Taranaki Lifestyle Toolkit

YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING IN Taranaki,
A NEW ZEALAND REGION LIKE NO OTHER

www.liveandwork.taranaki.info
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Venture Taranaki recommends the use, advice and assistance of professional services such as licensed immigration advisors, accountants and lawyers to facilitate your move and help make it as smooth and stress free as possible.

For more information on the lifestyle you can achieve or to discuss specific job and career opportunities there might be for you in Taranaki, contact Venture Taranaki on +64 6 759 5158 email talent@venture.org.nz or visit www.liveandwork.taranaki.info

June 2015
Thank you for your interest in Taranaki – a great place to live, work and play.

The Taranaki Lifestyle Toolkit has been developed by Venture Taranaki Trust, the Regional Development Agency, to help you discover what living and working in Taranaki is like, and what an amazing career and lifestyle you can achieve here.

Venture Taranaki has a focus on growing the regional economy through business and tourism development and building the Taranaki brand. Comprising of integrated teams working for the public good across economic development, tourism, marketing and events, Venture Taranaki is the one-stop-shop for anyone looking to visit, work, live or invest in Taranaki.

For more information visit: [www.taranaki.info](http://www.taranaki.info)

Taranaki, New Zealand, is a region of unlimited potential. From picture-perfect Mount Taranaki to the wild surf beaches and civilised cultural attractions, the region boasts a natural energy and vibrancy.

Home to strong oil and gas and dairy sectors, robust engineering and primary production, and rapidly growing tourism and events sectors, Taranaki has evolved into a dynamic and globally acclaimed region with a truly enviable lifestyle.

Team these strengths with a unique natural landscape, plus innovative and proud people and you have a legendary destination in which to live, work and play.

So why not swap sides to Taranaki – a region like no other. [www.liveandwork.taranaki.info](http://www.liveandwork.taranaki.info)
About Taranaki

The lifestyle

The Taranaki lifestyle has become the stuff of legend. The region is known as the energy province of New Zealand, as much for the rich mineral resources underneath it, as the energised landscape and welcoming locals who reside there.

At its heart – both geographically and spiritually – stands Mount Taranaki, a natural playground and proud regional icon. Nestled on the coast, the progressive capital city of the region – New Plymouth, was judged New Zealand’s Top Town by influential North & South magazine.

In Taranaki it’s easy to achieve an enviable lifestyle, without having to compromise your career. The region’s dynamic surf, multitude of parks and gardens, iconic walkways, major events calendar and mountain playground make it a great place to live.

Add to that the minimal traffic, low unemployment and clean air and water, and you’ll soon see why this safe and stimulating community is the perfect place to call home – whether you’re seeking a better lifestyle, starting a family, or simply looking for a change.

www.liveandwork.taranaki.info

Every day people take the opportunity to cycle, walk, run and skate on New Plymouth’s multi-award-winning walkway beside the Tasman Sea.
The region

If you are looking for Taranaki on a map of New Zealand, you’ll see it’s the bump on the west coast of the North Island. Located halfway between the main centres of Auckland and Wellington, the region is characterised by the 2518m Mount Taranaki, in Egmont National Park.

www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki

Beyond New Plymouth there are smaller towns and villages all around Mount Taranaki with lifestyle blocks and farms in-between. This means you can choose between city, small town or rural life, and pick whether to live by the sea or further inland.

The districts

Taranaki is home to 110,000 people, most of whom live in the coastal city of New Plymouth. The region is split into three districts: New Plymouth to the north with a population of about 75,000, www.newplymouthnz.com; Stratford in central Taranaki servicing about 9,000 people www.stratford.govt.nz; and South Taranaki www.southtaranaki.com, including the main centre of Hawera, with a population of 26,000. The Taranaki Regional Council covers the entire region, providing services and information on the environment, resource consents, public transport, and civil defence. www.trc.govt.nz

The region is characterised by the 2518m, Mount Taranaki, in Egmont National Park.
The Taranaki region has a temperate climate with abundant rainfall and high sunshine hours, making it green, lush and fertile.

The landscape

The Taranaki ring plain spreads out from Mount Taranaki like a skirt striped with rivers, and has rich free-draining volcanic soils that support pastoral farming. The Taranaki hill country to the east is steeply dissected by river valleys that are affectionately known as 'the wopwops'.

There's also the fabulous coastal environment, which edges Taranaki from Patea in the south, right around to Mokau in the north. Warm iron sand lines the shores, and children and adults alike enjoy swimming on the many beautiful beaches throughout the region.

Climate and weather

Taranaki boasts a temperate climate with high sunshine hours and abundant rainfall, which combine to make it lush, green and fertile. Temperatures are pleasant and mild all year round, making it an ideal place for outdoor activities. Average winter temperatures range between 6°C and 14°C, and summer temperatures a comfortable 13°C to 22°C, with the highest temperature recorded as 30°C. On average New Plymouth receives 2,197 hours of sunshine annually, one of the highest in New Zealand.

www.metservice.com/towns-cities/new-plymouth

Taranaki's seasons

Spring: September, October and November
Summer: December, January, February
Autumn: March, April, May
Winter: June, July, August

Daylight saving starts on the last Sunday in September when clocks go forward an hour, and ends on the first Sunday of April, when the clocks go back an hour.
The people

Taranaki people are known for their friendly and resourceful ‘can do’ attitude. They are incredibly proud of their homeland – turangawaewae, which in Maori means ‘place where I stand’. Many people from a variety of different cultures and countries have moved to Taranaki for work and lifestyle. These people now call Taranaki their home, adding variety and vibrancy to the community.

History and culture

Taranaki has a vivid and colourful history that is rich in both legend and spirit. The region has seen more than its fair share of wars, beginning with bloody battles between the Maori tribes that first settled the region in the 13th century. European settlement of New Plymouth began in earnest in 1841, as did the initial opposition to land sales by local Maori. This was to become a defining aspect of the region’s history for over 150 years, with the Taranaki Land Wars drawing more than 3,500 colonial troops into the region.

Parahaka Pa became the first place in the world where passive resistance was used when the prophets Te Whiti O Rongamai and Tohu kakahi led their people in non-violent protest in reaction to the confiscation of their lands. Mount Taranaki also has a colourful story behind its origin. According to Maori legend, Taranaki sat in the centre of the North Island with the other mountain gods, Tongariro, Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe who were all in love with nearby Pihanga. Taranaki made advances towards Pihanga but was banished by a furious Tongariro. A grief filled Taranaki moved towards the setting sun, gouging the Whanganui river along the way.

Many of the stories about Taranaki’s past are told at Puke Ariki, a world-class interactive museum, library and information centre in New Plymouth. Its galleries explore the region’s natural, geological and human interest stories, and a dynamic exhibition and events programme puts the spotlight on specific aspects of the region’s culture. www.pukeariki.com

In South Taranaki, near Hawera, is the widely renowned Tawhiti museum created by artist Nigel Ogle. It relays Taranaki’s heritage through life-size and scale models of Taranaki people and places, all of which are created on-site. www.tawhitimuseum.co.nz

The museum of South Taranaki – Aotea Utanganui – in Patea, and Taranaki Pioneer Village near Stratford also offer fascinating historical insights and are two of many museums scattered throughout the region which bring Taranaki’s past to life. www.visit.taranaki.info

Taranaki has a vivid and colourful history that is rich in both legend and spirit.
Infrastructure and amenities

Taranaki’s infrastructure and amenities are of a high standard and impressive for a region of its size. They include numerous libraries, town halls, art galleries, sports facilities and swimming pools, cycle and walk ways, museums, parks and reserves, theatres and stadiums, which are located throughout the region.

Walking and cycling

In 2010, New Plymouth became one of New Zealand’s two Walking and Cycling Model Communities, which has resulted in an expansive network of cycle trails, amenities, walkways and events to make it easy to leave the car at home. Facilities include a newly established ‘bike pod’ in central New Plymouth which provides secure lockers where workers can leave their bikes for the day. www.letsgo.org.nz

Public bus services

There is a regular schedule of buses servicing most areas of New Plymouth and Taranaki. CityLink weekday commuter services run on nine routes within urban New Plymouth, as well as between New Plymouth and Waitara, and New Plymouth and Oakura. School buses also operate within the District at appropriate times. SouthLink operate a weekly bus service to outlying towns. www.trc.govt.nz/bus-routes
Transport networks
Taranaki is just far enough away from the rest of the world to retain its special character and charm. However this doesn’t mean it isn’t well connected. With its unique position in the middle of the North Island plus a variety of excellent transport networks, access to Auckland, Wellington and further afield is quick, easy and efficient. Whether you choose to take a stunningly scenic drive, hop on a regular commuter flight or bus, the rest of the world is within easy reach.

Sea
Port Taranaki is one of the region’s best assets. It boasts the only deep-water harbour on New Zealand’s west coast and has ample capability for importing and exporting all manner of goods, from wind turbines to LPG, oil rig components to industrial machinery, and milk to locally grown produce. www.porttaranaki.co.nz

Air
New Plymouth Airport, located on the north side of the city, is home to award-winning café Airspresso, and connects Taranaki to the rest of New Zealand and the international airports that will take you overseas. Serviced by Air New Zealand Link, it’s only a 45 minute direct flight to or from Auckland or Wellington, and 85 minutes to or from Christchurch. www.airnewzealand.co.nz

Land
Taranaki’s many attractions are just a few hours’ drive away from other tourist spots in New Zealand. Roads are generally of a good standard and are constantly being upgraded. There is also a regular bus service in and out of Taranaki and you can drive to Auckland or Wellington in just 4.5 hours. Rental cars from a number of reputable companies can be arranged from the main centres or at New Plymouth Airport. www.intercity.co.nz www.aattravel.co.nz www.nakedbus.co.nz www.tranzit.co.nz

By air, land or sea, Taranaki is a highly accessible region – but is also ‘just far enough away’.
Accommodation

Taranaki has a wide range of commercial accommodation to choose from if you're initially here on a short term basis – from high-rise international hotel chains and good-value motels to up-market boutique hotels, beautiful bed & breakfasts, pristine campgrounds and top quality hostels. You'll be able to stay along the coast, up the mountain, in the heart of the city or in wonderful rural isolation.

www.visit.taranaki.info/accommodation

Business assistance

Doing business in Taranaki

Taranaki is home to a thriving business community. If you are thinking of setting up or relocating a business to the region, there is a wide range of support to help you get off to a great start.

Venture Taranaki Trust is Taranaki's Regional Development Agency. Incorporated as a charitable trust, Venture Taranaki works with individuals, businesses, clusters and industries to help grow Taranaki. Venture Taranaki is also the link to many government services and programmes and is the steward of the Taranaki regional brand – used extensively to identify and promote local businesses. The economic development team helps businesses to succeed from the initial start up phase through to growth on an international scale. New Zealand is ranked as the easiest place in the world to start a business.

Our team is well equipped with the knowledge and tools to help you whatever stage your business is at.

To inspire you to think of different ways to start or grow your business, we have highlighted the following available resources and tools:

- Business Capability
- Business Investment
- Business Mentoring
- Business Start-up
- Business Support
- Export Assistance
- Massey University Partnership
- Newsletters, reports and social media
- Regional Intelligence
- Research and Development
- Sector Support
- Talent attraction, retention, growth and inspiration

For our full list of business services take a look at our Business Toolkit, online and in hard copy, or contact us at 9 Robe St, PO Box 670, New Plymouth 4340

Phone: 06 759 5150
Email: business@venture.org.nz

www.business.taranaki.info
www.business.govt.nz
www.mbie.govt.nz

Venture Taranaki Trust, the Regional Development Agency, offers a range of tools and services to help businesses from inception through to global expansion.
Conferences

National and international conventions and conferences are regularly held in Taranaki, and there are many venue sizes and locations available. The Taranaki Convention Bureau, a division of Venture Taranaki, helps organisations and companies keen to host events in the region by offering impartial advice and assistance.

www.taranaki.info/visit/content.php/page/taranaki-convention-bureau-1

The economy

Taranaki’s economy has been a strong performer over the last decade and is forecast to grow faster than the national economy over the next 20 years. The province has been largely insulated from global fluctuations by the strong natural and physical resources of the region’s two cornerstone industries, black gold – oil and gas – and white gold – dairy and food production.

Taranaki is the centre of New Zealand’s oil, natural gas and petrochemical industries with all of New Zealand’s producing oil and gas fields being located onshore and offshore in the Taranaki Basin. The sector supports a range of ancillary industries, including niche engineering, manufacturing, planning and design that form part of an extensive supply chain meeting the many requirements of the main oil and gas companies.

The region’s robust dairy industry is also an important part of Taranaki’s economy with almost four billion litres of milk processed annually. Ensuring the milk keeps flowing is a strong rural support sector, spanning everything from pasture and herd management to the processing and exporting of associated dairy products and technologies. Agriculture production produces 11 percent of the region’s GDP, while food processing (mostly dairy and meat) contributes a further 10 percent.

Taranaki’s pioneering spirit is legendary and the region’s businesses have grown from these core industries into a diverse range of sectors, gaining an enviable reputation for innovation along the way. Today, Taranaki does everything, from crafting some of the best stainless steel in the world to developing cutting-edge technologies for the earthmoving industry or manufacturing hotcakes for the global market.

The region’s key industries are:
- Business & Professional Services
- Dairy & Agriculture
- Education
- Engineering
- Food & Beverage Processing
- Health
- Horticulture
- Manufacturing
- Oil & Gas supply & service
- Tourism and Hospitality.

For more information on industries go to page 32.
Finding a home

Taranaki offers a wide variety of affordable housing ranging from apartment living in city and town centres, traditional bungalows on private sections to farms and lifestyle blocks in the countryside. With the affordability of housing in the region, along with the time you’ll save in commuting, Taranaki gives you lifestyle choices ‘like no other’.

With a spacious, safe living environment, Taranaki is a great place to call home. If you would like to find somewhere to live, contact a local real estate agent or check out their websites for more details.

If you choose to make New Plymouth your home, no matter what suburb you live in, you will be just minutes away from the city centre. It’s likely to take you no more than 10 minutes to commute to work each day.

Hawera, Stratford, Inglewood, Waitara, Oakura, Opunake, Urenui and many of the other towns throughout Taranaki provide an inviting alternative to city living. In these smaller communities, you will find homes on spacious sections and lifestyle blocks with sea and/or mountain views. www.inglewood.co.nz and www.waitara.co.nz

Renting

There is a variety of rental housing available in New Plymouth and in all towns around the region. If you are moving from overseas, it is recommended that you rent first before buying so that you can learn more about the market and where you would like to settle before purchasing a home. Talk to a local real estate agent for more information on what’s available.

Buying

Buying a house is generally a straightforward and simple process. The average time it takes for settlement to go through once an offer has been accepted is 30 days, and there is no ability for other people to ‘gazump’ you. A great way to get a feel for the market is to attend ‘open homes’ at the weekends.

For information on the buying process, residency rules and arranging a mortgage talk to your local bank manager or lawyer. For a list of lawyers, go to Page 29.

Real estate information

www.bayleys.co.nz/taranaki
www.bienvenue.co.nz
www.eieio.co.nz
www.fnalliedfarmers.co.nz
www.gjgardner.co.nz
www.harcourts.co.nz
www.nz.open2view.com
www.quinovic.co.nz
www.qv.co.nz
www.realestate.co.nz
www.remax.co.nz
www.rented.org.nz
www.trademe.co.nz/property/taranaki
www.tsbrealty.co.nz
www.urbanstudio.co.nz
www.billings.co.nz (property law)

With a spacious, safe living environment, and a wide choice of housing, Taranaki is a great place to call home.
Taranaki offers a range of excellent facilities where students are taught by highly qualified, dedicated staff.

**Schools and education**

There is a wide variety of education providers in the region, from early childcare through to tertiary institutions. Our schools provide a safe, friendly and positive environment where students are actively encouraged to reach their full potential by highly qualified, dedicated staff.

Quality education begins at one of Taranaki’s high-level preschool facilities which include kindergartens, play centres, Montessori pre-school, child care centres, Kohanga Reo, home-based family day care and nanny placement services.

Most primary and intermediate schools offer low teacher to pupil ratios and secondary students have the choice of enrolling in a school that suits their needs. Whether it is co-educational or single sex, boarding or day, religious or secular, our schools are renowned for their academic, sporting and cultural achievements.

Sector specific training is provided by Industry Training Organisations (ITO’s), and tertiary education by the Western Institute of Technology in Taranaki (WITT) and Pacific International Hotel Management School (PIHMS). Apprenticeships are managed and promoted by a number of different organisations and some larger companies provide internships or graduate programmes as part of their recruitment programmes.

Taranaki is now part of the global Kiwi Advanced Research & Education Network (KAREN) which provides ultra-high speed 1GB broadband to researchers and education providers.

**Educational options**

- [www.catholicgirlsnp.school.nz](http://www.catholicgirlsnp.school.nz)
- [www.itf.org.nz](http://www.itf.org.nz)
- [www.kindergartenaranaki.co.nz](http://www.kindergartenaranaki.co.nz)
- [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)
- [www.montessori.org.nz](http://www.montessori.org.nz)
- [www.npghs.school.nz](http://www.npghs.school.nz)
- [www.npbhs.school.nz](http://www.npbhs.school.nz)
- [www.npsda.school.nz](http://www.npsda.school.nz)
- [www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)
- [www.pihms.ac.nz](http://www.pihms.ac.nz)
- [www.playcentre.org.nz](http://www.playcentre.org.nz)
- [www.porse.co.nz](http://www.porse.co.nz)
- [www.spotswoodcollege.school.nz](http://www.spotswoodcollege.school.nz)
- [www.teachnz.govt.nz](http://www.teachnz.govt.nz)
- [www.tec.govt.nz](http://www.tec.govt.nz)
- [www.witt.ac.nz](http://www.witt.ac.nz)
The Taranaki District Health Board is the key health provider in the region. Taranaki Base Hospital provides first-class emergency, intensive and medical care to the community through an extensive range of specialist surgeons and doctors covering mental health to pain management, paediatrics to physiotherapy and everything in between.

Top class diagnostic equipment is available at the Hospital and for those looking to start or extend their family, a modern birthing facility, maternity ward and neonatal unit are also on offer. An ambulance service is operated by the Health Board and is aligned with other rescue services. www.tdhb.org.nz

Taranaki is well served by general practitioners, surgical specialists and nurses. There are many supporting primary health organisations offering a variety of services and personnel, including health promotion workers, dieticians and midwives. South Taranaki is well serviced by a modern hospital in Hawera, medical centres in Opunake, Hawera and Patea, and GP services in Manaia and Eltham.

ACC is a government-funded scheme that covers the cost of treatment and recovery for accidents and emergencies, both in and out of the workplace. Additional health insurance is recommended for those treatments that fall outside of ACC in order to take advantage of shorter waiting lists. www.acc.govt.nz

There are pharmacies in all towns, and a large number of excellent dentists, physiotherapists and psychologists available, so there is no need to worry about your health when you are in Taranaki – you will be well taken care of. To find one use www.yellow.co.nz

The Taranaki Hospice, Te Rangimarie, also offers on-site palliative care in New Plymouth and at-home throughout the region. www.hospicetaranaki.org.nz

Taranaki Base Hospital has recently undergone a multi million dollar upgrade and provides first-class emergency, intensive and medical care for the whole region.
Restaurants, Cafés and Bars

Take a leisurely wander down any of Taranaki’s main streets, and you’ll be amazed at the selection of local and international flavours on offer. From steaming coffee and French pastries to delicate whitebait fritters, and hot Indian curries to aromatic Asian fare, there’s something for everyone in Taranaki.

Treat your palate to fresh ocean catch at a downtown bistro, relish a latte in a cozy café, or gaze out to sea in an upmarket gourmet restaurant.

There is a well-established coffee culture in the region, with talented baristas making coffee in cafés right around the mountain. Three local roasters provide delicious beans to many of these cafés. This has led to a highly developed coffee community, providing an excellent cup of coffee.

www.inca-fe.co.nz
www.ozonecoffee.co.nz
www.wildcatcoffee.co.nz

For those who appreciate something a little stronger, there are traditional country pubs that offer a glimpse into rural New Zealand, modern wine bars and nightclubs that add flavour to a night out, a few boutique wineries and an organic brewery.

To find out what to eat and where, visit www.visit.taranaki.info
Festivals and events

Taranaki has become known as an events capital and punches well above its weight in terms of attracting international superstars. The region is lucky to have the TSB Bowl of Brooklands, a natural amphitheatre housed in Pukekura Park, a 50-hectare park in the centre of New Plymouth city.

This world-class venue has attracted many famous international artists including REM, UB40, Sir Elton John, Jack Johnson, Simply Red, Fleetwood Mac, Lionel Ritchie, Sting, Paul Simon, and John Farnham, as well as hosting the annual WOMAD and Tropfest festivals.

The TSB Stadium is another event venue, where the likes of Slash, INXS, The Beach Boys and Westlife have all performed in recent years.

WOMAD

The highlight of the year for many Taranaki people is when WOMAD comes to town. The three-day World of Music, Arts and Dance turns the TSB Bowl of Brooklands and surrounding Brooklands Park into a hive of cultural harmony. Incredibly talented musicians from all over the world and New Zealand, six stages, a global village of art and crafts, a kids’ zone, multi-ethnic food stalls, relaxing bars serving New Zealand’s best beer and wine and an on-site marae all transform this beautiful park into an international extravaganza in March each year, it’s a must do! www.womad.co.nz

Garden festivals

Every spring, dozens of Taranaki’s best gardeners open their hearts and homes to visitors and locals during the annual Taranaki garden festivals.

For ten days at the start of November, the region buzzes with people admiring topiary hedges, clever plantings, blooming roses and rhododendrons which are part of the Powerco Taranaki Garden Spectacular. www.taft.co.nz. Alongside this, the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival offers another selection of earthy creations for people to view www.taranakigardens.co.nz

TSB Festival of Lights

Every summer, Taranaki people talk about “going to see the lights”. They are referring to the TSB Bank Festival of Lights at Pukekura Park, where trees lining the paths and lakes are strung with lights, turning the park into an enchanting fairyland.

A sleeping giant, nativity scenes, a coloured fountain and waterfall, and a walk under ultra-violet lights all help to make this annual event magical. The festival also offers night after night of concerts and free entertainment on lawns amidst the illuminated bush and is one of Taranaki’s star attractions. www.festivaloflights.co.nz
Farmers’ Markets

Farmers’ Market Taranaki is a weekly event where local growers and producers meet local customers and visitors to the province. The market aims to provide fresh healthy local produce at fair prices, create an environment where smaller local businesses can sell directly to customers, be a place where friends can meet, and allow consumers to discuss their queries directly with producers.

www.farmersmarkettaranaki.org.nz

There is also a popular monthly Seaside Market offering a range of arts, craft, locally grown produce and homewares, check out Facebook for more information.

AmeriCARna

Taranaki has staged the AmeriCARna festival which celebrates all things American, numerous times. For a week in February hundreds of hot rod and classic car enthusiasts parade around the region and provide locals with the opportunity to get up close and personal to their prized vehicles.

www.americarna.co.nz

Taranaki International Festival of the Arts

The Taranaki International Festival of the Arts happens every two years. This is a time for people to indulge in music, comedy, drama, dance, writing and circus performances. Over the years, this festival has provided an astounding range of acts, from Slava’s Snowshow to Cirque Éloize, Eddi Reader to New Zealand’s own Topp Twins. It has twice brought in the Spiegeltent Salon Perdu for cabaret and comedy acts and one year built a temporary ice-rink in the centre of New Plymouth. As well as city-based acts, there are also heartland tours to Taranaki’s smaller communities and marae.

www.artsfest.co.nz

Other festivals and events

International film festivals, the Taranaki Wine & Food Festival, alternative music and even tattoo festivals are events that have been, or continue to be, held in Taranaki.

www.nzartcoat.com
www.tropfest.co.nz

To find out more about what’s on in Taranaki go to...
www.newplymouthnz.com
www.npeventvenues.co.nz
www.southtaranaki.com
www.stratford.govt.nz
www.visit.taranaki.info/events

To buy tickets for events go to...
www.ticketdirect.co.nz
www.ticketek.co.nz
www.ticketmaster.co.nz

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www.newplymouthnz.com
www.npeventvenues.co.nz
www.southtaranaki.com
www.stratford.govt.nz
www.visit.taranaki.info/events
Taranaki has a vibrant arts scene. The perfect figure of Mount Taranaki has been a recurring theme in New Zealand’s art history and its creative influence extends right around the region, through studios, galleries and public art in the form of outdoor exhibition spaces and sculpture, the latter best seen at the biennial Te Kupenga Stone Sculpture Symposium on New Plymouth’s foreshore. 

**www.tekupenga.com**

But the jewel in Taranaki’s creative crown is undoubtedly the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, recognised as one of the leading contemporary art galleries in Australasia.

Along with an extensive collection of works by the likes of Don Driver, Ralph Hotere and Michael Smither, the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery showcases cutting-edge visual art from around the Pacific Rim and beyond. It is also home to the collected works and archives of Len Lye, an internationally renowned kinetic sculptor, painter and film pioneer. [www.govettbrewster.com](http://www.govettbrewster.com)

Attached to the Govett-Brewster is the newly built and modern Len Lye Centre which features works in a variety of media from acclaimed artist Len Lye. [www.govettbrewster.com/Len-Lye/Centre](http://www.govettbrewster.com/Len-Lye/Centre). Also close by is Kina NZ Design + Art Space, which holds monthly exhibitions of New Zealand and Taranaki art. [www.kina.co.nz](http://www.kina.co.nz)

In Stratford, The Percy Thomson Gallery has ongoing exhibitions of work from New Zealand artists and community art groups [www.percythomsongallery.org.nz](http://www.percythomsongallery.org.nz), as does Inglewood’s Fritz Reuter Gallery, Hawera’s Lysaght Watt Gallery and Eltham’s PTO Gallery.
Sport is a large focus in Taranaki. Not only does the region host top-class sporting events, it also encourages people to get active through providing a variety of high-quality sports facilities, clubs and grounds. www.sporttaranaki.org.nz

New Plymouth’s picturesque cricket ground at Pukekura Park received international honours in 2007, when prestigious publisher Wisden named it as one of the six greatest cricket grounds in the world.

Another one of the region’s premier venues is Yarrow Stadium, judged the third best place in the world to watch a rugby match by New Zealand Rugby World Magazine. The Stadium regularly hosts major rugby and sporting events, including three Rugby World Cup 2011 matches and six FIFA U-20 World Cup 2015 matches including a round of 16 final. www.npeventvenues.co.nz

New Plymouth is also the location for the TSB Stadium, a multipurpose centre that caters for a diverse range of events including sports, shows and concerts, exhibitions and trade shows, dinners, conventions and community events. The Stadium is located adjacent to the Pukekura Raceway, where races are held on a regular basis throughout the year. Opened in 2002, The TET Multi Sports Centre in Stratford, central Taranaki, is a modern facility offering both indoor and outdoor sports, such as volleyball, netball and hockey, including a fully licensed bar and restaurant and large conference facilities. www.stratfordsport.co.nz

The TET Stadium in Inglewood also provides modern rugby, squash and conference facilities and features a world class Mondo all-weather running track.

The TSB Hub is a sports, recreation and events facility for the entire South Taranaki district, based around Hick’s Park in Hawera. It provides a comfortable, spacious venue for indoor leisure activities and operates as a modern conference, events and function centre as well as a meeting space for a variety of community clubs and organisations. It also links to the neighbouring 800-student Hawera High School and the nearby Powerco Aquatic Centre. In 2010 and 2011, the TSB Hub hosted the Davis Cup, an international tennis tournament and the world’s largest annual team competition in sport.

Taranaki was proud to host five international teams across three matches for the Rugby World Cup in 2011, and six FIFA U20’s games in 2015.
Something for everyone

Taranaki’s fantastic landscape and highly developed infrastructure provide a myriad of opportunities for everyone to participate in a wide range of activities.

There is an array of all-weather surfaces for athletics, tennis and hockey. Netball is a huge sport and is played throughout Taranaki, as is football, which in New Zealand is commonly called soccer. In winter, a snow-clad Mount Taranaki provides a steep playground for skiers and snowboarders.

Apart from joining a club you can also take part in the many annual sporting events that fill up Taranaki’s calendar. There are round-the-mountain cycle races and walks www.eventstaranaki.co.nz, fun runs, a triathlon series www.tri-taranaki.co.nz, a mountain-to-surf marathon, half-marathon, half ironman, tennis tournaments and surf life-saving competitions to name but a few.

Cycling, both road and off-road, has a growing community in the region. For mountain bike enthusiasts, Lake Mangamahoe mountain bike trails have numerous accessible trails for riders of all levels. For road cyclists, there is a network of urban cycle ways and a multimillion dollar velodrome and closed road circuit just north of New Plymouth city. www.newplymouthnz.com/LivinginNewPlymouth/SustainableDistrict/SustainableTransport

Swimmers can train all-year-round in aquatic centres throughout Taranaki. There are indoor heated pools in New Plymouth, Bell Block, Stratford and Hawera as well as a number of outdoor pools throughout the region. The New Plymouth Aquatic Centre features both heated indoor and outdoor pools, a wave machine, water slides and a fitness centre, along with a spa pool and sauna. www.newplymouthnz.com/VisitingNewPlymouth/Attractions/ToddEnergyAquaticCentre

Between a snow-capped mountain and a sparkling surf coast, there’s a sport or activity waiting for everyone in Taranaki.
And then of course there is the sea.

The region’s numerous beaches provide hours of family fun and a great swimming option during the summer months with three of New Plymouth’s beaches, Oakura, East End and Fitzroy becoming the first ‘blue flag’ accredited beaches in Oceania, an international standard for water quality, environmental sustainability and education. The beaches are kept safe by both volunteer and professional lifeguards, many of whom are stars on the national lifesaving competition scene.

Taranaki is also known as a surfers’ paradise, good enough to lure the world’s best board riders as well as produce them.

Every April the best women surfers on Earth grace our shores for an ASP World Tour event. Among the surfers is Taranaki’s own Paige Hareb, the first Kiwi woman to qualify for the tour. Other popular activities along the coast include windsurfing, kite surfing, waterskiing, canoeing, fishing and kayaking.

Is golf your game?
If so, you will be spoilt for choice because Taranaki boasts more courses per person than anywhere else in New Zealand.

www.taranakigolf.co.nz

Taranaki’s own Paige Hareb became the first New Zealand woman to qualify for the ASP World Tour held in New Plymouth in 2010.
Parks and gardens

Taranaki has been labelled the ‘Garden of New Zealand’ since pioneering times – and for good reason. Rich volcanic soils, a mild climate, high sunshine hours and plenty of rain combine to create conditions that cultivate a huge range of plants within this temperate environment.

The region now boasts one 6-star, six 5-star, nine 4-star and two 3-star gardens. Some of the most famous are the public Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, Pukekura Park, Brooklands, Tupare and Hollard gardens. Pukeiti is a world-class 360-hectare rainforest garden featuring 10,000 rhododendrons. Among this collection are 500 of the 800 known rhododendron varieties, as well as 15,000 hybrids. www.pukeiti.org.nz

Pukekura Park in the leafy heart of New Plymouth, covers about 50 hectares and contains a diverse range of landscapes, including exotic trees, formal gardens, lakes and walking trails through native bush. The park includes the Fernery and Display Houses, a lakeside teahouse, historic band stand, world-famous cricket ground, an illuminated waterfall and fountain, plus a children’s playground. www.newplymouthnz.com/VisitingNewPlymouth/Attractions/PukekuraPark

The park merges into the adjacent garden estate area of Brooklands, home to the acclaimed TSB Bank Bowl of Brooklands and Brooklands Zoo. www.newplymouthnz.com/VisitingNewPlymouth/Attractions/BrooklandsZoo

Between Pukeiti and Pukekura Park, Taranaki offers a huge range of parks and gardens from the formal to the familiar. www.taranaki.info/visit


Taranaki has been labelled the ‘Garden of New Zealand’ since pioneering times – for good reason. Rich volcanic soils, a mild climate, high sunshine hours and plenty of rain, combine to create perfect conditions for cultivating a huge range of plants.
Walking

One of the province’s best kept secrets is its network of walking trails. Covering every corner of the region, and all levels of fitness, these tracks enable visitors and locals to venture deep into the heart of the unique natural environment.

www.visit.taranaki.info/theme.php/page/walk-taranaki

Taranaki boasts the iconic Mount Taranaki, a spectacular national park, three marine reserves, black sand beaches pounding with great surf and wonderful lakes. Walking tracks and pathways provide visitors with a link between these many attractions, and a unique perspective of the dramatic Taranaki landscape. Trails offer an escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life and a chance to discover some of the region’s many areas of historical interest and natural beauty.

A regional jewel is the 13km-long New Plymouth Coastal Walkway that snakes along the city’s foreshore. This picturesque promenade has won a whole raft of awards, including the UN-backed LivCom 2008 Environmentally Sustainable Projects Award.

www.newplymouthnz.com/VisitingNewPlymouth/Attractions/CoastalWalkway.htm

Along the Walkway also resides the eye-catching and iconic Te Rewa Rewa Bridge, a shared pedestrian and cycling bridge over the city’s Waiwhakaiho River that has won an impressive number of international design awards including ‘Best Bridge in the World 2011’.

The best way to experience Taranaki is on foot.
Mountain to surf

The highlight of the region’s unique environment is undoubtedly the iconic Mount Taranaki. From the vivid green of the lower slopes to the stunning views from the 2518m summit, Mount Taranaki offers a range of experiences unique to the region, and is accessible from anywhere in the province.

The Manganui Ski field provides club skiing and snow-boarding in the winter months, and tour guides offer expert guidance for those keen to reach the summit of this spectacular peak in summer.

Tramping (or hiking) is one of the most popular activities on Mount Taranaki. With over 200km of walking tracks throughout Egmont National Park, you can choose from 15-minute jaunts to waterfalls and short meanders through a wide variety of vegetation and native bird life to the epic three-day Pouakai circuit track.

Weather conditions can change rapidly so always be prepared and tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back. For more information on the mountain, visit one of the two information centres at Dawson Falls or North Egmont.

Taranaki’s landscape was created to be experienced and enjoyed. Where else in the world can you go skiing and surfing on the same day, with a latte in between? From the peak of picture perfect Mount Taranaki to the wild west coast, this province is an adventure playground that is hard to ignore, and even harder to forget.
**Surf Highway 45**

Taranaki is the home of Kiwi surf. A drive around the iconic Surf Highway 45 – the coast road from New Plymouth to Hawera – will lead you to dozens of world-class surf breaks. Almost every road that heads towards the coastline leads to a pristine un-crowded wave.

Breaks like Stent Road, Kumara Patch, Fitzroy Beach, Back Beach and Arawhata Road have become legendary in the New Zealand surfing scene over the decades and continue to attract board riders from around the globe. No matter what the tide, swell or wind direction, it’s almost always pumping somewhere along Surf Highway 45.

But Surf Highway 45 offers much more than epic surf and empty beaches. There are a choice of artist studios, historic sites, spectacular scenery and cozy cafés serving great coffee and delicious food, making this highway a great adventure for anybody seeking to explore the best of Taranaki.

[www.taranaki.info/visit/theme.php/page/surf-highway-45](http://www.taranaki.info/visit/theme.php/page/surf-highway-45)

**Forgotten World Highway**

Seeing the picture perfect volcanic cone of Mount Taranaki in the rear view mirror means one of two things – you’re heading down one of Taranaki’s famous coastal roads in search of a great wave or a secluded beach, or you’re on New Zealand’s oldest touring route, the Forgotten World Highway, which offers an unparalleled journey through our pioneering past and rich landscape.

The 155km adventure begins in Stratford and ends in Taumarunui on the Central Plateau, with Mount Ruapehu looming in front of you. It follows ancient Maori trade routes and pioneering farm tracks, through ambitious historic settlements, untamed native bush and stunning natural scenery.

Along the Forgotten World Highway, you’ll encounter more than 30 historic or natural points of interest, a landscape where man and nature have fought each other for centuries, and you’ll still receive a wave from the locals as you pass.

Whether you approach the Forgotten World Highway as a three-hour scenic link between the West Coast and the Central Plateau, or explore its many stories over several days, you’ll be treated to an adventure ‘like no other’. [www.taranaki.info/visit/theme.php/page/forgotten-world-highway](http://www.taranaki.info/visit/theme.php/page/forgotten-world-highway)

The Forgotten World Highway offers an unparalleled journey through Taranaki’s pioneering past.
Moving to Taranaki, New Zealand

Moving to Taranaki is easy

If you are a visitor to New Zealand, we extend you a warm welcome. We hope that your stay is a pleasant one and that you come again. If you are an immigrant to New Zealand, welcome to your new home. And to all returning New Zealanders, welcome home.

If you are considering a move to New Zealand there are a range of support services that are designed to make the process as simple as possible.

New Zealand Immigration Service

If you are an Australian citizen, you are automatically eligible to enter New Zealand. If you are from anywhere else you will need a visa. Many countries do have reciprocal agreements, so check this out with Immigration NZ, which provides information on what visas are available and which one(s) you may be eligible to apply for. [www.newzealandnow.govt.nz](http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz)

Visas come under a number of categories – residence, work, study, working holiday, visitor, skilled migrant, family, business and investment, so make sure you apply for the right one to suit your situation. [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

Immigration Advisors

You may like to employ the services of an immigration advisor to assist with your visa application. As of May 2009 anyone providing immigration advice must be licensed with the Immigration Advisors Authority. The Authority’s website lists those who have achieved accreditation and their contact details. Lawyers are exempt from this legislation and there are a number of law firms and advisors in Taranaki who can assist you with your visa application.

To find an accredited advisor visit [www.iaa.govt.nz](http://www.iaa.govt.nz) or contact [www.abmm.co.nz](http://www.abmm.co.nz), [www.bienvenue.co.nz](http://www.bienvenue.co.nz), [www.britsnz.co.nz](http://www.britsnz.co.nz), [www.communitylaw.org.nz](http://www.communitylaw.org.nz), [www.pwc.co.nz](http://www.pwc.co.nz), [www.thelawyers.co.nz](http://www.thelawyers.co.nz), [www.newzealandshores.com](http://www.newzealandshores.com), [www.workingin.com](http://www.workingin.com)

Citizenship

In New Zealand, residence and citizenship are different. If you are granted residence, you retain your original citizenship. However, once you’ve held residency here for a certain period of time you may apply for New Zealand citizenship and the right to hold a New Zealand passport.

For official New Zealand Government information on citizenship requirements, visit the Department of Internal Affairs website. [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

If you are considering a move to New Zealand there are a range of support services designed to make this process as simple as possible.
Shipping / relocation companies

If you are looking to relocate your possessions, pets or vehicles we recommend you contact a reputable shipping and relocation company to manage the packing and shipping for you.

www.alliedpickfords.com
www.crownrelo.co.nz
www.hookers.co.nz
www.intlmovers.com/new_zealand.html
www.johnmason.com/shipping/tonewzealand
www.sirva.com

Customs

New Zealand welcomes travellers and trade but also protects its community and environment by controlling what crosses its borders. The New Zealand Customs Service strictly monitors what travellers can bring into the country. There are a number of items that are prohibited and you must declare any animal products, shells, plants and plant products including seeds and nuts, camping / hiking / riding and fishing gear and footwear.

www.customs.govt.nz

Settlement Support

Settling into a foreign country is one of the most important and often difficult processes for newcomers. Whether you feel settled often determines whether you will or won’t stay in a new place or job. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recognises this and has contracted the Citizen’s Advice Bureau to provide Settlement Information Services for new migrants and refugees. There is also a service called Migrant Connections Taranaki which assists migrants settle into the Taranaki region and helps manage Taranaki’s multi-ethnic council. For more information visit.

www.cab.org.nz
www.migrantconnections.org.nz
www.newzealandnow.govt.nz
www.onarrival.co.nz

English Language

If you would like to improve your English to increase your chances of finding work and settling successfully then we recommend you utilise the services of an English tutor, before and/or once you arrive in New Zealand. There are also Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses available at WITT, the region’s polytechnic institute.

www.englishlanguage.org.nz
www.exceltuition.co.nz
www.witt.ac.nz

Building Networks

One thing which newcomers will want to do is meet new people and develop and build new support networks. Some to consider include the Taranaki Young Professionals www.typ.co.nz, the New Parents to New Plymouth Facebook page, and the weekly Migrant Women’s Meet held at Puke Ariki library www.pukeariki.com/Whats-On or contact Venture Taranaki at talent@venture.org.nz
Deciding to move to New Zealand is a big step, so you will want to make sure all your banking requirements are organised before you leave or as soon as you arrive. Opening a bank account is quick and easy, but you will need one before you can start work.

New Zealand has modern banking practices, from traditional to online and in Taranaki you have all the options available to meet your banking and financial needs. In fact, the region is home to the highly reputable Taranaki Savings Bank (TSB Bank), which is one of the fastest growing banks in the nation.

If you are moving to Taranaki and would like to contact a local banking institution, the following links will take you directly to the banks’ websites for more information.

Bank sites

www.anz.co.nz
www.asb.co.nz
www.bnz.co.nz
www.kiwibank.co.nz
www.psis.co.nz
www.tsb.co.nz
www.westpac.co.nz

Tax

Inland Revenue is the government department that collects taxes and is commonly referred to as the IRD. You will need an IRD number to work in New Zealand, with the tax year being from April 01 to March 31. Most people pay their taxes as they earn their income, so employers deduct tax on salary and wages. The following tax rates include ACC levies for New Zealand’s Accident Compensation Scheme.

www.acc.govt.nz
www.ird.govt.nz

Individual Tax Rates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income band</th>
<th>Tax rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>$0 – $14,000</td>
<td>11.95% Including ACC Levy</td>
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<tr>
<td>$14,001 – $48,000</td>
<td>18.95% Including ACC Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$48,001 – $70,000</td>
<td>31.45% Including ACC Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$70,001 and over</td>
<td>34.45% Including ACC Levy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current as at June 2015

Accountants & lawyers

Getting sound advice for your financial and business decisions is important and can help you successfully settle and reach your work or life goals. There are a variety of accounting firms and legal or business advisors in the region who can assist you with your financial planning: www.yellow.co.nz
KiwiSaver
KiwiSaver is a voluntary, work-based savings initiative that is similar to a pension scheme. It is designed to help set you up for your retirement. Most members build up their savings through regular contributions from their pay.
www.kiwisaver.govt.nz

Goods and Services Tax (GST)
GST is a consumer tax (15%) and is charged on all goods and services in New Zealand. www.ird.govt.nz/gst

Pensions / Superannuation
If you would like to transfer your pension from another country to New Zealand, contact a reputable pension transfer company who can manage this process for you.
www.britsnz.co.nz
www.perpetual.co.nz

Driving in New Zealand
In New Zealand, we drive on the left. Whether you are here for a short or long stay you will need to be aware that while our road rules are similar to those in the UK and overseas, there are some important differences. We strongly suggest that you familiarise yourself with the New Zealand Road Code before heading out onto the roads.

You will need to bring your current driving license from your home country and you may also need an international driving permit. If you are staying for more than a year you will need to acquire a New Zealand driving license.
www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/residents-visitors

Public Holidays
New Zealand has 10 public holidays per year, mostly in the warmer months between October and June, plus one regional public holiday – Taranaki’s Anniversary day is in March each year.
www.tapeka.com/publicholidays.htm

New Zealand has 10 public holidays per year, mostly in the warmer months between October and June, plus one regional public holiday – Taranaki’s Anniversary day is in March each year.
Working in Taranaki

Job landscape
There are job opportunities available throughout the Taranaki region.

If you are looking for work there are a number of avenues to follow, and getting a visa or coming to New Zealand to meet with employers face-to-face may improve your chances of success.

Labour market information
The Department of Labour website contains a wealth of information on: employment health and safety rules, regulations and tools; links to Immigration New Zealand and immigration facts, figures and reports; labour market information including statistics on employment and unemployment; analysis and insights including reports, factsheets, research and tools plus an employment relations section providing information on holiday and parental leave entitlements, minimum wage, employment agreements and policies, laws and legislation, including the 90 day work trial. www.dol.govt.nz

Statistics
On the Statistics New Zealand website you can browse for a range of information on economic, social and environmental factors including statistics on population, work and income levels, education and training, health, industry sectors, crime, justice and more. www.stats.govt.nz

Finding a job
There are many internet job boards to consider and the Venture Taranaki regional jobs website is a good place to start. www.liveandwork.taranaki.info

Register as a job seeker where you can get notifications of, and apply for, new jobs. More than 1,000 local employers are registered and job vacancies are updated on a regular basis.

Other avenues include
www.edgazette.govt.nz
www.jobs.govt.nz
www.newkiwis.co.nz
www.seek.co.nz
www.sjs.co.nz
www.trademe.co.nz/jobs
www.workhere.co.nz

Recruitment agencies
General / Trades
Adecco
www.adecco.co.nz
Allied Workforce
www.awf.co.nz
GMA Consulting
www.gmaconsulting.co.nz
Job Squad
www.jobssquad.works
Onsite
www.onsiterecruitment.co.nz
Peopletime
www.peopletime.co.nz
Programmed Integrated Workforce
www.programmed.co.nz
Tradestaff
www.tradestaff.co.nz

Oil & Gas / Energy
Air Energi
www.airenergi.com
Carrington O’Dea
www.carringtonrecruitment.com
Dare Contract Services
www.darecontract.co.nz

NES Global Talent
www.nesglobaltalent.com

SKILLED Offshore
www.skilledoffshore.com

Swift Worldwide Resources
www.swiftwwr.com

Rural / Agricultural
AgriPeople
www.agripeople.co.nz

Other
Experience Express
www.expexp.co.nz
Workbridge
www.workbridge.co.nz
Workwise
www.workwise.org.nz
Taranaki offers a variety of employment opportunities across a range of industry sectors – with future growth expected to be strong across the board.

**Salary Information**

Job listings in New Zealand generally don’t indicate salary levels, and it can be difficult to directly compare salaries with those for similar roles in other countries. The salary guide on the Trademe website can help provide you with some idea of what to expect.

[www.trademe.co.nz/Trade-me-jobs/Salary-guide](http://www.trademe.co.nz/Trade-me-jobs/Salary-guide)

The government careers website also provides a range of information to help you make smart decisions about work and learning opportunities. [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

**Accredited Employers**

Accredited Employers provide another employment avenue for overseas job hunters. These employers are approved by Immigration NZ and can offer jobs to offshore candidates without having to prove there are no suitably qualified New Zealanders available, or readily able to be trained. These employers can often provide you with a work visa in as little as two weeks, so it’s well worth investigating to see if one could employ you.

For a list of accredited employers, visit: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

**Converting Qualifications**

If you have qualifications from overseas institutes that need to be converted or recognised against New Zealand standards, please contact the NZ Qualifications Authority. Registration with your industry’s governing or regulatory body association is also usually required. [www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)

**CV’s, Resumes and Cover Letters**

New Zealand CVs may be quite different to those in your home country. Therefore, taking time to write the best CV and cover letter you can is a crucial step in getting the job you want. For tips on putting together a great CV visit:

[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)
[www.seek.co.nz/jobs-resources](http://www.seek.co.nz/jobs-resources)
[www.trademe.co.nz/Trade-me-jobs/Job-hunters-guide](http://www.trademe.co.nz/Trade-me-jobs/Job-hunters-guide)

**Local employment law specialists**

If you need more assistance regarding your legal obligations and requirements there are a number of Taranaki law firms who specialise in Employment Law. These include, but are not restricted to:

- Auld Brewer Mazengarb and McEwen
  [www.abmm.co.nz](http://www.abmm.co.nz)
- Billings
  [www.billings.co.nz](http://www.billings.co.nz)
- Dennis King Law
  [www.denniskinglaw.co.nz](http://www.denniskinglaw.co.nz)
- Govett Quilliam
  [www.thelawyers.co.nz](http://www.thelawyers.co.nz)
- Parker and Marriner
  [www.parkerandmarriner.co.nz](http://www.parkerandmarriner.co.nz)
- Till Henderson
  [www.thlaw.co.nz](http://www.thlaw.co.nz)
- Welsh McCarthy
  [www.welshmccarthy.co.nz](http://www.welshmccarthy.co.nz)
Looking back

During the last five years the number of people employed in business services-related jobs has increased considerably, and opportunities still remain in this sector. Top industry earners for the region are oil and gas exploration, and food and beverage manufacturing, including dairy processing. Taranaki’s GDP ($9.2B) accounts for 4% of New Zealand’s GDP, however Taranaki has the highest GDP per capita ($80,300).

Industries which have the most employees include agriculture, healthcare, education, retail, manufacturing and construction.

Skills in demand

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) produces two ‘Skills in Demand’ lists which are reviewed and updated every six months. These are the Long Term Skill Shortage List (LTSSL) and the Immediate Skill Shortage List (ISSL).

The Long Term Skill Shortage List (LTSSL)

For migrants, jobs on the LTSSL relevant to Taranaki would allow application for residency under the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) or Work to Residence (W2R) policy. A sample of jobs on the LTSSL which are regularly advertised in Taranaki include:

- Construction
  - Project Manager
  - Quantity Surveyor
  - Surveyor
- Education
  - Early Childhood Teacher
  - Secondary School Teacher
- Engineering
  - All disciplines
- Health and Social Services
  - Anaesthetist
  - Clinical Psychologist
  - General Medical Practitioner (GP)
  - Pharmacist
  - Nurse Manager
  - Obs & Gynae
  - Registered Nurses
  - Pathologist
- ICT, Electronics & Telecommunication
  - ICT Business Analyst
  - Systems Analyst
  - Systems Engineer
- Trades
  - Chef
  - Automotive Electrician
  - Diesel Mechanic
  - Food Technologist
  - Electricians
  - Ship’s Office / Engineer / Master.

Looking forward

To maintain economic growth, Taranaki has estimated it needs an additional 700 full time equivalent workers every year to 2026. Venture Taranaki, the Regional Development Agency, expects this growth to be achieved through attracting, retaining, training and inspiring great people with good skills to move, live and work here.

Industry growth, and therefore employment growth, is expected in the following sectors:

- Agricultural services
- Building, construction and associated trades
- Business services and government administration
- Education
- Health
- Oil and gas exploration and production
- Engineering and manufacturing
- Primary industries such as horticulture
- Tourism
- Transport

During the last five years the number of people employed in business service-related jobs has increased considerably.

The Immediate Skills Shortage List (ISSL)
The Immediate Skills Shortage List relates to temporary work visas, so be aware there is no direct link to residency. Occupations under ISSL for the Central North Island region (which includes Taranaki) are:

Agriculture & Forestry
- Apiarist
- Arborist
- Beef Cattle Farmer
- Dairy Cattle Farmer
- Pig Farmer
- Poultry Farmer
- Fruit or Nut Grower
- Market Gardener
- Winemaker

Construction
- Building Inspector/Surveyor
- Project Manager
- Surveying Technician

Education
- Early Childhood Teacher
- Primary School Teacher

Engineering
- Civil Engineering Draughtsperson
- Electrical Engineering Draughtsperson
- Mechanical Engineering Draughtsperson
- Mechanical Engineering Technician

Finance/Business
- Accountant (Chartered – Senior Positions only)

Health & Social Services
- Anaesthetic Technician
- Cardiologist
- Clinical Dialysis Technician
- Dental Technician
- Dentist
- Emergency Medicine Specialist
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Medical Practitioners
- Ophthalmologist
- Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Paediatrician
- Resident Medical Officer
- Rheumatologist
- Specialist Physician

Oil and Gas
- Chemical Plant Operator
- Gas or Petroleum Operator
- Geologist
- Geophysicist and Petrophysicist
- Occupational Health & Safety Advisor
- Production Manager
- Safety Inspector

Science
- Chemist

Trades
- Baker
- Electronic Equipment Trades Worker
- Motor Mechanic
- Metal Casting Trades Worker
- Metal Machinist
- Plastics Technician
- Scaffolder
- Upholsterer.

For more information on how to apply for visas under the skill shortage lists, visit INZ or speak to a licensed immigration advisor.


Other tools for migrants
New Zealand Now is a website run by INZ which contains useful and reliable information for new migrants including language support. It houses information about moving to, living, working, studying, investing and settling in New Zealand, including the Taranaki region. www.newzealandnow.govt.nz

NZ Ready is a free online planning tool for people who are moving to New Zealand. It can help you build a checklist of things to do before you leave and when you arrive. www.nzready.co.nz

The above information is correct as of June 2015.
A temperate climate and fertile soils make Taranaki one of the world’s premier dairying areas.

Two-thirds of Taranaki’s farms are dedicated to dairy production and its cows produce about 20% of New Zealand’s milk. Taranaki-made milk is processed locally into a wide range of products for domestic and export markets, including cheese, cream, butter, ice-cream and milk powder.

Global milk giant Fonterra has numerous farms and processing plants throughout the region and employs hundreds of people locally. [www.fonterra.com](http://www.fonterra.com)

The sector achieves good rates of return on investment and still boasts significant growth potential. This potential is being achieved through the use of the latest dairy technology, a prime example of which is the development of one of the largest automated rotary milking platforms in the Southern Hemisphere located on the Faull farm in Tikorangi, North Taranaki.

As a result of being a well-developed dairy region, Taranaki has evolved sophisticated infrastructure to support the specific needs of this industry. The region’s modern farming community has access to a wide range of advice and support services relating to farming practices, milk production and processing.
Taranaki-made milk is processed locally into a wide range of products for domestic and export markets, including cheese, cream, butter, ice-cream and milk powder.

The dairy industry offers many job opportunities. People keen on an outdoor lifestyle can take on farming roles; go ‘share-milking’ and work towards owning their own farm while others may be keen on being tanker or truck drivers. Those with a science and/or technology background may find openings in the dairy processing laboratories. Engineers are also needed to design, build and maintain the region’s state-of-the-art factories, processing plants, tools and equipment.

Those looking to start out in the dairy farming sector can access a variety of training through various providers including Taratahi Agricultural Training College. Taratahi has been successfully operating since 1919 and offers full-time courses, extra-mural study, short courses and work based programmes. It has a non-residential campus near Stratford in central Taranaki.

www.taratahi.ac.nz

Another option is the Agriculture Industry Training Organisation (ITO). One of New Zealand’s largest ITO’s, it offers employees and employers industry-funded training and resources, and helps more than 10,000 people every year to gain the knowledge and skills they need for a productive and rewarding career in agriculture.

www.agricultureito.ac.nz
www.dairyatwork.co.nz
www.dairynz.co.nz
www.fedfarm.org.nz
Oil & Gas

New Zealand has a long history in the oil and gas industry that dates back more than 150 years. As early as 1865, settlers observed that the oily film on Ngamotu Beach, New Plymouth, Taranaki, required them to wipe their boots and lift their dresses when they walked along the sand. Oil was literally flowing off the beach.

The Alpha Well in Taranaki (1865) is considered to be the first oil well in the Commonwealth and one of the first in the world. However it was the discoveries of Kapuni (1959) and Maui (1969) and the involvement of companies such as Shell, BP and Todd that propelled the nation into the modern age of petroleum production.

Kapuni, located onshore, is the oldest producing gas and condensate field in New Zealand. When the field went into production in 1969, it launched a new era for New Zealand’s energy supply through the national supply of gas. The development of infrastructure for Kapuni paved the way for future oil and gas discoveries such as Maui.

In recent years, other significant gas and oil fields have come on-stream. These include Mangahewa (1998), Pohokura (2006), Tui (2007), Cheal (2008), Maari (2009), Kupe (2010) and Sidewinder (2011).

Proactive marketing of oil and gas opportunities by the Government and an attractive fiscal regime has seen the arrival of major international petroleum companies looking at further exploration.

The oil and gas industry in New Zealand today is well developed. There is an established infrastructure, including gas production and storage facilities, specialist port facilities and pipelines that transport gas throughout the North Island. Working alongside national and international exploration and production organisations, Taranaki-based service companies have evolved world-class skills, relationships and knowledge about the industry and are highly capable, multi-disciplined players, servicing national and global needs.

The oil and gas industry is critical to the security of New Zealand’s energy sector, supplying gas to power stations and LPG production facilities, and contributing to the country’s export base through supply to significant value-adding companies and gas users such as Methanex and Ballance Agri-Nutrients.

Partnerships, technologies and new environmental developments are integral to the future success of a contemporary oil and gas industry that is part of a balanced energy portfolio.

For more information on the New Zealand oil and gas industry, download the updated Wealth Beneath our Feet document.

www.business.taranaki.info

Taranaki, ‘the energy province’, is the centre of New Zealand’s oil, natural gas and petrochemical industries.
Strong Support Sectors

A network of highly developed and experienced support services has grown up around the Taranaki energy industry and is an integral part of the region’s exploration, development, production and maintenance programmes.

The Oil & Gas Specialist Technologies group, with members from Taranaki and wider New Zealand is a 20 plus-strong group of specialist companies providing a dynamic range of world class technical specialist support services for “upstream” (oil and gas exploration and production), “downstream” (petrochemical, refining, oil and gas wholesaling and retailing) and other energy-related activities (including alternative and renewable energies).

www.oilandgas.co.nz

Taranaki-based support and service companies regularly work in other regions of New Zealand and overseas, and offer a wide range of up-to-date specialist skills, from seismology to engineering, health and safety and plant maintenance.

Energystream

Energystream.co.nz is New Zealand’s free oil and gas industry portal administered by Venture Taranaki. The site contains a wealth of information, statistics and contacts concerning the industry including regular market intelligence reports and access to a company capability database.

www.energystream.co.nz

Links

www.gns.cri.nz
www.mbie.govt.nz
www.mito.org.nz
www.nzpam.govt.nz
www.pepanz.com
www.petroleumskills.co.nz
www.worksafe.govt.nz

A network of highly developed and experienced support services has grown up around the Taranaki energy industry.
Engineering

Taranaki is New Zealand’s centre of engineering innovation and excellence. Located in the region are a number of world-class companies with specialist skills and services, which include mechanical and electrical fabrication and engineering design and project management.

Taranaki’s engineering firms have established an enviable reputation for quality, safety, cost-efficiency and first-class performance. This reputation has evolved while carrying out some of New Zealand’s largest heavy engineering projects, often linked to the growth of major oil, gas and petrochemical developments. [www.taranaki.info/business/content.php/page/engineering](http://www.taranaki.info/business/content.php/page/engineering)

Engineering Taranaki Consortium

Engineering Taranaki is a consortium of companies which has more than 250 years of combined engineering, design & fabrication experience and represents over 1,200 trades people and professional engineers.

As well as assisting the oil and gas industry, these Taranaki firms provide specialist services for a wide range of industries including customised solutions for the dairy industry on a local, national and international level.

The partnership also offers a collective approach to marketing, business opportunities, branding, collective purchasing, shared services, new product development and training.

All work done by consortium members conforms to international standards, and the relevant Australian, British and American design codes. [www.engineeringtaranaki.co.nz](http://www.engineeringtaranaki.co.nz)

BeSafe Taranaki (BST)

BST operates the Health Safety and Environment (HSC) Centre. The Centre’s primary focus is to take the lead in promoting health and safety awareness and best practise, primarily across the engineering and manufacturing disciplines, raising the standards of HSE throughout the entire community. [www.besafe.org.nz](http://www.besafe.org.nz)

Niche Engineering

Taranaki’s engineering companies provide the complete spectrum of engineering services. They can deliver turn-key solutions for their clients – taking projects from feasibility and environmental studies through to total project management, engineering design, construction and maintenance.

Projects have been undertaken for local and international oil, gas, and petrochemical industries; the dairy industry; the pulp and paper industry; mineral smelting; the chemical industry; energy generation; water and waste water treatment and numerous other sectors.

Supporting Infrastructure

Taranaki has a service infrastructure that underpins the performance of the engineering industry and includes:

- A deep water port – Port Taranaki [www.porttaranaki.co.nz](http://www.porttaranaki.co.nz)
- Freight/rail links to major centres throughout New Zealand [www.kiwirail.co.nz](http://www.kiwirail.co.nz)
- The provision of a heavy haul route with super heavy loading capacity that stretches from the industrial heart of New Plymouth to Port Taranaki
- Transportation services that include the capability to lift and transport loads in excess of 700 tonnes
- Sophisticated, non-destructive testing and inspection facilities
- Corrosion protection expertise
- State-of-the-art surveying services.

Taranaki is officially recognised as New Zealand’s foremost region for engineering expertise.
Food processing

Taranaki’s food processing and manufacturing industry is both significant and varied. The industry is responsible for more than 4,000 full-time positions in the region – the majority of which are in dairy, meat and poultry production, along with other specialist processing areas.

Milk giant Fonterra operates three major plants: the huge milk-processing plant at Whareroa near Hawera, which is the largest of its type in the Southern Hemisphere; a cheese factory at Eltham under the Fonterra Brands banner; and a by-products manufacturing plant at Kapuni, where lactose-based products are made.

www.fonterra.com

Dairy processing isn’t the only string in Taranaki’s food-processing bow however. Silver Fern Farms operates a significant abattoir and meat-processing facility in Hawera which is the group’s largest beef-processing operation.

www.silverfernfarms.co.nz

Secondary processing of meat products is also becoming a thriving industry sector. In particular, the ANZCO NZ Ltd plant at Waitara in North Taranaki, processes meat products into a variety of small goods for export. In 2008, its salami won a gold medal at an international food fair in Germany. ANZCO also operates a beef processing operation at Eltham as well as smaller processing and packing operations handling deer, pig and sheep meat.

www.anzcofoods.com

The poultry industry is also a well-established and growing sector in the region. Tegel Foods runs a fully integrated poultry industry operation, covering breeding, hatching, growing and processing, all based around the Tegel processing plant and feed mill at Bell Block, on the northern outskirts of New Plymouth. www.tegel.co.nz

Other businesses of note include: speciality food processors and packers Van Dyck Fine Foods Ltd, who produce and export their traditional crepes and hotcakes worldwide. www.vandyck.co.nz; Mike’s, an organic brewery located in North Taranaki, who supply their beer country-wide www.organicbeer.co.nz; Egmont Seafoods, a local seafood processor. www.egmontseafoods.co.nz

Several other large companies provide a balance in the food processing and manufacturing sector. Yarrows (The Bakers) is based at Manaia (South Taranaki) and is a significant producer of breads, croissants and pastries. The company is also a market leader in developing bread rolls for both retail and fast food outlets. www.yarrows.co.nz

This industry also fosters the development of a significant bio-extracts industry that sees a variety of food additives, pharmaceuticals, enzyme and industrial compounds being manufactured. Leading players in this market include Lowe Corporation, www.lowecorp.co.nz, Pacific Natural Gut Ltd, Renco NZ Ltd and Taranaki Bio Extracts Ltd.

Taranaki’s food processing and manufacturing industry is both significant and varied.
The region’s fertile soil and temperate climate provide an ideal environment for many types of horticulture.

**Horticulture**

About 800 hectares of Taranaki land is used for growing crops with plenty of potential for further development.

The most widespread horticultural land use in Taranaki includes market gardening and greenhouse production of a broad range of vegetable crops, flowers and ornamental plants.

Crops grown on a commercial basis in Taranaki include tamarillos, tangelos, passion fruit, avocados, capsicums, apples, feijoas, chillies, garlic, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, boysenberries, lavender, orchids, chrysanthemums, lisianthus and a range of other garden and flower crops including palms, maple trees, ferns, flax and grasses.

The region has an ideal microclimate for the production of a number of varieties of nut, including macadamias, cashews, chestnuts and walnuts, and is also home to a smattering of small, award winning boutique fruit wineries and apiaries.

A report by Lincoln University recently identified a number of future opportunities for Taranaki’s horticultural sector and land use. Two emerging primary sector industries that appeared to offer opportunities for diversification were the growth of Manuka for the production of Manuka honey and industrial hemp production for housing and other end-uses.

www.beesandtrees.com
www.beersus.co.nz
www.egmontseeds.co.nz
www.emacadamia.co.nz
www.sentryhillwines.co.nz
Tourism & hospitality

Taranaki’s visitor industry has shown strong growth over the last ten years.

Summer is the region’s high season attracting a third of the annual total of guest nights. Autumn and spring are similar in terms of numbers, attracting around a quarter of all annual guest nights each, while winter attracts the remaining 19 percent of visitors. Despite being the ‘low period’ of the Taranaki visitor calendar, winter isn’t as quiet as many other parts of the country.

A wide range of accommodation options operate in the region, from laid-back coastal camping grounds and fast-paced major chain hotels, to cosy B&B’s, friendly backpackers and discreet beachside apartments.

The food and beverage sector in Taranaki is also diverse ranging from casual cafés to upmarket restaurants offering a variety of dining options and international flavours. The best of the region’s hospitality sector celebrate their industry at the annual Halamoana Awards. www.halamoana.co.nz

Training opportunities for all levels of the hospitality and accommodation sector are available in the region. The Pacific International Hotel Management School (PIHMS) and the Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki (WITT) offer a wide range of world-class courses covering all aspects of a career in hospitality.

www.pihms.ac.nz
www.witt.ac.nz

Beyond accommodation and dining, there are many great activity operators that contribute to the legendary Taranaki lifestyle. Art galleries including leading contemporary art gallery Govett-Brewster, guided tours through Taranaki’s stunning landscape by foot, bike, golf cart or helicopter, stunning gardens of national significance and fascinating museums ensure the sector remains robust and visitor numbers continue to grow.

For a list of must do experiences, visit

www.newzealand.com
www.tourism.net.nz
www.visit.taranaki.info

Taranaki is home to a strong visitor industry which makes the most of the region’s unique natural environment, fantastic lifestyle, events and legendary hospitality.
Case Studies – UK

❤️ Loving the peace  
Debbie Taplin

When Debbie Taplin opened an engineering magazine in 2005, she saw two adverts – one for the Worcestershire County Council and the other was for New Zealand. Figuring that once her furniture was packed up it didn’t matter how far she went, she applied for the job in New Zealand, and soon had job offers in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and New Plymouth.

A 24-hour visit to New Plymouth was all it took to convince her that the region’s pace of life was perfect, so she accepted the role on offer, and made the move.

“My new employer, the New Plymouth District Council, helped me through the process, with a relocation allowance and advice,” Debbie says.

“Taranaki is extremely peaceful and where I live is even more so, with no through traffic.”

Debbie purchased a private 1250m² section and built a house in Inglewood, a 20-minute commute from work and a far cry from her former commute of up to an hour. She is loving the extra time she has available to fit in lifestyle, and the cats are loving the extra space.

Weekends are typically spent relaxing, running and cycling on the region’s many pathways, as well as playing the saxophone – a new skill Debbie has been able to pick up since arriving in Taranaki.

When it comes to advice for new residents, Debbie suggests going straight for permanent residency, avoiding the need to resubmit work to residency visa applications.

“I’d also recommend you take a full New Zealand tour before starting work. Taranaki’s a great place to explore the country from, but there’s a lot to see.”

And also, it would seem, to keep a degree of flexibility in your long-term plans for those unexpected opportunities that life in Taranaki might present.

“I only ever intended to stay here 3 years, 4 max. I have been here 9 years now and have no real intentions to leave. I even ended up married to a kiwi which was never part of my plan.”

❤️ Finding the perfect lifestyle  
Marcia Haigh and Matthew Millard

Regular visitors to New Zealand Marcia Haigh and Matthew Millard shifted from the UK in search of a new lifestyle. When they didn’t find exactly what they wanted in Auckland, they took a drive to Taranaki.

The couple decided to pay New Plymouth a visit, and drove down on a day when the rain was horizontal and the city was far from its picturesque best.

“The next morning we awoke to glorious sunshine, blue sky and awesome views of Mount Taranaki. Two months later we were back for good!”

“Right away we both loved the feel of New Plymouth. During the day there was a real buzz and a vibrant main street with lots of museums to explore, and in the evening plenty of places to eat and go out,” Marcia enthuses.

“And then there’s the natural beauty of the place, from the awesome coastline to the beautiful mountain!”

“Those who had visited only had positive things to say! There was no one thing that made us certain Taranaki was the right place – but the region had something that really got under our skin and it just felt right.” “That said we do miss the UK’s public transport system,” says Marcia.

When it came to finding a place to live, Marcia and Matthew are now the proud owners of a lifestyle block on the outskirts of Inglewood.

“We wanted to live in a rural environment and have some space, and to be able to make the most of the milder climate than we are used to. Here the snow stays where it belongs – at the top of mountains!”

“The move from being city dwellers to living on a lifestyle block is the biggest change we’ve had to make since moving, but that’s why we came!”

“If we were to do anything differently, it would be to bypass Auckland and head straight to Taranaki, and maybe get jobs before coming out to help the immigration process.” “Other than that, just do it!”

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Finding a new world
Sarah Lee

In 1999 Sarah came to New Zealand from London to visit a friend living in Auckland, and rushed home to pack up everything and make a more permanent move. In 2013 she made the move to Taranaki, with her 11-year-old daughter.

“I was working in IT and that was ahead of the whole Y2K boom, so I found it easy to get a good job. It wasn’t until after I’d arrived that I stopped to think about Visas and the likes. Fortunately, the demand for IT skills was high, so it was easy.”

Since then Sarah’s brother and his family, and her parents have also made the move to New Zealand.

“I love New Zealand. It’s just so easy to live here.”

Now, Sarah has followed her heart to Eltham, finding the lifestyle even easier.

“I drive 55km to New Plymouth, but my friend in Auckland drives 25km from Botany Downs to the CBD, and it takes her half an hour longer. There’s just no traffic here.”

Finding a job in Taranaki was easy. “I applied for three, and was offered two of them, starting as soon as I could get there.”

Sarah, now running her own recruitment business, has been able to share her enthusiasm for the region and how easy it is to do business here – she has even been known to hold recruitment meetings in the local pub.

“Everyone here is approachable and open to referrals,” Sarah says. “There’s just a great community network here.”

A great place to raise children
The Lewis Family

Charlie Lewis and his family, wife Natasha and kids Sammy, Daniel and Calum, swapped sides to New Zealand in April 2012, first to Wellington, and a year later to Taranaki. Coming from Solihull, West Midlands, in the UK, the family has since grown with the addition of Elise.

Despite this, when Charlie found a job advertised in New Plymouth with the highly regarded orthopaedic department at Taranaki Base Hospital, his interest was piqued.

“Friends were really positive about the quality of the mountain and surf, and moving to a brand new hospital helped the decision,” Charlie says.

“Plus Taranaki seemed to offer a wonderful place for our children to grow up, with easy access to the great outdoors, and a good lifestyle. There’s so much space here, a lack of traffic, better weather and really good working conditions.”

“Oakura is lovely. The village atmosphere here is great, we’re in a fantastic neighbourhood and so close to the sea. It’s such a contrast to our former lives, and so much easier as a family!”

Plus it’s only a 10 minute commute along a scenic coastal road. “I used to drive up to an hour and a half on the busy M40!”

“There’s a lot on offer in Taranaki for young families. You do adapt quickly, and the slower pace of life and ease of getting places mean you have more time.”

“It’s very easy to become part of the community here – there’s so many people from Europe and the UK that sometimes it doesn’t even feel like you’re in New Zealand.”

Since arriving in Taranaki Charlie has been able to play a lot more golf and take up fishing, while all the kids are now avid surfers.

“To anyone looking to move to Taranaki, do it. You won’t regret it, but if you do you can always move back.”
Wayne McDonald arrived in New Zealand in August 2012, attracted to the country’s stability, safety and environment, and chose to settle in the North Island city of New Plymouth, where his fiancée grew up, for the family ties, natural beauty and outdoors lifestyle.

A couple of days after arriving, Wayne began the hunt for a new job, and using a range of online resources including the Venture Taranaki jobs website www.taranaki.info/liveandwork and knocking on a few doors he quickly had interviews at a high street bank and a leading recruitment firm.

"After reading about a position on Venture Taranaki’s job site I contacted Amy at recruitment agency Inspirec and had an interview the next day," says Wayne.

"The interview was really positive and I was welcomed back for a second interview two days later. An offer was made and I jumped at the opportunity and to join an extremely ambitious and fun team with a really exciting working environment. It took me a week and a half to find a fantastic job."

"The future looks really exciting in New Plymouth. The outdoors are just so easily accessible, and we’ve got friends and family coming out in February for our wedding. I really look forward to taking advantage of the fantastic golf courses around the city and I’m even planning on learning how to surf," Wayne says.

Wayne has since married his Taranaki born partner, bought a house, had a son and taken over the management of the recruitment agency business, and still loves his life here.

South Africa

Wish we’d moved here sooner!
Strydom family


Employment was the driving force behind choosing New Plymouth, but the short drive from the airport to his job interview was all it took for Johan to all in love with New Plymouth.

"The countryside was beautiful, and it was clear there was enough rain – not something I was too familiar with."

"It was instantly obvious that there is a lot more respect here – for others, property and life in general," says Johan, "but our cultures don’t differ that much, so it was really easy to become part of the community."

"My one son and his wife have since joined us in New Plymouth."

"It was all pretty straightforward once we decided we wanted to make the move. The hardest part was making the decision to go."

The move took around two years from having the idea to getting a job and settling in New Plymouth.

The family now owns a modern 5-bedroom house in the New Plymouth suburb of Frankleigh Park, that has views over the surrounding area and is "far enough from the town to be quiet."

"The location is fantastic. There is a corner shop and takeaway within easy reach, and a sports ground with play park down the street."

While the weather is constantly changing it has a "good amount of rain" – a welcome change from South Africa.

The greater feeling of safety and security of his new home also comes through. "I feel safe when driving. There’s just no risk of being hijacked. I feel safe sleeping in a house without burglar bars."

Would Johan have done anything differently? "I would have done it earlier in my life. This is great!"
Tonya and Gerard Callebaut made the move to Taranaki from Cape Town, South Africa in 2007, having avoided the lure of Australia.

When it came to choosing where in New Zealand to move their lives to, Tonya and Gerard feel that Taranaki chose them, rather than the other way around.

“We didn’t want a repeat of Cape Town’s traffic woes, so ruled out Auckland,” Tonya says.

“From there I Googled, Engineer and Oil and Gas job opportunities and this little place called New Plymouth kept on popping up, so New Plymouth it was!”

“Weaving the dream home we built in scenic Cape Town was also difficult, but a few days after we arrived I was able to safely walk with my toddler to a park without feeling uneasy and it just felt right.”

This safety aspect was seen as major attraction in coming to New Zealand, while New Plymouth offered small city living with big city employment opportunities, plus good schools.

While Gerard was able to continue as an engineer, since starting his own consulting business, Tonya launched her own online business in 2012 which has taken off.

“There’s just no comparison between our old and new workplaces. The traffic was terrible and really ate into our time beyond the office. In New Plymouth we can cycle to work and get in a swim or walk at lunch, though now we’re both home-based we can fit work around family life.”

“It must be one of the few places left in the world where kids can ride a bike or scooter to school on their own and walk up the road to play at their friends for the afternoon.”

Proving the grass is greener for good reason
The Callebaut Family
Home sweet home
The Markhams
Growing up in the shadow of Mount Taranaki left such an indelible mark on Leighton and Duchesne Markham that they just couldn’t stay away.

Duchesne left the province to move to Auckland in 2008 for university, while Leighton followed after the couple were married in 2011.

“We had a great network of friends and our careers were going well in Auckland, but there was always something about Taranaki that just made us want to return – it always felt like we were home here,” Duchesne says.

Duchesne says that apart from wanting to be closer to family, the couple were drawn to move back home for the lifestyle.

“Here, I’m home by 5.15, and that’s even factoring in that I bike to and from work now, so don’t need to go to the gym. Then it’s dinner with friends on the beach or gardening at our new house before it gets dark. The post-work options are limitless and we love making the most of our newly gifted time!”

“Leighton has really enjoyed catching up with colleagues and looking after familiar projects, while I’d always wanted to work for Venture Taranaki so I was thrilled that a job came about just when I was looking.”

On top of a new lifestyle, Leighton and Duchesne could afford to purchase their first home in New Plymouth after making the move, making their friends very envious.

The couple say they are enjoying being a part of the Taranaki community too.

“The whole process of moving back to Taranaki has been incredibly friendly and welcoming. We’ve enjoyed spending time with family and old friends and we’re also making an effort to meet new people including welcoming even newer people to the region and helping them settle in.”

Duchesne’s advice for anyone thinking about moving to Taranaki is “DO IT!”

A well-kept secret
Daniel ‘Chuck’ Norris
Daniel ‘Chuck’ Norris moved to Taranaki from Sydney with his partner Laura in April 2014, coming home to New Zealand, but choosing to look beyond his native Tauranga.

“It was time to come back to New Zealand and put some roots down, but while I was very aware of what New Zealand had to offer, I was surprised how little I knew about Taranaki. It’s a well-kept secret!”

“The lifestyle was more relaxed, and access to activities suited what we were seeking to do in our personal time. This made it an easy decision to shift home from Australia,” Daniel says.

“It’s also worth setting up a bank account in New Zealand prior to arriving. This helps with money transfers and also receiving wages from new employment.”

While he now travels from New Plymouth to Hawera most days – a commute of 74km – it can take half an hour less than his former 54km commute in Sydney.

Daniel and Laura have bought a 1900 villa in New Plymouth’s CBD, and love the central location.

When not indulging in the great Kiwi tradition of DIY, he spends his time walking the dog on the off-leash beach or heading to the region’s parks and cafes.

It was easy to fit into local life. “I love how friendly Taranaki people are, though you have to adjust to that coming from a big city. It’s occasionally nice to just get lost in a bigger city, but doing that on future holidays will be enough.”

Daniel still gets a laugh when he has to pay for parking in Taranaki – he got $48 in change from the $50 he handed over for a recent 4-hour stint at the local mall. “After living in Sydney I had assumed that $50 wasn’t going to be enough.”
All the right reasons

The Cameron Family

Jamie Cameron grew up in Taranaki and left first for his OE, then came back to play rugby, then left again to further his career. Now he’s back, along with his wife and two children, and wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.

Having spent the last two years on the Gold Coast, and the two years prior to that in Perth, Jamie is very clear on why he’s back in Taranaki.

“Things were going very well professionally, and I was enjoying the challenge of hard work, and the rewards that came with it,” Jamie says.

“The flipside was that I was always travelling and spending a lot of time on the road, but I really didn’t like being one of those dads who wasn’t there for his kids.”

“I loved growing up a Kiwi Kid, and wanted my kids to have the same lifestyle and opportunities, so we made the move back to Taranaki first and foremost for our family.”

And now they’re back, Jamie, his wife Denise and kids George (13) and Jake (7) are loving life and how much easier it is to live here.

“You don’t appreciate how good it is here until you live away, particularly as a family.”

The family are finding that life in Taranaki offers benefits beyond the easy lifestyle.

“You can get to the library, the beach and the museum after school, it’s not a case of spending an hour in the car to get home.”

When it comes to school and cost of living, the differences have also been noticed.

“Taranaki offers everything you need with the added bonus of a quality of life you don’t find in the big cities. It’s important to be clear your motivations for shifting.”

“While bigger markets offer more career opportunities, it’s not always about that.”

For the Cameron family spending more time with your family, in a landscape full of adventures, is a pretty compelling motivation.

Returning home to Te Maunga

The Capper Family

Wayne Capper is one of a growing number of people returning to Taranaki to give their kids the upbringing they fondly remember.

Wayne returned in January 2013 from Bunbury in Western Australia, with wife Arianna and children Anahera, Taiora, Tiana, Kahu and Tipene, who range between 3 and 13 years.

“I was raised here, and for me and my family coming home was the perfect choice and best fit when it comes to whanau and lifestyle,” Wayne says.

“While we were living away I thought of home every day, each morning I would think of our Maunga. I don’t know what it is with Taranaki but the Maunga seems to draw us back – that and the memories of family, surf, sports and the really relaxed lifestyle.”

“Taranaki is the real New Zealand.”

“For both me and my wife the sense of freedom and openness that Taranaki provided was a major factor in our move back here. The chance for our children to experience that freedom, just as so many other Taranaki children have done, was really appealing”, Wayne says.

“We also wanted our children to embrace their Maori culture and get involved with the people of our iwi Te Atiawa/Taranaki.”

“New Plymouth has a vibrant city life, with cafes and bars, great events, parks and walkways and plenty for a family to do. But what’s really great is that you have surrounding country towns that are only a stone’s throw away that provide that good old kiwi culture that we all know. Mountains, beaches you name it Taranaki has it. Where we came from just didn’t have the same appeal.”

“It was really easy to fit in, and we’ve found that people are generally very friendly here in Taranaki. I was raised here so it has helped me and my family fit in to the community.”

“All of the family have adjusted really well, a lot better than I anticipated. We all now call Taranaki home and we are all enjoying life here and what it brings.”

“This place is not too big not too small and has everything you need to fulfill your happiness in life,” says Wayne.

“To me it’s no strings attached real New Zealand.”
Elsewhere around the globe

Like winning the jackpot
Babette Khilan - Germany

Babette Khilan fell in love first with a Kiwi, then with his home town, and is now fully committed to Taranaki’s legendary lifestyle.

While Babette came to Taranaki to be with her partner, the ‘perfectly-sized’ city of New Plymouth with its balance between urban and rural and its friendly people made the decision to stay even easier.

“I still tell Andy how lucky we are to be here!” she says.

Babette’s commute is now around five-minutes, meaning more time to enjoy the finer things in life.

“Winters are mild here. I sometimes miss the snow a little bit, for some winter fun, but the icy roads weren’t as enjoyable. I can even leave my potted plants outside during the winter time!”

Babette and Andy love New Plymouth’s events calendar, regularly visiting the Festival of Lights in the Pukekura Park over the summer months.

“New Plymouth is very attractive to both young and old and every taste will find things to see and do here. I just love to grab my camera and to go outside to explore and discover.”

“The balance between work and life here is amazing. I just don’t miss the hectic life, trying to rush home from work in a traffic jam,” says Babette.

“The possibilities are endless and the scenery unique! Where else you have a mountain on the one and sea and beach on the other side?”

“Taranaki will make you want to come back. I don’t regret my move from the other side of the world to live here. I would do it again!” says Babette. “Here is my heart and my home now. I feel like I have won the ultimate jackpot!”

We’re not in Kansas anymore
The Ellington Family – USA

A visit to New Zealand was always on the Ellington family’s ‘bucket list’ but their keen sense of adventure brought them to Taranaki from Kansas City, Kansas for much more than a holiday.

“We’d never been to New Zealand, but had always wanted to come. We thought why just visit, why not move?” Jenny says.

“We arrived at the end of June 2011, with the plan of staying for a year, and we’re still here. The call to stay was unanimous!”

It was Brad, an emergency physician, which planted the seed for the adventure, having seen adverts in medical journals for positions in New Zealand.

“There were a lot of things that sold us on Taranaki, but the one that we couldn’t pass up was the ability to ski and surf on the same day, something I managed to do this year.”

Brad’s commute is another great aspect of their new home – he’s now just 12 minutes from work at Taranaki Base Hospital, but the benefits don’t stop once Brad arrives at work.

“Work is a lot less demanding, and the work-life balance is so much better here than in the States,” says Brad.

“We love that it takes a bit of effort to get here. It’s a bit isolated but in a good way. All the prime real estate is taken by caravan parks and not Club Meds.”

If any further example of the lifestyle benefit were necessary, Jenny points to the school system.

“The education system here is different, which is something I really noticed as an educationalist. “Our children are becoming really well rounded, happier and not stressed”,” says Jenny.
Almost perfect
Tanima Mishra – India

For Tanima Mishra, making the move from Bombay, India to Taranaki, New Zealand was a perfect move, with the sole exception of the region’s lack of Bollywood films.

A job offer in Taranaki was the catalyst for Tanima (27) and her husband Mahendra (29) to make the shift in November 2012.

“We didn’t know much about New Zealand before we arrived, other than what we’d learnt on the internet,” Tanima says, “It was a bit of a shock moving from a city of 18 million to a country of 4 million though.”

In India Tanima worked in investment banking, while Mahendra was in oil and gas, and it is this connection that secured his role as a Senior Engineer with Halliburton, based in Taranaki. It wasn’t long before Tanima also got a role in Taranaki’s thriving oil and gas sector, as a technical administrator with Todd Energy, though gaining a suitable position wasn’t as easy as she had hoped.

Perhaps surprisingly they don’t find the contrasting weather such a concern. “I really enjoy Taranaki’s weather. Bombay it is way too hot – always. I enjoy the cooler weather here and love spending time in the snow up the mountain at weekends.”

“We expected and planned for a change in income given the move from Australia, but we knew what we were in for and it has meant we’ve now got the lifestyle we wanted.”

Hazel is learning how to surf, Derek has joined the New Plymouth Kayak Club, they love walking on the 200-plus kilometres of walking trails on Mount Taranaki, walking their dogs, mountain biking, and as many other outdoor activities as they can cram into the average weekend.

“We love Taranaki and all it has to offer. There’s just so much to see and do here and great cafes and restaurants. It offers the perfect lifestyle for us and we look forward to becoming locals. Taranaki is a real little gem!”

The place to be
Derek Stevens and Hazel Kidner – Australia

In 2013, Derek Stevens and partner Hazel Kidner made the move to Taranaki from Adelaide, Australia, after having wanted to live the Kiwi lifestyle for years.

“We knew heaps about New Zealand – we’d been here a number of times and spent a lot of time backpacking around,” says Derek.

“We had family discover New Plymouth and rave about it. We visited over Easter 2013 and confirmed it was the place to be, so here we are.”

Derek advises looking for jobs early on, and recommends getting in touch with the region’s development agency Venture Taranaki to help with connections. They also offer a free jobs website which lists opportunities in the region.

They’ve bought 10-acres and are currently planning their dream home. “We really wanted to live somewhere that got rain,” says Hazel, “it’s good for the garden and our plan is to be as self-sufficient as we can on our property. Rain, and sun of course, were key criteria when it came to choosing where to live.”

Derek advises looking for jobs early on, and recommends getting in touch with the region’s development agency Venture Taranaki to help with connections. They also offer a free jobs website which lists opportunities in the region.

The days seem 30 hours long here
Leandro Fossa – Brazil

Taking a 1-year career break was the initial motivation for 31-year old Leandro Fossa to make the move from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to New Plymouth, but he has since fallen in love with Taranaki and has no plans to leave.

“I wanted to come to New Zealand for a year and Taranaki was quite similar to my home in Brazil. I got a job as the Business Development Manager at Tenderlink, and stayed – Taranaki now feels like home.”

On an average weekend Leandro can be found exploring Surf Highway 45 around Taranaki’s coast, heading to the renowned surf breaks that span the 105km road from New Plymouth to Hawera.

“If there isn’t any surf then there’s the coast to explore, the mountain for walking on, and lots of parties and BBQs to enjoy!”

“There’s just so much time here. I still work long hours but there’s no traffic so the lifestyle is much better in Taranaki,” Leandro says, “Sometimes it feels like there is 30 hours in each day because you finish work, go to the gym, go surfing, play tennis, go out for dinner with friends and then the day is over.”

“If you’re an extrovert like me it’s very easy to fit in and meet new people. People are friendly in Taranaki,” he says.

“Taranaki is also really good at putting on big events, which bring in a special atmosphere,” Leandro says.

“I’m trying to talk my friends in Auckland into moving here. For anyone thinking about moving here, I’d recommend it.”

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“It’s absolutely STUNNING, BREATHTAKING. How could anyone not want to be here?”

Tom Cruise, on the film set of The Last Samurai, New Plymouth.
In addition to the New Plymouth District Council, Venture Taranaki is supported by:
South Taranaki District Council, Stratford District Council, Taranaki Electricity Trust, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise,
Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, Callaghan Innovation, Business Mentors New Zealand and numerous other
private sector organisations.

Photo credits: Rob Tucker, Mark Harris, NPDC, Surf Taranaki, Jane Dove Juneau, Michael Flynn,
TDHB and Glenn Jeffrey.

The toolkit is printed using paper stock from responsibly managed forests and vegetable based inks.