plans before making any commitments.

Where will you base your tiny house?

The next big question you want to consider is [where you will base your tiny house](#).

For most, the ideal scenario is probably to park on their own or family land. For example, if a relative has a big enough property, a tiny house can be an excellent way to be close to family while still having your own space. However, make sure you think – and talk – through the details of this arrangement with all parties involved to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding financial contributions, privacy, and shared spaces and activities.

If living in your tiny on land you or your family own is not an option, you want to think carefully about the implications of this. While leasing land is a common option for tiny house on wheels, it does come with a level of uncertainty. You never know when the landowner might decide to terminate the [lease agreement](#). One of the great things about tiny houses on wheels is that they can be moved. However, finding new land where you want to live can be a challenge, and transporting a tiny home can be a lot of effort and comes with cost.

Of course, being asked to move can also happen when renting. However, generally speaking, it's easier to get a [moving company](#) to pack and move your belongings from one apartment to the next than having to deal with the stress of finding new land to lease and then organising the relocation of the tiny house.



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"Let's be honest, no one likes the idea of getting old, needing help, and not being as capable anymore. But it's part of life – so we might as well plan for it"

How will you age in your tiny?

If you're considering spending your retirement in a tiny home, it's really important to think through how you will age in your tiny. Let's be honest, no one likes the idea of getting old, needing help, and not being as capable anymore. But it's part of life – so we might as well plan for it.

Think about how the tiny house will work for you when you're not as mobile anymore. Will a sleeping loft still work when you're 75 or 80? Will you be able to reach things in cupboards high up or down low? Do you need to be able to fit a stool in the shower?

And what about amenities in the area? Will it be easy enough to do your grocery shopping and see the doctors? Will you be able to park close enough so that carrying in groceries won't be an obstacle?

These are just some of the questions you want to consider when planning your tiny retirement.

Only you know what's right for you

Much of what we've discussed applies to anyone considering getting a tiny house, not just those who want one for retirement – though maybe to a different extent, as it's generally easier to take risks when we're younger.

Despite their many advantages, tiny houses are still a niche housing solution. As such, they come with a higher level of uncertainty and risk than traditional options. For some, that makes them exciting and fun. For others, it makes them a risk not worth taking. Which camp you fall into is a question only you can answer.



Peter and Brenda Bartlett - Retirees outside their Kōwhai tiny house by Tiny House Builders. Image by Living Big in a Tiny House



TINY LIVING AND RELATIONSHIPS:

How to avoid the 'dog-box'

With tiny houses, intimacy and privacy can pose a challenge, especially for couples or families living in a small space. In this article, we explore the tips and tricks to maintain intimacy and privacy while living in a tiny house.

Make use of your space

The limited space in a tiny house can make it challenging to create privacy, but with a little creativity, you can make it work. Use curtains, room dividers, or screens to create separate spaces within your tiny house. For example, if there is no door, you can use a curtain to separate your sleeping area from the living area, or a room divider to separate your office from your bedroom.

Establish boundaries

Living in close quarters with your partner (or family for that matter) can sometimes lead to conflicts, which is why it's essential to establish boundaries. Talk to your partner or family members about what you value when it comes to intimacy and privacy, and work together to establish boundaries that work for everyone.

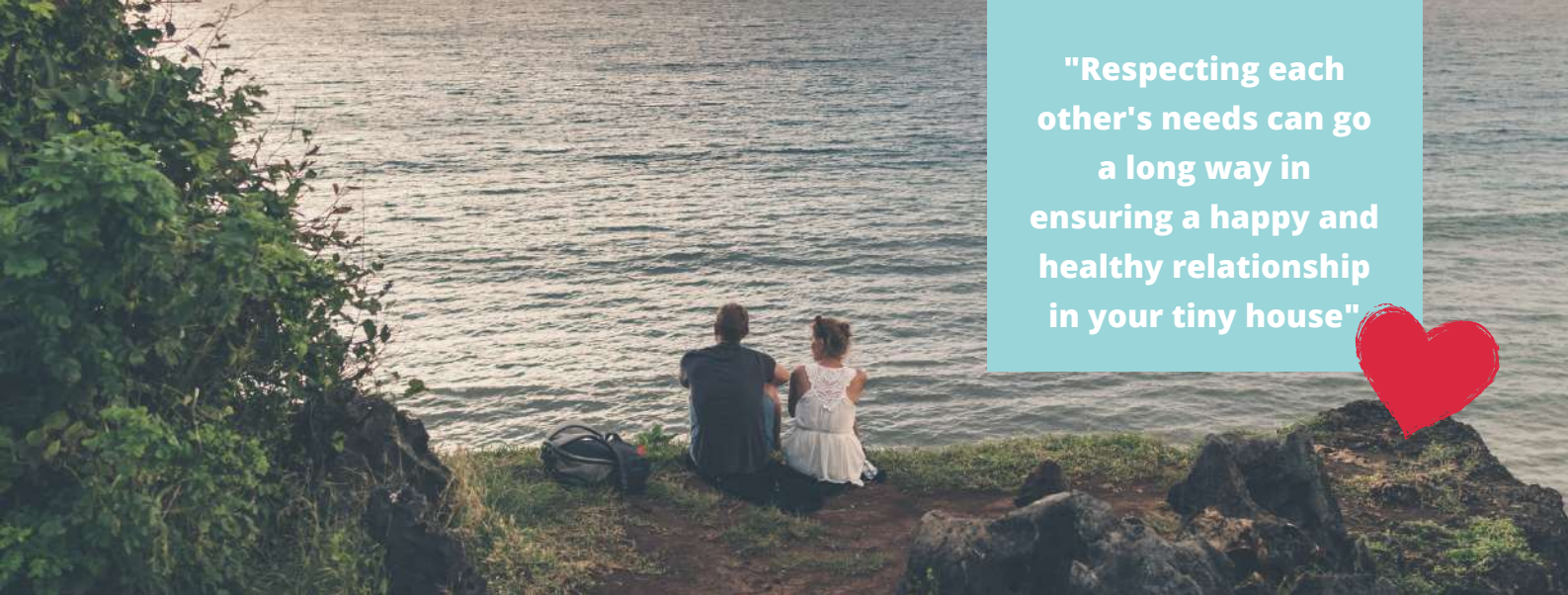
For example, you can agree on designated "time" or establish a system for asking for privacy. By setting these boundaries, you can create a sense of respect for each other's needs and maintain intimacy in your relationship.

Invest in smart storage

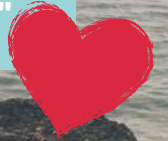
Clutter can make a small space feel even more cramped, which can lead to tension in your relationship. Investing in smart storage solutions can help keep your tiny house organised and create a sense of privacy. Consider investing in multi-functional furniture, such as a bed with storage underneath or a table that can be folded to save space. You can also use vertical space by installing shelves or hanging storage baskets.

Create an outdoor space

Creating an outdoor space can provide a sense of privacy and give you and your partner or family a place to retreat when you need some alone time. Consider creating a small outdoor area with a table and chairs or a hammock, where you can relax and enjoy the fresh air.



"Respecting each other's needs can go a long way in ensuring a happy and healthy relationship in your tiny house"



Practice Good Communication

Communication is key to maintaining intimacy and privacy in your relationship while living in a tiny house. Make sure you communicate your needs and preferences to your partner or family members, and be open to compromise.

If you need some alone time or want to spend time together, make sure you communicate that clearly. By doing so, you can avoid conflicts and maintain a healthy relationship.

"Living in a tiny house can be a fulfilling and sustainable way of life, but it can also pose many challenges for maintaining your intimacy and privacy."

Tiny house living can be a rewarding and fulfilling way to live, but it's important to be mindful of the challenges it can pose to your relationships. By implementing these tips and tricks, you can create a space that meets your needs and allows you to maintain intimacy and privacy in your relationship.

Remember that communication is key, and establishing boundaries and respecting each other's needs can go a long way in ensuring a happy and healthy relationship in your tiny house. With a little effort and creativity, you can enjoy all the benefits of tiny house living while still maintaining a close and intimate relationship with your partner or family.

Are you living tiny with a romantic partner? We'd love to hear about your experiences and feature you in an upcoming issue, please email marketing@tinyhousehub.co.nz to share your story.

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 **Tiny House Hub**



Sustainable living made Simple:

Tips for off-grid tiny house living:



JACOB WILLIS
Director

Here at Off-grid Collective we're all about self-sufficient living (who would have thought!) So we've collated some of the key consideration points for Tiny House folk keen to live more autonomously and in harmony with the natural world.

Off-grid living incorporates the generation of clean and sustainable energy, food security and production, and the experience of a financially and emotionally rewarding lifestyle. BUT, this is not without thorough preparation and meticulous planning. Starting out you'll want to consider how you're going to meet your basic needs:

- **Where you're going to live** - What does land/property ownership look like for your situation?
- **A clean water source** - How to harvest, store and purify your water.
- **Food** - Growing food seasonally, preserving food, trading food within your community.
- **Electricity** - What is your predicted power consumption and what's the most efficient way to generate that power for your location?
- **Waste management** - How you're going to utilise or dispose of your black and grey waste water.



Water

The value of clean water becomes abundantly clear when you're not connected to mains water supply. You need to develop a system to collect water, store it and dispose of it when it's in its grey and black water states.

You'll want to consider how much water you need for washing, drinking, irrigation, livestock, cleaning and laundry.

A proper purification system is recommended to take care of the pathogens, pollutants and bacteria that can collect from your roof or in natural water sources.

"Some people use composting toilets which results in a product called humanure that is safe to use on gardens and orchards!"

Waste management

There are two types of used water that must be processed carefully: These are greywater and blackwater.

Greywater is wastewater from showers, washing machines and sinks. It's possible to recycle this water and use it again.

For instance, it can be re-used to flush a toilet, or water your garden - you'll want to ensure you're using environmentally friendly soaps and shampoos if you're going to use grey water on plants.

Blackwater is wastewater from toilets and dishwashers. It contains too many pathogens and dangerous bacteria meaning it needs to be disposed of carefully.

Some people use composting toilets which results in a product called humanure that is safe to use on gardens and orchards!

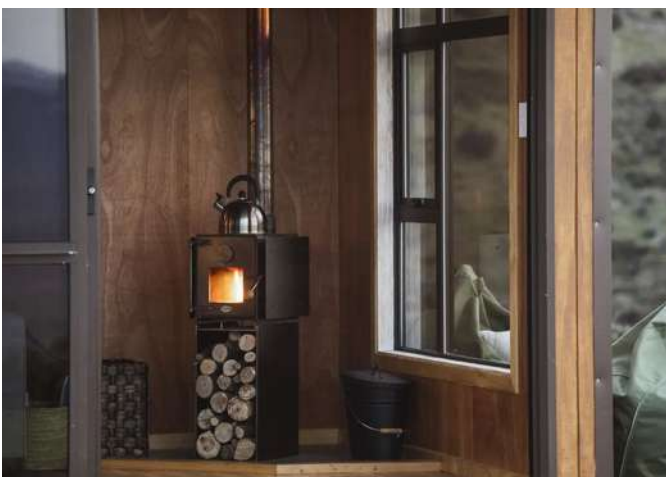




Electricity

Let's dive into the very definition of being "off the grid" – producing your own energy. The most common method of generating energy is solar power. Solar panels are affordable and easy to install and maintain. Having clean electricity produced by the sun saves money in the long run and offers independence from the government/corporate controlled power grid.

You'll want to set up a battery storage bank to provide electricity when it rains or there is too much cloud cover. Solar energy can even be utilised by means other than the solar panels. For instance, constructing a solar oven which concentrates the heat from the sun to temperatures capable of cooking a roast chicken. The sun is not the only source of free and renewable energy, wind turbines are another method of generating power.




Heating and cooking

When living off the grid it must be taken into consideration how you plan to heat your home in winter, have a hot shower and cook your food. Conventional methods are energy intensive and will require a larger power generation system which can often double or triple the size of a solar system. Heat pumps use a large amount of power and so do conventional electric ovens.

It goes without saying that the most sustainable and cheapest source of warmth when living off the grid is by using a fireplace/woodburner. We would recommend that you invest in a woodburner that is capable of not only heating your home, but also provides an alternative to cook on and heat your water with the addition of a wetback system. By using a woodburner to heat your home and water as well as cook on, you will save both electricity/power and gas (LPG) in the long run, which is great for your wallet!

Transitioning off the grid demands a lot of work. You have to be prepared both physically and mentally, but in saying that it can be incredibly rewarding. At Off-Grid Collective we understand all of the challenges and adjustments of off-grid living and have set up our business to help like-minded people achieve their goals. You can find plenty more information on our website's FAQ page as well as all the best products you need to thrive living off the grid.

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CYCLONE GABRIELLE

NON-PROFIT TINY HOMES

A post-cyclone housing solution for Muriwai



Aerial photograph showing the extent of damage caused by a landslide at Muriwai. Photo / George Heard



Muriwai Beach was once known for its Gannet colony. Tourists are now flocking to the area for 'disaster tourism' hoping to catch a glimpse of the horrific damage. Photo [DestinationLess Travel](#)

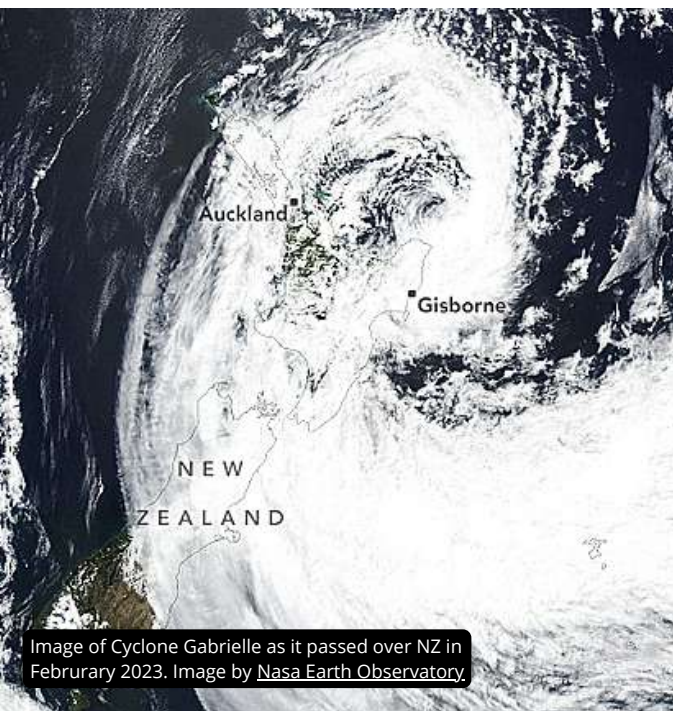


Image of Cyclone Gabrielle as it passed over NZ in February 2023. Image by [Nasa Earth Observatory](#)

The recent Cyclone Gabrielle left a trail of destruction across New Zealand's North Island, leaving thousands of families displaced and homes destroyed. One community that took a disproportionate brunt of the damage was the coastal community of Muriwai. With much of its housing stock built on coastal hillside land, it was devastated when water-laden soils gave way to catastrophic landslides. Homes were wiped clean off their foundations, and many other properties were simply too unstable and dangerous to enter. Up to 800 people in the Muriwai community are now without a home, as they've been red or yellow stickered. Tragically the cyclone took the lives of two Muriwai locals, firefighters Craig Stevens and Dave Van Zwanenberg who were caught up in a landslide while responding to the needs of others.

Events such as this tend to scar a community for generations, and yet also bring small communities together even tighter than before. For many of the 800 displaced residents they're having to face leaving this beautiful community that they have come to call home, as there simply are not enough safe homes to settle them in. Muriwai resident Greg Montgomery, is currently in short-term accommodation in St Heliers. He hopes they'll eventually be cleared to return home, but there is a lot of uncertainty there. "If you are part of the Muriwai community, it represents a place that brings you health, brings you joy," he says. "To think you could never go back is really hard."



One of the tiny homes set up as emergency housing in the Shaye's Tiny Home's yard in West Auckland

"The story highlights the resilience and adaptability of tiny homes, even in the face of a natural disaster like Cyclone Gabrielle"

West Auckland Tiny house building company Shaye's Tiny Homes have been deeply affected by the cyclone, with many of the team being Muriwai locals themselves. Paul Moretti, a builder for the business had his home completely flattened by a landslide 20 minutes after he and his family evacuated. Another builder Dempsey and his family witnessed their neighbours house slide down the hill next to them and they had to evacuate by foot in the middle of the night. Cabinet maker Ross lost his home and workshop when a landslide hit his property, thankfully he had also evacuated.

Once the storm passed, the team rallied together in their relatively unscathed workshop in order to support each other and the wider Muriwai community. Completed tiny homes located in the yard were quickly connected to services and set up as emergency housing.

The West Auckland community donated groceries, gas bottles, beds, couches, linen and everything that was needed, and the brand new tiny homes became (rather luxurious) temporary safe havens where the team and their families could recover and plan their next steps. It's a reminder that in the face of natural disasters, tiny homes can be a reliable and resilient solution for emergency shelter.

Director Shaye Boddington is motivated to do what she can to help people remain in Muriwai, and is working with local council to enable tiny homes to be utilised for mid-to-long term emergency housing. The business has offered to do 'not-for-profit' tiny house builds for those in the tight-knit Muriwai community, as well as for its staff. The first of these builds is now in the planning stages and scheduled for completion in 3 months' time.

Tiny homes on wheels could be a huge contributor in Muriwai's recovery, allowing people to be temporarily re-homed within the community while their properties are assessed and re-built. Recovery from trauma is hard enough without having to disconnect yourself from your community. Tiny homes on wheels can be built quickly, take up very little space, and can be moved to wherever they're needed for as long as is needed. This provides just another example of how tiny homes on wheels can be woven into the fabric of housing options here in New Zealand to meet the needs of a diverse range of people at various stages of life.



Images in this article sourced from [Design You Trust](#)



Most unique tiny hotel design of all time?

Inside the CasAnus

The worlds first anus hotel

Hotels have always been a source of comfort and respite, offering a temporary escape from the chaos of everyday life. From the complimentary mints on our pillows to the fresh towels in our bathrooms, hotels are designed to cater to our every need. However, what if I told you that there is a hotel that offers something entirely different from the usual amenities? Welcome to the CasAnus, the anus-shaped hotel created by Dutch artist Joep van Lieshout.

Located in a small Belgian island halfway between Antwerp and Ghent, the CasAnus is a one-room hotel that allows its visitors to fulfill their lifelong dreams of sleeping in a giant butthole. Commissioned as part of the 30-acre Verbeke Foundation Sculpture Park, the CasAnus is a private collection of Geert and Carla Verbeke-Lens, offering guests a unique and unforgettable experience.

The CasAnus is part of a series of works created by Joep van Lieshout that represents the human body. Including a complete series

of internal organs such as the heart, brain, liver, rectum, and male and female sex organs. The CasAnus takes its shape from the human digestive system, starting with the tongue, continuing to the stomach, moving through the small and large intestines, and finally exiting through the anus. While anatomically correct, the last part of the large intestine has been inflated to a humongous size to accommodate a hotel room.



"The CasAnus is a one-room hotel that allows its visitors to fulfill their lifelong dreams of sleeping in a giant butthole"



Built in Atelier Van Lieshout, the CasAnus is made of wood, PU foam, and covered with a naturalistic colored layer of fiberglass-reinforced polyester, which is the studio's trademark material. Despite its unconventional design, the CasAnus offers all the usual amenities that one would expect from a hotel, including a double bed, shower, and central heating.

Along with the CasAnus, the Verbeke Foundation Sculpture Park also features the BarRectum, a bar shaped like a giant intestine. The BarRectum is an excellent addition to the park, providing visitors with a unique dining experience. Together, the CasAnus and BarRectum create an immersive and unforgettable experience that visitors will cherish for years to come.



Despite its unconventional design, the CasAnus has been well-received by the public, and the critical response has been overwhelmingly positive. Visitors appreciate the opportunity to stay inside a piece of art, especially one in such an isolated, quiet location. The CasAnus has become a beloved destination for travelers looking for a unique and memorable experience.

The CasAnus is a testament to the creative genius of Joep van Lieshout, offering visitors a one-of-a-kind experience that they will never forget. While unconventional, the CasAnus is a testament to the idea that art can take many forms, and it is a destination that should be on every traveler's list.



"While unconventional, the CasAnus is a testament to the idea that art can take many forms"





Space utilisation vs accessibility:

Can these things co-exist in a tiny house?

As the tiny house movement gains momentum, the issue of balancing space utilisation with accessibility for all ages and abilities has become a central debate. Tiny homes are renowned for their clever use of space-saving features, from lofts to narrow doorways and storage stairs. However, these very features that make tiny houses so appealing to some can prove impractical for those nearing retirement age. Many retirees are also attracted to tiny house living, yet they face unique challenges when it comes to finding a tiny home that is both accessible and can accommodate their possessions. In this article, we will explore the tiny-tug-of-war between space utilisation and accessibility in tiny homes and offer solutions for retirees and anyone else looking to create a more accessible tiny home.

Vertical space

When it comes to making the most out of limited living space, it all boils down to one simple rule - go up! Utilising vertical space is a no-brainer for any tiny house designer. If you're young and spry, this might not pose any issues, and you can skip ahead to the next article without a worry. But if you want your home to be welcoming to everyone, including elderly relatives or disabled visitors, then listen up! Plus, if you're planning on selling your tiny home down the line, maximising accessibility can also increase its resale value (check out last month's issue for the "resale value vs. personal style" debate!). So, let's explore some ways to create a compact living space that's both functional and accessible to all.

"If you want your home to be welcoming to everyone, including elderly relatives or disabled visitors, then listen up!"

Doors:

Usually, in a tiny house you're lucky if you get one door to separate the bathroom from the rest of the house, and maybe a couple for the sleeping areas. But here's the kicker - those doors are often too narrow for wheelchairs. So, you can either widen them to the recommended 850mm and sacrifice precious storage space, or live dangerously and hope you never end up in a wheelchair.

But fear not, my tiny home-loving friends! If you really want to accommodate all your future guests, including ones in wheelchairs, consider an oversize tiny home at 3.1m wide. Yes, it's technically not as tiny, but it gains an extra 550mm of space, making wheelchair-friendly doors possible. And hey, who knows what the future holds? Maybe you'll need that extra space for more than just accessibility. Check out last week's issue for our feature article on the maximum size for tiny homes before making the call to build oversize.

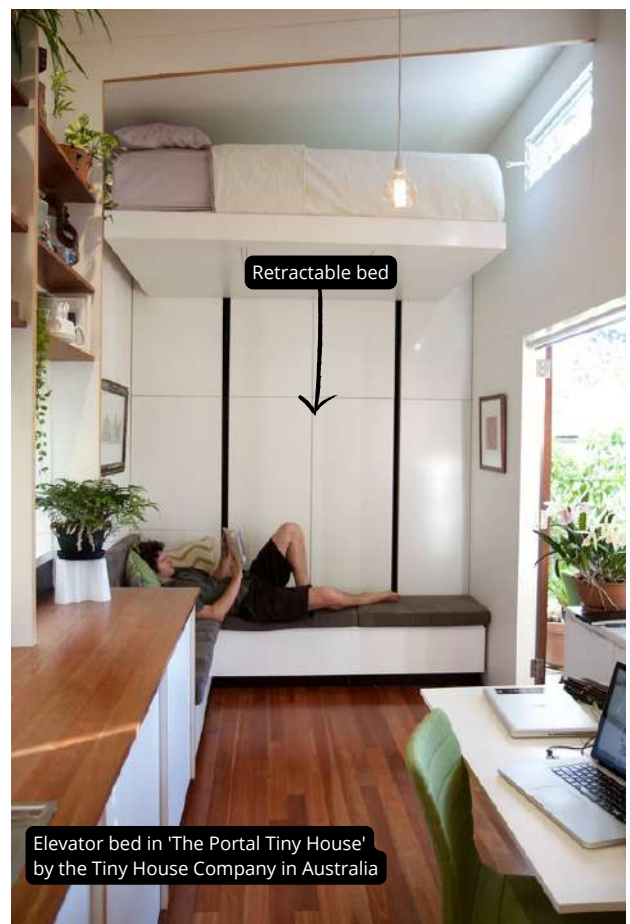
Loft bedrooms and stairs:

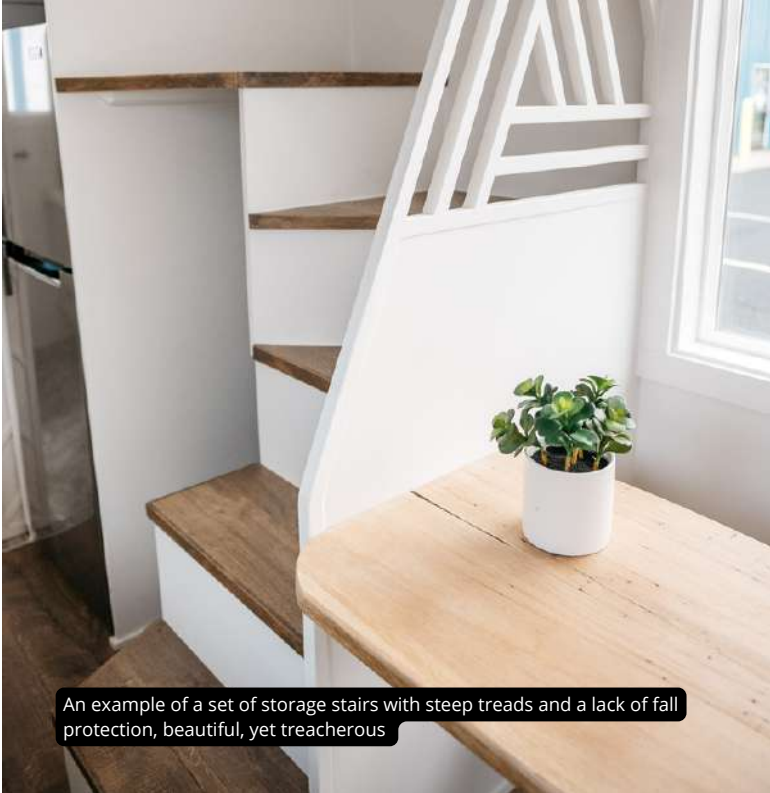
Traditional tiny homes typically had a cozy sleeping loft perched above the living space, accessed by a somewhat treacherous ladder. They had the appeal of a grown-up treehouse, but ladders were soon phased out in favour for storage stairs. Creative cabinet makers have since built all sorts of stair configurations but what they all have in common is they're steep!

Let's be real, climbing up and down stairs can be challenging for many, especially for retirees (and the inebriated!) who just want to go to bed without risking a broken hip!

Thankfully, some larger tiny homes have the luxury of a downstairs bedroom. But if you want to save even more space, check out the genius invention of the 'elevator bed'. No, it's not a bed that takes you to the top floor of a building, but it does come down from the ceiling like a magic trick. With the help of a mechanical system, you can transform your daytime lounge into a nighttime bedroom in seconds flat.

Check out the '[Portal](#)' tiny house designed and built by The Tiny House Company in Australia. It's like having your very own transformer home. So, if you want to live in a tiny home but still have the luxury of a real bed (without the risk of a ladder-related injury), the elevator bed might just be your new best friend.





An example of a set of storage stairs with steep treads and a lack of fall protection, beautiful, yet treacherous

Stairs:

If you haven't eliminated stairs all together with a downstairs bedroom or a nifty elevator bed, then you should make the stairs as accessible as possible. One way to do this is by following the recommended guidelines in the NZ building code for the slope and height of stairs. The code suggests a slope of 30 to 37 degrees and a rise of 190 to 220mm for each step. By lowering each step, you can increase the number of people who can safely use them. But.... having a comfortable slope is likely to result in more steps, so they'll take up more room and be more complex to build.

Storage:

Let me lean on a common stereotype for a moment: the retiring baby boomer generation is known for accumulating an excessive amount of belongings that require storage. Despite this, they're one of the largest groups of people embracing the tiny house movement. So, how are they managing these conflicting things? The natural inclination is to utilise every available area for storage e.g. installing a toe-kick drawer beneath kitchen cabinets or wall cabinets above your kitchen countertop. However, not everyone can easily access low drawers or high cabinets. So if you can't pack enough into the tiny house itself, consider an exterior storage shed where you can store things on shelves at appropriate heights. And hey, if all else fails, maybe it's time to say goodbye to some of those possessions and start downsizing!

"Consider an exterior storage shed where you can store things on shelves at appropriate heights."



Curious about living off the grid in a tiny house?

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OFF GRID COLLECTIVE



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TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

Experience living
tiny firsthand with
the 'Bister' tiny
house Airbnb



GINA STEVENS
Airbnb Host

One of the most relatable parts of a person's tiny house journey is the initial inspiration stage, you've come across the idea of tiny homes on wheels... perhaps from that HGTV show, or was it Pinterest? Or maybe it was the 'Living Big in a Tiny House' videos on YouTube. But the only problem is, you've not yet set foot in a tiny house and you're not sure if it's right for you. Can you really cook in those tiny kitchens? Will a loft bedroom make you feel cosy or claustrophobic? And what's it like to use a composting toilet?

Sure, you could visit a tiny house building company, but who wants to be hounded by salespeople? Plus, they probably won't let you test out their brand new composting toilet. The annual Tiny House Expo is a good option but it's not till August. Your curiosity about tiny homes is taking over your brain, and you want to experience it *now!*

Check-out the Bitser Tiny House, an Airbnb located in Whakamārama (Bay of Plenty). Once the full-time home of Gina Stevens (Director of a tiny house building company in Katikati called Build Tiny), it's now a tiny house themed Airbnb set up to full-fill the inspiration needs of even the most die-hard of tiny house fans, complete with a tiny house gallery wall, tiny house book library, and sure enough ladies and gentleman, a composting toilet you *can* poop in!




If you're looking for a getaway for a family or a group of friends, The Bitser is an ideal choice as it can comfortably sleep up to four guests. The space includes a fully equipped kitchen, making it easy to prepare meals during your stay. There's also two smart TVs available, and a covered outdoor area that overlooks beautiful mature avocado trees. Families with children will appreciate the games and lightning-fast satellite WiFi to keep them entertained. For those interested in tiny house living there really is no better place to visit.




Your host, Gina, has a background in the tiny house industry and is passionate about tiny homes. As a professional tiny house designer, she has been involved in designing over 80 unique tiny homes. The walls and shelves of The Bitser are filled with images of many of these tiny homes, inspiring guests to embrace the tiny living lifestyle. Additionally, Gina has a collection of tiny house books, miniature tiny house models, and quotes about tiny living that will further inspire and delight guests. With a 5-star rating, The Bitser is an Airbnb superhost property that provides all the amenities you need for a fantastic stay.



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"This is a such a cute tiny home - it was inspiring what can be done in a small space. Gina's a fantastic host, the place was an excellent weekend escape."

- Susan



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2022 BEST
COMMERCIAL
TINY HOUSE
WINNER

MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING

Retired couple finds financial freedom,
adventure and connection to family

Image by [Living Big in a Tiny House](#)



**PETER & BRENDA
BARTLETT**

**"Living in a tiny
house has given
Peter and Brenda
the freedom to
travel around the
country"**

In this inspiring article, we meet Peter and Brenda, a retired couple who have discovered the joys of living in their award winning tiny house. Their journey began during lockdown when their daughter invited them to live in her tiny house for a month. This experience kick-started their love for the minimalist lifestyle, and they decided to downsize from their three-bedroom house to a tiny house on their daughter's land.

Peter and Brenda's tiny house measures just three meters wide by 11 meters long, but it provides them with everything they need. They even have a six-meter pod for Brenda's sewing and office. The design of their tiny house was inspired by other homes they had seen while walking, and their daughter Rebecca - Director of Tiny House Builders - helped them realise their dream of living in a tiny house. The couple's tiny house boasts a fantastic outlook that includes sea views and Mount Maunganui, thanks to its location on their daughter's property.

The multi-generational living setup allows them to be entirely self-contained yet remain connected to their daughter and grandchildren. Inside, the tiny house is spacious and single level, with a high ceiling that creates a sloping effect, making the room feel bigger. The light colors used in the design settle beautifully into the hill. The outdoor space has a big deck with a cover, creating a lovely extension to their living space. The deck is five meters wide, bigger than the house itself.



Image by [Living Big in a Tiny House](#)



Image by [Living Big in a Tiny House](#)



Peter and Brenda's tiny house was awarded the 'Best Commercial Build' at the 2022 [Tiny House Awards](#). The couple can be seen above with their daughter Rebecca, and dynamic YouTube stars - Bryce and Rasa of Living Big in a Tiny House - accepting the award at the 2022 [Tiny House Expo](#).

"The multi-generational living setup allows them to be entirely self-contained yet remain connected to their daughter and grandchildren"

Living in a tiny house has given Peter and Brenda the freedom to travel around the country, see new places, and spend more time with each other. They say that they have everything they need in the tiny house and do not miss their old, larger home. For them, the whole point of retirement is to spend time doing the things they love with the people they love, and their tiny house has allowed them to do just that.

Peter and Brenda's story is a testament to the joys of living in a tiny house. They have found their dream home, allowing them to travel, enjoy their retirement, and spend time with their loved ones. Their experience shows us that sometimes less really is more, and that a tiny house can provide all the space and freedom we need.



Let us help you build your

Dream Tiny Home!



www.tinyhousebuilders.co.nz

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

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

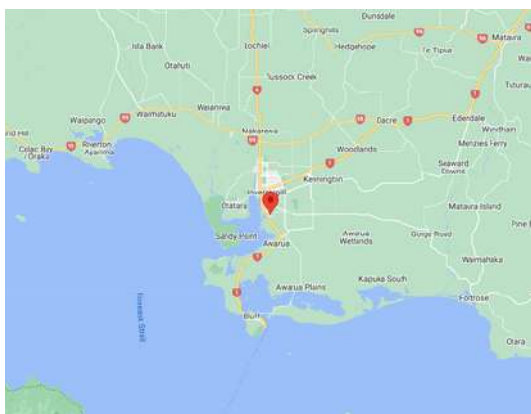


NEW

LAND FOR LEASE



Off-grid living in a private oasis - land available now in Clifton



CLIFTON, SOUTHLAND

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

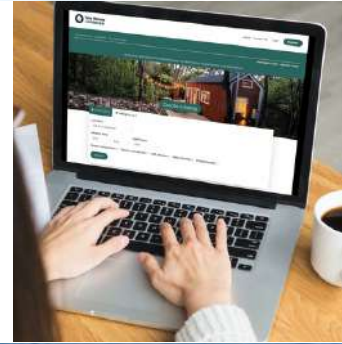
- **Available:** Now
- **Site foundation:** Bare section
- **Driveway foundation:** 3m wide by 150m long driveway connecting the spot to street
- **Parking:** Solid surface or grass land inside the property
- **Water connection:** Yes
- **Power connection:** Yes
- **Off-street parking:** Yes
- **Pets:** Yes
- **Child Friendly:** Yes
- **Smokers:** No
- **WiFi connection:** No
- **Private location:** Yes

Embrace a fully off-grid lifestyle on this beautiful fenced property in Clifton! With a bare section ready for your tiny house, this land lease offers the opportunity to create your own private oasis while being just a few minutes' drive away from the town centre.

There's off-grid water and power connections available, and the owners are also open to gardening, vegie beds, and chicken raising, making it ideal for those seeking a self-sufficient lifestyle. This private location is perfect for pets and child-friendly, but smoking is not permitted. Here you'll be able to disconnect and enjoy the serenity of your own little corner of paradise.

Wanting to make a passive income off your unused land?

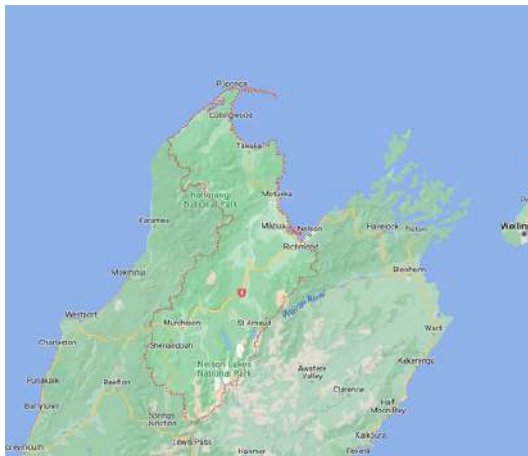
Landshare: New Zealand's online directory connecting tiny house owners and land owners.



NEW

LOOKING FOR LAND

Nature-loving couple & 2 dogs seek land in Tasman region



TASMAN REGION

[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



Emelia and Christian, who recently got married in the US, are planning to move back to New Zealand at the end of the year. Emelia is an NZ citizen and both are interested in conservation work in the Tasman region. They're looking for a private place close to nature where they can park their camper van and live with their two dogs. They prefer a fenced-in yard for their dogs, but are flexible. They plan to arrive in Tasman with all their paperwork and finances in order, and are looking for a place to stay in advance. They describe themselves as quiet and friendly and are excited to return to New Zealand.

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