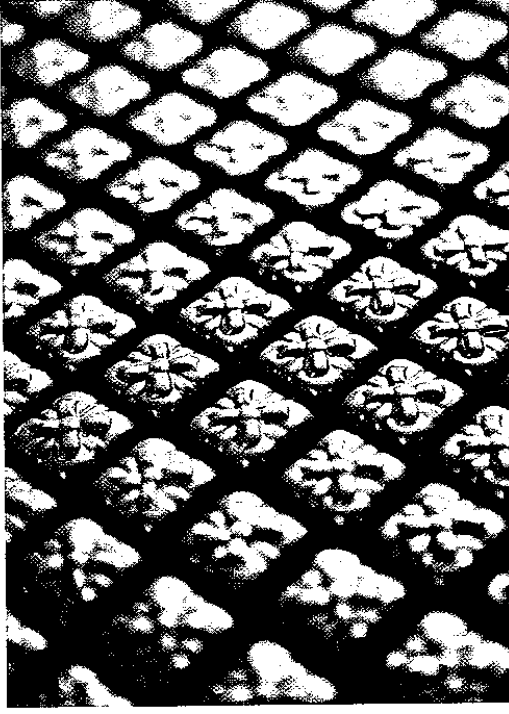
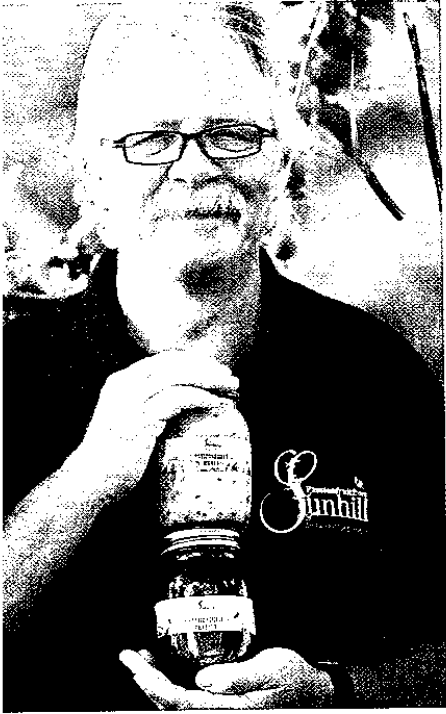


This page. Clockwise from top left: Lochiel Estate is the region's first winery; Mangawhai's Smashed Pipi serves food in an artistic setting; locally produced wine and chocolat ; orchardist Stuart McKinley with some of his Sunhill preserves. **Opposite page. Clockwise from left:** Dan Klink smokes his own deli meats at Mangawhai Meat Shop; homemade preserves; Liza Maberly offers accommodation and cooking lessons in Mangawhai.



are's a peach tree in the garden) of a fabulous, mile-high confection of homemade, stripy chocolate curls atop a black forest gateau. Macadamia nuts, nasturtium and borage, all from her garden, are put to good use too. Auckland folk coming up to their homes used to bring a cake from the neighbour," she says. "Now, they buy from me. It's such a compliment that they know they can't get just as good a cake here." Nearby, Liza Maberly is in the throes of making lemon honey, dicing citrus into a bowl on her kitchen benchtop. But she also does mid-chop to pour tea, slice a freshly baked loaf of fig and fennel bread and spread a generous smear of her homemade cote cheese. Here, her butcher neighbour recently led a sausage-making workshop at Liza's popular **Longgrass Country Meat and Cook School** (31 De Boer Lane, Mangawhai, phone 09 431 5000).

"Afterwards, the tasting turned into a dinner with lots of talk and laughter," she says. "We're running a cheese-making one in February – back by popular demand!" Liza's culinary talents evolved, she claims, because she had "piles of kids and we just loved beautiful food. My oldest son was six before we ever bought a loaf of bread." Liza also offers meals to guests who stay in her ensuite accommodation. The neighbour is Stuart McKinley, former professional motorbike racer and now butcher-turned-orchardist. He and wife Carole produce the **Sunhill range of preserves** that includes their passionfruit honey and passionfruit lemon butter (phone 09 431 4393 or visit www.sunhillcottages.co.nz). If he's not out fighting fires – Stuart is also a volunteer fireman – he cheerfully offers tastings and serving suggestions at their year-round Saturday-morning stall at Mangawhai Village Market. Devour the

