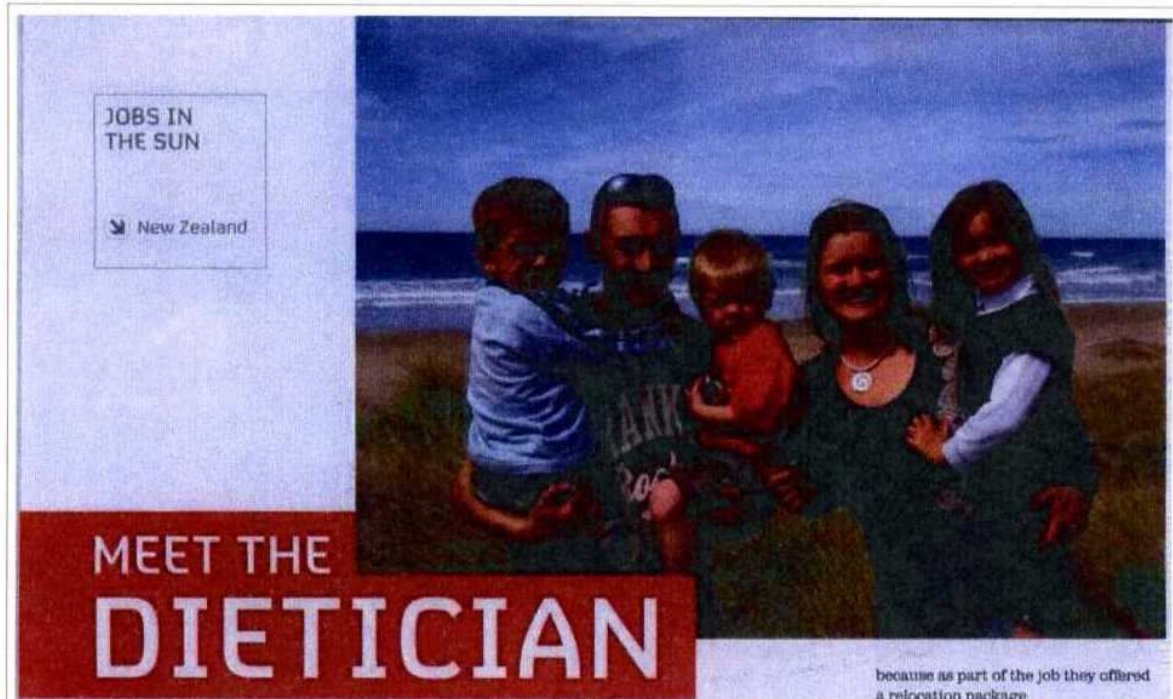


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## MEET THE DIETICIAN

because as part of the job they offered a relocation package.

Six months ago Phil Wilson (36), partner Noleen (34) and kids Faith (five), Levi (three) and Mathew (two) moved to New Zealand's North Island from County Omagh in Northern Ireland. Noleen tells us about the family's new life and her new job

**We started thinking about emigrating a few years ago - we wanted a change of pace and to experience living in a different country.** We were particularly interested in New Zealand and after taking a six-week tour of the country a few years ago we decided it was the place for us. The people were really friendly and the scenery was fantastic.

**The first thing we did once we made the decision to emigrate was to get the advice of an emigration agent.** We chose one based in Chester, The Emigration Group. One of the hardest parts of the emigration process was collating the paperwork, something our agent helped with. They took a lot of the stress out of the process and allowed us to concentrate on other issues, such as selling the properties we had in Ireland and looking at career opportunities in New Zealand.

**We are now living in a rented two-storey house in Thames, close to the local shops and the beach.** Our new home has great sea views but is in walking distance of work and

amenities. The good thing about the area is that we are also really close to some fabulous national parks yet only 90 minutes from major cities like Hamilton and Auckland.

**We really love the laid-back lifestyle in NZ.** Now we both get much more time to spend with the kids and because of the better climate we get to enjoy the outdoors more. Back in Ireland we were often put off getting out and about because of the weather, but here we regularly go down to some of the fantastic beaches on the Coromandel Peninsula or into the countryside and, in general, we're all quite active.

**I got offered a job as a dietician before we made the move out and this was a real help.** Phil and I were actually considering living on the South Island and had invested in a vineyard there, however with properties still to sell back in Ireland we weren't at the stage to develop the vineyard, so I looked for job as a dietician and one came up in Thames. This proved to be a real help to us,

**People in Thames have been really open and it's been easy to become part of the community.** Everyone has been welcoming and I've met lots of friends through work and Phil has made lots of friends through the kids being in local clubs and going to the local nursery. It's surprised us all how fast we've become part of the community. Originally, after selling the properties in Ireland we were contemplating moving to the South Island where the vineyard is, but now after making so many friends in Thames we want to stay here.

**Our typical weekend now is quite different to back at home.** We enjoy a picnic on the beach or go camping at weekends. New Zealand is really well set up for any outdoor activity and there are lots of camping spots next to some of Coromandel's best beaches.

**There is honestly nothing I regret about moving to NZ.** The only thing I would say is that we do miss family. Having Skype has proved to be really helpful, because we can talk and see family for free. When I've been feeling a bit homesick it's been good to see and have a chat with my mum, albeit via a computer. My final bit of advice to anyone is that you only live once, so if you are thinking about emigrating, go for it. Better to do that than regret never going. ☺

[www.emigrationgroup.co.uk](http://www.emigrationgroup.co.uk)