

Escape

Feel like a break in your exploration of Marlborough's vineyards, load a picnic into your car and drive south to **Cape Palliser** and the quaint fishing village of Ngawi. Best known for its mid-February Ngawi Fishing Sports Club's Big Three fishing contest — five days of serious angling for anything with a bite — this tiny settlement is about as isolated as you can get. Its attractions are raw and natural, from the rather surprising inclusion of a challenging nine-hole golf course and the nearby Cape Palliser lighthouse (erected in 1877), with its 252 steps to spectacular views. When you're done watching the fishermen or strolling the beach and bush tracks, you can visit the North Island's only significant breeding colony of New Zealand fur seals — smelly but so charming to watch. After the drive home, look out for the remaining remnants of a 19th-century stone wharf along the coastal tracks around Te Hamenga Point. They're believed to be among the earliest Maori sites in New Zealand.

Bush

You may have heard about their "Headlight Delight" possums — a distinctive-tasting winner in the 2005 national pie competition — but there's plenty more worth popping for at the **Bushman's Centre** in Pukekura, South Westland, population two. Pete and Justine Salter's place near Lake Pukaki is where you can eat (they specialise in "pest-free" such as wild pork, hare, rabbit and New Zealand wallaby as well as possums), drink at their Puke Pub, sleep, dunk yourself in a hot pool or learn a bit more about the Bushman's way of life. Fashion graduate Justine also makes a fantastic line of clothing using oiled cotton, wool, fur and her own fern-leaf fabric, with possum leather details, under the label Bowdang.

Where: Pukekura, SH6 South Westland, (03) 755-4144, www.pukekura.co.nz

Glass Trio

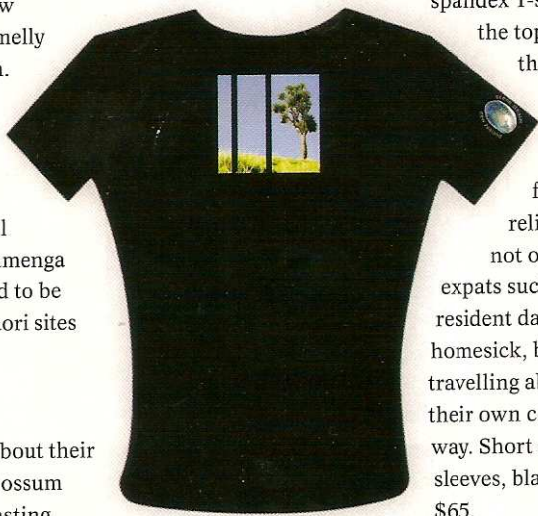
Ellett, Katie Brown and Lyndsay Patterson are graduates of New Zealand's only course in glass design and production, offered at Wanganui's Universal College of Learning (UCL). The talented trio have set up shop in a studio in the old newspaper press pit of the *Wanganui Chronicle*, where visitors can lean over the mezzanine rails and watch them

work at their hot and cold glass facilities. At street level, **Chronicle Glass Studio** comprises an all-white gallery to best display the artists' stunning works of glass. Ellett, Brown and Patterson also run glass-blowing courses for enthusiastic amateurs at weekends.

Where: 2 Rutland St, Wanganui, phone (06) 347-1921. Open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-3pm.

Photogenic Fashion

Send a bit of New Zealand wearable art overseas, says Pippa de Court, producer of **Scene Stealer** t-shirts. Tantalising slips of coastal and inland scenery plus shiny paua are the Eastbourne photographer's own pictures professionally applied to form-fitting cotton spandex T-shirts. She created



the tops in response to the dearth of classy printed products for women with a New Zealand flavour; de Court relishes the fact that not only do they make expats such as her overseas-resident daughters truly homesick, but Kiwi women travelling abroad can show off their own country in a subtle way. Short or three-quarter sleeves, black or white, from \$65.

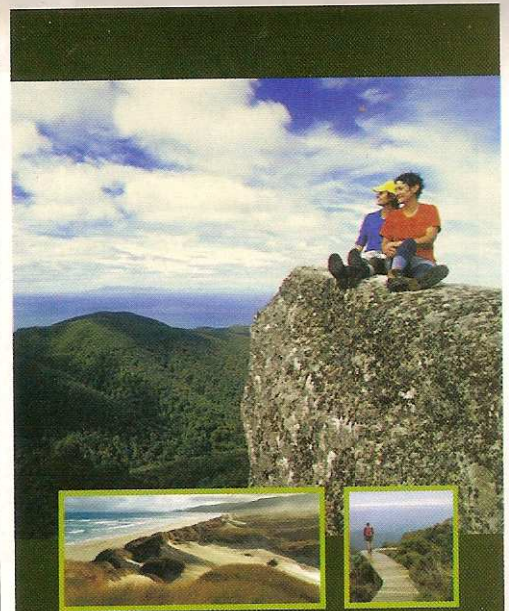
Where: Available at selected gift and design stores, or from www.scene-stealer.co.nz

Clutha River Retreat

After a sleepless night in suburban Wanaka we sought escape on the banks of the Clutha in a classy, restored villa offering a sunny verandah, stunning outlook to the fast-flowing river and no more noise than the twitter of birds in a tree outside the bedroom window.

Riversong's Ann and Ian Horrax have created a quiet retreat for fussy B&B travellers, without charging a fortune for the privilege. The three rooms are stylishly furnished and include roomy bathrooms. Books abound and the garden's a treat, a mass of blossom and a pleasure to view while scoffing a substantial breakfast. There's no passing traffic — it's the last place but one on the road — and you can take a half-hour walk on the riverbank in either direction before driving five minutes to Wanaka for dinner. Or you could foot it all the way to town along the riverbank walk. \$130-\$150 double per night.

Where: 5 Wicklow Tce, Albert Town, phone (03) 443-8567, www.happyhomestay.co.nz ■



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