

LIVING QUARTERS



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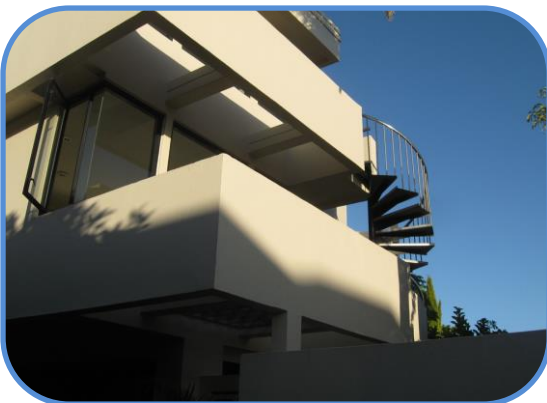
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SUMMER 2014

"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere." Vincent van Gogh

Although it is, again, late in the season before I send this out, I wonder how many outdoor meals we had this summer and how many more before it is too cold to be comfortable?

This year has once more brought an amendment to the Building Act. The aim is to encourage a "no surprises" relationship between client and contractor. The five paragraphs deal with disclosure of information and lengthened defect repair period amongst other things.



IN THE WORKS: Our latest project

Our Paratai Drive project is almost complete after 11 months. This 3 storey home has been reclad, renovated throughout, re-roofed and insulated. Considerable remediation of framing was undertaken as well as an extension. The internal lift required extreme accuracy to be successfully installed. There is still a huge amount of marble tiling to be installed and the kitchen is being completed at present. The owners have been particularly patient regarding considerable work additional to plans, including the entire top storey being rebuilt. They will soon be able to enjoy the stunning view of the inner harbour from their middle floor kitchen and living area.



SEASONAL MAINTENANCE:



Seasonal maintenance
Although we had a wet start to this summer, we now have the proverbial Indian summer with ground drying and moving.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Check all joinery for sticking, wear and tear, painting.
2. The new year is an opportunity to begin recording maintenance to date with relevant trade, warranty and site details.
3. Exterior cleaning prolongs paint life and all types of joinery as well as external fittings.

OTHER EXPERTS' TIPS:

FROM THE IT CONSULTANT

As we near the end of the tax year, it is a time to assess whether or not your current accounting/payroll package and internet speed are adequate for your needs. Recently, we moved from a computer based to cloud package, which has proved to be extremely slow. We are now looking at other packages.



End of summer is a great time to assess which plants are too water hungry to be bothered with next year. It is also a good time to source organic fertilisers such as manure and marine products before ground temperatures descend. Time to book the arborist.

FROM THE AGRONOMIST

The ground is brick hard, the hanging baskets have expired and the herb boxes are just surviving. I am at least conserving water. Never mind, today I leave to again walk The Great NZ Trek with my 82 year old mother. This year, my sister joins us for a week of 30km daily walks over remote farms in the upper Sth Island. It is a wonderful glamping event for horse riders, mountain bikers and walkers which raises @\$30k for MS research every year. When I return the herbs will be dead, but I will be a dress size smaller.

THE GARDEN BENCH:



Congratulations to Andrew/ **Mt Eden** who won last season's Chopping Board.