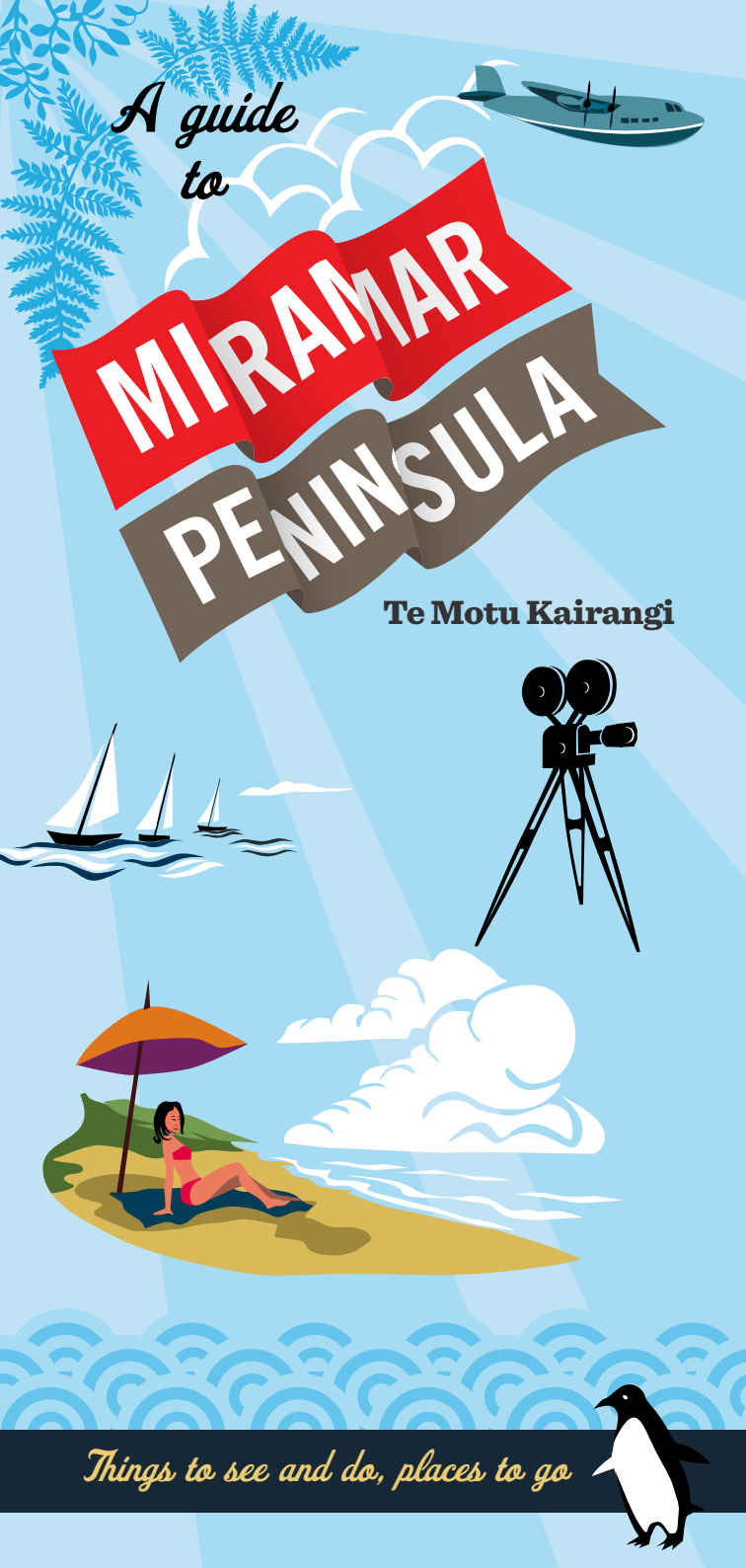


*A guide  
to*

**MIRAMAR**

**PENINSULA**

**Te Motu Kairangi**



*Things to see and do, places to go*





FORT NICHOLSON.  
 IN NEW ZEALAND.  
 A Pencil Drawing by Charles Heaphy 1820-1881.

## Haere mai, welcome to the ‘precious island’, Te Motu Kairangi / Miramar Peninsula

*Located at the south-eastern end of Wellington, New Zealand’s capital city, the Miramar Peninsula is a unique environment just a stone’s throw from Wellington International Airport and minutes from the city centre.*

*Visitors to the Peninsula can enjoy miles of sandy beaches, hill-top vistas, stunning scenery, great food from award-winning cafes, boutique shops and of-course, the centre of the country’s internationally recognised movie industry.*

*Discover the ‘precious island’ – a great place to live, play, work and do business.*



LOOKING DOWN AT SEATOUN BEACH FROM SEATOUN HEIGHTS ROAD.

LEFT: VIEW OF PORT NICHOLSON FROM A DRAWING BY CHARLES HEAPHY 1820-1881. COLLECTION OF ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY, WELLINGTON. C-029-006-B.

## History

***The great Māori explorer, Kupe, is credited as the first person to discover Aotearoa (New Zealand), and also the first person to land on what became the Miramar Peninsula.***

Kupe's descendent, Whatonga, captained the Kurahaupo waka and settled in *Whanganui ā Tara* (the great harbour of Tara) early in the 12th Century.

European settlers began arriving in Wellington in the early 1840s and by the end of that decade James Coutts Crawford and others had purchased much of the Peninsula's land.

By the early 1850s, most indigenous vegetation had been cleared and by the 1890s almost all the Peninsula was farmland.

By then the Peninsula was also a popular sporting resort with recreation grounds, a hunt club, polo field, golf links and trotting club.

### DID YOU KNOW ...

**MIRAMAR PENINSULA WAS ONCE AN ISLAND? IN THE MID-15TH CENTURY A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE LIFTED THE LAND FOUR METRES, CREATING THE AREA WE NOW CALL THE MIRAMAR PENINSULA.**

In 1902, an auction of 132 residential sections attracted huge interest and signalled the beginning of urbanisation on the Peninsula.

In 1904 the Miramar Borough Council was formed, the first electric tram reached the Peninsula in 1907, and the suburb was incorporated into the City of Wellington in 1921.

For several decades the area remained a family oriented, predominantly working class suburb with a strong manufacturing base. Today, many of the old industries have gone and the area is home to a number of internationally recognised, creative industries employing a work force from around the world.

### DID YOU KNOW...

**MIRAMAR PENINSULA HAS A LONG MILITARY HISTORY? KUPE'S DESCENDENT, TARA, BUILT A PĀ (A HEAVILY FORTIFIED, PALISADED VILLAGE) ON THE RIDGE OF TE MOTU KAIRANGI. ABOVE PRESENT DAY SCORCHING BAY, FORT BALLANCE WAS ESTABLISHED WITH A CAMP AT MAHANGA BAY IN 1886 TO DEFEND WELLINGTON AGAINST RUSSIAN SEABORNE ATTACK.**



LEFT: SCULPTURE BY WILLIAM TRETHEWEY AT WELLINGTON RAILWAY STATION DEPICTING KUPE, HIS WIFE HINE-TE-APARANGI, AND A TOHUNGA, ON THE CANOE MATAHOURUA.

MAIN PICTURE: THE PENINSULA FROM THE AIR

## Historic places to visit

### 1 Shelly Bay

The former Air Force Base at Shelly Bay was once a Te Āti Awa village called Maru-Kai-Kuru. The village was situated at the north end of Shelly Bay and was connected to other settlements on the western side of the Peninsula. Settlement of this site dates back from the earlier migration (heke) from Taranaki when Maru-Kai-Kuru was populated by the Ngāti Mutunga kin of Te Āti Awa.



In the 1890s a naval volunteer reserve unit was established at Shelly Bay to carry out mine laying operations.

Today, you can catch the afternoon sun at Shelly Bay while enjoying barbequed fish from the Chocolate Fish Café, a picnic under the seaside trees, viewing contemporary art or accessing the Massey Memorial from one of the many bush trails.

### 2 Rukutoa

Northwards around the coast, stop at the rock at Rukutoa. Rukutoa looks out to sea beyond the Pt Halswell Lighthouse, historically an important fishing ground and shellfish-gathering area for inner harbour tribes.



LIGHTHOUSE AT POINT HALSWELL

### 3 Burial Site – Taipakupaku Point

This area is thought to have been extensively occupied by tribes in the early 1800s, and a number of burial sites have been found here.



BOATSHEDS AT TAIPAKUPAKU POINT

### 4 Watts Peninsula

Watts Peninsula was the first European name of the area. Named after an early farmer, the Peninsula was renamed Miramar (*'behold the sea'*) in 1872. The area has been an important defence site since early Maori occupation and many sites are still visible. European settlers also recognised its strategic importance and installed guns and bunkers all over the area. Though the large guns have gone, the lookout bunkers and gun emplacements still stand.



SCORCHING BAY

### 5 Te Turanga o Kupe

The famous Maori explorer, Kupe, named his landing area on the present day Seatoun foreshore Te Turanga o Kupe, ('the great standing place of Kupe').





**6 Kirikiri-tatangi (Seatoun foreshore)**

This name conveys the rattling or rustling sound caused by waves disturbing gravel on the beach. Kupe left some of his people at Seatoun to grow food and replenish supplies while he explored Cook Strait.

DID YOU KNOW ...

**NGAI TARA, THE FIRST IWI / TRIBE TO SETTLE IN WELLINGTON, EVENTUALLY MERGED WITH OTHER IWI INCLUDING NGATI MAMOE, NGAI TAHU AND NGATI IRA. SINCE THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY MANY OTHER TRIBAL GROUPS HAVE MIGRATED TO THE WELLINGTON REGION.**

**TODAY THE MANAWHENUA / LOCAL GUARDIANSHIP INTERESTS IN WELLINGTON CITY ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE WELLINGTON TENTHS TRUST / NGA TEKAU O PONEKE, WHICH REPRESENTS DESCENDANTS FROM LOCAL MAORI TRIBES.**

**7 Oruaiti Pa**

Dorset Cove now occupies the site of Oruaiti pā, one of the old Rangitane stockaded villages of past centuries. The pā was nestled into the hill (Dorset Cove) and looked out at Te Aroaro-o-Kupe (Steeple Rock). The actual landing place of Kupe, Te Turanga-o-Kupe, was much closer to the base of the hill — where the foreshore would have been before the 15<sup>th</sup> Century earthquake. This site was used in pre-European times to watch for enemies entering the harbour, and again for the same purpose in WWII.

**My Miramar** **Valentina Dias**  
CO-OWNER, ROXY CINEMA, COCO RESTAURANT AND CAFE POLO. *I love the food scene on the peninsula: it's eclectic, fun, vibrant and REAL. It is supported by local suppliers and producers and free spirits who chose to both live and work here, giving it passion, purpose and a buzz day and night.*



**8 Rangitatau Pā.**

Rangitatau Reserve takes its name from the pā which once occupied the headland on the western side of Tarakena Bay. Alongside, in the valley below was Poito Pā, whose inhabitants used Rangitatau as a refuge when invaders threatened. Both pā were destroyed, and large numbers of people killed by raiders from the north in 1819–1820.

**9 Poito Pā.**

Looking up the valley on a low spur above the Te Poito Stream on its western side is where Poito pā once stood.

**10 Wonderland**

*Wonderland*, Miramar's 'Mecca of Merry Souls', was a theme park opened in 1907 by Chase Morris Esq, who had purchased many of the amusements from the Christchurch Exhibition.



It was located at the north end of Miramar near the present site of Camperdown Studios on the block bordered by Darlington and Camperdown Roads. *Wonderland* went into liquidation in 1911.

**11 New Zealand's first state house**

In 1937 the Peninsula saw the birth of the country's first 'state house' at 12 Fife Lane in Miramar South. The then Labour government's aim was to build 5000 new homes a year to rid New Zealand of sub-standard housing. In the early 1950s when the National government introduced measures enabling state tenants to purchase their home, David and Mary McGregor, the first tenants took up the offer, later declaring it to be 'our little bit of New Zealand'.



When the McGregors died in the early 1980s, their son sold the home back to the state. In 1983 the New Zealand Historic Places Trust registered it as a place of ‘very great social historical significance’.



## 12 Massey Memorial & lookout

The mausoleum of New Zealand Prime Minister William Massey (1856 - 1925) is located on Point Halswell and offers spectacular harbour views. It can be accessed by steps and a good walking track from the carpark on Shelly Bay Road, a little southwest of Point Halswell.

## 13 Ataturk Memorial

This memorial to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (1881-1938), founder of modern Turkey and commander of the Turkish forces at the Battle of Gallipoli, also recalls the more than 44,000 allied troops who died during the 10-month campaign.

Jointly mounted by the British and French, the operation resulted in heavy casualties on both sides. They ultimately failed in their aim of capturing the Ottoman capital of Constantinople and securing a sea route to Russia.

The first major battle undertaken by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), Gallipoli is often considered to mark the birth of national consciousness in both countries.



The Memorial contains the following words, written by Ataturk in 1934:

*“Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...  
you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.  
Therefore rest in peace.  
There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets  
to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours...  
You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries  
wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom  
and are in peace.  
After having lost their lives on this land they have become our  
sons as well.”*

## 14 Wahine Memorial Park

The Wahine disaster occurred on 10 April 1968. On that day the TEV Wahine, a New Zealand inter-island ferry of the Union Company, foundered on Barrett Reef at the entrance to Wellington Harbour and capsized near Steeple Rock. Of the 610 passengers and 123 crew on board, 53 people died.

The Wahine Memorial Park marks an area near where the survivors reached the shore at Seatoun, and includes a memorial plaque, the ship’s anchor and chain, and replica ventilation pipes. A children’s playground is also part of the commemorative park.

## Things to see and do

### 15 Weta Cave

The Weta Cave is a mini museum and retail shop including creations from Weta award-winning projects. Visit the Weta Cave and get close to Hobbits, WotWots, Tintin and the 'precious' ring.



### 16 Roxy Cinema

A 1930s Art Deco-inspired cinema with two state-of-the-art theatres, a cafe and restaurant (CoCo) and interior flourishes by Weta Workshop and Dr Grordbort's.



### 17 The Eastern Walkway

The Eastern walkway extends between Seatoun and Tarakena Bay. The route begins at Tarakena Bay, heads north to the Pass of Branda, down into Seatoun and back along the coast around Point Dorset. It then follows the shoreline around Breaker Bay, Eve Bay, Flax Bay, Reef Bay, Palmer Bay, past the Wahine Memorial Park and back to the carpark at Atatürk memorial. The walk is about



4 km in each direction. Allow 2.5 to 3 hours if walking the round trip. Cycling is not allowed across the Eastern walkway, but you can cycle along the coast road.



### 18 Maupuia Walkway

This wide and sociable walk has broad views over Evans Bay and the planes visiting Wellington airport. Parking is at either end in Prison Road or Akaroa Drive.

### 19 Scorching Bay

Scorching Bay provides the finest sandy, swimming beach in Wellington. Set against a backdrop of regenerating native forest, looking out to the Pencarrow Coast and overlooked by Fort Ballance to the north, it provides a carpark, café, picnic areas, childrens playground, toilets and changing rooms.

### 20 Sailing

Worser Bay Boating Club is an YNZ affiliated sailing club and volunteer run organisation in the mould of typical New Zealand family oriented community based clubs - quintessential New Zealand. Young and old, families and singles are welcome equally. The Club offers opportunities to sail as crew or to borrow club boats.

### 21 Fishing

Miramar Wharf is an excellent spot to cast your line, and according to locals, offers a wide range of fish among the many spotties hauled up; Warehou, Snapper, Kahawai, Skate, Eagle Ray and Gurnard have all been caught from the wharf. Best to try a few different rigs and use a breakaway sinker, as there is no foul and it saves lines getting tangled. Seatoun and Karaka Bay wharves are popular spots for fishing too.



### 22 Cycling/Mountain biking

For walkers, runners and mountain bikers alike the Centennial Reserve tracks have become firm local favorites. Options include one of the most popular mountain bike specific tracks in the city, Jail Brake, which offers riders a fun, adrenaline and gravity powered descent through native bush.



#### **My Miramar Ben Wilde**

PARENT, BUSINESS-MAN AND MOUNTAIN BIKER. *Maintaining a work life balance can be tough but living in Miramar makes it easy. We have so many options for getting outside, whether it's riding our bikes in the bush, heading to the beach or just going for a walk with the family. That's something few places in the world offer and we never take it for granted.*



# Miramar’s film industry

***The Miramar Peninsula has long been associated with New Zealand film-making.***

In 1923 New Zealand’s Department of Internal Affairs set up a publicity office to produce scenic ‘shorts’ and travelogues for tourist promotion. A private company contracted to process the movies built the ‘Miramar Film Studios’ in 1928 in present day Darlington Rd.

In 1930 the government acquired the Studios, which by 1941 had become the National Film Unit, charged with publicising New Zealand’s war effort. The Unit remained on the site until moving to Lower Hutt in 1978.

Over the last decade, a series of multi-million dollar studios, sound stages, and pre and post production facilities have been established in Miramar, all within walking distance of the original film studios.

‘**Weta**’, formed in 1993 by a group of young New Zealand filmmakers including Peter Jackson, Richard Taylor and Jamie Selkirk, later split into two specialised halves:

**Weta Workshop** offers services in design, makeup effects and prosthetics, creatures, museum display models, armour and chainmaile, weapons and sculpture.

**Weta Digital** is a visual effects company providing a full suite of digital production services for feature films and high end commercials, from concept design to cutting edge 3D animation.

Also on the Peninsula: **Park Road Post**, a premier post-production facility including award winning sound suites.

**Stone Street Studios** has two purpose-built sound stages, including the massive 24,500<sup>2</sup> ft ‘Kong’ stage.

**Portsmouth Rentals** is a film equipment rental company with a vast range of lighting, lighting trucks, grip, unit, location and special effects equipment for hire. It has a consumables outlet that sells everything from gaffer tape to technician accessories.



# How to get there

## By car:

From the city centre follow directions to the airport. Head east along Cobham Drive and turn left at the last roundabout on Cobham Drive. Miramar is signposted at the roundabout.

From the airport, drive along Stewart Duff Drive, at the first roundabout veer right and follow signage to Miramar.

## By bus:

- Take a No 2 or 31 bus to Miramar (Mon-Sun).
- No 11 to Seatoun (Mon-Sun).
- No 24 bus to Maupuia (Mon-Fri).
- No 24 bus to Strathmore (Mon-Sun).
- No 30 bus to Scorching Bay (Mon-Fri).

Check [www.metlink.co.nz](http://www.metlink.co.nz) for current timetables.

## By ferry:

The Dominion Post ferry runs daily between Queens Wharf, Eastbourne and Seatoun Wharf (Mon-Sun). Find out when the ferries leave at [www.eastbywest.co.nz](http://www.eastbywest.co.nz)

## Bicycle:

Follow the cycleway from Oriental Bay to Evans Bay Parade and Cobham Drive. At the end of Cobham Drive, turn left at the roundabout and follow the signs to Miramar.



Iva Lenard

## My Miramar Gino Acevedo

TEXTURES HEAD OF DESIGN, WETA

*We are surrounded by the beautiful sea, mountains and where else in the world can you be to tell your friend who is arriving at the airport to “send me a txt when you have landed” so you can pick them up in 5 minutes? We are so spoiled that I have to laugh sometimes when I catch myself saying, “do you really want to go all the way into town”! We very rarely need to leave or want to leave Miramar. Life is simple and easy, it’s a great mix.*



## My Miramar Richard Lousley

HEARTLANDS 4 SEASONS

*As a family with four daughters, we love the Peninsular’s proximity to the coast for relaxation, exercise and family fun. With two large garden centres complimenting our business, the Peninsular continuously draws clientele from the greater Wellington area and has been a fantastic place to grow our business over the last 13 years.*



*Te Motu Kairangi*



## Places to Eat

***It's the centre of the film industry, but you won't find just popcorn on the Peninsula. Instead it's a real foodie's paradise.***



**Chocolate Fish Cafe**  
Barbecued seafood  
sammies and coffee.  
100 Shelly Bay Rd.  
04 388 2808  
[www.chocolatefishcafe.co.nz](http://www.chocolatefishcafe.co.nz)

**Cafe Polo**  
Open for breakfast, lunch  
and dinner.  
Cnr Rotherham Terrace and  
Para Road, Miramar.  
04 380 7273  
[www.cafepolo.co.nz](http://www.cafepolo.co.nz)

**CoCo at the Roxy**  
Movie theatre, cafe and  
restaurant.  
5 Park Road, Miramar.  
04 388 5555  
[www.roxycinema.co.nz](http://www.roxycinema.co.nz)

**The Larder**  
Eatery, cafe and restaurant.  
Corner Darlington &  
Camperdown Rd, Miramar.  
04 891 0354  
[www.thelarder.co.nz](http://www.thelarder.co.nz)

**Strathmore Bakery and  
Cafe**  
510 Broadway,  
Strathmore Park  
04 388 6666

**Merkato Fresh**  
French / Italian Deli  
37 Miramar Ave,  
Miramar.  
04 388 2138

**Alamir Bakery**  
A wide range of Lebanese  
cuisine. Dine in or takeout.  
9/11 Tauhimu St,  
Miramar.  
04 380 8558



**La Boca Loca**  
Serving fresh Mexican food  
and drinks.  
19 Park Rd, Miramar.  
04 388 2451  
[www.labocaloca.co.nz](http://www.labocaloca.co.nz)

**Tulsi**  
Indian restaurant.  
11 Tauhinu Road,  
Miramar.  
04 380 9995  
[www.tulsi.co.nz](http://www.tulsi.co.nz)

**Gipsy Kitchen**  
Deli and coffee.  
4 Glamis Ave,  
Strathmore Park.  
04 388 4455

**Moyses Greek Taverna**  
382 Broadway,  
Strathmore Park.  
04 380 7005

**The Gasworks**  
Bar & grill.  
11 Tauhinu Road, Miramar.  
04 388 8427  
[www.thegasworks.co.nz](http://www.thegasworks.co.nz)

**Chocolate Frog Cafe**  
Palmer's Garden World,  
Miramar Ave, Miramar.  
04 388 8233

**The Cutting Sports Cafe**  
Sports bar  
32 Miramar Ave, Miramar.  
04 920 0264

**Strathmore Local Cafe  
& Bar**  
3-5 Strathmore Road  
Strathmore Park.  
04 920 0315

**Seatoun Cafe & Bar**  
24 Dundas St, Seatoun.  
(04) 388 5566  
[www.seatouncafe.co.nz](http://www.seatouncafe.co.nz)

**Rempah Malaysian**  
Dine in or takeout.  
4 Park Rd, Miramar.  
04 380 9249

**Thai Cranium**  
Traditional Thai.  
32 Miramar Ave, Miramar.  
04 920 0267

**Zaks Cafe**  
27 Dundas St, Seatoun.  
04 388 8299



**Scorch O Rama**  
Cafe in Scorching Bay.  
497 Karaka Bay Rd.  
04 388 4970

**Cupcakes**  
38 Caledonia St, Miramar.  
04 388 5005

## Things to do



**Weta Cave**  
Mini-museum, collectables  
shop and theatre. Open 7  
days a week, 9am - 5:30pm.  
Free entry.  
Cnr of Camperdown Rd &  
Weka St, Miramar.  
04 380 9361  
[www.wetanz.com/cave](http://www.wetanz.com/cave)

**Westside Studios**  
Unique resource of props  
for hire and special event  
decorating.  
Building 8, Shelly Bay  
Wharf, Miramar.  
04 801 8628  
[www.westside.net.nz](http://www.westside.net.nz)

**Miramar Golf Club**  
1 Stewart Duff Drive,  
Miramar.  
04 801 7651  
[www.miramargolfclub.co.nz](http://www.miramargolfclub.co.nz)



**Roxy Cinema**  
Movie theatre, cafe and  
restaurant.  
5 Park Road, Miramar.  
04 388 5555  
[www.roxycinema.co.nz](http://www.roxycinema.co.nz)



**Massey Memorial**  
Access off Shelly Bay Road.

**Ataturk Memorial**  
Access from Tarakena Bay.  
[www.tracks.org.nz](http://www.tracks.org.nz)

**Eastern Walkway**  
Start from Tarakena Bay.  
[www.tracks.org.nz](http://www.tracks.org.nz)

**Mountain Biking**  
[www.tracks.org.nz](http://www.tracks.org.nz)  
**Worser Bay Boating Club**  
Learn to sail, boat hire and  
clubrooms.  
04 972 9222  
[www.wbbc.org.nz](http://www.wbbc.org.nz)

### SHOPPING & SERVICES



**Harrys Fashion Boutique**  
Premier women's designer  
label fashion boutique  
stocking New Zealand  
designer fashion.  
31 Dundas St, Seatoun.  
04 388 1020  
[www.harrysboutique.co.nz](http://www.harrysboutique.co.nz)



**Cecil Veda Gallery**  
82 Para Street, Miramar.  
04 388 7311  
[www.cecilvedagallery.co.nz](http://www.cecilvedagallery.co.nz)

**Wellington Airport**  
Duty free and general retail.  
Stewart Duff Drive.  
04 380 7950  
[www.wellington-airport.co.nz](http://www.wellington-airport.co.nz)

**Marpet Merchants Greek  
Speciality Shop**  
12 Park Rd Miramar.  
04 388 6008

**California Garden Centre**  
Indoor and outdoor plants,  
tools, irrigation, water  
features, pots, garden care  
products, homewares and  
giftware.  
139 Park Rd, Miramar.  
04 388 3260  
[www.californiagarden.co.nz](http://www.californiagarden.co.nz)

**Heartlands 4 Seasons**  
Outdoor furniture and  
products  
133 Park Rd, Miramar.  
04 388 9944  
[www.heartlands.co.nz](http://www.heartlands.co.nz)

**Palmer's Garden Centre**  
Garden Centre and  
Chocolate Frog Cafe  
69-71 Miramar Ave,  
Miramar.  
04 388 8435  
[www.palmers.co.nz](http://www.palmers.co.nz)

**Blackmore Jean Gallery**  
Gallery and artists studio  
Shelly Bay.  
021 2988 743  
[www.janeblackmore.co.nz](http://www.janeblackmore.co.nz)

**Harringtons Meat**  
Premium New Zealand  
ethically farmed natural  
meat and smallgoods.  
24b Tauhinu Road, Miramar.  
04 380 6437  
[www.harringtonsmallgoods.co.nz](http://www.harringtonsmallgoods.co.nz)

**The Lodge at Shelley Bay**  
Wedding, conference centre  
or work retreat.  
Officers Mess Building  
276 Shelly Bay Road.  
0800 THE LODGE  
[www.shellybay.co.nz](http://www.shellybay.co.nz)

**Pulse Personal Training**  
Personal training and gym  
35 Falkirk Ave, Seatoun.  
04 388 8100  
[www.pulsept.co.nz](http://www.pulsept.co.nz)

**Sadhana Yoga**  
Classes for all levels  
including kids  
9 Park Road, Miramar  
04 387 7213  
[www.sadhana-yoga.co.nz](http://www.sadhana-yoga.co.nz)

**Big Al's Camera Shop**  
108a Darlington Road  
Miramar  
04 939 7092





**MAUPUIA**

**STRATHMORE PK**

**MOA POINT**

**BREAKER BAY**



**SEATOUN**



**SHELLY BAY**



**MIRAMAR**



**Absolutely**

**POSITIVELY**

the key to a positive  
experience for all visitors

**Wellington**



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[www.miramarpeninsula.org.nz](http://www.miramarpeninsula.org.nz)