

 SUZUKI

SUZUKI AUTUMN 2022 now



**FLOX – PAINTING
THE TOWN RED,
PINK, GREEN, BLUE...**

ALSO INSIDE:

Explore your wild
side with Ignis

A new chapter for
Mexted Motors

Flying cars set
to land in 2025

Taking your pets
on the road

Changing of the guard at Mexted Motors

Located in the north-western Wellington suburb of Tawa, Mexted Motors is the longest serving car dealership in the Wellington region, founded in 1925 by Cecil Champion Mexted. Until recently the dealership had been run by Alan Mexted, Cecil's grandson.

Alan took over in 1991, continuing to run the dealership based on the long-standing Mexted Motors twin pillars of excellent customer service and trust. In 2009, the Mexted family took on the franchise for the distribution of Suzuki vehicles. His strong belief in cost effectiveness and reliability made Suzuki a perfect fit.

In December 2021, Mark Munkittrick took up the mantle from Alan, leading Mexted Motors into a new era with fresh eyes and a hunger for continuing the Mexted tradition of combining top-end customer service with affordable, reliable cars. With the dealership since June 2015, he had risen through the ranks from sales cadet to sales manager before the opportunity to buy the dealership came up.

"The Mexteds have owned the business for ninety odd, almost a hundred years now. So there's a lot of history between the business and the local community, as well as the wider Wellington region," says Mark.

"For me, it's not an ego thing of having my name on the side of a dealership. It's basically just continuing forward with what's already established and doing things the way they're supposed to be done."

Driven into taking over the dealership by a mix of ambition and the desire for a challenge, Mark is excited about bringing a sense of energy and youth to the dealership. It's time for a change.

"We're going to branch out, be unafraid to try new things, do things a bit differently. I guess we're the new kids on the block, and it's up to us to create a bit of excitement and a bit of a wave."

Part of the new and exciting future for Mexted Motors is a major refurbishment of the dealership and service centre, while still holding on to one very important Mexted principle.

"The customer experience is something that was very important to Alan, and it's something that's also very important to me. That's our number one guiding principle, that

the customer experience should be as easy and flawless as possible. We've been winning customer service awards for years, so that shows we're already doing a good job, and that's with the slightly dated showroom and service centre we are in, so we're going to revamp all of that."

When asked about the most popular Suzuki models sold at the dealership, there were no surprises: the Swift and the Jimny.

"We will sell a Swift to an 18-year-old for his first car, as well as an 85-year-old. There's no barrier. Anyone can drive a Swift. There are other cars or models that only appeal to a certain group of people, but the Swift has appeal for everyone."

"And one of the other best sellers is the Jimny. A bit of a surprise, as Tawa isn't really known for its all-wheel drive adventures. But they've got the styling on their side, and they appeal to a broad range of people, from people who use it on the farm to fashion designers. It just stands out."

All the best to Mark and team as they usher in a new age at Mexted Motors.

www.mexted.co.nz



Dealer Principal Mark Munkittrick and wife Nicole.

Plunket – always there for new parents



Any new parent knows how it goes: Your newborn baby, light of your life, comes down with a snuffle. Or a rash. Or a low-grade fever.

And with that comes alarm bells, that only ring louder once Dr. Google has been consulted. "What do I do?" is such a common refrain among new parents, who are already stressed from caring for such a defenceless addition to the family. Add in COVID, and it's soon clear just how frazzled the mental health of new parents may be.

Thankfully, Whānau Āwhina Plunket is there for all new parents, offering valuable information on a range of topics, from feeding and nutrition to medical advice to tips on how to install a car seat properly.

Plunket has been around since 1907, helping new parents navigate their changing lives with careful, compassionate assistance. Funding Plunket is costly however, with a considerable burden falling on public donations to keep services running. Without New Zealand's generosity, and partnerships like that with Suzuki, the outcomes for a good many parents would be tragic.

When baby Lily seemed fussy late one night, not feeding as she usually would, parents Annie and Matt were lost. "What do we do now?" again came the question, and like most parents, the first reaction was to wait until morning. After all, it was almost midnight. How much would really change in eight or so hours? But then they remembered their Plunket nurse saying that any baby not feeding is cause for concern.

They called PlunketLine, where registered nurse Tracy picked up. Tracy told Annie and Matt that little Lily was showing symptoms of meningitis – a potentially deadly disease that was epidemic in New Zealand between 1991 and 2007. Tracy listened to Annie and Matt with understanding before telling them that they weren't overreacting and to get to A&E.

"Don't hesitate," Annie recalled her saying. "Just get there."

That urgency ended up saving Lily's life, or at least saving her from permanent disability. Then there's Tania, a mother who was stuck in the depths of post-natal depression – to the point she was sure her baby hated her. Tania had been separated from her baby at birth due to a rough labour and deciphered her baby's cries as a reason her baby wanted nothing to do with her.

But when Lucy, a Plunket nurse trained in mental health, visited, she was able to quickly reassure Tania of her role in the baby's life.

When the baby looked at Lucy, then at Tania, and back to Lucy with a smile, Tania responded, "See? He prefers you to me!"

Lucy quickly shot down this belief, as nicely as she could. "But did you see what he did? He looked at me, then back at his mum. *She will tell me if it's okay to talk to this stranger.* You tell him how safe the world is! That's how important you are! You are his world!"

Through this advice, Tania's bond with her baby was restored and her mental state healed.

Whānau Āwhina Plunket is a New Zealand icon, an invaluable service for giving families in your local community the confidence of knowing that vital support is always there for them, day or night. If you'd like to support the great work Plunket is doing for New Zealand families, head to www.plunket.org.nz and donate.



plunket
whānau āwhina



STREET APPEAL

Hayley King, aka Flox, is an Auckland-based street artist whose artistic style contrasts native New Zealand flora and fauna against the gritty backdrop of an urban canvas.

"Art is all about connecting with people," says Flox. "Outdoor murals are particularly successful platforms for creating this connection. I've always been of the mindset that I want my art to be accessible to all communities, not just people with the dollars. There's something so enriching about placing your art into an outdoor context where anyone can view and feel that connection."

Starting as a stencil artist in 2003, Flox has painted an impressive portfolio of public spaces, with murals from Auckland to Bluff. She is also the artist behind the TVNZ Breakfast studio background. Much of her art features New Zealand native birds, with the motif even inspiring her moniker – Flox is short for "Flocks of Birds." It is this contrast of nature against brick and concrete, and the reactions her art elicited, that pushed her forward.

"Earlier on in my career, when I was practicing a lot of street art, I realised pretty quickly that something so feminine and organic had never really been seen in an urban context before, and I think people really resonated with that."

When asked for her favourite piece, Flox chose her words like any diplomatic parent might.

"I don't think I could pick a favourite artwork, as every piece has its own set of merits and memories. I love a good



challenge though, so I do feel particularly satisfied after a large piece. We've painted a few schools around Auckland, one of which we still get incredible feedback for, and that's Edendale Primary in Sandringham. The school asked us to paint the entire front façade, and we gave it a major facelift. From a drab and plain façade to one of colour and joy, it was a pleasure to see the kids' eyes light up and watch the piece unfold."

You might not think of art as a physical work, but Flox has the aches and pains to prove the naysayers wrong. When she started suffering migraines and facial pain in 2018, she knew something was up.

"Stencil cutting is so hard on the body. It's okay if it's a hobby, but if you've pushed your body to the limits for 20 years, then something's got to give. Painting with aerosol is also really demanding, and when

you combine the two, you've got some major repetitive stress on the body and the nerves."

"As a result of this massive hurdle, I changed my process. I made changes to my practice that aided in my own self-care. I now draw my stencils on an iPad Pro and outsource the cutting, and the big outdoor pieces are always collaborations which include lots of free-hand elements, so I'm not relying solely on myself for the physical grunt work."

"Like the pandemic, and how this has impacted businesses, you have to learn to adapt. If you don't, then you'll simply sink."

When she's not out painting the town, Flox gets about in a Jimny, with a highly inventive name: The Jimny. She loves how it's so versatile – perfect for hitting the road to the beach or heading into the mountains, yet zippy enough to navigate the urban jungle.

And yet, despite her prodigious artistic skills, the vehicle remains unadorned.

"I am such an undercover gal. I've painted cars before and loved it as a canvas, but for my own wheels, I like to keep it more incognito. We have gone all out on customising our Jimny though, with a black painted roof, all terrain wheels, red mudflats, and bull bar. We even got ourselves a roof tent recently, so we're ready to go WILD!"

W flox.co.nz

IG [/floxnz](https://www.instagram.com/floxnz)



IGNIS

EXPLORE



BORN TO BE WILD

The limited edition Ignis Explore adds rugged flavour and individuality with its new kit, turning the super compact SUV into one that is wild at heart. Perfect for getting out and having new adventures, whether that be close to home or further afield.

With its matt black 15-inch alloys, protective side body moulds, exclusive Explore graphics on the rear fins, and black smoke bonnet protector, the Explore is effortlessly cool. Like Brando or Newman in a white T-shirt and shades. Simple yet rebellious.

Inside, the ruggedly handsome look is paired with plenty of head room and a high SUV seating position. You'll be pleasantly surprised at just how spacious the Explore is, offering excellent views while driving and super easy to get in and out of.

The 60:40 split-folding rear seats allow for good storage volume when needed – perfect for the golf clubs, the garden supplies, or your prized haul from the local weekend market.

You can rest easy that the Explore will get you to your



next adventure safely with its host of safety features – including ABS, ESP, six airbags, fog lamps and cruise control. The standard reverse camera will also help ensure your rear bumper is protected from that mystery parking bollard hiding from your side mirrors.

Available in six different colours and either a 5-speed manual or CVT auto transmission, your day (or night) will be able to shift gears to match the adventure.

Not only is the Ignis Explore hyper fuel-efficient and already one of the most affordable compact SUVs on the market, but with the Government's Clean Car Discount, you are now able to claim a rebate back of up to \$2,490.

So, free your wild side and get started at suzuki.co.nz/ignis-explore

ALL-NEW 2022

S-CROSS

COMING SOON



Bold, confident SUV-styling, expansive interior space and intelligent safety performance are just the beginning in the all-new Suzuki S-Cross. Arriving mid-2022 on New Zealand shores. Be the first to experience this outstanding SUV and register your interest today!



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
WWW.SUZUKI.CO.NZ/S-CROSS

Flying cars to land by 2025

Following the announcement of the coming partnership between Suzuki Motor Corporation and SkyDrive, it looks like the flying cars of Hollywood movies are soon to be more reality than fiction.

Announced in late March, the partnership is part of Suzuki's plans for future growth as the company adds flying cars to its three areas of focus: cars, motorcycles and outboard motors.

The two companies plan to debut their aircraft car – a compact, two-seater electric-powered flying car – at the World Expo in the Japanese city of Osaka in 2025, with plans for full-scale production soon after.

At the announcement, Toshihiro Suzuki, president of Suzuki Motor Corporation, said, "Suzuki's future mission is to achieve carbon neutrality with small cars."

To achieve this, Suzuki is investing NZ\$2 billion into the manufacturing of fully electric vehicles (BEV) and BEV batteries.

Flying cars are being seen by the Japanese Government as a solution to increased mobility concerns – such as congestion and pollution – with particular focus on using them as flying taxis, as well as for accessing remote islands and mountainous regions.

SkyDrive was founded in 2018, with its first eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing vehicle) prototype first tested in 2020. The eVTOL has been described as a once-in-a-century product, capable of leading the coming mobility revolution into a new era.

This aligns ideally with Suzuki's plans for the future, where they remain at the forefront of efficient, environmentally-friendly means of mobility.



ROAD TRIPPIN' WITH YOUR FUR BABIES

There's nothing quite like a road trip to get life's excitement levels up – windows down, music up, and endless possibilities ahead. But a road trip is an experience best shared, whether that be with friends, family or both – including those with four legs. Travelling with pets can come with challenges, so we've put together a Top 5 list to help plan ahead and keep your furry friends safe and comfortable.

GET THEM FAMILIAR WITH YOUR VEHICLE

Any unfamiliar environment is going to heighten your pet's excitement and/or anxiety, so it's a good idea to get your pet familiar with your car in advance. Let them climb in and out to have a bit of an explore, then take them for a short trip just to get used to a moving car. If they seem stressed, use reassuring tones to ease their anxiety. Just remember to give them a treat after their first few trips if they behave.

PACK FOR THEIR NEEDS AS WELL AS YOUR OWN

Just as you have your essentials for a road trip – charger cord, sunscreen, and all the rest – so too do your pets. A blanket will help keep them comfy, while a chew toy will keep them entertained. A roll of paper towels, a pack of wet wipes and a few plastic bags in case of back-seat accidents is also a good idea.

STOP REGULARLY

Remember sitting in the back seat as a kid on a long family road trip – or even worse, as an adult? Cramping muscles and stiff joints are to be avoided if possible, so stopping regularly will give both you and your pet a chance to recharge. Stretch those legs, take a bathroom break, and reset your focus before hitting the road again.

DON'T LEAVE THEM UNATTENDED

This should go unsaid, but cars can get really hot in summer. Even if you are road tripping in milder weather, your pet could get separation anxiety if you're away too long. You don't want your pet's nerves to result in a chewed headrest or the centre console all scratched to bits.

SAFETY FIRST

Although safety restraints for pets are not strictly required by law, they are a good idea. Depending on the size of the pet

and the size of your vehicle, a carrier will help keep them from moving around the car. If your pet is bigger in stature, a cargo barrier between the front and back seats will prevent Fido from becoming your unexpected co-pilot.

BONUS: KEEP THEIR HEAD INSIDE THE CAR!

Head out the window, ears and tongue flapping in the wind – it's a doggo's paradise, or so we've been led to believe. But an errant stone kicked up by a stock truck can send both you and your beloved companion to the vet with an expensive bill, or even lead to permanent damage. Open the window to ensure air flow but keep their head inside. You wouldn't let a kid dangle their head out the window, would you?

With these handy tips your next trip with your pets will be a walk in the park. Or a stroll by the beach. The possibilities are endless.

