



TE ATATU Homeowner

September 2018

With Diane Stevenson & Team

Can We Survive Without “Plastic Fantastic”?

Consumer attitudes are changing. Single-use plastic bags are on the way out; “old school” is back in. Glass milk bottles, brown paper sacks and cloth bags are rising in popularity and mantras like “reuse, re-purpose or repair” have superseded “throw it away”.

With Kiwis producing around 2.5 million tonnes of landfill annually, we can all contribute to reducing this environmental scourge, particularly, plastic.

But how do we live without “plastic fantastic”? The key is to rethink shopping habits and adopt a “less is best” mindset. Here are some ideas.

Rethink Make sensible choices about what you buy and think about where the packaging might end up. Consider the functionality and lifespan of everything you bring into your home.

Refuse Say no to plastic shopping bags and use jute or canvas bags instead. Replace takeaway coffee cups with your own reusable cup.

Reduce Choose items that aren’t encased in layers of packaging. Buy pasta, cereal and dry goods in bulk and visit a refillery where you can take home kitchen staples in your own reusable containers.



Reuse Wash and keep takeaway containers and jars for future use. Instead of plastic wrap, pack kids’ sandwiches in wax or cloth wraps; use screw-top, reusable containers for nuts and fruit.

Recycle Cans, glass, paper, cardboard and most plastic can be recycled. Teach your family about what can and can’t be recycled. Many supermarkets now have bins for soft plastic packaging. Make use of these.

Repair Find someone to fix your broken gadgets or who will turn them into spare parts. Repair Cafés are a growing movement where experts volunteer to repair items for free at an organised event. Find one near you.

Rehome Give away or sell surplus items. Charity shops happily accept unwanted clothes, household items, toys and books.

Finally, the last “r” word: **reward** yourself, knowing future generations will thank you.



11/17 Harbour View Road Te Atatu Peninsula

This warm home will to anyone looking for trendy, low maintenance home in a vibrant neighborhood.

rwteatatu.co.nz/TET25920

Renovating To Sell? The Pros & Cons

Contrary to popular belief, not everyone wants to purchase a fully renovated home. In fact, “do-ups” frequently reach surprisingly high prices because so many buyers see the potential to add value that it results in multiple offers.

So, before you spend every evening and weekend slaving over a renovation someone else will enjoy, make sure it’s worth it; check that every dollar you spend on improvements will return more than a dollar in added value. (Ask us for advice early in the process if you’d like a professional opinion on this.)

The rule of thumb is that simple, cheap improvements—like a fresh coat of paint or a snazzy, new front door—usually have a higher value to dollar ratio than complicated and expensive renovations like a new kitchen or bathroom.

And remember that people have very personal tastes in home decorating. Not everyone will appreciate fuchsia pink carpet or a Star Wars themed bedroom so if you do redecorate, stick with neutral colours and timeless styles.

Continued...



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Improving kerb appeal is a project from which you'll nearly always reap a return on investment—first impressions really do count. Make the outside of your home look so attractive that passers-by are hankering to find out what else it offers on the inside.

Need pre-sale renovating advice?

We're always happy to help with this, or any other real estate related question including providing an estimate of how much your home is worth.

Please call us anytime with your real estate questions. We'd be delighted to help.



Thinking of selling in Spring? Call us TODAY!

Real Estate Market Trends

	Aug-17	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18
West Auckland				
Median \$	760,888	765,000	774,000	800,000
No. sales	280	284	253	241
Median days	40	36	41	42
Te Atatu Peninsula				
Median \$	770,250	925,000	851,750	852,944
No. sales	14	17	18	26
Te Atatu South				
Median \$	787,500	739,000	695,000	853,000
No. sales	22	26	21	14
Interest	5.50%	5.80%	5.80%	5.80%

Source: REINZ

ENTER THE DRAW TO WIN!

Want to wine and dine at **Et Tu Bistro?** (value \$60.00)

Question: With what season do we associate lambs and daffodils?

Phone, text or email your answer to 021 960 309 or win@buywest.co.nz or include your name, email, address and best contact number.

Best of luck!

Closes 17 Oct

Congratulations to our previous winner: Victoria Wallace



8A Riverview Road, New Lynn

Two level home with three bedrooms, two living areas and a large deck with stunning panoramic views.

rwteatatu.co.nz/TET25466



4 Ragley Street, Titirangi

Congratulations - SOLD!

NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Ray White Te Atatu would like to give a warm welcome to our new staff who have recently joined our Sales Team.

Just for a Laugh

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. Her name badge says, "Patty Whack".

"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday," says the frog.

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, "Sure, I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager

and disappears into a back office.

She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000 and he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?"

(You're gonna love this.)

The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knick knack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

(You sang it, didn't you? Yeah, I know you did. Never take life too seriously.)

What people are saying about our Salespeople...

Valmiki has been very professional, honest and forthright setting the right expectations, while being extremely helpful in every sense. He is very punctual and always kept his word on providing updates appropriately. As a property vendor I can't think of anything more important especially being overseas (to add to the complexity).



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Diane Stevenson - Principal/Licensee Agent

RayWhite