

# The View from Lookout Point

January 2011



**LOOKOUT POINT**  
NEW ZEALAND



## Hello 2011! Welcome to a big year in the history of a small country.

**Happy New Year from New Zealand.** I am writing this newsletter full of pride for what Lookout Point achieved for our clients in 2010. I am very excited about the opportunities we have ahead of us in 2011 and beyond.

I have recently returned from a week in the Southern Lakes region that includes the beautiful lakeside towns of Wanaka and Queenstown. Here I was lucky enough to spend time with some of our clients, experience a couple of great new properties, as well as catching up with some of our key partners.

Amongst other things, I'm pleased to share some of the great properties and events that we have lined up for our clients for 2011.

All the best for 2011 and we hope to see you in New Zealand soon.

Regards,

David Hiatt  
Founder  
Lookout Point New Zealand

### **An Inspirational Rebuild: *Otahuna Lodge, Canterbury***

On September 4 2010 the Canterbury region was struck by a large and destructive earthquake. Otahuna Lodge, a 115-year old manor house sustained significant damage. This caused the property to close. Rather than throw in the towel, the great owners, Hall & Miles have undertaken an inspirational restoration program that will

allow Otahuna Lodge to re-open on January 10. A daily average of more than 40 tradesmen, engineers and architects, have been working onsite at Otahuna Lodge since September.



Repairs and seismic strengthening have incorporated the installation of 3.5 tonnes of plywood, 6,000 slate shingles and the re-plastering and painting of more than 200 wall and ceiling surfaces. We take our hats off to the team at Otahuna Lodge!

#### Inside this issue:

- Canterbury's Big Shake No Match For Otahuna Lodge
- Social Media – What Lookout Point is doing online?
- Luxury Camping or “Glamping” - A first for New Zealand
- Events for 2011 – The very best festivals, sports events and cultural shows



## Fresh + Local

### Equals Winning Tastes

We have the pleasure of experiencing some of the best luxury hotels and dining rooms in New Zealand...and we call this market research!

What I have really loved seeing recently is that so much of what the best kitchens in New Zealand are creating, is focused around their use of fresh, local ingredients. There is international noise towards local ingredients but what I have enjoyed is seeing our favorite lodges and boutique hotels not just talking about it, but actually working directly with local growers to ensure the best flavors are delivered to our clients at their dinner table.

A simple concept, but when it comes to taste and the reduced environmental impact, it's a real winner.



### *Wine Lover?*

By referring your friends you can win a case of premium New Zealand wines shipped to your door. Ask us how...



## Some call it Glamour Camping or 'glamping' – We call it the ultimate new luxury destination in New Zealand.

Minaret Station. Trust me you will hear this name again as this property, which only opened a few weeks ago, will soon become THE destination for families, couples, movie stars, and company executives wanting complete peace. This magnificent luxury tented camp in the alps near Lake Wanaka sleeps a maximum of just eight guests and access is only by helicopter.

Sitting in the back country, this property will be a delight for those keen on hiking, as well as those wanting to just relax with a good book with stunning alpine views.



The tents have all the comforts our guests have come to expect, as well as each having their own hot tub on the balcony. Guides can take

you hiking or on nature walks, or as our clients, who were the camps inaugural guests discovered, a



helicopter flight to the West Coast. This experience included the remarkable views of Milford Sound, and allowed their guide to dive for crayfish (lobster), spear fish and collect paua (abalone) to be prepared for their dinner by the chefs at Minaret Station that night.



## Matakauri Lodge – The Robertson’s Do It Again!

Most of you will have heard of the Robertson family properties at Kauri Cliffs in Northland and Cape Kidnappers in Hawkes Bay. They now have a sister property in the southern resort town of Queenstown, at the reincarnated Matakauri Lodge. This property has been bought back to life and the design has centered around bringing the stunning vistas of Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkable, Cecil and Walter Peak mountain ranges into full view. Whilst Matakauri Lodge doesn’t feature a golf course like their other two properties, this boutique lodge is a wonderfully comfortable sanctuary to retire to after exploring this beautiful region of New Zealand. Plus with Executive Chef Dale Gartland running the kitchen, guests will be in foodie’s heaven as I can personally guarantee!



## Things to look forward to in New Zealand 2011

**Headland Sculpture on the Gulf**– Auckland: 28 January - 20 February, 2011 - Waiheke Island’s coastal walkway becomes a living gallery for large-scale contemporary sculptures selected from 40 artists, including international sculptors.

**Speight’s Coast to Coast - Southern Alps:** Known as the world’s premier multi-sports event, the Speight’s Coast to Coast is an international benchmark. The one to two-day event traverses New Zealand’s South Island with competitors cycling 140km, running 36km and kayaking 67km. 11 - 12 February, 2011

**Te Matatini - National Kapa Haka Festival:** Experience the very best in Maori cultural performance as 42 qualifying teams compete over four days, from 17 to 20 February 2011, at the seaside city of Gisborne. This long-standing national festival is expected to attract around 50,000 people.

**Motatapu Mountain Bike Arrowtown:** 12 Mar 2011 It can be as challenging or as easy as you want it to be (depending on your definition of easy!) Set in the spectacular Southern high country valleys, there are many rivers to cross, hills to climb and a few steep descents thrown into the mix. Race against David from Lookout Point (who won’t be tough to beat) and enjoy a well-earned beer at the finish!

**Rugby World Cup:** 9 September to 23 October 2011 For New Zealand there is no bigger event than the Rugby World Cup. Hosted in New Zealand for the first time since 1987, this event will showcase our country to the world. In New Zealand, rugby is almost a religion so this event will be a six-week festival featuring the very best New Zealand has to offer.



### Social Media

Keep in touch with the latest in New Zealand luxury travel by joining Lookout Point online. Join our Facebook group and go in the draw to win a case of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Noir!

‘Like’ us and join Lookout Point on;

[FACEBOOK](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[WORDPRESS](#)

[FLICKR](#)

[YOU TUBE](#)

To talk about your next New Zealand vacation contact us:

[www.lookoutpoint.co.nz](http://www.lookoutpoint.co.nz)

[info@lookoutpoint.co.nz](mailto:info@lookoutpoint.co.nz)

+64 3 379 4401



**LOOKOUT POINT**  
NEW ZEALAND