

LET'S TALK

Lifestyle!

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Porterhouse steak, smoked cod, tuna sushi, lamb shanks, probiotic yoghurt...

You'd be forgiven for thinking we're talking about a gourmet food box but it turns out New Zealand has some very lucky pets living large on very human meals prepped by doting owners.

With further displays of lavish affection – curating playlists while we're away, puppacinos at pet-friendly cafes – it seems we'll go to extraordinary lengths to keep our pet-pals happy.

So what exactly is it that makes us go a bit barking mad for our pets?

Time spent with pets releases large amounts of the feel-good love hormone, oxytocin, which has positive affects on physical, social, emotional and mental well-being.

Studies found a staggering 300% increase in oxytocin levels after owners spent just half an hour with their dogs.

Similarly, pets also benefit. An increase

in animals' oxytocin was discovered after owners gazed into their dog's eyes or played with their cats.

Kiwis seek out this special bond ahead of many other countries, with nearly two-thirds of households owning a pet of some kind and the recent work-from-home trend has anecdotally fuelled the rise of the "pandemic pup".

Pet lovers aren't just head-over-heels for fur babies. Overseas, an enamoured goldfish owner reportedly spent the equivalent of NZD\$600 on surgery for their three-inch fish friend. According to reports, the operation for constipation took close to an hour and went swimmingly!

At the end of the day, pets provide friendship and love without judgement.

If you wake each morning to paws on your pillow, or a wet lick to your face, chances are your pet will love you regardless of porterhouse steak and puppacinos – a quick cuddle, scratch under the chin or gaze into the eyes will also do just fine.



1079 Kahikatea Flat Rd, Waitoki

Marketed & sold by Simone.

Gone and more needed! Genuine buyers on the hunt. Call Simone.



133 Bonaire Cres, Millwater

Lock up and go!

Close to school, shops, transport and the beaches. Call Simone.

OMICRON: SHOULD I BUY, SELL OR WAIT?

How will the real estate market react? Will prices rise or fall? Has the market reached its peak?

These are questions regularly asked by buyers and sellers alike.

As industry experts, we can make a calculated guess based on past experience but the truth is, we don't know. Covid has become synonymous with "very unpredictable".

Here however is what we can guarantee.

Selling Advice

If you need to sell, there is a tried and true process to ensure you receive the best price the market has to offer.

In any market conditions, the final price is determined by the buyer so our job is to use every channel possible – websites, social media, word of mouth, email to our database of active buyers, print marketing, open homes – to get your property in front of as many as people possible.

Once buyers are excited about owning and living in your home, we work through a process – auction, for sale by negotiation or deadline treaty – to ensure we find that one buyer willing to pay the most.

If you have a genuine need to move, and you're willing to trust the process, now is a good time to sell. ▶

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Buying?

Whether or not you'll pay more, or less, in six month's time is anyone's guess.

If you're currently renting and you delay a purchase due to uncertainty, that's another six months you're paying off the landlord's mortgage instead of your own.

Our best advice is: if you need somewhere new to live, now is a good time to buy.

Thinking of selling?

Give us a call. We'd be delighted to give you an estimated selling price and obligation-free advice on how to achieve the best result.

Call us today for professional advice, or to find out how much your home might be worth.



Gorgeous and Gone!

5 Kingscliff Rise
More needed!



Land Grab!

157 Barrett Road
With lovely family home - call me for more!



Shout Out to Sunshine Cafe

Great local coffee open 6am-12pm,
Mon-Fri, at the Gull petrol station,
315 Wainui Road, Silverdale.

FEBRUARY GARDEN

A checklist for your vegetable garden this February..

1. Sow or plant seedlings of beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, kohlrabi, radish, silver-beet, and spinach.
2. Sow seeds or plant seedlings of herbs such as basil, chervil, chives, coriander, dill, fennel, lemon balm, lemon grass, lemon verbena, lovage, marjoram, oregano, parsley, sage, tarragon, and thyme.
3. Save lettuce seeds. Lettuce bolts quickly in the summer heat. Let a few of your plants flower and collect the seed for replanting next spring.
4. Sow turnips - baby varieties mature in just two months. If you're not a fan of turnips as a root vegetable, eat the leafy tops. The leaves are rich in vitamins, minerals, and phytonutrients, and can be cooked like spinach, or eaten raw.
5. Sow peppery land cress in containers or garden beds in moist soil and part shade as it prefers to stay cool. Keep plants well-watered. The leaves, very similar to watercress, are ready to harvest in 7-8 weeks.
6. If you get high humidity this month, you can protect cucumbers, courgettes, pumpkins, and melons from powdery mildew using a baking soda solution. You will need: 5 tbsp vegetable oil, 2 tbsp baking soda, 1 tsp Castile liquid soap and 2 litres water. Pour all the ingredients into a spray bottle and shake to mix. Spray plants, covering both sides of the leaves and stems. Reapply every 5-7 days as a prevention method.
 - Remove old leaves before spraying. Bin or burn them.
 - Don't cut away healthy foliage, this reduces the nutrients going to developing fruit.
 - Make up a fresh mix each time.

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