

THE LINCOLN LIFESTYLE

By Adrienne Rewi

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On any given day people pour in and out of one of Lincoln's popular local bakery-cafes, chatting to friends as they choose their favourite pies and cakes. There's a sense of community that spills out into the streets, where people gather to catch up with the news of the day.

It's that small town atmosphere that brought Kyle Burnett and his family back to Lincoln in 2006.

"I grew up in the area and went to Lincoln High School and Lincoln University. Then I spent twelve years in Auckland and I found that painful. I like small towns and Lincoln is one of the best. Helen and I saw it as the perfect place to raise our three young children," Kyle says. "It's so easy to become part of the community here."

Kyle knows around 600 of Lincoln's 3,000 residents by name. Admittedly he has the advantage of having run the town's Four Square for a number of years and they recently became owner/operators of the new Lincoln New World supermarket.

"The proximity of Lincoln University and the various scientific institutions has created an environment like no other small town in New Zealand," Kyle adds.

With that comes an exciting cultural diversity that Helen Burnett says adds another layer of interest to their semi-rural lifestyle.

"There are many different nationalities employed at the university and science centres and we have a large British population

here too. They're all people who are keen to make a new start, keen to get involved in things, which makes for a lovely feeling of involvement here. There are very few people in Lincoln who are not involved in some club or organisation."

Lincoln has an interesting history. It was founded in the 1860s when James Edward Fitzgerald subdivided some of his freehold land. By 1878 the township was thriving with all the essential services including a post office, brewer, confectioner, wheelwright and blacksmith. To top it all off a School of Agriculture was set up. Just over a century later this educational institution is known to us as Lincoln University and unlike many small New Zealand communities, Lincoln has endured, to a great extent because of its links to the university and the various science centres close by. It is also home to the New Zealand Cricket Academy and it boasts a well-regarded maternity hospital, excellent primary and secondary schools and sporting facilities including a golf course.



Owners of the Lincoln New World supermarket Kyle and Helen Burnett with their children Alice, Grace and Hannah.

Motels and a community centre are all planned and by the end of the year a new community stadium is expected to be up and running.

New facilities bring new people. The Selwyn District has one of the fastest population growth rates in Canterbury and Lincoln Land Developments – a joint venture between Ngai Tahu Property and Lincoln University – is well placed to respond to that growth. Their planned \$130-million residential subdivision will provide 800 new homes, which will be built over the next 10-12 years.

Ngai Tahu Property Business Development Manager David Schwartz says the historic village is an ideal base for a diverse and highly educated community.

“Lincoln is a centre for research excellence. It's just twenty minutes from Christchurch. Residents can enjoy the best of both semi-rural and urban lifestyles in an interesting, colourful community.”

"Personally, I find it quite exciting to be participating in the Lincoln Land Developments subdivision. We are making sure the project meets everybody's expectations and that the development is an appropriate, sustainable addition to the existing township."

Approval for the first two stages of the development was granted in December by the Selwyn District Council and Environment Canterbury. David says he anticipates stage one will kick off in March-April.



Artist's impression of Lincoln Land Developments subdivision.