

BROADMOOR

Friends & Neighbors



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Cover photo by Allison Earnest

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**Kiwis
CAN Fly:**
Meet
Carrie and
Brendan Clarke

Kiwis CAN Fly:

Meet Carrie and Brendan Clarke

BY SHANNON COLE

Brendan with the girls on the west coast of New Zealand.

A mere 7,467 miles across the South Pacific Ocean by plane, after a scant 14 hour and 5 minute jaunt, one could arrive in a land of forever-extending mountain chains, fiery volcanoes, fanning coastlines and flourishing rainforests – New Zealand. New Zealand is one of the first places in the world to see the new day. Being 18 hours ahead of Colorado, Kiwis are drinking their morning coffee as we muddle through yesterday's lunch meetings.

As such Carrie and Brendan Clarke work ahead of the game, whether in entrepreneurial or business endeavors. This dynamic, dual-citizenship duo, creates ingenuity in profession and it all started with an innocent hello on St. Patrick's Day, 2006.

"As my husband would say, 'The luck 'O the Irish' brought us together,'" quipped Carrie Dunn Clarke, a small business coach and consultant who garnered her roots in this very neighborhood. "Brendan and I met on St. Patrick's Day in downtown Denver while I was working as an attorney and he on a training assignment with the Royal New Zealand Air Force," explained Carrie.

Rewind just eleven St. Patrick's Days earlier and Carrie was graduating from Cheyenne Mountain High School and headed to Kansas University. "I always loved reading and writing and graduated with a degree in English and then went to law school," clarified Carrie. Upon graduation from DU Law School, Carrie practiced for 13 years in Denver. From employment law, real estate law and small bit of criminal law, Carrie's experience grew. While Carrie worked as an attorney, Brendan's accomplishments soared at 37,000 feet.

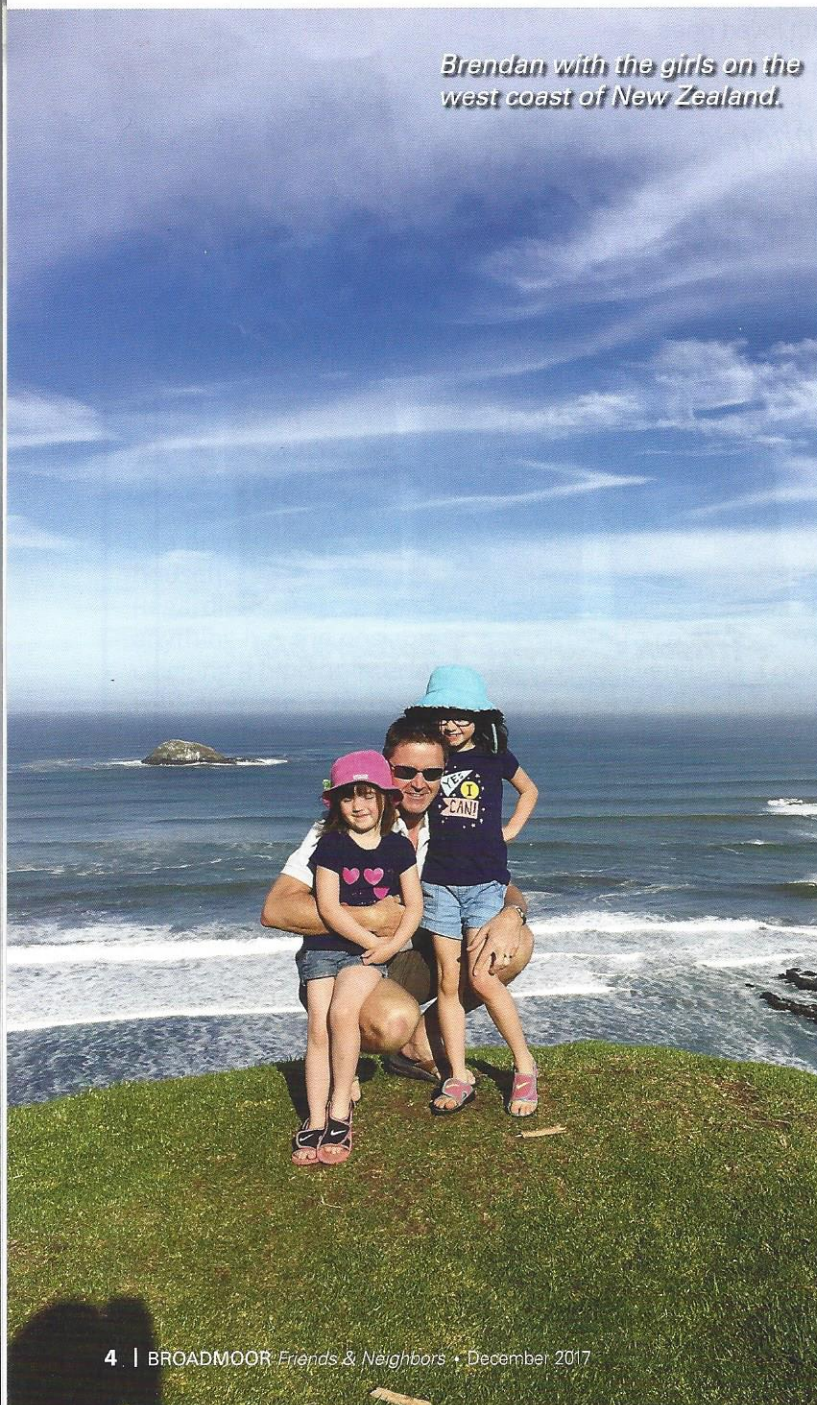
Born in Auckland, New Zealand, Brendan now holds citizenship in three countries, New Zealand, the United States, and his father's birthplace of Ireland. As a young mate in Auckland, his need to fly was born from early experience, "I was drawn to being a pilot as I felt it would be exhilarating to fly like a bird," reminisced Brendan. He went on to a 22-year fighter pilot career with both the Royal New Zealand Air Force and the Royal Air Force in England.

Carrie and Brendan collided that fateful St. Patrick's day and after a green beer and a 'love at first sight' courtship, the couple married in Breckenridge in 2009 and settled in Auckland, New Zealand.

Starting a new life together in Auckland, Carrie worked as an international management consultant while Brendan transitioned his career from military to civilian life as an international airline pilot for Air New Zealand on the Boeing 777 aircraft. "I love flying because it is an ever changing canvas and it tests your piloting skill every single time you fly; it is always different and so very rewarding," explained Brendan.

During the couples 5 year stay abroad, Carrie earned permanent residency and the couple welcomed daughters, Ashlyn (now 5) and Mikayla (now 7) into the world. "The girls love their New Zealand heritage and we try to make it back there at least once a year. It's important for us as parents to make sure the girls grow up learning about various cultures and ways of life," said Carrie and Brendan.

Both family and business drew the Clarkes back to the United States and Carrie's hometown of Colorado Springs. "When we decided to move back to the States, Colorado Springs made a



NEW ZEALAND CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

While some Kiwis have a traditional turkey roast Christmas dinner, many have a barbeque and day at the beach since Christmas is in the summer months of the Southern Hemisphere. Most of the country shuts down for at least two weeks around the holiday with families heading to a bach (beachhouse).

OTHER KIWI CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS:

Christmas Cake: much like the USA fruit cake

Santa Sacks: instead of stockings

Pavlova: a large meringue desert topped with berries

Pohutukawa: A native tree whose bright red blooms only come out the weeks around Christmas



The Clarke girls with their dog, Darby.

lot of sense: close to family, great schools and a much lower cost of living," explained Carrie. With siblings in Colorado Springs and Denver, Carrie and her close-knit family keep many traditions alive, including celebrating Jayhawk basketball wins as all four Dunn kids attended KU.

The Clarke girls have settled well into Colorado life and enjoy being within walking distance of their Grandma and Pop. Mikayla says she "loves living close to the park and how many decorations and candy fill our street has on Halloween." Dual citizens of New Zealand and the United States, Mikayla and Ashlyn are proud of their heritage. Mikayla is a second grade student at Carrie's alma mater, Broadmoor Elementary, where she earned

a marathon as part of the Fun Fit Bears program. "Mikayla is an eager learner that has a brilliant optimistic attitude," her proud father accounted. Ashlyn attends Giving Tree Montessori School. "Ashlyn is a born leader who loves to swim, do art and anything with animals," detailed mom.

Together the family enjoys international travel, a pastime inherited from Brendan's father who was from Cavan County, Ireland. The Clarkes can also be found snow skiing in winter months and water skiing at a lake in Pueblo, CO when the summer sun begins to shine. "Growing up in New Zealand I loved being close to the water. Although Colorado is landlocked, I love that we found a beautiful lake and connection to water, Lake Colorado, which is only 35 minutes from us, where we get to have fun as a family and enjoy water sports," smiled Brendan.

Known to be pioneering and resourceful, Kiwis strive toward originality and inventiveness. The Clarkes fall in to step. Founding owner of Hangar Tonight™ (www.hangartontight.com), a web-based and mobile app connecting pilots who need temporary hangar space as they fly across the country, Brendan also works as a

Kiwi Words to Know

Kia Ora: An informal Maori greeting that a lot of Kiwis use every day. It means "be healthy" and can be used to say hello, thank you, or goodbye.

Jandal: flip flops

Knackered: tired/exhausted

Heaps: lots

Tramping: hiking

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Bonnie Beckman

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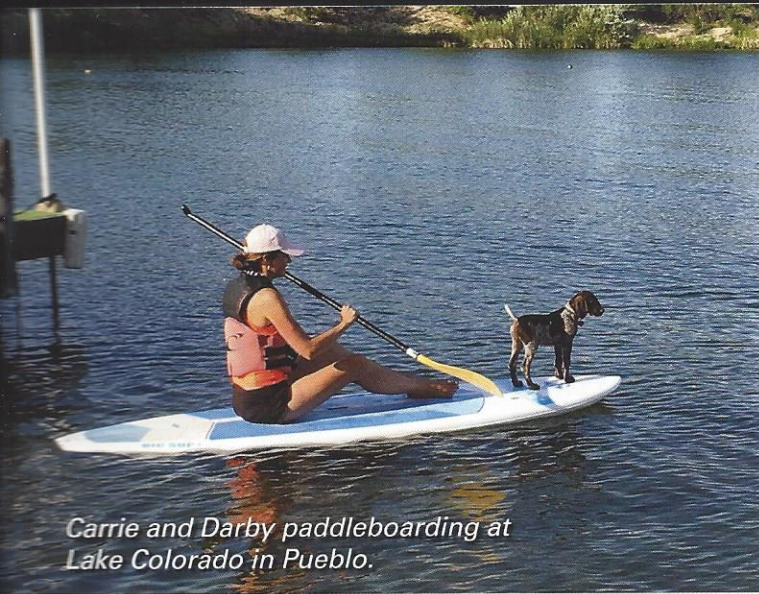
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Carrie and Darby paddleboarding at Lake Colorado in Pueblo.

Certified Commercial Institute Member (CCIM) and principle and founder of Clarke Real Estate Group. He specializes in aviation commercial real estate and works to bring aviation-related businesses to the region. He has owned, managed and consulted on investment and commercial real estate in both New Zealand and Colorado. Now based in Colorado Springs, Brendan gets to take to the skies and fly the Eclipse Very Light Jet for Bill Carder of Eclipse Jet Management in a wide variety of flights to varied locations across the US.

Carrie launched her business, Carrie D. Clarke, JD Coaching and Consulting, in 2017. Carrie's unique approach helps executive leaders, business owners and high-achievers reach their goals and grow profits. "I love working with small business owners helping them work on their business rather than in their business, which ends up bringing in more revenue and freedom," articulated Carrie. She is available for one-on-one coaching, business strategy consulting, focused workshops, masterminds and speaking engagements.

Additionally, she is very involved with Women's Fiction Writers Association and writing. As a side niche, she helps writers achieve their goals by creating business models for their craft as well as mind-set coaching through the publishing process. When not consulting or writing, Carrie volunteers at her daughter's schools. She recently brought a KidPower! Program to the Broadmoor Elementary and she also gives time to Junior Achievement.

Carrie, Brendan, Ashlyn and Mikayla have lived in the Springlake neighborhood for nearly 5 years. "I love all the

Brendan has flown more than 8,500 hours in 11 different types of aircraft during his aviation career.

HANGER TONIGHT

Hangar Tonight™ is an online and App based business that connects pilots with available hangar-space nationwide. It's like a hotel site for airplanes offering ease of use for pilots, a safe place for airplane owner's investment and additional income for hangar owners. Visit hangartontight.com to learn more.

candy at Halloween," Ashlyn beams. "The neighborhood is so friendly and it's awesome being within walking distance of school," said Brendan.

While flying and an interest in international travel brought this couple together, and even as their business ventures soar, in one aspect of life they remain grounded. They now call Colorado Springs home and as they excel in business and life, in true New Zealand fashion, we say to them, "Kia Ora." "Be Well."

**Thank you to Bill Carder of Eclipse Jet Management for the use of his plane in the cover photo shoot.*

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