

# NZ Country Trails

## Newsletter



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### Who are we?

**NZ Country Trails** is an on-line directory that travellers can use when they travel through NZ's countryside. It aims to highlight the great diversity, interest, self reliance and creative talent that can be found on the Trail in the people who choose to create a lifestyle from living in NZ's countryside.

**This directory** is available for all independent and organised tour groups and tour companies alike to use for planning a vacation and will include the profiles of select individual listers and their special interests.

### Some key features

**Activities:** There are about 25 categories of activities listed on the Trail ranging from farm-stays/visits to local gardens, cheese making eco-tourism, horse treks, local cafes, bush treks, country taverns and more. More listings will be added over time.

**Focus:** A focus of the Trail is not just on the activities listed on it but the stories and history that can be found when talking to people who live in the countryside.



## Some Lister's of special interest



### **Karetu farmstay and gardens - Hurunui**

Nestled among the rolling green hills of the Waipara Gorge in the Hurunui district, North Canterbury lies Karetu Downs, a 2000ha sheep and beef farm.

The Forrester family have owned the property for three generations and affectionately refer to it as 'Karetu'. Owners Bruce and Karen Forrester offer varying levels of farm stay accommodation and activities in addition to their farming operation. There are two beautiful boutique guest rooms in the 100-year-old homestead and the Karetu farm cottage sleeps up to eight people and is ideally suited for larger groups or families. There are even camping facilities for camper vans enthusiasts and self-guided horse trekking with day rides or overnight accommodation.

Karetu Downs features a stunning garden with a gift shop and is open to the public at certain times of the year.

Whether it's feeding pet sheep and meeting Daisy and Midget the kune pigs or relaxing and enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. It really is a unique country experience.

**[For more information visit](#)**



### **Levack Forestry - Kapiti Coast**

Hamish Levack owns off-grid accommodation nestled within a sixty hectare lifestyle block, near Paraparaumu. It comprises a commercial pine forest, substantial native forest enclaves, and trials of alternative exotic tree species. The block rises to the west, where wide views of Kapiti and the South Island can be enjoyed. The Tararua Forest Park abuts the block in the east. This provides an outstanding variety of tramping, hunting and walking opportunities. Visitors are also only fifteen minutes away from Queen Elizabeth Park and Whareroa Farm. They feature memorials to the WWII U.S. marines, heritage trams, horse riding, and extensive coastal, farm and bush walks.

Hamish is a past president of the NZ Farm forestry Association, and helps the Ministry of Primary Industries to run courses on basic forestry for farmers interested in offsetting their greenhouse gas emissions by planting trees.

**[For more information visit](#)**



## **Beverley Forrester, woollen yarn, fabrics - Leithfield, Nth Canterbury**

Following in the footsteps of her forefathers Beverley Forrester for many years farmed the green undulating hills of the family's sheep and cattle property at Hawarden, Nth Canterbury. There, under her brand of "***Black Hills, NZ Wools Naturally***", she developed an international reputation in the breeding of sheep for their fine wools and natural colours which she had spun into fine yarn for sale both within NZ and overseas. This yarn Beverley used to create her own brand of designer clothing, "Beverley Riverina".



Beverley more recently moved from her farm at Hawarden to Leithfield where she has continued to market and sell her yarns and clothing from her new location which she calls "The Wool Barn". Beverley welcomes visitors to visit her there and to share her stories about the history of the early settlement of Nth Canterbury, sample her woollen yarns and designer clothing over a cup of tea and biscuit.

**[For more information visit](#)**



## **Take a look**

### **Island Hills Station - bush walks - Hurunui**

Island Hills Station is a working high country station farmed by the fourth generation Shand family. Located in North Canterbury only 20 minutes inland from the historic Hurunui Hotel on the way to Hanmer Springs the farm hosts visitors for achievable walking, hunting and conversation opportunities.

The main feature of this mountainous property is a scenic and diverse 30km tramping trail with unique accommodation, BBQ and dining facilities, hot showers, comfortable bunk beds and plenty of privacy. Your experience is in the hands of Shaun Monk who has walked through a lifetime of back country adventures all over New Zealand from multi-day solo hikes to back pack hunting adventures.

**[For more information visit](#)**



# What to look out for in our Newsletter's next edition

## Eco-tourism

In our next edition we will be featuring the growing and managing of trees as part of an insight into the growing eco-tourism market and the contribution they make to environmental protection.

## Activities of special interest

We will also feature more listers on NZ Country Trails of special interest to the travelling public..

## NZ Country Trails



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