



# 10 MIGRANTS

SOME BRIEF FIRST-HAND REFLECTIONS  
ON LIFE AND LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND

ALL MIGRANTS ARE DRIVEN BY THE VISION OF A NEW LIFE. HERE, WE LOOK BRIEFLY AT HOW SOME HAVE REALISED THEIR VISION. THE MIGRANTS PROFILED COME FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS AND WALKS OF LIFE. SOME ARE RECENT RESIDENTS; OTHERS HAVE LIVED HERE FOR MANY YEARS; SOME, AS THE CHILDREN OF MIGRANTS, CAME HERE AS TEENAGERS. THE RANGE OF



OCCUPATIONS IS EQUALLY DIVERSE. SOME ARE WELL ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONALS; OTHERS RUN THEIR OWN BUSINESSES; SOME ARE JUST STARTING OUT IN THEIR CAREERS. ALL ARE NOW NEW ZEALANDERS. WE HOPE THESE SHARED REFLECTIONS ON LIFE AND LIVING MAY HELP YOU AS YOU CONSIDER SETTLING IN A NEW AND VIBRANT LAND.



# PATRICIA PAWLAK

## MONTREAL, CANADA

### THE MAGIC OF 'THE RING' DREW PATRICIA PAWLAK FROM COSMOPOLITAN MONTREAL TO SUBURBAN WELLINGTON.

Two years and twelve thousand kilometres later, she's still under its spell.

"Working at Weta has provided opportunities I'd never have got in Montreal. Peter Jackson and Richard Taylor have been an inspiration.

"This is an amazingly creative environment to work in. I've grown professionally and truly enjoyed living in Wellington. And I've realised my best because of this. You could say I've grown with 'The Ring!...'"



"NEW ZEALAND IS A UNIQUE PLACE AND IT'S BECOMING EVER MORE PRECIOUS AS THE REST OF THE WORLD BECOMES OVER POPULATED AND POLLUTED."

PATRICIA PAWLAK, CREATURE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
FOR 'LORD OF THE RINGS' – WETA STUDIOS.



# KIT WONG HONG KONG

## HONG KONG MIGRANT, KIT WONG IS DRIVEN BY A VISION.

In the south-east Auckland suburb of Howick, that vision is rapidly taking shape. The Somerville Business Park is New Zealand's first multicultural business centre. It has over 90 shops, including professional offices, retail shops selling Asian products, an Asian-operated medical clinic and ethnic restaurants. Kit sees Somerville not just as a business, but also as a way of helping new migrants settle in.

"You have to go through a learning curve to learn the New Zealand way of doing business. It's very different from Hong Kong. Somerville provides the sort of support migrants need. It's not only a social and economic centre, it's a cultural centre."

Kit and his wife, Teresa, admit that it's not easy to start a business here and that the social transition can be difficult. But having made the transition they love their life here. "We chose New Zealand because of the lifestyle – its green environment, pure water and clean air."

"IT'S AN IDEAL PLACE TO BRING UP CHILDREN AND, ONCE YOU KNOW THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE, THERE'S GREAT OPPORTUNITY. NEW ZEALAND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME THE BEST ECO-COUNTRY IN THE WORLD."

KIT WONG, PROPERTY DEVELOPER.





# ANNATJIE AND WILLIE STEENKAMP

## PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA

### IN THE ROLLING VALLEYS NORTH OF AUCKLAND, ANNATJIE AND WILLIE STEENKAMP HAVE CREATED A LITTLE BIT OF HOME.

On the seven acres of land around their Cape-Dutch styled homestead grow row upon row of proteas – South Africa's national flower.

A dentist by profession, Willie first thought of growing proteas for export as a retirement scheme and a hobby. Planting started with over 2,000 protea and leucadendron plants of several varieties.

"We planned to start it slowly. However, it was so exciting and had so much potential that it just took off with a huge bang."

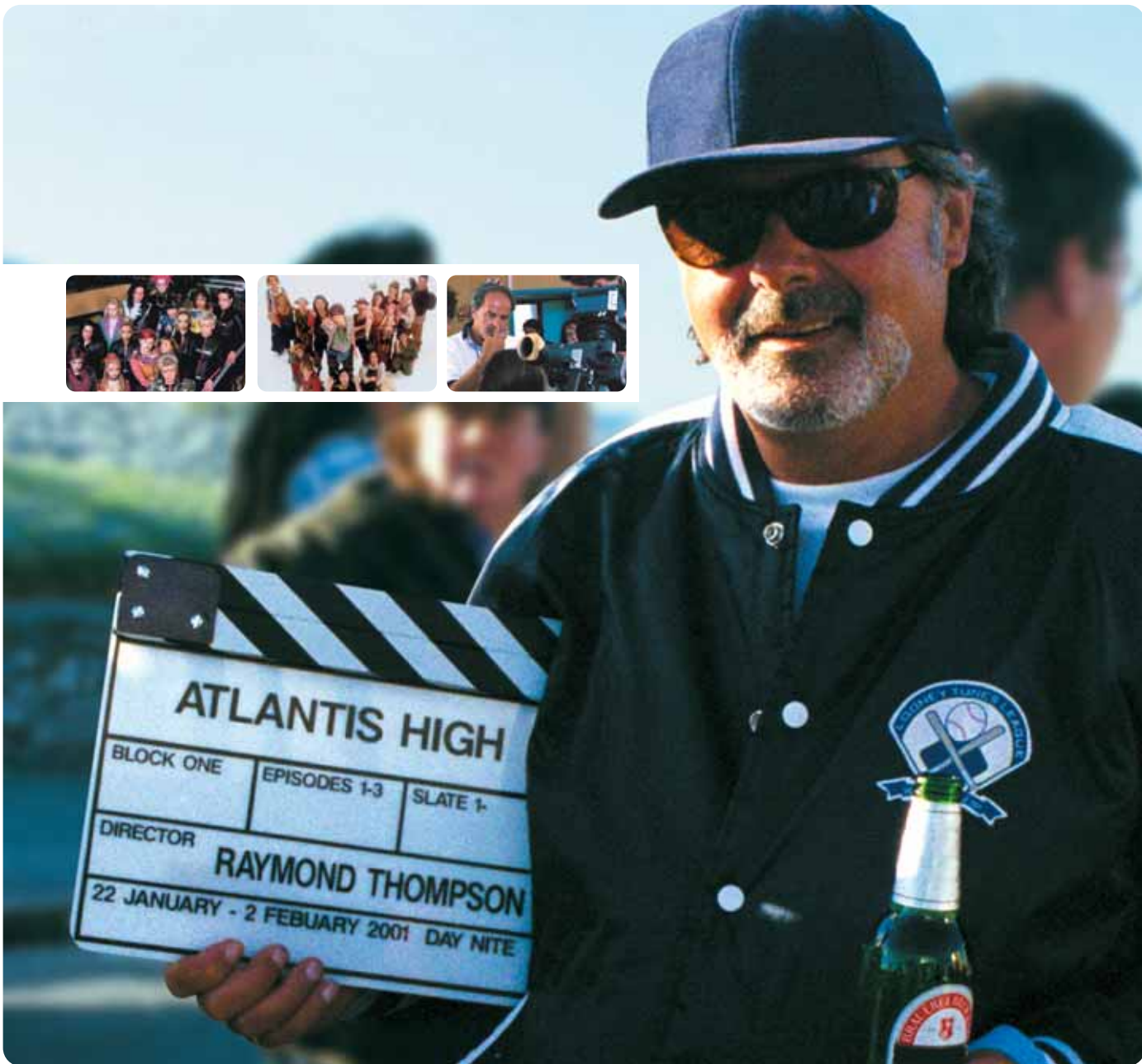
Shortly, they will be adding another thousand new plants and concentrating on Annatjie's favourite plant, Silver Tree. The couple see real export potential for the variety in America, Europe and Japan but, with a three-year growing period, this is still some time off.

Meanwhile, with strong support from local flower growers, Annatjie is concentrating on developing local markets.



"IT IS SUCH A PLEASURE  
TO BE OUT HERE WITH THESE  
BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS AND  
PLANTS SURROUNDING YOU,  
PICKING AWAY TO MAKE  
SOMEBODY'S DAY WITH  
A LOVELY BUNCH OF  
HOME-GROWN PROTEAS.  
WHEN I LOOK AT THEM,  
I FEEL LIKE I'M AT HOME."

ANNATJIE AND WILLIE STEENKAMP,  
PROTEA GROWERS.



# RAYMOND THOMPSON

## LONDON, ENGLAND

### ENGLISH MIGRANT RAY THOMPSON CREDITS HIS ROMANY GYPSY MOTHER WITH HIS PASSION FOR STORYTELLING.

It's a passion that's led to a successful screenwriting career spanning London and Hollywood and generated a multi-million dollar business.

He founded *Cloud 9* in London in 1994 with the aim of producing quality family programming – a mixture of moral guidance and good storytelling. He holds firmly to this principle and refuses to produce what he dubs "fast-food, karate-chop television".

When he moved the company to New Zealand in 1999, it already had a string of international credits to its name. *Cloud 9* has since gone on to produce such internationally acclaimed series as *The Tribe* and *Atlantis High*. He sees the move as both smart business and a choice about quality of life.

"There's opportunity here, the chance to take life in your hands. New Zealanders are invigorating, positive and creative. There's no social class system and you can have a great lifestyle."

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POTENTIAL TO SUPPLY NICHE  
MARKETS. I'M CONVINCED  
NEW ZEALAND WILL EVOLVE  
INTO A MAJOR INFLUENCE,  
GLOBALLY. I LOVE IT HERE  
AND SEE A VIBRANT AND  
EXCITING TOMORROW."

RAYMOND THOMPSON,  
SCREENWRITER AND PRODUCER – CLOUD 9.

