

Kiwitea Cottage – Two families - 26 years of care, family life, fine food and laughter 2000 – 2026

1999 – 2015

Owners Peter Beachchamp and Nicky Feilder

Nicky and Pete raised a young family, renovated, gardened and raised their own meat. Pete was a tradesman and Nicky a teacher. The couple ran a paddock to plate livestock system with the land fenced into three fields. Stock grazed the front, the southern side, the back and an eastern strip. The pig house was directly behind the garage and pigs free ranged the orchard and back paddock. Their large productive vegetable garden was originally sited where the garage now sits. They did not believe in chemical sprays and restricted their use to driveway weeds and the base boards of the house on the two sides where there were no gardens.

The orchard comprised seven trees relocated from another site. Amenity planting included five mature trees – a large 'strawberry' tree on the eastern driveway and a bay tree in the kitchen patio. A camellia, a rhododendron and an azalea framed the front of the house. Buxus hedging enclosed roses in the front and to the side of the house which was tightly fenced.

The views were wide, sunsets glorious, the prevailing wind ferocious.

The couple meticulously renovated the cottage, reconfiguring its interior, keeping true to the colour palettes of earlier times. It was a sympathetic undertaking. Brass light fittings matched the age of the house. Newly installed large sash windows let in light, kitchen joinery mirrored the matched lining of earlier years.

In 2008 they extended the home and built a standalone garage with attached accommodation. The roof line and weatherboard profile of the new build matched the era of the cottage so the two buildings looked as if they belonged.

In 2015 the Beauchamps moved to Feilding to support their teenagers busy extracurricular activities and sold their property privately. It was on the market 11 days and sold 12 percent above RV

2015 – 2026 - Owners Paula Allen and Mark Tisdall

Paula Allen and Mark Tisdall owned a 2.5 acre lifestyle property in Ohakea from 1999 to 2015. The large two storey , 4 bed, 1888 built board and batten home was picturesque. It sat alongside a three bay garage and included a 54 sq metre custom configured art studio. They ran a small flock of Wiltshire sheep, raised chickens, cultivated large vegetable beds, tended an orchard and had a rambling garden that featured large established deciduous trees and hundreds of roses. It was a great property for teens, a harsh environment for gardening and too big for a couple once their children left home.

They bought Kiwitea Cottage in 2015 after soil tests confirmed it was suitable for organic conversion. Initially they raised lambs but quickly realised organic management would be nigh impossible because

of a heavy worm load in local soils, the inability to regularly rest paddocks for 30 days and the fencing required for shelter planting.

Conversion to organics began in 2016 with the establishment of a U shaped windbreak that ran the length of the southern boundary. Mixed planting provided multiple purposes – shelter, amenity, the creation of a wild life corridor that would allow for easy migration of native birds between two established native plantings to the north and south, future firewood, food, pollinators.

In 2017 the property was registered with OFNZ – Organic Farm NZ – and inspected annually from 2017 – 2023 when full registration lapsed after government legislation no longer required it. The property is still managed organically and can be registered on a national register as such.

Our focus as owners has been to make changes that support

Technology dependent work from home

A great visitor experience

Organic food self sufficiency

A sense of sanctuary

Creative work