

THINGS I LOVE ABOUT PONSONBY



Photography: Klosser

Charlie Perry has recently set up Charlie's Angels, her own business in Ponsonby offering dedicated lifestyle management and personal assistant services, and she helps remove the hassle and stress from our busy lives! She told Ponsonby News last week, "I've lived in some wonderful cities and some beautiful countries but couldn't think of any place I would rather call home than Ponsonby. I've been based here for over 10 years and I love it more every day for its vibrant, exciting, culturally rich and colourful community." Here are Charlie's favourite Ponsonby places/people.

My home on John Street – I'm yet to find a smaller house but this place is perfect for me and my lifestyle. I love sitting in the sun on the back deck soaking up all the sounds of our neighbourhood which include the church bells on a Sunday morning; troupes of excited kids walking to and from school; kapa haka groups and choirs rehearsing at St Pauls; band

practise in the house down the road; family gatherings on the neighbour's lawn; and the varying styles of music blasting across the valley from any number of the houses... all against the beautiful song of tuis in the garden.

Grey Lynn Park – an inner-city sanctuary perfect for running the dogs, playing touch with friends and swimming with the kids. It is also the venue for two of my favourite annual events – the Grey Lynn Park Festival in November and the Lightspeed Daylight Savings Celebration in March. I love the stalls and the entertainment at these gigs but even more so the crowds that come together to celebrate our community. These are truly the good times!

George FM – Peter Ulrich and all the guys and gals at George FM keep my toes tapping and put a smile on my dial on even the greyest of days. I've been tuning into George since they first went to air and could never stand it when I drove outside Ponsonby and went out of range. Fortunately I can listen to them from pretty much anywhere now.

Letham Gallery – fabulous selection of art, lovely ladies who make you feel very welcome and a beautiful historic brick building make for great gallery and art experience. And now with my office in the annex of Letham Cottage I get to visit every day!

Ponsonby Road – being a lover of food and a wine enthusiast I'm very spoilt to have such an enormous selection of outstanding cafes, restaurants and bars within walking distance to home. I adore pizza and can't go past Prego and SPQR for theirs. They are both institutions in their own right and for over a decade have never failed to impress no matter what the hour or how big the group. For fine dining Rocco is my favourite. Between Blair, Mark and now Melissa, the service is always exceptional and the food second to none. For brunch and coffee Dizengoff is where you'll usually find me and for a sun-downer I'll see you at Chapel.

Westhaven Marina – I'm from a keen sailing family and Westhaven is where our yacht is berthed. This is a special place not just because it is where many wonderful holidays have begun but because it has such a calming effect on me. There is something about the smell of the salt water, the rattling of the stays against the masts and the subtle sound of lapping water that instantly de-stresses. I love my evening walks around Westhaven and if I can't get out on the water in the weekends sometimes I will just go down to the marina and sit on the back of the boat with a coffee and soak it all up. To me, this is bliss!

Ripe Deli – I love my regular visits to Ripe to pick up breakfast, lunch or dinner. Angie and the team are charming, the food is divine and if I have the time I will sit out the front and just watch the world drive/walk by.

Ponsonby News – it's got to be said, this is the best local rag in town. I'm not one to spend hours flicking through magazines but I do love the day my PN is delivered and will enjoy reading from front to back. I only wish I didn't have to wait a month for the next issue!

Charlie is available on T 360 4126 www.charliesangels.co.nz