



From Argentina to New Zealand

"When we left Argentina to explore the world, we never imagined that a small town on the other side of the world would one day become our home.

I first came to New Zealand on a working holiday visa when I was 21. I wasn't looking for a better life, I simply wanted to travel and experience somewhere different." - Juana

Falling for New Zealand

"People were so kind, the country felt so safe and calm, and I just loved it here." - Juana

"It was the same for me. I came to New Zealand on working holiday visas with no plans to stay, but somewhere along the way, I changed my mind." - Juan



Finding each other

"We met in Hurunui in 2017. Settling here was easy. We both found jobs we enjoyed, he was a mechanic and I worked at the Hanmer Springs Four Square, and we soon built strong friendships. We never felt lonely. Life just felt easy here." - Juana

A place to call home

"As our relationship grew and we started thinking about a future and family together, we realised something we had never expected when we first arrived as travellers. New Zealand had become our home." - Juana



Juan & Juana

“We fell in love with New Zealand, we fell in love with this area, and we fell in love with each other.

Growing our family

“We now have three children together: Luna, Sarah and Olivia. Although our families are far away, we soon discovered that the community became our family.” - Juan

“We joined the local Playcentre, which was a great opportunity to meet other families. Our kids love their mornings there, and we soon built strong friendships.” - Juana

Giving back

“I wanted to give back to the community that has welcomed us so warmly. I became involved with running the Playcentre and the Toy Library.” - Juana

“We recently opened our mechanic workshop in Culverden as a way of investing in the community and helping people across the district.” - Juan



Finding confidence

“I didn’t speak much English when I arrived. Thanks to work, sport and the community, I quickly became more confident.” - Juan

Home at last

“What began as a working holiday became a life we never expected. We fell in love with New Zealand, we fell in love with the area, and we fell in love with each other.” - Juan

“We have found a place that continues to offer so much to our lives and feel like locals now. Hanmer Springs is home, and we’re so grateful to be raising our kids here.” - Juana



Scan to hear Juan & Juana’s full story