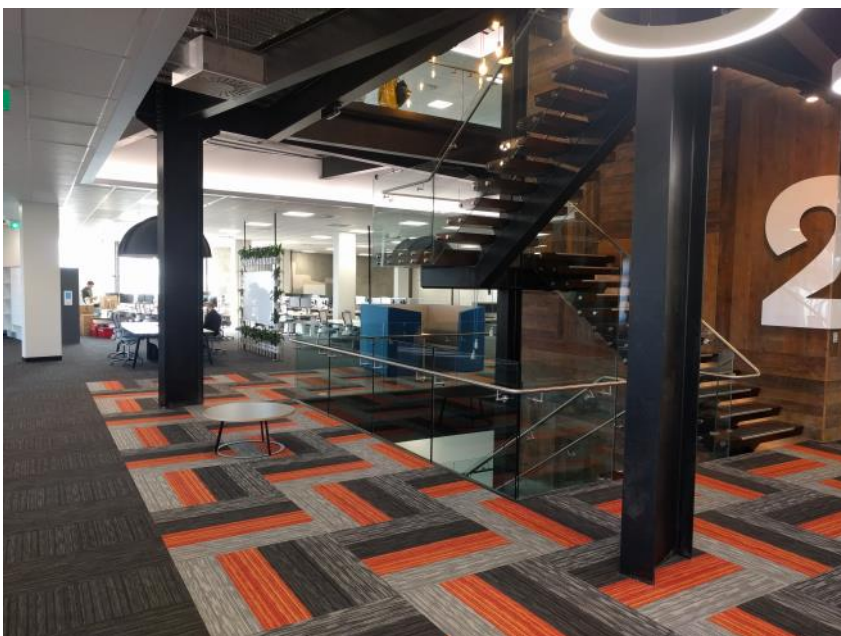


Well we have moved, we have settled into our new house. As I sit at the dining table with the doors open and the sun streaming down and the birds singing it starts to feel as though we have got over one hurdle.

I know that many of you are in the northern hemisphere so I will not gloat too much, but it is lovely that spring has started over here, the clocks went forward a month ago and not only are the evenings brighter now but the weather is generally good. Spring can be a difficult time in Wellington, it is often windy, windy even by Wellington standards, but this year the last couple of weeks have been lovely, which is good as we now catch a boat to work. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Like I said last time, at work I had moved out of the mobile team and into the banking integration team. People were only too keen to warn me that they were a terrible team and that I was making a mistake. Well I have been



there for over three months now and I have to say they are a pretty good team. They are mostly bright and enthusiastic. It has been fun to get back into back-end style

work, though I do admit that I miss the mobile work I am happy with the team and they seem happy with me. We did end up moving twice, one weekend we moved



office at work and the next we moved house. Xero is spread across three offices in Wellington and for the last couple of years we have watched as our new building was being build opposite. Well at the end of September we moved in. As it traditional in companies we are now so big that we only just fit in but its good to all be together in the same building. Its very swish, fizzy water on tap in the kitchen, a gym downstairs, a dedicated bicycle store complete with showers and towel service. We also have powered standing desks that go high enough for me to work properly stood up, I do like to work stood up for a change, I often sand for a couple of hours a day. Aparently its very good for my hip flexors, who knew?

The other change is to “agile working” (not, I repeat not, hot-desking). In agile working you have a team and each team has a number of desks allocated to them, their neighborhood, and within that area I can sit anywhere. There

are no desk draws, you do not have a desk for yourself, any bits and pieces you need; like computer, keyboard and tea in my case you keep in you locker and we all have little baskets to carry things around in. Typically we only have desks for about two thirds of the team so the other sit at communal tables. In our team it works OK as the number of people, like me who need to sit at a regular desk with multiple monitors is about right for our desks and the managers and team leaders don't really need a regular desk.

I have to say it does feel like a sea change and I suspect that in ten years everyone will do this and people will





struggle to remember cubicles or open plan. A bit like remembering that once upon a time we used to smoke in offices. It's a bit hit and miss with people, some people seem to like it some people hate it. I guess I don't really mind that much, what is more important to me is sitting with my team and near a window would be nice. I find that I keep nothing in the office, I shred everything and really only use my locker for computer and tea (Yorkshire tea obviously). The paperless office lies in this direction: simply don't give anyone anywhere to store anything.

The hour going forward – it is our spring – really helped with the move. To get out of our little shed on the beach which we have lived in for the last four years we need to go over the beach and for that we needed a low tide and that was at either 5am or 5pm on a Saturday. We really didn't was to get up at 5am so we were keen on the 5pm and having the light until after 7pm really helped. We have loved living by the

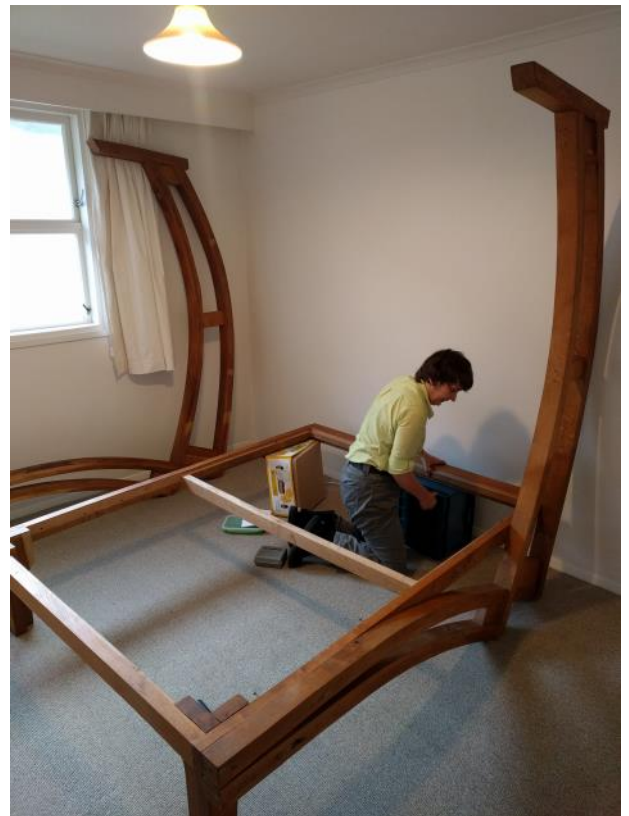




beach; we feel like we are on holiday all the time and have the sea at our feet. However, we need to move to be near the new house so we can supervise it while it is being built. So we have moved from

37A Seaview to 43B Pukatea Street, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt 5013, New Zealand.

I really expected to find the move difficult and to miss the old place lots and I really surprised myself in that I have found so many things to like in the new place. I mean the new place has no sea view, its much darker without the blinding sun, we have neighbours, very close

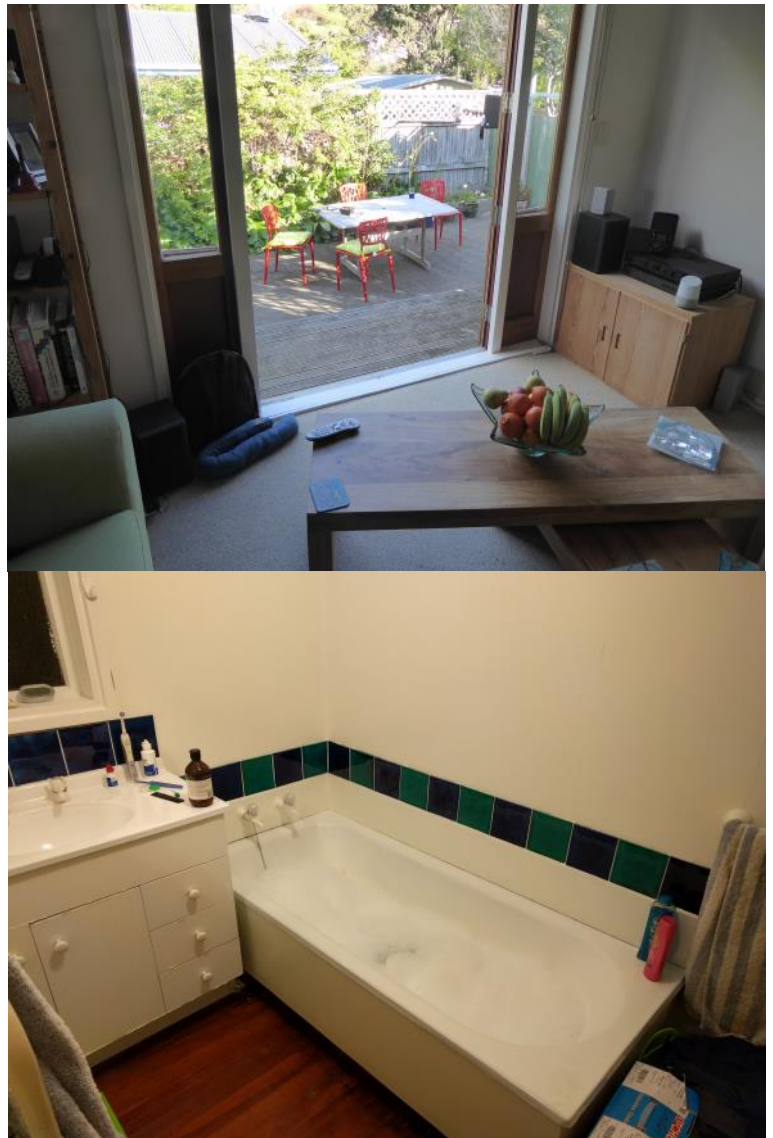


neighbours and we are unused to neighbours.

However we have carpeted throughout and no 50m hike up a hill to get to the road it feels like a

real proper grown up house after living in a shed for so long. We have a lovely courtyard at the back and its sheltered enough that I can sit out and read and we can smoke fish on a Friday. Its properly insulated and has a heat pump. The rooms are all slightly bigger with give us enough room to breathe and best of all it has a bath. Hurrah. Its one of our favourite things is to lie in the bath with a cuppa listening to Kermode and Mayo's Film Review. We have a kitchen we can both work in and of course its all open plan.

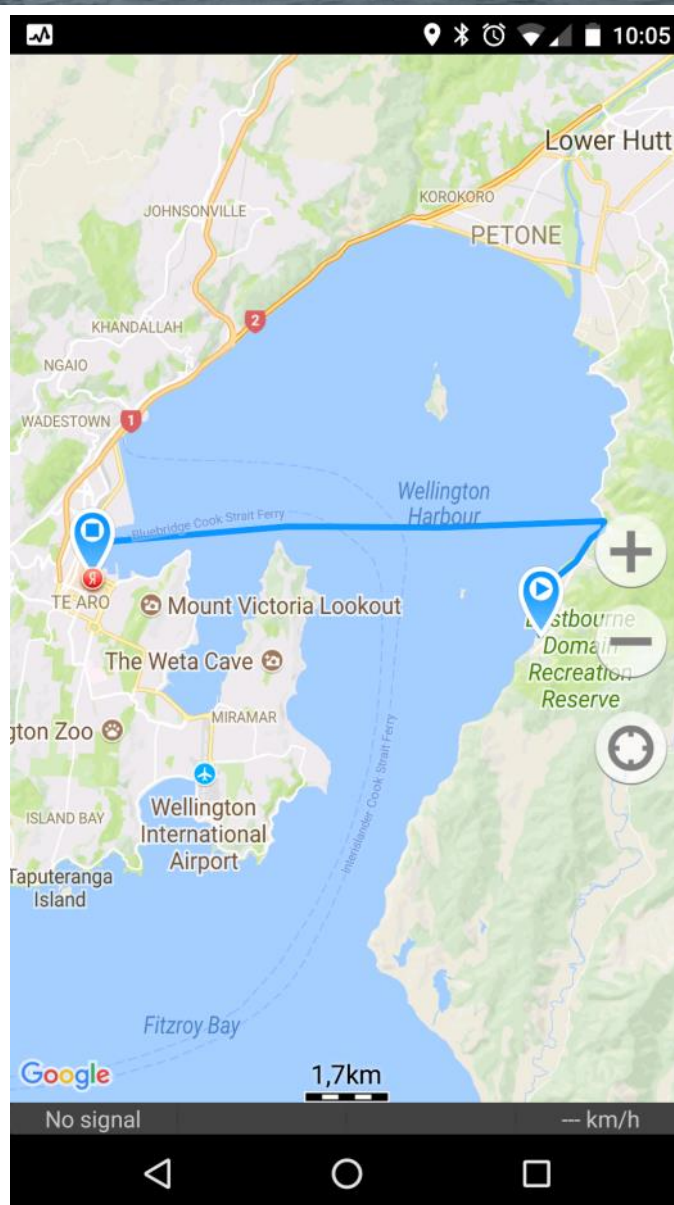
The other thing about the new house is the location, Eastbourne is lovely, it's a small seaside village directly opposite Wellington across the harbour. I think its one of the things to do if you arrive on a cruise ship is to catch the ferry across the harbour and walk on the beach. Well that's what we do every day we cycle for 12 minutes, around Windy Point to Days Bay, and then jump on the





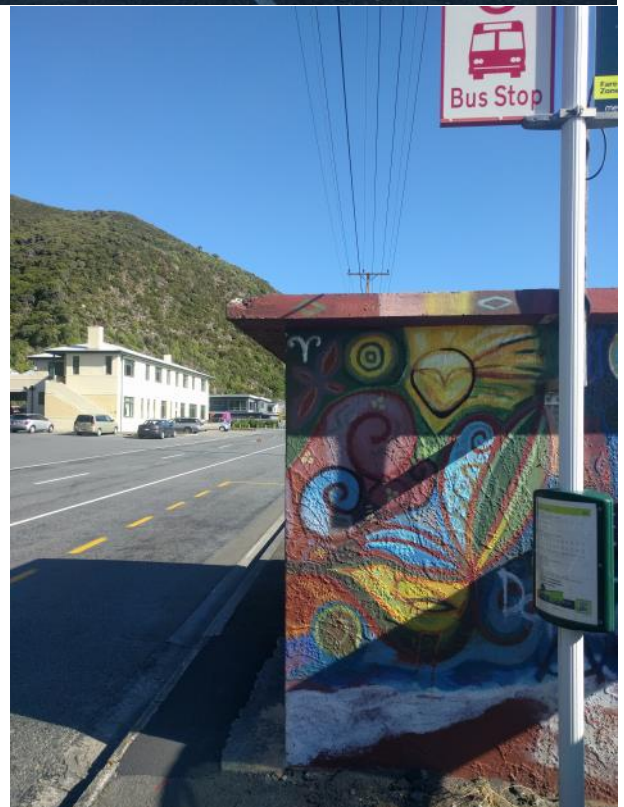


ferry and in 25 minutes we are in the CBD, what a commute there really is simply nothing like it. I find myself humming the theme music to the film “Working Girl” all the time. Even though the trip is in the harbour the weather can be a factor the ferry is quite a varied trip, some days its sunny and calm and other days the waves can literally come right over the boat and down the other side. Oddly with no sea view we feel very connected to the sea here, we need to know the weather and winds to know if the ferry is running, they do cancel sailing and you don’t get much warning, then its either the

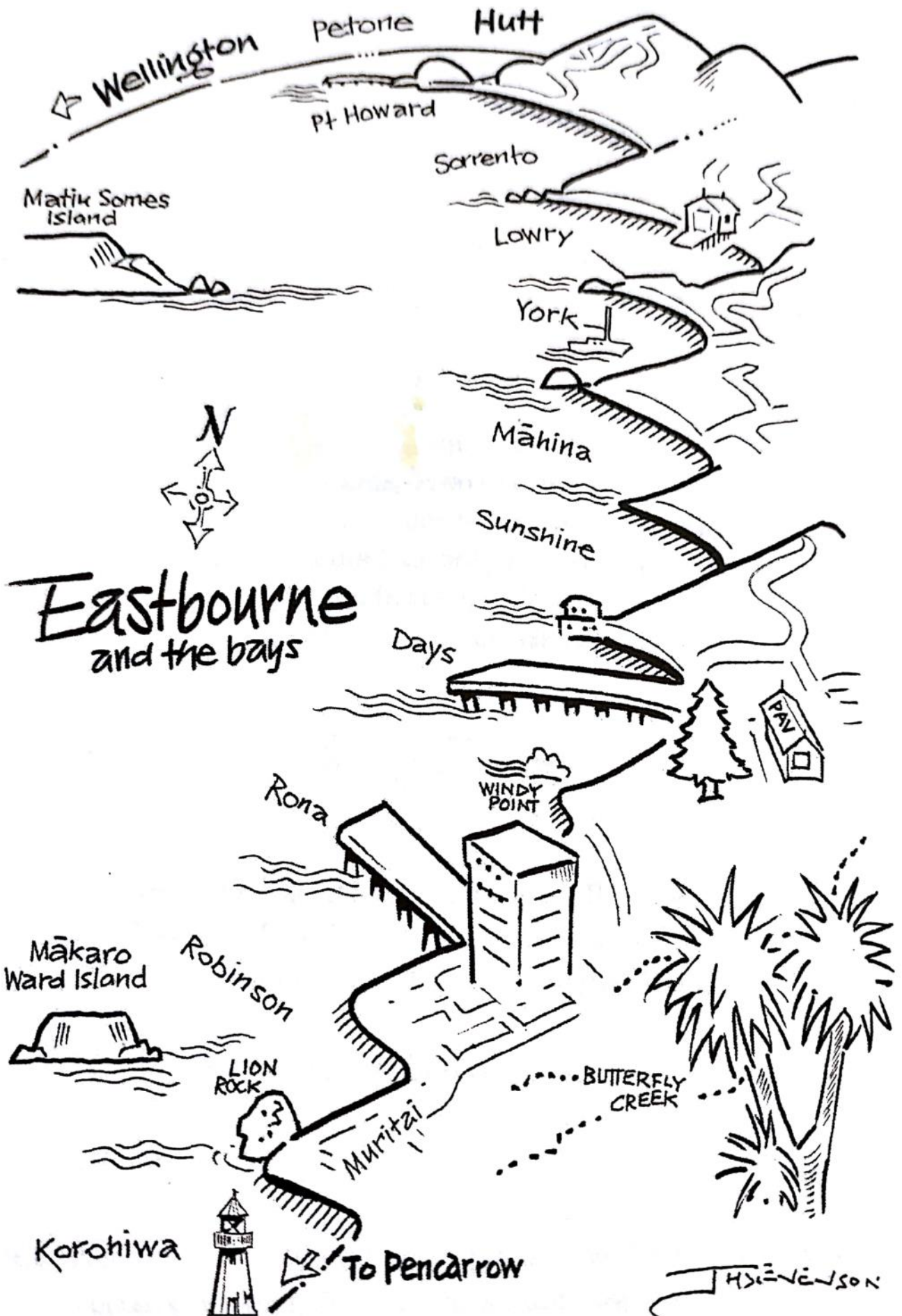


car or the bus. Also when it's a strong wind it can make the cycling bit much longer.

For some reason we ended up driving here just after we had arrived. Eastbourne is down at the end of a long and winding road that skims along the edge of the water, it's a very picturesque drive and very memorable. Isn't it odd how places stick in your mind when you arrive somewhere, I remember being driven along Bury Old Road next to Heaton Park by Dad all those years ago, off to university I think. Anyway the corresponding memory here in Wellington is the drive though





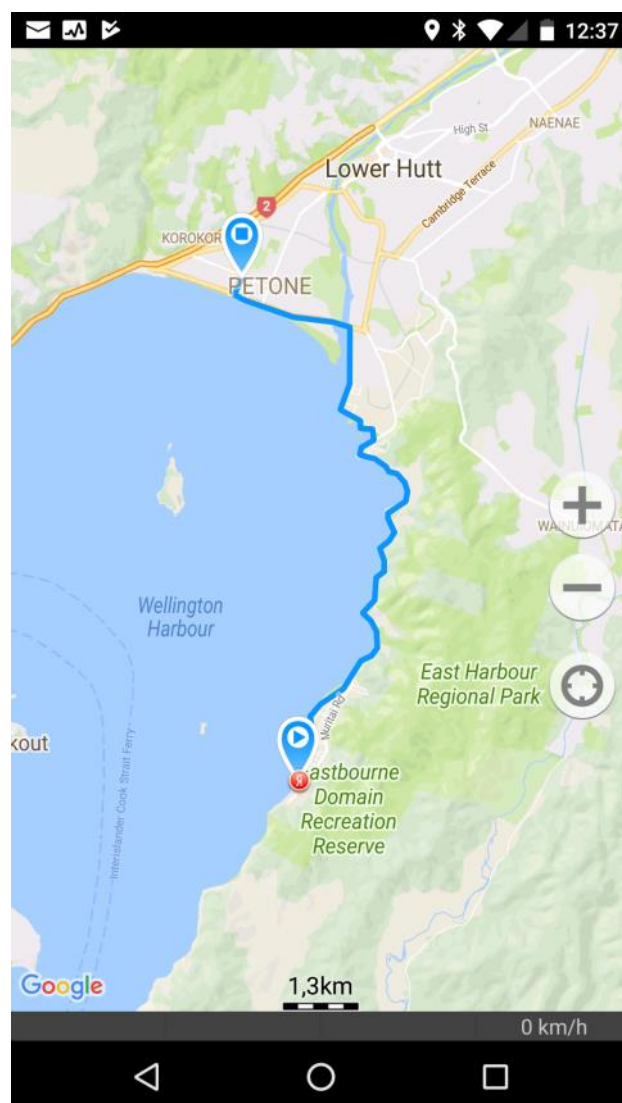


all the bays  
along the road  
down to East-  
bourne. East-  
bourne itself is a  
lovely little vil-  
lage, it has a  
proper centre,  
for the first time



we can walk to the shops, up until now its been a good 30 minutes to the nearest proper shop. We have some lovely café's a nice delli which sells great smoked salmon pate, a little supermarket and even a pub. Our new house will be in Korohiwa Bay overlooking Lion Rock.

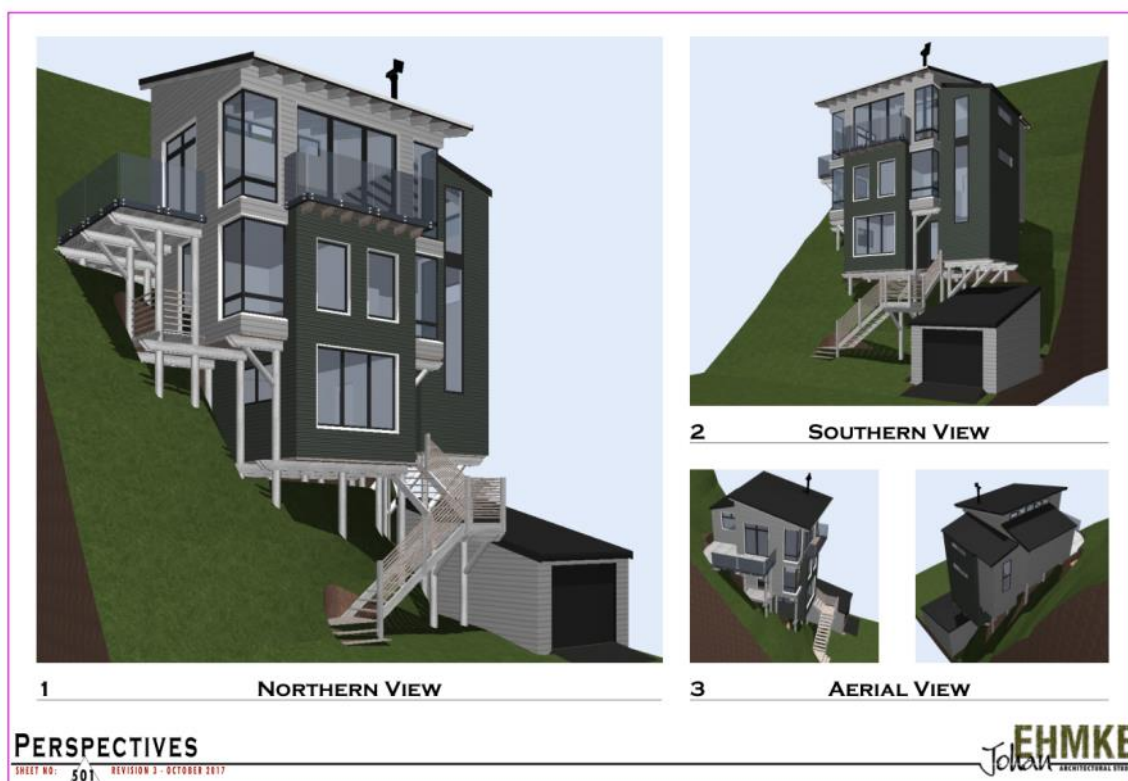
The other weekend we cycled back to the cinema in Petone. One of our pleasures in the other house we to cycle round the inlet and go to the cinema, its good to be able to replace that cycle with this one. Though it also is quite wind affected, it



took 50 minutes to get there and about 40 to get back. We went to see Bladerunner 2049 which I thought was fantastic and the lighthouse cinema is one of lifes very special treats.

Its not just us that has need to get used to change, Stripey cat has been finding it a bit tough. He is such an outdoor cat that he was not going to be kept in for a week to acclimatise. This is the received wisdom on how to move a cat, however we need to sleep and he was going bananas being kept in so we let him out. He instantly disappeared for three days. I thought we had lost him but he turned up at 3am by the back door. After a week or two he has finally managed to settle down.

Of course the big driving force behind the move is the new house, we now live about a five minute walk from



our plot of land. We now have plans ready to be put before the council



and if we can get them approved before Christmas then hopefully we can start to get building next year.

Yes this place does feel OK, it's a necessary step on the way to where we want to be, now if we could just sell the UK house. We have been able to stop running around like mad things and chill a little we smoke fish on Friday and have pasta and fish and we have had friends around to see the new place, sat outside on our new chairs and played games at the dining table. We have loads of lovely walks around here, along the front into the village, up and over the cliff behind our plot of land and off the end of the road to Pencarrow lighthouse. We get to Skype with people on Sun-



day evening around a roast dinner and Strictly Come Dancing.

The last couple of weekends have both been long weekends, we booked a day holi-

day, it was our Friday off and we had Labour Day so we have had three short weeks in a row, next week could be a shock as we have to work five days.

