

# Boxing clever



**The Grove 11:** The Grove, Marlborough. We must have photographed 20 or so interesting letterboxes in Queen Charlotte Dr. This settlement had an especially high concentration of them.



**Te Teko, Bay of Plenty:** I love the detail on this. A fine use of redundant spark plugs and bearing races.



**Huff Street, Queenstown:** The very first photo of the project. Spotted as we turned around after dropping some friends off at their house.



**Rural:** Near Carterton, Wellington.



**Happy box:** Moenui, Marlborough.



**Above:** Pakiri, Northland.



**Muriwai Beach, Auckland:** This community was a real hotspot for interesting letterboxes.



**Right:** Oamaru, Otago.



**SH2, Dannevirke:** Manawatu-Wanganui.



**Right:** Ohope Beach, Bay of Plenty - a design that perfectly complemented its setting on the beach road.



**Papatowai, Otago:** I suspect this is the work of Blair Sommerville, whose incredible Lost Gypsy Caravan is just up the road. He has a very similar letterbox in the shape of a whale.



**Buzzy bee mail:** Hira, near Nelson.



**Cycling invention:** Near Kuaotuna, Coromandel Peninsula.



**SH2:** Near Te Karaka, Gisbourne.



**Surreal:** Te Anau, Southland.



**Nautical theme:** Hahei, the Coromandel.



**Wellsford SH16, Auckland:** We saw many, many depictions of animals. I like the simplicity of these two.



**Radiator:** Arthur's Pt.



**Tapu, Waikato:** We saw many ingenious examples of recycling - dozens of microwaves as letterboxes. But an outboard motor? Brilliant.



**Time for tea:** Owaka, Otago.



**Blooming mail:** Near Mangonui, Northland.

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**W**E were always pleased to see ingenious examples of recycling in a letterbox. Some of the rarer cases were a scuba tank, an off-board motor and an old truck radiator grill serving a second life at the gatepost. Retired buoys, rusting milk churns and old wooden barrels were more common. So popular were burnt-out microwaves as a delivery recipient, we eventually stopped photographing them.

The distribution of home-made letterboxes would vary considerably. Arthurs Point near Queenstown was the first hotspot we came across, while Northland as a whole was awash with them. So, too, were parts of the Coromandel Peninsula, Queen Charlotte Dr in the Marlborough Sounds, and sections of the West Coast. By contrast, the central North Island appeared to be a dry spot. During a week's travel through this part of the country, we saw only one or two. Of course, there are many roads and streets we didn't cover. No doubt there were hundreds of letterboxes that eluded us.

Down here in the south, the customised letterboxes were memorable for their quality and innovation.

Coming to the end of our travels, we circled round from the Catlins to Fiordland and were given one last blast of Kiwi domestic creativity at its finest. Particularly impressive were some whale and dolphin letterboxes made from corrugated metal and a spooky pumpkin-face letterbox carved into a tree stump. Near Te Anau, we passed the most surrealist letterbox of the lot. It comprised a stovepipe hat atop a bodyless pair of legs. Epitomising many of the other designs we'd seen around the country, the thinking behind this was clearly outside of the box.

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ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (G) - NO FREE TICKETS Daily: 10:30 12:30 2:30 4:30	PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (M) (offensive language) - NO FREE TICKETS Daily: 6:45 8:45
AVATAR (M) (battle violence) - NO FREE TICKETS Daily: 11:00 2:15 8:00	SHERLOCK HOLMES (M) (violence) - NO FREE TICKETS Daily: 2:45 6:00 8:45
FANTASTIC MR. FOX (PG) - NO FREE TICKETS Daily: 10:15 12:30 4:15	THE LOVELY BONES (M) (violence) - NO FREE TICKETS Daily: 3:00 5:45 8:30
OLD DOGS (PG) (low level violence) - NO FREE TICKETS Daily: 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:30 8:30	THE PRINCESS & THE FROG (G) - NO FREE TICKETS Daily: 10:30 12:45 4:30

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**ACTOR** Vince Vaughn, 39, is a groom. A spokesperson said the *Wedding Crashers* actor wed a 31-year-old real estate agent in a small ceremony on Sunday in Chicago. AP

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PG - occasional coarse language

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