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We’re not talking about a mythical place here, although you wouldn’t be blamed for thinking that. It’s true, home ownership in many parts of New Zealand seems more out of reach than ever. Traffic and long commutes are the norm for a growing majority, and a true outdoors escape is often a few hours’ drive away, if not an hour’s flight.

Ōtautahi Christchurch – our country’s best-kept secret

This resurgent city is becoming the obvious yet understated place to be. Those that already call it home are in the know, and population statistics show more and more Kiwis are exploring the opportunity that exists in the country’s second biggest city. It’s time to make the move.

For years Ōtautahi Christchurch has been perceived with sympathy. A broken city, brave and resilient in the face of hardship – “good on you for sticking with that place, it’s gotta be tough”. In three months, it will be 10 years since earthquakes changed the face of New Zealand’s oldest city, and those perceptions are now – bluntly – wrong. It’s time to wake up people, Christchurch is not the same place it was. That story in your head about conservative and broken Christchurch? It’s outdated – time to catch up with the play.

The city has shifted dramatically away from being “munted”, and locals are no longer “doing it tough”. The rampant rebuild period is over, people are populating new office space and filling the city streets with life. This little slice of southern paradise is good to go, ripe for exploration.

The business opportunity in Ōtautahi Christchurch is clear, for everyone from investors and employees, to entrepreneurs and those looking to relocate their existing business. Ample office space in safe and modern buildings, competitive commercial rent and a thriving business ecosystem combine to create a perfect positive storm. Strategic investment from city partners is future-proofing the economy in areas of global growth, a coordinated approach to future prosperity.

Ōtautahi Christchurch’s rebuilt infrastructure is becoming the envy of cities struggling with creaking tired facilities. World-class education is available in spades, the city is connected to the world via international air and sea ports, and it sits at the heart of arguably the most diverse and exciting island in the world.

More than 115 international flights come and go from the city every week, with three weekly flights direct to Los Angeles the latest announcement. Forecasters of economic prosperity are beginning to put their bets on the city, a place on the precipice of great change. The time to explore is now. Ōtautahi Christchurch’s tertiaries are a reliable pipeline of talent for companies to draw from, and the city’s tech sector is flourishing beyond expectation. The exploration spirit that built the city emboldens entrepreneurs and start ups to challenge the status quo.

Aside from business attractiveness, the lifestyle available in Ōtautahi Christchurch is one of balance and mental well-being. The majority of central city workers live within minutes of work – the average commute time is 19 minutes – giving them more time to spend with family, friends, or exploring what they love.

Within that short reach are hill suburbs with views of the Southern Alps, tree-lined al coves with bustling communities and public swimming pools, and beachside promenades with surfable waves and sunshine. Whatever your flavour, this city has you covered.

The median house price is $443,500, well below the national median of $560,000. The Auckland median? $925,000. In Ōtautahi Christchurch, that Kiwi home ownership dream is closer than you thought possible.

So, is it time to explore this modern-day promise land? Are you looking for the good life? Do you want to get your time back? Get out of the rat race, out of the traffic, out of the grind.

Do more with your time and get into Ōtautahi Christchurch – your basecamp for exploration and opportunity.
Unrivalled lifestyle in Christchurch

“I’ve lived in Auckland, Wellington and a few places overseas, and I choose to be here in Christchurch. It’s the best lifestyle I’ve ever had – it’s that simple.”

Adrien Taylor co-founded a design studio with business partner Mark Townshend from the beachside village of Sumner earlier this year. He’s escaped the “not-another-meeting” lifestyle for choices and freedom. Oh, and he surfs most mornings.

Running Not Another Studio from a beach is a far cry from his previous lives in Auckland and Wellington.

“People get caught up in the rat race, thinking to have a successful life they have to live somewhere like Auckland and make work the thing that defines them. For me, I’m all about lifestyle over work,” Taylor said.

This isn’t Taylor’s first venture. He runs Offcut, a company producing hats and other products from scrap materials, and a PR company called PayPer, specialising in storytelling for small businesses doing amazing things.

He also ran Trump Forest for more than two years, a company “planting a global forest to offset Trump’s monumental stupidity” in the face of climate change. Fair to say his endeavours have earned him fans and clients across the world.

Not Another Studio is his latest project, together with Townshend, designed to deliver “champagne brands on beer budgets”. They both previously worked for a high-profile creative agency in central Christchurch.

“We work flexibly and deliver exceptional branding for clients in New Zealand and overseas,” Taylor said.

His reason for basing himself in Christchurch? Easy – the lifestyle. Access to remote beaches, lush hillsides and mountains, and an endless coastline made for a happy life, he said.

“I love surfing and in Auckland the closest beach was Piha, an hour’s drive on a good day. Here, I surf before work, I can surf after work, and skate home.”

A keen mountain biker and rock climber, Taylor scrambles up the Port Hills to explore rock walls and downhill trails. He recently sailed with friends to a bach in Port Levy for the weekend, leaving Lyttelton at 5.30pm on a Friday and mooring in time for dinner.

“I mean, that’s just unreal,” he said.

Affordability was a major drawcard for Christchurch. Previously based in Herne Bay, Taylor said he was now paying a “fraction of what I was paying in Auckland” with better access to lifestyle offerings.

“I can fit so much more into my day. Life doesn’t have to revolve around work, and I have just as much free time as I do work time,” he said.

“If anything, my lifestyle is infinitely better than what it was in Auckland. I just have more time.”

Thinking about a move to Christchurch, and wanting to talk Real Estate? Speak with Christian, he is a born and bred Cantabrian with a wealth of knowledge, very passionate about real estate and his beautiful home city and is excited to see people making a move to Christchurch to experience all that it has to offer.

0800 500 123
Imagine being able to diffuse a bomb from half way around the world using sight, sound and best of all, touch.

While it may sound like something out of a movie, the reality, according to Jamie Cairns, CEO of TASKA Prosthetics, is not that far into the future.

TASKA make prosthetic hands which can manoeuvre with high precision, giving confidence, comfort and control back to amputees around the world (more on the bomb diffusion potential later). These are devices that truly improve the lives of amputees around the world.

Cairns explained how the business concept was born when founder Mathew Jury had a mountain biking accident in 2008 that broke both his arms, elbow and wrist.

“Mat realised the practical and emotional impact that comes from limited ability to interact with the everyday world and he saw an opportunity to change that,” Cairns said.

As an engineer and inventor Mat, who was based in Wellington, set about making a prototype that would turn the prosthetic industry on its head.

The result is the TASKA hand – a myoelectric prosthetic hand that is waterproof and robust, able to operate with finely tuned accuracy and control. It is unlike anything else on the market.

While the concept started in Wellington, Jamie explained when deciding where best to locate and grow the early-stage business, Christchurch was the natural choice.

“The city’s advanced manufacturing sector, product design capability and talent pipeline made the city a natural fit,” he said.

Located in Christchurch’s busy suburb of Riccarton, TASKA employs 37 staff who cover all aspects of the production process, from design through to distribution.

The business is actively engaged with nearby University of Canterbury (UC) for interns and student projects. Cairns described UC as a “hotbed of potential talent”.

The team also keep an eye on how prosthetic technology can be improved or used in different sectors, for example in the military or gaming sectors.

Cairns explained in mind-boggling detail how lab experiments have shown a person can sense what a prosthetic hand is feeling from across a room. The hand doesn’t need to be connected to the user’s body. Wireless technology and an interface with the human nervous system can make the impossible, possible. Like diffusing bombs.

“Our research partners in the United States are constantly looking at future opportunities including the use of avatars in the immersive gaming industry and for military applications,” he said.

But that’s all in the future. For now, TASKA have their sights fixed on prosthetics for use in the medical industry in New Zealand, Australia and Europe.
Lifestyle and landscapes spur Selwyn growth

Selwyn has been New Zealand’s fastest-growing district over the past 10 years – and it’s easy to see why.

The district, between Christchurch and Ashburton, offers an unbeatable combination of stunning landscapes, growing townships, readily available and affordable land for housing, a high standard of facilities, education and recreation opportunities and well-connected communities.

With a population of 65,600 Selwyn is the third-largest territorial authority in the South Island. Growth accelerated rapidly after the Canterbury earthquakes but is continuing to flourish with the population expected to pass 80,000 by 2028 – the majority of growth coming from other parts of New Zealand.

More than 1200 new homes are built every year across the district, mostly in the growing townships such as Rolleston, Lincoln, Prebbleton and West Melton. Townships are well-serviced with community facilities, excellent schools, retail and service providers, reserves and sports grounds – everything a family needs, right on their doorstep.

Economic activity is also thriving. Growth is currently at 5.2% – and has consistently been ahead of national and regional averages over the past 10 years. Agriculture, manufacturing and construction are the major contributors to the district’s economy. Unemployment is at a low 2.3% and commercial construction is booming.

Visitor attractions

For visitors, there’s a huge variety of attractions and activities that offer the chance to experience Selwyn’s unique landscapes first-hand. The district stretches from Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere on the coast up to the magnificent alpine environment of Arthur’s Pass National Park, and is bounded by the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers.

Adventure seekers can try everything from jet boating to horse treks and hot air ballooning, or hit the slopes on one of the many boutique ski fields. The wide range of walking and cycling tracks means people of all ages and abilities can enjoy the wide open spaces, or for a different kind of walk, take in the spectacular scenery on one of several country golf courses.

The district is also proud of its artisan producers, restaurants, cafés, wineries and quality accommodation. Selwyn is home to award-winning cheeses, fresh local produce, weekend farmers’ markets, country stores, unique and memorable wine and food tastings with the people who actually produce them.

For more about Selwyn see selwyn.govt.nz or selwyn.nz.

Move to Selwyn brings dream home and perfect fit

Selwyn has become a second home for Mere and Ed Porima.

It’s a long way from the Bay of Plenty, from where Mere migrated after completing her Bachelor of Nursing.

But she and her husband Ed – also from a small town in the Bay of Plenty – and their son Te Rangi, have found Rolleston to be a perfect fit.

“It has that country feel but it is still close enough to everything,” she says. “We hate town. There are too many people.”

Mere and Ed have lived in Rolleston for a little over two years now.

Three years ago, they started building their own home within the township, with both of them playing an active role in designing it.

The couple are a testament to the Kiwi home-owning dream. “We did it all ourselves. When we first came here all we had was a 32-inch TV, clothes and a truck.”

Mere works as a qualified nurse. She switched careers after originally studying for a diploma in sport and recreation, and working as a qualified but underpaid personal trainer. Currently, she is studying towards completing a Master in Nursing, which she says will open up more opportunities.

Mere and Ed are active in the Rolleston community mainly through sports-related activities and kids’ activities. Ed signed up Te Rangi for the Rolleston Rugby Football Club and, after being inspired by the club director’s speech at an orientation event, decided to lace up his own rugby boots and step out onto the field in the number eight position.

The land where they built their house was home to nothing but empty paddocks a few years ago but is now a part of a bustling, vibrant township.
Erica Austin is typical of a large section of the young business population in Ōtautahi Christchurch. She works from a co-working space, often bikes the short distance to work, and talks at length about her positive relationship with the city.

“I’m a person who looks for a career that fulfills my multiple passions,” Austin said – something she found in Christchurch. She classifies herself as a multi-potentialite, inspired by Emilie Wapnick’s TEDx Talk on those with more than one true calling.

After completing her Masters of Architecture at the University of Auckland, Austin did a full-year Masters thesis on the rebuild of Christchurch. Her many trips south, and conversations with a diverse southern population, convinced her to cancel the return ticket.

Austin, 29, now runs EA Curation, a company “curating meaningful experiences” including education programmes, entrepreneurial challenges, physical spaces and city-making movements. She also helps deliver TEDxChristchurch, which recently held its tenth annual event at the newly reopened Christchurch Town Hall, and is helping to develop Learning City Christchurch, a global movement to create learning ecosystems in and out of school.

“I am originally from Guangzhou in China. Our family moved to New Zealand in 1997 when I was seven, and I grew up in Auckland,” she said.

“We lived out east and taking the bus to town took over an hour each way. It became pretty frustrating when you think about spending nearly three hours on transport each day, time that could be used meaningfully.”

Shorter commutes are the norm in Christchurch, an attractive bonus to living in an accessible city. The average commute is 19 minutes, and the city is easily navigated. Austin said she will often have a meeting at the University of Canterbury in the morning, a lunchtime meeting at Sumner beach, and be back in town for an afternoon catch up – all before a 5pm finish to get home.

Expecting a baby in February, Austin said her and her husband were “so excited about the stage Christchurch is at”. They were particularly excited about the recently opened Ao Tawhiti Unlimited Discovery school in the CBD.

“We think it’s going to be so cool to bring up a child and have a family life here. I work at Biz Dojo in the middle of town, and my husband works at the Boxed Quarter, and we’d love our baby to grow up in this urban environment and develop a good relationship with the city,” she said.

Ōtautahi Christchurch has flourished in recent years into a progressive and disruptive urban centre. It is retaining more of its young people, attracting Kiwis and migrants who are ready to challenge the status quo, and the working demographic has shifted.

Co-working spaces are abundant across the city. The CBD is home to more than a dozen, and the concept has spread to beachside suburbs New Brighton and Sumner, and more urban areas like Addington and Waltham. The largest is Biz Dojo, running over multiple floors in the SALT District.

“When we lived in Guangzhou, living in apartment spaces, I felt quite insignificant. Moving to Auckland was my parents’ choice, but Christchurch is where I choose to be my home,” she said.

“I feel committed to the community and am actively participating in lots of different aspects of this community, and that’s something I didn’t feel in Auckland.”
Otautahi Christchurch has risen to gold status as a top foodie destination. Gone are the days of stuffy dining rooms and white tablecloths – this is an adventurous city of high-end eats and diverse drinks.

From Riverside Market to Little High, Entx to The Welder, the city is stacked with options for group dining and Instagram-worthy plates and backdrops. Local favourites for a fancy dinner out include Inati (get the Trust Us for a culinary adventure), Amazonita on The Terrace, and Super in Lyttelton (yuzu cocktails...yum) – but tastes vary so shop around, there’s plenty of choice.

**THE TERRACE**

Quickly becoming an iconic strip of hospitality real estate, The Terrace is home to more than a dozen bars and restaurants. This is the place to be after 5pm on a Friday. Check out Fat Eddie’s for jazz and balcony beers, or Bangalore Polo Club for an intimate drink under low lights.

**RIVERSIDE MARKET**

Freshly opened in October, this seven-day-a-week covered farmers market is already a national food destination. With more than 40 market stalls and 30 eateries, Riverside attracts a crowd for lunch, brunch, dinner and everything in between. Check out Shaka Bros for epic burgers, and the Kombucha Girls for a hip drink to wash it down.

**LITTLE HIGH**

The guys behind this bustling centre have taken the food court concept and blown it out of the water. Grilled meat on charcoal, woodfired pizza, burgers served from an old truck – Little High is a foodie hub. Get there early for lunch or be prepared to share a table with a stranger.

**BURGER BURGER**

Auckland’s favourite burger joint has set up in Christchurch – only their second store outside Auckland and their only South Island store. Get down to Welles St for a chill vibe, great burgers and of course curly fries. Why are curly fries so good? Anyway, get there.

**THE WELDER**

Opened in November, The Welder is the wellness centre you’ve been waiting for. Raw food cooking classes, a cold-pressed fruit juice bar, a yoga studio, float tanks, and a bakery and patisserie for your post-stretch treat. Plus, GoodFor’s only store outside Auckland. All this in a restored welding and mechanics building. Epic.
Brianne West juggles a global company, full life and free time in Ōtautahi Christchurch

West heads up Ethique, a Christchurch-based company creating beauty products in bar form including shampoos, moisturisers, scrubs and deodorants. They sell 48 products with more to come in the next 18 months – but West’s lips are tightly sealed on what they will be – “I’d have to kill you if I told you,” she laughs.

Operating from their base in Ōtautahi Christchurch, Ethique’s team of eight office-based staff and 160 manufacturing staff around NZ, make, sell and distribute products to 2,500 stores in 14 countries.

As a certified BCorp business, Ethique is committed to doing good for the planet and for society.

BCorp is a heavyweight international certification requiring businesses to meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, public transparency and legal accountability, balancing profit and purpose.

“The process involves quantifying every stage of your business from how you treat your staff, how you structure your business right down to how sustainable your packaging is,” West said.

The company has a somewhat cult following, raising eyebrows across the globe. British Vogue picked up on the trend and wrote a feature article in October on Brianne and Ethique’s products.

They’re a business with a difference. Started in 2012, West was fed up with the state of the planet and our reliance on plastic. She used her biology degree to create sustainable beauty bars that are completely plastic free, with an aim to divert one million going to landfill by 2020.

She delivered on her aim, in fact she smashed the goal out of the park. By the end of 2019, Ethique expects to prevent more than 5 million bottles from going to landfill.

But it’s not just plastic West is waging a war on.

Ethique’s socially responsible approach sits at the heart of the business. They are carbon neutral, a living-wage employer and donate 20 percent of annual profits to animal and eco charities.

That’s part of the reason why Ethique is New Zealand’s highest scoring BCorp, a certification that isn’t undertaken lightly.

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Christchurch has the highest concentration of BCorps in New Zealand, and when quizzed on why Brianne continued to base her global business here, her answer was simple.

“Why would I move? We’ve got everything we need here. We’ve got an international airport so I can travel easily, the quality of life is brilliant, there’s bugger all traffic and ‘Christchurchians’ are the best people in the world.”

From this solid base, West has plans for further global domination, setting her sights on Asia as the next opportunity – the consumer sentiment there is aligning more and more with Ethique’s sustainability focus.

So while spare time may not feature much in her future, it doesn’t stop her dreams of fueling her other love – animals.

“One day, I’d like to set up an animal rescue centre. Christchurch has ample supply of affordable land only 20 to 30 minutes drive from the city. I’d like to buy up some land and set up an animal welfare centre,” she said.

With the drive and ambition she has dedicated to changing the world’s approach to plastic bottles, an animal rescue centre seems a comparatively easy goal.
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- **Acland Park, Rolleston, $527,000**
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“I’m the guy with the crazy beard” – Vincent Egan’s disclaimer with the photos he sends in of him and his business partner Madison Ryan at Māui Studios.

With a backward cap, big grin and impressive facial hair, Egan is every bit the creative digital entrepreneur that makes up Christchurch’s tech scene. Based in Addington, one of Christchurch’s artsy-industrial neighborhoods, digital creativity flows thick and fast from the building nicknamed ‘The Promised Land’ in which Māui Studios is based.

Animation, illustration, virtual reality, augmented reality and digital design – if it’s imaginative, and digital, then Māui Studios is all over it.

But as the name suggests, Māui Studios has a kaupapa, a belief system, that drives the heart and direction of the business.

“Our kaupapa is to offset the negative statistics around Māori, to help young Māori into higher education and support our whānau and community through sustainable business practices,” Egan said.

A browse of their portfolio is proof enough of what he means. Take for example their collaboration with the Ministry of Education to develop a Te Reo Māori curriculum resource. Delivered as an augmented reality graphic novel, it gave students a localised view of their whakapapa and knowledge of Te Reo Māori.

“We’re working hard to push the boundaries, to help lift the capability of our youth demographic and support our communities,” he said.

With clients located around New Zealand, Christchurch has proven an ideal spot to grow the business and connect with customers.

“Christchurch has changed so much over the last five years, it’s awesome. It’s the ideal spot for us to base ourselves. It’s an easy city to get around and to connect with clients all over Aotearoa. There’s an awesome network of creative organisations here to bounce ideas around with,” he said.

When quizzed on what he loved most about Christchurch, Egan’s response was absolute – “the food here is amazing”. He wasn’t short on recommendations either. He rattled off his favourites including the best Chinese in town – a family restaurant in Riccarton offering authentic Szechuan cuisine, the newly built Riverside Market in the heart of the city, and Little High which offers a smorgasbord of gastro delights.

Egan’s spare time was taken up with “uncle duties” as he enjoyed time with whānau and friends. His top picks included Margaret Mahy playground, swimming at Taiora QEII Pool and Sports Centre and walks on the beach “where you can contemplate the big things in life”.

Contemplating the big things in life is something Egan will be doing more of over the summer as Māui Studio sets its sights on some big fish – the Chinese and American markets.

To do this they’ll be looking to hire more staff to fuel their ambitious dreams of growth, creativity without limitation and kaupapa Māori.

Could the team at Maui Studios in Ōtautahi Christchurch be where you live out your dreams? Egan assures candidates insane facial hair is not a prerequisite.
Exploration on your doorstep

Ōtautahi Christchurch is surrounded by adventure, constantly calling to city-dwellers to explore their backyard. All these are within 30 minutes of the city centre.

PORT HILLS
A lush backdrop to the city, the Port Hills are stacked with trails, bush reserves and downhill tracks. Accessible by road, chairlift and gondola, these volcanic peaks ooze exploration. Favourites include the Rapaki Track and Bridle Path, Victoria Park, and Mt Vernon Farm Track. Or walk over the hills down to the sea and explore Lyttelton Harbour.

CHRISTCHURCH ADVENTURE PARK
The only all-season adventure park in the world – in Christchurch?! Where else. More than 25 downhill trails, the longest and highest zipline park in New Zealand – including one that’s 1.1km long – and a fully licenced cafe and bar. A real game changer for the South Island.

THREE BEACHES, 30 MINUTES
New Brighton, Sumner and Taylors Mistake, three sandy beaches all within 30 minutes of the city centre. This is the definition of doing more with your time. A triple-header of sandy, wavy goodness – all swimmable, and surfable, all well serviced for popular summer days.

CYCLING PARADISE
Boasting an extensive network of quiet roads, Ōtautahi is an epic cycling playground. Morning rides, evening laps and Sunday sessions, this is the place to take your riding to the next level.

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North Canterbury Wine & Food Festival
Saturday 7 March 2020
Anton Matthews opened his fish and chip shop Fush in 2016 and it has earnt a cult following among locals and visitors alike.

“Growing up we were taught the importance of hospitality, looking after people and being good hosts. In te reo Māori we call that manaakitanga, and it’s a core value of what we do at Fush.”

Together with his whānau, Anton Matthews opened his classy fish and chip shop Fush in 2016. Located in Wigram, 10 minutes from the centre of Ōtautahi Christchurch, Fush has earnt a cult following among locals and visitors alike. Forget your “wrapped-in-newspaper” style of grub, this is next level eating.

Far more than just a restaurant, Matthews empowers his staff to own who they are, their history and culture, and encourages them to find purpose in their careers. He and his staff regularly cook out in the community and at local marae.

“Showing manaakitanga towards the people around you is hugely important, because it’s the thing that determines how much mana you have. We hear a lot about mana nowadays, but not everyone knows how to get it, build it, and keep it,” Matthews said.

Matthews is an ardent guardian of te reo Māori, and recently ran a series of public te reo classes. Originally intended to be held at their Wigram restaurant, thousands expressed interest through social media and the classes were moved to a high school auditorium. Hundreds attended.

During the 2019 Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, Matthews was the face of a national media campaign aimed at empowering Kiwis to speak our national language with confidence and normalise its use.

“I was so proud when my young daughter spoke to me in te reo, but when we left the house she would go back to speaking English. That was a big motivator for me to start those classes, and make it an accepted way of communicating,” he said.

“New Zealand is ready for this conversation you know, we’re ready to embrace the language. It just happens that it’s starting in Christchurch.”

Matthews was raised in Christchurch, with some stints living overseas when he was young. He said he couldn’t imagine living anywhere else, a city where he could get to work in two minutes, and explore a diverse local landscape.

“I recently spent a few days in Auckland, and Mission Bay was awesome, but man it took me an hour to get there,” he said.

“Here in Christchurch we can jump in the car and be at the beach in 20 minutes, up the Port Hills in seven, or drive an hour and be in the middle of the Banks Peninsula.

“It’s epic, there are so many hidden gems. I’ve been living here 30 years and there’s still stuff I haven’t done. Just the other day as a whānau we jumped on the train up to Kaikoura, had an epic feed, and came back the same day. What a cool way to spend a day with the family.”
Ōtautahi Christchurch’s culture is an exploration of old and new

World-class galleries, cinemas and events, and an embrace of our collective Māori heritage, make up the thriving culture that exists in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

THE COUNTRY’S BEST CINEMA EXPERIENCE
Ōtautahi Christchurch knows how to please film-goers. Lumière cinema opened earlier this year at the heritage-listed Arts Centre. This is the cinema Harry Potter would go to. Across town there’s Hoyts EntX, the country’s most modern cinema with a candy bar called Treat City and leather recliners in every seat.

OUR ORIGINAL EXPLORERS
The rebuild has been a chance to properly explore the city’s Māori heritage, sitting rightly alongside that of the first European settlers. Experiences like He Tāngata, a cultural attraction at the country’s only national marae, and the stone welcome mats around the city centre, signify the pride Cantabrians have in our collective history.

BREAD & CIRCUS
The country’s most eclectic festival, Bread & Circus World Buskers Festival brings hundreds of shows and international performers to the city centre for a month of raucous fun. On from late January, this is the best time to be in Christchurch.

THE WELDER
A unique heath and wellbeing centre, The Welder opened in November. Part health studio, part food hall, part shopping centre – could this be what the future of retail looks like? Open spaces and indoor plants, bakery goods and yoga studios. A dry goods refillery and wine bar. How many excuses do you need to visit?

CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY
With an immense permanent collection of New Zealand and international artists, and a revolving exhibition calendar the envy of other national galleries, Christchurch Art Gallery is a favourite gathering place for locals. Plus, the building is a masterpiece.

exploretheopportunity.com
Her business didn’t start in Ōtautahi Christchurch, but Kendall Flutey made the conscious decision to relocate south after she saw a “big opportunity” in New Zealand’s second largest city.

Flutey co-founded Banqer in Wellington in 2015, a financial literacy company that builds and runs technology for schools. Classrooms become simulated economies, students are paid a salary by their teacher, pay rent on their desks, and wrangle insurance payments.

“They’re learning through experiencing, so they get their hands on some money and a bank account, they get to move it around, invest, all sorts of things,” Flutey said.

In less than five years, Banqer is in more than half of all New Zealand primary schools, it’s taken root in Australia, and continues to grow. Their team of seven is based within the four avenues, Christchurch’s central city.

For Flutey, success is measured not in personal profit, but in community wealth – “education is the enemy of poverty,” she said.

The company has been listed in the Deloitte Fast 50, was named Winner of the 2018 NZ Hi-Tech Awards, among numerous other accolades. Flutey herself has shared in this success, named the 2019 Kiwibank Young New Zealander of the Year. She was also recently named Chair of the Canterbury Momentum Investment Committee, a student-led initiative to support new businesses.

“Any founder would say they’re wanting for the next magnitude, but the milestones we’ve hit so far I’m pretty proud of. There’s still a lot left to achieve,” she said.

She said Christchurch represented an ideal playground for young businesses. She felt Banqer could have an influence on the resurging city and play a part in the city’s “start-up ecosystem.”

“The rebuild phase has largely been passed through and coming into the city at the cusp of that, there was a lot of new, and a lot of ideation, and that’s the ideal environment for someone starting a business,” she said.

“When we hired our latest developer, we recruited nationwide and had applicants from across the country. In the end we chose someone locally, which I think speaks to the talent that exists here.”

Together with fiancé and Banqer CFO Simon Brown, Flutey bought a house on the fringes of the city in 2017. She said affordable housing close to the city made Christchurch an ideal place to purchase their first home.

“We were thinking of buying in Wellington before we moved south, but we ended up looking mainly at tiny apartments that didn’t give us the green space we wanted, and access to the other lifestyle stuff,” she said.

“So we were priced out of that market and that wasn’t the case in Christchurch, which was cool. To have a house and a housing market that’s attainable for us is actually pretty exciting, and that definitely exists here in Christchurch for people around my age and stage in life.”

Kendall Flutey co-founder of Banqer - a financial literacy company that builds and runs technology for schools.
Michelle Sharp is a force to be reckoned with. She's run a £38 million business in the UK, taken a New Zealand social enterprise from the brink of collapse to a successful business and set up the world's first charity BCorp. So what’s left for this high achiever from Ōtautahi?

Well, quite a bit as it turns out. Sharp has been headhunted back into the telecommunications sector, to head up Vodafone New Zealand’s Internet of Things (IoT) team and lead digital innovation in the South Island for the digital services company.

Sharp reflects on her decision to move from a high-flying career and outwardly perfect life in the UK, to a city bordered by the mountains and the sea in the middle of the South Island.

“I was running a multi-million pound business but ended up leaving the UK feeling frustrated with the focus of some of my fellow directors. I felt they didn’t seem to understand the stakeholder was much wider than just the shareholder – it’s the employees, the customers, the community you operate in.

“I had something of an early mid-life crisis thinking about why I had been so driven by a one dimensional view of business for so long,” Sharp said.

Practically overnight Sharp and her husband packed up their young family and moved to Christchurch, to escape and try something different for two years.

That was ten years ago.

It was here that she took up the role of CEO at Kilmarnock Enterprises Ltd – a manufacturer employing people with intellectual disabilities providing work experience and growth opportunities.

Sharp, alongside the team at Kilmarnock, transformed the then small charity on the cusp of closure, to an award-winning business who now occupy a $12million facility, with a strong and loyal client base.

Now she is setting her sights on making an impact in the digital world.

Three weeks into her new role as Vodafone’s Head of IoT and South Island Business, Sharp sees huge opportunities to solve some of the world’s biggest problems, starting with impact areas that make sense in the NZ context – sustainability, wellbeing and digital communities.

With these focus areas in mind, Vodafone has plans to support innovation in industries such as agriculture, security, transport and logistics, and smart homes and buildings.

“We are excited about bringing every part of the digital eco system together to hum. In Christchurch we see huge opportunity to make this happen,” she said.

She explains those who have not done business here don’t realise it’s one of the most connected cities in the world. Also described as ‘open-source Christchurch’, Sharp talks about how open collaboration and accessibility permeates Christchurch’s business culture.

“You can make stuff happen so quickly in comparison to any other environment I’ve lived in. The meetings, the conversations you’re able to have, means you can achieve so much so easily,” she said.

Sharp will be putting this theory to the test, as partnerships will be key to driving digital innovation in the area. Vodafone will be working with the likes of University of Canterbury, othertertiariesand businesses to research and deliver new ways of doing things.

“I truly believe, and I don’t say this light-heartedly, Christchurch is the best city, in the best country, in the world. I’ve had many opportunities to go back to the UK, but my passion now sits with making Christchurch the best it can be,” she said.

Sharp’s plans for Christchurch might sound aspirational coming from anyone else, but if her proven track record is anything to go by, you’ll be seeing big things come out of the city in the next six months. Just sit back and watch it unfold.
The answer? Christchurch-based tech company Seequent and their ground-breaking geoscience software.

Daniel Wallace, General Manager Civil and Environmental Industries at Seequent’s Christchurch office on the edge of Hagley Park, said he couldn’t imagine the company being based anywhere else.

Aside from lifestyle for staff, Wallace said Christchurch’s world-class teritiaries provided a reliable pipeline for future talent.

Looking out to the lush greens of Hagley Park, he explained more about what the business does.

“Put simply, we give data a voice. We visualise complex data to help our clients make better decisions,” he said. Primarily focused, but not limited to, underground information, Seequent’s technology models the composition of the earth to enable decision making. It might be the location of water, mineral deposits, geothermal activity, or ancient artifacts – if it’s underground, Seequent are the global go-to for data and insights.

From United Nations projects locating underground water sources for a refugee camp in Bangladesh, to guarding against saltwater intrusion in California, to analysing retreating Antarctica ice sheets as a predictor for global sea level rise – it’s Seequent technology being used.

A holistic, social responsibility angle runs through many of Seequent’s projects. Wallace explained this is no fluke.

“We help organisations who engage in the ground to do so in a sustainable and responsible way,” he said.

“Every aspect of the development process we encourage staff to consider how the end customer will use the technology. Take our software developers working on code, we encourage them to not think of it as just code, but how it fits into the bigger picture.”

And it’s not just what’s underground that Seequent are paving the way on. The business was recently named the New Zealand Aerospace Challenge 2019 Grand Prize Winner. The company jumped at the opportunity to apply their innovative technology above ground in an area with huge potential to positively impact sustainability, by developing a satellite-based remote sensing solution to monitor the water quality of lakes.

“Water quality and the health of our lakes sustains our way of life. It’s not economical to visit all lakes to monitor adverse environmental impacts, but with satellite remote sensing every lake can be monitored virtually,” Wallace said.

Having spent much of his career in Silicon Valley, Wallace didn’t take for granted the ability in Christchurch to have both a fulfilling and challenging career, and a safe and outdoors-focused lifestyle.

“You could lift up Seequent and drop it into the middle of Silicon Valley and we’d fit right in, but we wouldn’t have the balance that we enjoy here. We all work hard and doesn’t take us two hours to get home,” he said.

“I seldom have to get in my car to do any recreational sport. Within ten minutes of my house are two swimming pools, I can cycle or run over the hill, take in the views of the Southern Alps and go for a swim in the ocean. I don’t know many places where you can do all that and still have a meaningful job.”
Thinking of moving to Christchurch? Look no further than One Central, a thoughtfully planned residential community made up of a range of laneway-linked neighbourhoods.

With a variety of one to three bedroom designs, One Central has a home to suit your needs - and your budget.

Designed by acclaimed architects, One Central has been crafted to incorporate the best of diverse contemporary architecture, while respecting the city's rich history.

One Central is your opportunity to take your place in Christchurch's flourishing future. Talk to us today to find out more about these brand new homes.

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**BEDFORD APARTMENTS**

Priced from
1 bed $375,000* / 2 bed $495,000*
These smartly designed homes connect you to the city's bustling network of laneways and courtyards, shops, eateries, workplaces and entertainment venues. Architecturally designed to maximise living space, privacy and ease of access.
231 Madras Street, Central City.

**BEDFORD TERRACES**

Priced from
1 bed $389,000* / 2 bed $549,000* / 3 bed $779,000*
These carefully constructed, modern terrace homes are bound to go quickly, with enviable laneway living in the midst of Christchurch's best bars, cafés and shopping; giving you every opportunity to soak up the vibrant city life, right on your doorstep.
Cnr Lichfield Street & Rauora Park, Central City.

**LATIMER TERRACES**

2019 Canterbury Architecture Awards Winner - Housing - Multi Unit
Priced from $1.2m*
Private, secure and designed by notable architects Warren & Mahoney, these homes are your personal retreat in a community that’s full of energy and life. Each home incorporates three bedrooms in a three storey layout, providing generous living space, picturesque views and either a one or two car internal access garage.
197 Hereford Street, Central City.

**LIVERPOOL TERRACES**

Priced from
1 bed SOLD OUT / 2 bed $569,000* / 3 bed $829,000*
Designed by the highly-regarded Context Architects, these homes are available in a range of designs. Thoughtful planning and quality finishing is on display throughout including double glazing and high acoustic rating insulation, ensuring these stylish properties will stand the test of time. Each home includes either a car park or garage.
201 Cashel Street, Central City.

For more information including plans and detailed pricing, visit onecentral.co.nz

*Pricing accurate as at 22 November 2019 and is subject to change and availability, visit our website for full and current pricing.