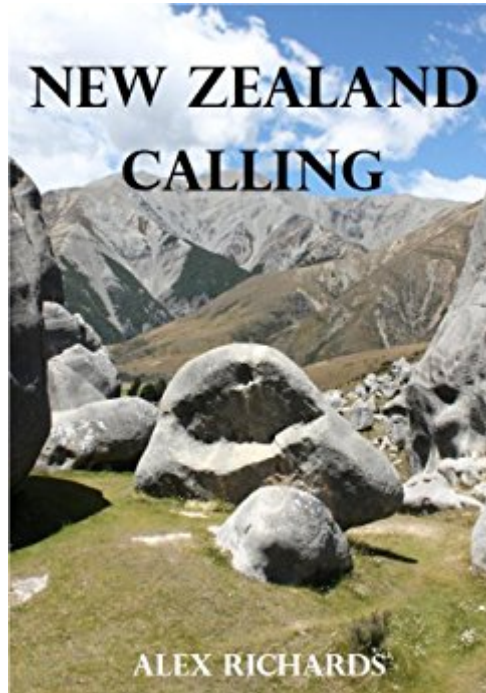




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New Zealand Calling



Synopsis

In 2007 Alex Richards moved his young family from rural Worcestershire in the United Kingdom to Darfield, a small township about 30 km West of Christchurch on the South Island of New Zealand. Having never visited New Zealand prior to the move, the learning curve was steep and the experiences came thick and fast as Alex and his family threw themselves into everything their new home had to offer. 'New Zealand Calling' is the story that emerged over the first five years of Alex's new life. Often hilarious, always heartfelt, his easy reading accounts of the initial move, settling a family into a new country, hunting and fishing expeditions and his social observations of a country that doesn't appear in the numerous tourist guides will leave you feeling as though you were along for the ride. Despite their optimism, what they couldn't have expected were the devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 that first shook Darfield and then devastated Christchurch. Would the 'Shaky Isles' prove too much, or had their dreams come true after all? 'A must read for anybody thinking of emigrating to New Zealand' (David Price 2012), 'New Zealand Calling' is as varied in its stories as the wonderful people of New Zealand and the extraordinary country they inhabit but, more than anything, it's a 'bloody good read' ('Pat' of chapter 25). Most people have dreamed of living abroad. Many have thought of New Zealand as the perfect location. Would your dreams have come true if you'd taken the plunge? At last it's possible to get a taste of what really awaits a family moving to Aotearoa.

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Customer Reviews

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to suddenly pick up yourself and your family and move halfway around the world to make a new life, this book is a must-read. Even if you're not in the market for a new address in another country and are content being an armchair traveler, this book still has a lot to offer. Both the important practical issues of setting up in a new country such as visas, finding work, packing up, and setting up a bank account to the everyday differences in terminology, climate, and getting used to new grocery stores and products are all reported in a light, conversational manner, as friend-to-friend. Welcome to the major, minor, and sometimes petty irritations that can plague a newcomer. The fun times are in here too. From learning how to scuba dive, fishing on the Pacific Ocean, hunting in the Alps of the South Island, to a little girl's ballet lessons they are all new adventures to be faced. (While reading of all these adventures and excursions, I had to wonder how much vacation time workers in New Zealand get; certainly more than the measly two weeks a year most Americans get.) Another item to ponder is how the author's wife felt about all these guy-trips that left her at home with the kids while he was out stalking the wild salmon. Perhaps one day she'll write her own book, and we'll get the other side of the picture. The best parts of the book for me were those portions dealing with the trial and error of setting up their property as a "lifestyle block," which I take it to be what we might call a hobby farm or farmette. The problems with the harsh wind and climate, the choices of garden plants, and even the building of a chicken run all presented new challenges to the family most which were conquered with the help and advice of friends they had made since arriving in the country. I do wish there were photographs in the book of the locations mentioned, both around the house and grounds and the various areas visited for the hunting, fishing, and camping excursions. This book covers the first six years of the family in their new land. Will there be a volume two after the next six years? I certainly hope so. I would enjoy reading about their further adventures and how they fare over the long term, and if those pending additions and repairs to their farmstead finally get finished. Perhaps that volume will contain photographs so we can be properly envious. Recommended.

A great read! Being a Kiwi born and bred, I was always going to critique the content and I did just that, finding it refreshingly honest as well as strikingly accurate. His descriptive narrative of the

myriad of places visited on his adventures brought each of them to life. The majority of New Zealand outdoor activities that this author managed to accomplish in a couple of years has taken me half a lifetime to get around to fulfilling. The ebb and flow of the writing style made it a thoroughly enjoyable read and I would most definitely recommend it as a light, informative and amusing publication...for native New Zealanders and foreigners alike. I will most certainly be on the lookout for more of his material on the back of this book

Regular people on the moving adventure of a lifetime. And....interesting....what the author did for a living was a far distant second to how he enjoyed life.

Love this book! It has given us much insight as we also prepare to move our family to New Zealand.

It is interesting to read about the experiences they had living in New Zealand and learning to be more independent.

Did not feel it was that good to much about sport

I love this book!

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