

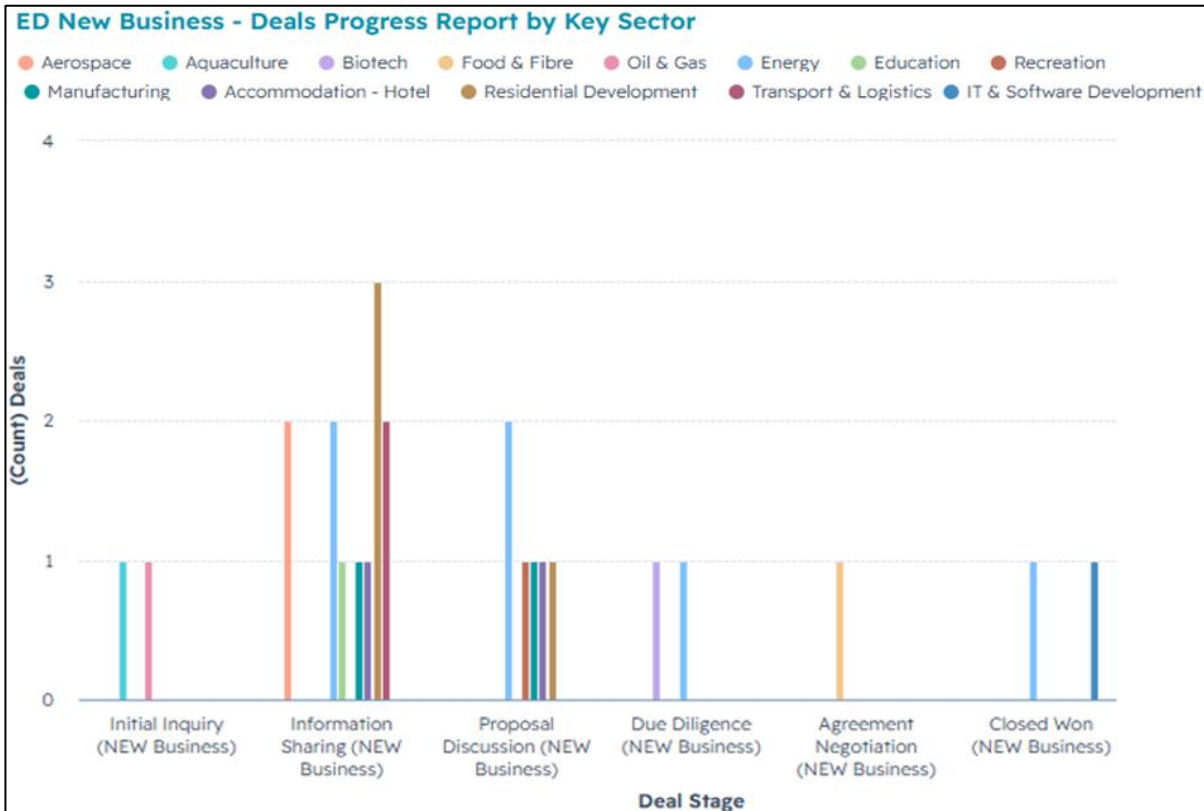
Venture Timaru Year to date report to 31 March 2026

PILLAR ONE: BUSINESS ATTRACTION – attract and assist new business to the District

Activity

Make Timaru your Business (MTYB) Campaign continues refer [HERE](#)
Year to Date

- 86 new business and referral source engagements made
- 210+ separate local business and industry engaged with as advocates for Make Timaru your Business
- 12 x print media placements – total readership reach 57,500
- 2 deals won (SME's – Renewable Energy and Software Development)
- Economic Development website being refreshed across May/June to amplify & support business attraction activities.
- 23 current NEW BUSINESS opportunities being progressed (4 x new this recent quarter) - of which 9 as a direct result of MTYB campaign (8 introduced via referral network and 1 direct)
- New CRM established – tracking of all new business deals, stage reached and details etc... (see below) This graph shows the stage each of the 23 active new business opportunities are at - sorted by sector.



Outcomes/Value Added	March quarter saw: - <u>4 x new opportunities</u> engaged with and being progressed with 3 of these in the renewable energy sector and 1 x biotech (food & fibre). - <u>Biotech – Food & Fibre opportunity</u> has quickly advanced to extended due diligence assessing location options, supplier interest and services. - Invest NZ introduced <u>renewable energy project and infrastructure investor</u> has again visited this time with engineer and environmental advisors to solidify their interest in opportunities across South Canterbury. The project direction and location considerations are becoming increasingly well-defined with a soon to be signed MOU with key local stakeholders the foundation to progress and realise these opportunities. - <u>Aerospace</u> – 32 local businesses engaged in recent “Intro of Manufacturing” workshop at which 3 x active Aerospace entities presented on “what it takes to be part of it”. Immediate connection made with a local precision engineering company now engaged on developing a component prototype for the 2027 Space Station. Next steps include: - Load participating Aerospace companies onto the Canterbury Aerospace website where our capability is being marketed internationally . - Create a prospectus showcasing the work that is already being undertaken by local businesses in South Canterbury. - Promote South Canterbury businesses at the Aerospace Summit 1-2 October. - Continue meetups every 8 weeks - <u>Oil & Gas</u> - Recent announcement that a party (CBX Energy Ltd – Craig Barry) has applied to test drill the Wherry Prospect off our East Coast refer https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/new-push-drill-oil-otago-coast Seeking introduction to this party. - A variety of introductions to these new opportunities have been made locally across: Council, Runanga, landowners, environmental, trades, port, TDHL, industry etc... facilitating a team approach to progressing and securing these new business opportunities - Foodtech Advert - positioning the Washdyke Industrial Hub as a place where international brands invest (as well as the wider district). Call to action – Industrial Sites available now. Contact VT. Advertorial case studies include Heartland Chips showcasing locals investing in a 20-year-old plant and JPNZ attracting international investor Sumitomo. <u>Starting a new business 50+</u> • VT partnering with Start Smart who will deliver a facilitated 8 week programme to assist 50+ aged locals develop new business ideas/opportunities. • An initial foray into the entrepreneurial space by VT • First cohort of 3 participants has commenced • Business ideas include Mindfulness, Art Gallery/Café with an Indigenous/cultural theme and Admin support covering leave and recruitment gaps.	
Key Performance Indicators	Engage with a minimum of 10 new businesses or referral sources per month	MET
	Maintain a database of active new business opportunities and referral sources – actions taken and to be taken	MET

PILLAR TWO: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT – support existing business to innovate and grow

Activity	<u>Engagement Summary</u> - Jan – April has seen a total of 225 engagements with existing business – (Economic Development 112 and Tourism & Visitor 113) - These engagements included 33 meetings with businesses not engaged with for > 6 months - Growth Opportunities that require our support - (2 new April, 23 TOTAL) - Connections made and enablement tasks facilitated - (9 new April, 82 TOTAL) - Capability Building – e.g. T&V support with marketing, scaling up operators, Qualmark accreditation etc.. + ED Aerospace readiness (4 New April, 22 TOTAL) - Barriers/challenges that require advocacy to enable business success. (1 new April, 8 TOTAL) - Meetings - Food Pro (quarterly), Aerospace (bimonthly) and CBD group (monthly) took place. - Monthly newsletter open rate 27.52% (817 unique opens/engagement Feb-April) <u>General Overview</u> - Business performance patchy and exacerbated with current fuel situation. Many had been experiencing good recovery post Xmas then hit by fuel crisis. Residential construction and retail especially quiet. - Some noting an increase in turnover and that while topline sales have increased, net profit is down due to increased costs (not passing on to customers). - Recent Food processor meeting evidenced that sector in particular very busy. - Engagement with reps of manufacturing and retail has seen many state that there is a significant shortage in high skilled roles. With two in particular commenting that it is hard to attract youth. - New participants have joined both Food Pro Business Connection Group (2) and Aerospace (3)
Outcomes/Value Added Check out our latest short videos Timaru District – the place to do business 10 great reasons to visit Timaru district	<u>Existing business engagement of note:</u> • <u>Opuha Water & Irrigation NZ</u> – Irrigation NZ (on behalf of all Canterbury Irrigation companies) are to shortly present to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the importance of refreshing the Canterbury Water Strategy as an important “roadmap” and regional enabler. They have requested VT CE joins them to present on the economic importance of water as a critical enabler to local industry and boarder regional prosperity. • <u>Fibre manufacturer</u> – Intro to Lincoln Uni contacts to progress waste water treatment R&D. • <u>Environmental Services</u> – intro to Canterbury Energy Plan steering group admin to engage and help inform next steps of the Canterbury Energy Strategy • <u>Recreational entity</u> – Intro to new racquet opportunity – interest from both parties in co-location. Subsequent intro to local company as possible development partners. • <u>Brad Olsen event</u> – successful speaking event attended by 60+, informative update on international, national and regional environment. Slides shared with all attendees, positive front page new story • <u>Training provider</u> – looking to relocate from Church St premises, intro them to Ara as potential to relocate there and into the developing Educational Hub. • <u>BCITO</u> – intro of Blenheim based small home manufacturer keen to partner with local builders. • <u>S C Transportation Forum</u> – attended by Automobile Assn, TDC, Kiwirail, Tka Transport, Brisnan Transport, MP’s Meager and Anderson – object to explore/develop and implement a more efficient and balanced transportation system (road/rail/sea). Discussion and connection to NZTA SHIP and proposed Port to Port workstreams.

	• <u>Caroline Bay Assn</u> – facilitated strategic planning session attended by Assn, TDC, Elected member, Media Works, Independent Event Manager Simon Carter (SI Masters Games, Brews on Bay, Seaside festival etc...) and VT Staff. Identified challenges & opportunities. Next step is to inform outcomes through wider community engagement – VT assisting with this survey. • <u>Development & Growth committee</u> meetings monthly – next 12 May • BDM invited to talk to Sth Canty Master Builders meeting 6 June	
Key Performance Indicators	Maintain a database of all existing business engagement – min 20 per month	MET
	Report on value add assistance provided to local business	MET
	Report on risks identified and mitigation & escalation action undertaken	MET

 Venture Timaru

February 18 at 9:02 PM · 🌐

Congratulations Juice Products New Zealand (JPNZ) on reaching an incredible milestone today as its millionth metric tonne of carrots arrived! 🥕

Read more about it in the article below or watch Wednesday 18th February episode of Seven Sharp.



THEPRESS.CO.NZ

'A quiet powerhouse': Juice factory marks major milestone

 5h · 🌐

Here's a great plug for living in Timaru! Great to share when recruiting and on job adverts to attract newcomers.



ONEROOF.CO.NZ

NZ's last affordable beach town? Buyers ditching their mortgage in 'Riviera of the South'

‘A pretty solid spot’: Principal economist says Timaru has ‘a lot of opportunity’

 Rachael Comer | The Timaru Herald

March 28, 2026

➦ Share



PILLAR THREE: INVESTMENT – facilitate new investment in infrastructure and community assets

Activity	Canterbury Mayoral Forum - Representing District on working groups developing both the Canterbury Energy Strategy and Regional Deal proposition Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS) - Monthly monitoring to identify central government funding opportunities for the district Regular engagement with Local Member of Parliament and funding sources across Central Government & associated entities - MBIE, Kanoa, MPI, Primary Sector Growth Fund, Universities etc..				
Outcomes/Value Added	Information has been collated and the updated report highlighting the capability and <u>contribution of the South Canterbury Economy to NZ Inc</u> will be completed by Economist Benje Patterson at the end of May. The outcomes/scope of the report include: - Update the existing export data to include 2025 data. The key focus will remain on the food and fibre exports, as those are the ones where South Canterbury is contributing much more than its share to the NZ economy. - incorporate data on energy production and the supply pipeline in South Canterbury relative to demand – this will include as appropriate the Transpower construction data on new projects as well as evidence from the Fast Track process of others in the pipeline. This helps to demonstrate another key “exporting” industry where energy is distributed to the rest of NZ well above South Canterbury’s size and own usage. - Alongside existing ports information updates, data on roading spend by Central Government will be included, to demonstrate the low levels of expenditure on roads by NZTA relative to the high demand placed by “grunt” industries such as 1) and 2) above. E.g. “20% food + fibre exports, 10% NZ electricity production, 1% NZ population, 0.5% NZTA maintenance spend on roads”... This report will also be a foundational document for a <u>South Canterbury “pitch of priorities”</u> – aligned to the Canterbury Regional Deal being developed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Steering Group (VT on this) – TDC CE positioned with South Canterbury Mayors the need to have an aligned and agreed Sth Canty “pitch of priorities” document. There is consensus amongst the mayors and CE’s – VT to help formulate and we await guidance on first steps i.e. Mayor/CE workshop ... <u>Mayoral Forum</u> regional work – we continue to ensure our local voice is heard (and opportunities identified) in the important regional workstreams – Regional Energy Strategy and Positioning for Regional Deals which has recently evolved into a Regional Investment Prospectus as directed by the Canterbury Mayors. - Regional Energy Strategy – the draft action plan/roadmap, based on the framework endorsed by all \Canterbury Mayors, is now well advanced with board stakeholder engagement helping inform and update. Through May this will be reviewed by the CE forum then onto the Mayoral Forum and peer review completed. On track for June completion and implementation. - Regional Investment Prospectus - The purpose of this work is to develop a region-wide investment prospectus that positions the region to a range of national and international audiences. Progressing introduction of new <u>Biotech opportunity</u> to Primary Sector Growth Fund				
Key Performance Indicators	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="521 1406 1543 1441">\$ of new to district investment – central government and private</td><td data-bbox="1543 1406 2132 1441">NOT MET</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="521 1441 1543 1479">Investment and development introductions made, and assistance given</td><td data-bbox="1543 1441 2132 1479">Refer Pillar Two Business Development</td></tr> </table>	\$ of new to district investment – central government and private	NOT MET	Investment and development introductions made, and assistance given	Refer Pillar Two Business Development
\$ of new to district investment – central government and private	NOT MET				
Investment and development introductions made, and assistance given	Refer Pillar Two Business Development				

PILLAR FOUR: **PROMOTION** – promote the District as a destination of choice

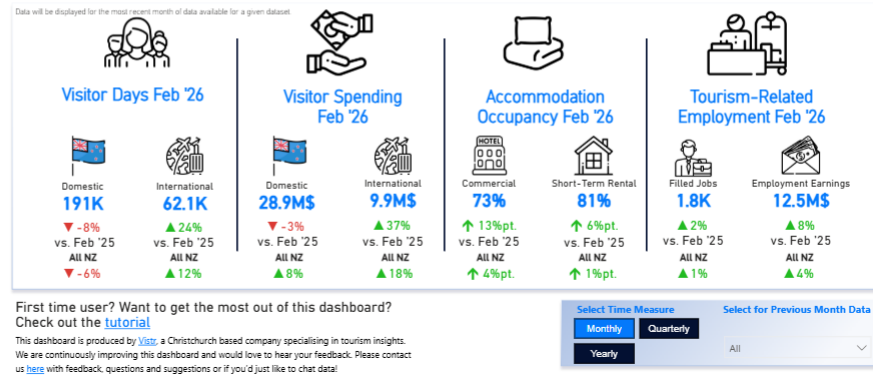
Activity	Overview: We are now at the end of a busy peak summer period, of which the highlights have been significant international exposure via our first Australian trade show attendance, the Central South collaborative campaign and visit by travel writer Harry Bullmore, not to forget our busy cruise season. On top of this February visitor data shows we have recorded a 24% increase in international visitors for the month and 37% increase in international visitor spending compared to 2025. EVENTS Major Events Support Fund (MESF) events: - Events calculator reports have been completed for the following events, and turnover for each of this is listed below. The turnover does not include the economic impact of local attendees; hence this are listed separately) The events ranged in length from 1 – 6 days. - Brews on Bay \$697,000 (local attendees \$580,000) 4 & Rotary \$4.5m (local attendees \$600,000) - Caroline Bay Rock and Hop \$2.8m (local attendees \$1.4m) - World Tennis Tour \$2.27m (local attendees \$1.5m) MESF Coming up: Final event for the year is the Timaru CBD Matariki Night Market, Thurs 9 July 2026. Cruise - Season debrief completed. Positive feedback after end of a good season. - Cruise community feedback survey currently live for input. - PrimePort made late decision not to attend international trade fair Seatrade in April due the number of NZ ports going. They are now planning a separate trip to visit cruise lines one-on-one. For the first time the NZ Tourism Minister attended the event in Miami to assist in promoting NZ as a cruise destination. - Cruise bookings 2026-2027, which will bring approx.. 1000 more passengers than 2025-2026 due to larger vessels calling
Outcomes and Value Added	MARKETING & PROMOTION - Website Project – Refreshed Tourism Website now live check it out HERE - Regional Tourism Boost Fund (RTBF) - As part of the Central South Island RTBF collaborative project targeting Australian visitors over shoulder season and into winter, Timaru hosted Australian breakfast TV show Sunrise in April, filmed live from our city centre on 22 April. Weekly audience of sunrise is estimated at 3 million. - Harry Bullmore, senior fitness writer for The Independent UK online (monthly UK readership of 19 million) – visited as part of Tourism NZ campaign, staying overnight. He was glowing in his reviews of Timaru, including on his personal Instagram channel https://www.instagram.com/p/DWzDt4GijQH/ - Winter Campaign – “So much, so close” in market via digital channels. TRADE EVENTS 2026 - Tourism NZ Sydney Roadshow - Sydney, March 2026 – engaged with 25 agents and already getting interest in our operators.

	- RTNZ Inbound Tour Operator Event - Auckland, March 2026 – engaged with 57 agents; positive feedback. - TRENZ 2026 - Auckland, May 2026 – NZ’s key international tourism trade showcase; three days of appointments, sharing stand with new operator Holme Station Corner; Te Ana Māori Rock Art returning for second year. GENERAL - RTNZ Update - Otago Policy School – Attended for first time, it brings together industry, government and research leaders to discuss policy solutions for the tourism industry, focusing on topics like technology, sustainability, funding, and futureproofing, such as the 2050 strategy. The minister announced the development of a national Tourism Policy Statement. This is now being worked on by MBIE tourism staff and the RTNZ board and is providing feedback first week of May. It is expected that the policy statement will go to cabinet in Q2 and will provide an interim measure while the Tourism Growth Road Map is still under development. The Minister’s aim is that it will articulate tourism’s role as a key national asset and provide clarity on roles for the future, while giving confidence to the regions and will set priorities. - RTNZ advocacy to Minister Upston relating to Local Government Reforms, positioning the importance of Tourism and RTO’s in all associated considerations. SCOFF 11 – 27 September 2026 - Now in its seventh year and established as a key South Canterbury wide event supporting the hospitality sector and promoting our significant food production. - Ongoing promotion now; will accelerate for the 2026 event from July. - Sponsorship – currently in talks with key sponsors.
Additional Commentary	VISITATION Data – February highlights - Timaru’s latest visitor statistics for February show the district tracking as having the <u>third highest growth in international visitor days</u> among South Island Regional Tourism Organisations, compared to the same month last year. The data shows growth in international visitor days of 24%, with Europe overtaking China, Japan and Korea as the main source of visitors. Canterbury and Waitaki scored slightly higher with 29% growth in internationals. - Timaru District figures also show that more internationals are choosing to stay overnight, with growth of 27%. Conversely our domestic visitor days dropped off, falling 8% overall. - View the dashboard https://www.vtdevelopment.co.nz/business/tourism-data

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Visitor Spending Overview
Visitor Spending Deep Dive
Accommodation
Economic Indicators by Industry
International Visitor Arrivals
Long-Term Growth Comparison
Monthly Comparison
About & Definitions

Venture Timaru Destination Insights Dashboard

Navigate via the menu on the left. For more details on the pages & datasets click [About & Definitions](#).



Key Performance Indicators

Economic benefit and return on investment via Major Events Fund – target \$1: \$25
Number of new events and conferences facilitated or supported
Cruise Sector Economic benefit and return on investment

MET
MET
ONGOING

Financials

From an initial SOI budgeted deficit of (\$3,334), VT reforecast late 2025 to a deficit of (\$67,658). Primarily funded from reserves, this reforecast deficit encompassed one of costs associated with shift of premises, refreshed Tourism website and progression and finalisation of Towards 2050 plan and associated data portal. Within this last quarter we have identified further operational efficiencies and cost savings of 5.3% (net of aforementioned one-off costs), which we are on track to realise over the next few months as we head into years end.

Variance YTD of actual v reforecast budget primarily relate to timing, and we comment on most notable variances with our Statement of Financial Performance as follows:

Statement of Financial Performance

Venture Timaru

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2026

Account	YTD July-Mar 2026	Budget July-Mar 2026	SOI 2025.26
Revenue			
Funding from local government	1,053,044	1,053,047	1,465,000
Funding from central government	62,550	26,500	26,500
Service delivery contracts from central government	132,110	132,000	132,000
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	16,853	17,000	22,000
Other revenue	69,511	33,112	16,800
Total Revenue	1,334,068	1,261,659	1,662,300
Expenses			
Employee related costs	529,626	521,120	683,134
Economic development - administration and overhead costs	269,223	263,458	317,500
Tourism administration and overheads	249,328	212,301	288,000
Other programmes administration and overheads	337,660	305,300	377,000
Total Expenses	1,385,836	1,302,179	1,665,634
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(51,768)	(40,520)	(3,334)

Statement of Financial Performance

Income:

- Central Government funding +36,050 above budget - pass through Regional Events Funding successfully obtained to further support 3 x local events
- Other Income +\$36,399 – both additional SCOFF support (successfully secured by VT team from neighbouring councils and new sponsor) and gross additional cruise sector income(operator & tour bookings transacted on behalf of local operators and since distributed).

Expenses

- HR Expense +\$8,506 above budget - a timing matter relating to holiday pay and other HR accruals which are an annual years end adjustment.
- ED expense +\$5,675 above budget – timing and one off shift costs
- Tourism expense +\$37,027 – above budget support for SCOFF utilised to expand promotion and scope of the event and pay pout of aforementioned unbudgeted cruise sector income to operators and tours.
- Other Programme Overheads +\$3,360 – completion of MyNextMove contract and Regional Apprenticeship Initiative expensing accumulated contract funds from prior and current year.

As at 31 March 2025 unallocated reserves = \$102,000

Statement of Financial Position

Venture Timaru
As at 31 March 2026

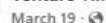
Account	31.3.26	Annual Budget 30.6.26
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	275,839	302,000
Debtors, prepayments and other current assets	62,324	115,677
Short term investments	417,845	203,000
Total Current Assets	756,008	620,677
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	52,164	40,000
Total Non-Current Assets	52,164	40,000
Total Assets	808,172	660,677
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	52,785	30,000
Employee costs payable	62,498	60,000
Funding in advance	162,646	0
Total Current Liabilities	277,929	90,000
Total Liabilities	277,929	90,000
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)	530,243	570,677
Accumulated Funds		
Issued Capital	1,000	1,000
Equity	529,243	569,677
Total Accumulated Funds	530,243	570,677

Statement of Cash Flows

Venture Timaru
For the 9 months ended 31 March 2026

Account	9 months 31.3.26	Annual Budget 2025.26
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Funding from local government	1,161,120	1,446,800
Funding from central government	36,050	0
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	25,288	14,000
Other revenue	59,708	42,000
GST	16,595	(32,000)
Employee related payments	(531,081)	(717,000)
Administration and overhead payments	(863,652)	(1,045,000)
Income Tax	3,329	(6,000)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(92,643)	(297,200)
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Receipts from sale of plant and equipment previous tenancy	7,235	7,000
Receipts from investments maturing	207,963	422,000
Payments to acquire plant and equipment new tenancy	(51,326)	(48,100)
Payments to interest accruing on investments	(15,601)	0
Total Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	148,271	380,900
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	55,628	83,700
Bank Accounts and Cash		
Opening cash	220,211	218,300
Net change in cash for period	55,628	83,700
Closing cash	275,839	302,000





#Timaru #SouthCanterbury #AerospaceNZ #FutureIndustries #RegionalGrowth #localbusiness



FOOD GROWTH...

TIMARU DISTRICT BUILDS GLOBAL FOOD CAPABILITY

Timaru District is positioning the Washdyke Industrial Hub as a base for food production investment, as shifting trade conditions, market volatility and increasing pressure on supply chain resilience reshape

how producers operate.

Nigel Davenport, CEO, Venture Timaru, says the hub has evolved into an integrated food production environment linking growers, processors, engineers, logistics providers and export markets.

"In an era defined by shifting trade policies and increasing pressure on supply chain resilience, Washdyke offers a connected ecosystem that allows businesses to scale sustainably and operate with confidence," Davenport says.

Family enterprise and established grower supply chains underpin that model. Heartland Potato Chips, New Zealand's only 100% New Zealand-owned potato chip company, operates as a vertically integrated business following the 2009 acquisition of a former Bluebird Foods processing plant by South Canterbury growers Raymond and

Adrienne Bowan.

"The Bowan family has demonstrated how local reinvestment and vertical integration can unlock long-term value, with potatoes grown near Timaru processed within close proximity to the Washdyke facility," Davenport says.

He says short supply chains and generational farming knowledge are key strengths, supporting both domestic and export markets while retaining value within the region.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 ►

"THE BOWAN FAMILY HAS DEMONSTRATED HOW LOCAL REINVESTMENT AND VERTICAL INTEGRATION CAN UNLOCK LONG-TERM VALUE, WITH POTATOES GROWN NEAR TIMARU PROCESSED WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE WASHDYKE FACILITY."

HEARTLAND
POTATO CHIPS
WAREHOUSE LOCATED
AT THE WASHDYKE
INDUSTRIAL HUB IN
TIMARU.



HUB

"THE DECISION TO RELOCATE TO WASHDYKE AND INVEST IN PURPOSE-BUILT PROCESSING CAPABILITY MARKED A TURNING POINT, WITH SUBSEQUENT INTER-NATIONAL INVESTMENT REINFORCING THE DISTRICT AS A LOCATION FOR SKILLED ROLES."

The hub has also demonstrated its ability to support international-scale operations. Juice Products New Zealand, now wholly owned by Sumitomo Corporation, is one of the country's largest carrot processors and exports to Asia, North America and Australasia.

Davenport says the business reflects how investment and scale can be supported within the region.

"The decision to relocate to Washdyke and invest in purpose-built processing capability marked a turning point, with subsequent international investment reinforcing the district as a location for skilled roles, leadership and long-term growth," he says.

Juice Products New Zealand works closely with South Canterbury farmers and seed suppliers to manage planting and harvest cycles, maintaining consistent quality across extended seasons.

"Co-ordination across the supply chain creates

confidence for growers and reliability for global customers," Davenport says.

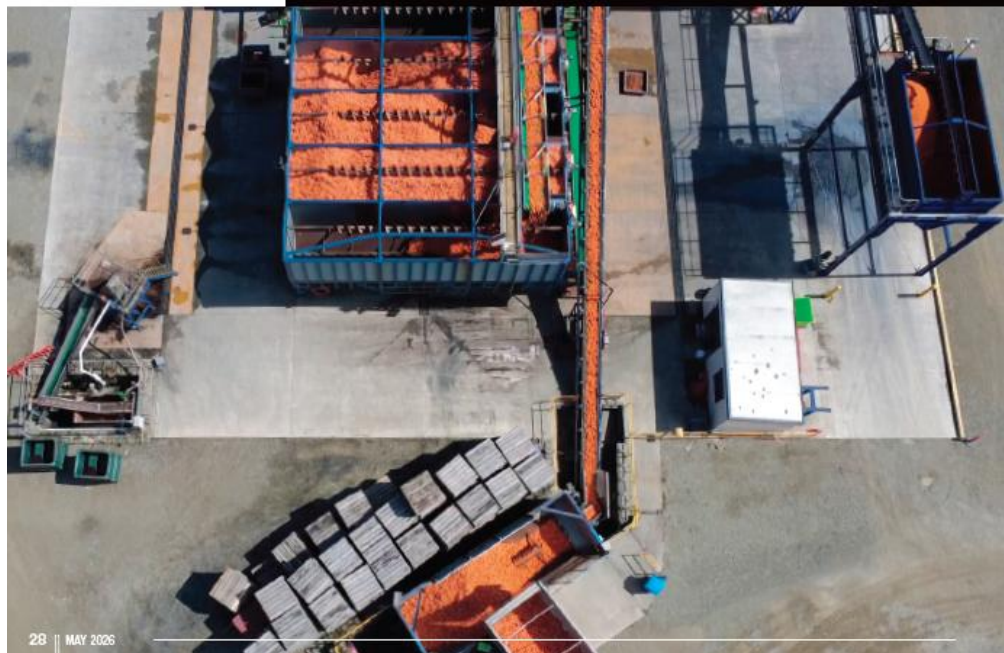
Alongside these operations, producers including DB Breweries, Mt Cook Alpine Salmon, The Manuka Collective, McCain Foods and Farmers Mill operate within the hub, supported by a wider regional base that includes Sanford, Barkers of Geraldine, Fonterra and Silver Fern Farms.

Davenport says this concentration of producers, suppliers and service partners creates a resilient production network.

"Scale, specialisation and collaboration underpin South Canterbury's position as a diversified food-producing region, supported by transport and logistics connections that provide access to domestic and international markets," he says.

Sponsored content: For more information contact Nigel Davenport phone 021 792 770, email nigel@venturetimaru.nz or visit www.maketimaruyourbusiness.nz.

JUICE PRODUCTS NEW ZEALAND SITE AT THE TIMARU DISTRICT HUB.



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SERVICED INDUSTRIAL SITES AVAILABLE NOW

The Washdyke Industrial Hub, Timaru

A Proven Investment Environment

- Home to global operators including Sumitomo Corporation, McCain and Heineken
- Long-established family enterprises with multi-generation supply chains
- Trusted by export markets across Asia, North America, Australasia and Europe

Sit alongside established, national and globally connected world class brands.

- Immediate proximity to resilient grower-to-processor supply chains
- Integrated food-production and processing ecosystem
- Strategic transport and logistics linkages
- Genuinely supportive industry collaboration
- Established global export capability
- Proven track record of domestic and international investment

As the district's economic development agency, Venture Timaru invites investors and businesses seeking scalable, sustainable growth to explore the opportunities available at the Washdyke Industrial Hub.

WE'RE HERE, WHERE ARE YOU?

Fully serviced, greenfield development sites of various sizes are available now.



Timaru District is also home to,



All enquiries are handled with the strictest confidence

Contact Nigel Davenport, CEO, Venture Timaru

021 792 770 nigel@venturetimaru.nz

www.maketimaruyourbusiness.nz

In addition to Sunrise Breakfast Australian exposure, Timaru also featured on the **front page of the Wall Street Journal** as well as many other news feeds and articles:

[Radio NZ – Why American Doctors are flocking to Timaru](#)

'Remote town' of Timaru makes New York's Wall Street Journal front page, as destination for burnt-out US doctors

 Rachael Comer | The Timaru Herald

April 24, 2025

Comment (1) Share

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Politics Economy Tech Markets & Finance Opinion Free Expression Arts Lifestyle Real Estate Personal Finance Health

Plans
van,
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Burned-Out Doctors Are Leaving
the U.S. for a Remote Town in New

front page of the Wall Street Journal website on Friday morning.

Opinion



KARL ROZE
Democrats in
Barcelona to



KIMBERLEY A. ST.
Trump's End
Paralysis



BOB GREENE
The Band Wi
Gun

Timaru is having possibly its best ever week on the international stage.

Just two days after Australian breakfast television showcased South Canterbury's urban heart, the town has made the front page of New York City's prestigious Wall Street Journal.



The Wall Street Journal · Follow

April 24 at 11:51 PM ·

When Dr. Kate Ropp brought up the idea of moving from Portland, Ore., to New Zealand, it took her husband, Mark Ropp, some time to get on board. <https://on.wsj.com/42ry0ec>

"I didn't know anything about New Zealand," said Mark, 45. But he decided the move would give him a chance to reinvent himself too.

The family purchased a four-bedroom, 2,600-square-foot house on 26 acres in the coastal town of Timaru for \$700,000 in 2025. Instead of working remotely as a lawyer, Mark became a stay-at-home dad for their two sons.

In Portland, they had a gardener, a housecleaner and an au pair. "We paid other people to live our lives for us," Mark said. Now he has assumed all those responsibilities, including taking care of their 22 cows, six chickens, two cats and a dog.

Kate, 44, said working less hours means "I'm more present for my children and I'm discovering hobbies again." The whole family is so happy, Mark said, "I think this will be forever."

Since COVID-19, many doctors say the U.S. healthcare system has become increasingly untenable for them, with many looking to leave the country.

Interest from American doctors in New Zealand—where English is the prominent language, healthcare is free and many specialties require no extra training or certification—has boomed in the past five years, said Prudence Thomson of Christchurch-based Accent Health Recruitment.

Read more: <https://on.wsj.com/42ry0ec>



4K



673



251



Four years ago, Dr. Brandon Williams, an internal-medicine doctor at a hospital in La Jolla, Calif., reached a breaking point.

An increase in patients, not enough medical staff, the threat of malpractice lawsuits, and distress about patients' inability to pay for healthcare got so bad that he developed post-traumatic stress disorder. One of his colleagues died by suicide.

He didn't want to stop practicing medicine—but he wanted to stop practicing medicine in the United States. He and his wife, Ellen Williams, 38, started looking in Europe for a better option.

Then he got a letter from a medical recruiter in New Zealand.

"As crazy as it sounded to go all the way to the middle of nowhere, the more I thought about it, the more it made sense," said Brandon, 39, a California native.

The family sold their house and moved in November 2024 to the coastal town of Timaru on New Zealand's South Island, which has become a hub for American doctors relocating to the country. There are so many Americans living there that the Williamses now hold Thanksgiving dinners for about 50 people.

"I'd never thought of leaving the U.S.," said Brandon. "I'd never even thought of leaving California."

Why American doctors are trading the U.S. for a new life in New Zealand:

<https://on.wsj.com/4vN7DwJ>



3.4K 995 296

Great to see our Tourism Marketing and Engagement Manager, Sharnae, out actively promoting the Timaru District to key travel trade partners.

In mid-March, Sharnae travelled to Sydney to connect with Australian-based buyers including Webjet, Tripadvisor and Helloworld Travel. This was part of a Tourism New Zealand led event alongside regional tourism organisations from across the country.

The following week, she continued this momentum in Auckland, meeting with New Zealand-based inbound tour operators who package and sell New Zealand experiences to international visitors. These connections are critical in creating pathways for our local activity operators and accommodation providers to secure future bookings.

With over 50% of international visitors using a travel agent or online platform to plan their trips, engagement with the travel trade remains a key growth channel for our region.

Encouragingly, the latest data (January 2026) shows international visitor spend is up 13% year-on-year — a strong signal that this work is delivering real results.



Sam Mac is at the Rock Arts Centre in Timaru, New Zealand! It showcases ancient Māori rock art created by indigenous people who travelled through riverways 500 to 1,000 years ago, adorning caves with tiki figures and human representations.

Catch Sunrise LIVE from 530am | Catch up on 7plus



Sunrise over Timaru: Town featured on Australian breakfast show

 Rachael Comer | The Timaru Herald

April 21, 2026

➔ Share



John Elaine DaSilva Bento

Timaru is an amazing town , friendly and colourful. My daughter lives there and we love going there , the scenery in South Island is breathtaking.

6d Like Reply

5  



Cherie Gage

We spent a couple of nights in Timaru a couple of weeks ago and was surprised at what it had to offer.

Stayed at at the Sea Breeze Motel, (which had just opened after a massive refurbishment). Cannot recommend this motel highly enough. The town should be proud of the young women who has brought this motel back from its heyday. Some really nice restaurants and cocktail bars in town too.

6d Like Reply

5  

 We Love Timaru replied · 2 Replies



Jock Heke

I tell u now it was cool seeing timmas on TV....currently in Mackay QLD. Good job team



Venture Timaru

March 24 · 🌐

...

Congratulations to the team behind the [Caroline Bay Rock & Hop](#) event last week. What an amazing sight it was - the district was full of visitors and locals could enjoy the spectacle as well!

Venture Timaru is proud to support this event, thanks to the Major Events Support Fund that we administer on behalf of [Timaru District Council](#)



THEPRESS.CO.NZ

More caravans than ever make up 'huge' Caroline Bay Rock and Hop