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High spirits



When reporter **Amy Milne** challenges British psychic medium Colin Fry to prove his ability, she soon discovers all won't be revealed.

See feature page D6 and the chance to win two double tickets to see Colin Fry live.

Busy: British psychic medium Colin Fry is coming to town at the end of the month.

Greener pastures

BACK HOME
MARK WILSON



WE don't know how lucky we are! Just over five months after departing the comforts of home, I found myself gazing out the pokey airplane window eagerly awaiting the moment the dry brown grasslands of Canterbury and Central gave way to the familiar green tinge of Southland. It was a great feeling touching down at Invercargill International Airport and being reunited with my bags after only a two minute stroll through a quiet terminal.

This hassle-free transition polarized the vast gulf in lifestyles between where I had come from 36 hours before and New Zealand.

The Speight's Great Beer Delivery and my subsequent roaming of Europe and the United States was a great experience.

The first chapter — packing up my life to take a Speight's Ale House to London for the greater good of many thirsty Kiwis — a unique experience that will only ever be shared by so few.

The second, a lost Kiwi lad naively let out to roam the globe, is a road well travelled by many New Zealanders of all ages in search of that elusive answer of: is the grass greener?

To that question I can answer emphatically, no.

It's an eye opening experience abroad. The rest of the world is filled with great culture, ancient buildings, art, exciting night life, wall marts and, in Estonia particularly, beautiful women. I'd recommend parts of my travels to anyone but would never suggest permanently leaving the golden triangle for the lure of a fast-paced life and hefty salaries.

It may seem insignificant but since being back, I've enjoyed the luxury of drinking water not only from the tap but straight out of lakes and rivers, I have driven from Invercargill to Manapouri in less time than it took me to get from my hotel to the Ale House in central London and I've lost the black lining in my nose, built up from months of smog-filled city air.

It's these small privileges so often taken for granted that make being home so good.

As I write this I'm looking out across a mirror calm Lake Manapouri into the untamed wilderness of Fiordland. I don't see any boats. There are no high rise apartments cramping the shores. The air is clear and clean just like the water.

Lap it up Southland because as Fred Dagg says: "We don't know how lucky we are."

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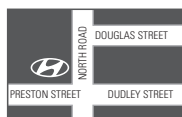
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