

# Gresson Dorman & Co

Our Firm – Our Region

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# About Gresson Dorman & Co

Gresson Dorman & Co have been part of the South Canterbury landscape for over 150 years and have been entrusted with the Crown Warrant since 1940. Our history and our team of highly skilled, dedicated professionals set us apart from other law firms in the region. From our head office in Timaru and our Geraldine branch, we cover the region and beyond.

- You will be working and learning directly with firm Partners
- A tight-knit and supportive team environment in a highly regarded law firm
- Modern offices close to parking, shopping, dining and recreation when working in the office.
- A team of talented, motivated people willing to mentor and support
- A flexible/hybrid career growth opportunity, working from within surrounding regions – your ideal way of working.

At Gresson Dorman & Co you can quickly build your profile and your practice. This is a fantastic opportunity for both family, lifestyle and career.

Your career will continue to thrive working with a complex mix of clients and businesses within the economically strong region of South Canterbury. Forge a forever legacy in a role that has career pathways for those committed to long term success at our law firm.

## **Timaru – your choice of a great place to work, a place to live or a place to practice law with a hybrid working approach**

Timaru and the wider South Canterbury region is an amazing place to work and love. We have a vibrant community. Our housing is affordable. We enjoy the stunning Caroline Bay right on our doorstep – a top 10 most loved beach in New Zealand.

- Stress free commutes - just a 5-minute commute to work
- Affordable cost of living and housing, ensuring a comfortable lifestyle
- Immersing yourself in areas of outstanding beauty on your doorstep
- Opportunity to work with a community you are fully part of
- Fantastic place to bring up children with good schools and easy access to a variety of sports
- Living an Alps to Ocean lifestyle – hiking, biking, skiing, camping, water sports and more.

There is so much more to share about our beautiful region, the Venture Timaru website is a great place to look <https://www.vtdevelopment.co.nz/>

**Seize the moment, make the change.**

**Have the career and the lifestyle, it's here waiting for you in this humming law firm in Timaru.**



## Build your Legal Career with Gresson Dorman & Co

Gresson Dorman & Co has been part of the South Canterbury landscape for 150 years. It is the largest law firm in South Canterbury, with offices in Timaru and Geraldine, offering a variety of practice areas. By joining us, you'll become part of a team known for tackling complex legal challenges, delivering exceptional client service, and engaging in high-profile work. Our environment fosters continuous learning and innovation, offering you the opportunity to enhance your personal brand and expand your professional network through valuable exposure and connections.

Our culture is a product of our history – honest, reliable, diligent and passionate about the law and we work hard to ensure our future is as bright as our past. We have three partners and a team of 30 people to support a wide client base with a diverse range of work. We want to lead business in our region and serve our community.



At Gresson Dorman & Co, our core values — balance, respect, integrity, and teamwork — guide every aspect of our work. We prioritise our clients by placing their needs at the heart of our business. Our commitment to excellence is driven by the dedication and hard work of our talented team, ensuring we consistently meet and exceed client expectations. These values not only reflect the high standards we uphold but also guide us in fostering strong relationships, demonstrating exceptional performance, and cultivating a diverse and inclusive culture.

## Why Choose Gresson Dorman & Co?



### Development & Mentoring

At Gresson Dorman & Co, we are dedicated to helping our team thrive. We take pride in witnessing personal and professional growth and actively foster it through tailored training and advancement opportunities. Our close-knit environment ensures that you will work closely with a Partner who is committed to providing support and guidance at every stage of your career.



### We Care for our Employees

Make a meaningful change to a firm that offers a genuine work-life balance and prioritises the health and wellbeing of our employees. We recognise and reward the dedication and loyalty of our team with flexibility and respect.



### Business Relevant Training

You'll benefit from diverse in-house and external training, covering both technical skills and essential business competencies like advocacy, leadership, and client engagement. Our goal is to keep you ahead in the industry while enhancing your client interactions.

At Gresson Dorman & Co, we believe you can have it all — career, family, and lifestyle — without compromise. We also understand that a high-performing team thrives on mutual support and encouragement. It is vital to us that every member of our team feels both valued and supported. Here are some of the ways we ensure this commitment:

- We support work-life balance, understanding the need for flexibility for family and life commitments
- We offer a competitive salary package to match those of large cities
- Discretionary year-end bonus rewarding a successful year
- A fully funded social club enjoying a raft of activities
- An additional day of firm funded leave at Easter
- Tools of the trade – laptop and phone
- Relocation package



## Our Services

The depth and breadth of the Gresson Dorman & Co team sets us apart from other law firms. The team provides advice, advocacy, and representation across a wide range of specialities, from the family to the farm.

- [Agribusiness](#)
- [Company & Commercial Law](#)
- [Employment Law](#)
- [Family Law](#)
- [Litigation & Dispute Resolution](#)
- [Local Government & Government Organisations](#)
- [Property Law](#)
- [Resource Management](#)
- [The Crown](#)
- [Wills, Trusts, Succession Planning & Estate Administration](#)



## Our Offices



Timaru



Geraldine



## Why choose Gresson Dorman & Co? Our Partners' Thoughts



### Andrew McRae

I am the Crown Solicitor of Timaru appointed in 2013 prosecuting serious crime in the District and High Courts. My warrant region encompasses the area from the Rakaia Bridge in the north to Palmerston in the south. I have been a prosecutor for 25 years working firstly in Christchurch before moving south in 2007.

Life in South Canterbury brings with it amazing opportunity. It's an excellent place to bring up children with good schools and easy access to a range of sports due to the town's small geography. Nowhere is more than 10 minutes to get to. The morning commute involves passing through three sets of lights. It takes no longer than 5 minutes. All of the necessary shops are here and we're in close proximity to Christchurch and Dunedin. We are also close to the wonders of the Mackenzie District and the ski fields with a range of outdoor activities within that region.

There is so much scope to grow a practice and a career in this region and to forge a forever legacy.

Why did I choose to work for Gresson Dorman & Co? We are a long-established firm with enormous opportunity to grow. Highly capable people are encouraged and supported to fly to achieve their goals and the atmosphere of the firm is supportive, encouraging and dependable. We house a full suite of legal offerings, but it is predominantly the draw of the Crown Warrant that brought me to the firm.

I moved to Timaru for the opportunities that I knew it would give me for my career. Those opportunities, and the resulting experience would not have been able to have been achieved in the time frame that they have in a larger city. I continue to live in Timaru because ultimately it is a wonderful place to live, work and bring up children.



### Craig O'Connor

I am involved primarily in the resolution of civil and family disputes (including parenting and relationship property issues). I also have experience in advising local government and related organisations.

South Canterbury provides a variety of interesting and challenging legal issues, but without the pressures of "big city" living.

Why did I choose to work for Gresson Dorman & Co? It was my first job out of law school, and I've never been tempted to move away. We have good clients, interesting work and a supportive work environment.

Timaru is an excellent place to raise children with easy access to a wide variety of environments, including larger centres and areas of outstanding natural beauty. I can see mountains and the ocean from my office window.



## Ken Grave

I'm the Senior Partner, Property and Commercial law focus, with over 20 years' experience, specialising in advising commercial and agri business owners on business structuring, succession planning, sales, purchases and leases. I also practice in the areas of Estates and Trusts.

South Canterbury is an economic powerhouse, with the rural sector driving the economic success of the region. However, it faces significant challenges, particularly with regard to availability of water and growing environmental and sustainability constraints. Advising clients, especially my rural clients how best to navigate these challenges to ensure inter-generational success for their families and businesses is exciting, challenging and rewarding.

Why did I choose to work for Gresson Dorman & Co? Our firm has a longstanding and hard-earned reputation for delivering excellent results for clients. It's fantastic to work for a well-established, progressive firm which invests in its staff and the latest technology to keep improving the efficient and cost-effective delivery of services and advice to our clients.

Working in a provincial law firm gave me exposure to a very wide range of interesting work across a diverse portfolio of clients right from the start of my career. I was able to quickly develop a profile in, and be a part of, the local community and build a thriving practice. That is something which is much harder to achieve in one of the main centres.

I came to Timaru from Christchurch for the opportunity to work in a provincial private practice firm more than 20 years ago. I'm still here because I'm passionate about what I do, but also passionate about Timaru and the wider South Canterbury region. It's a fantastic place to live.

It's been a well-kept secret for far too long, but the secret is out: - the lifestyle and career opportunities here in South Canterbury are second-to-none!



# Living and Working in South Canterbury – Enjoy an enviable lifestyle

Timaru District has an easy going, laid-back lifestyle, with rich career opportunities. From its affordable housing and welcoming community to its breathtaking natural landscapes and diverse economic sectors, South Canterbury is more than just a place to live – it’s a place to thrive.

## There are many reasons to live in South Canterbury.

**A lifestyle that works for you:** South Canterbury, with its average home price of around \$526,729, presents an affordable lifestyle that enhances work-life balance. The Timaru District offers a peaceful setting with a short commute of just 5 to 10 minutes, making daily life both convenient and enjoyable.

**Central location with easy connectivity:** Timaru’s central location ensures easy access to major cities and daily flights to Wellington. This connectivity is perfect for both work and travel, giving you the flexibility to stay connected with larger urban centres while enjoying the tranquility of South Canterbury.

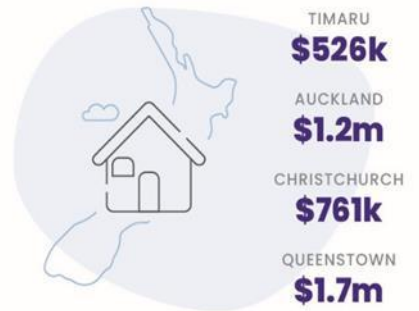
**Diverse economic opportunities:** South Canterbury boasts a vibrant and diverse economy. Major employers in the region include Fonterra, DB Breweries, McCain Foods, Barkers, District Health Board and District Council. The economy expands multiple sectors, from manufacturing and agriculture to biotechnology and healthcare, providing a range of career opportunities across various industries.

**Excellent education and healthcare:** The district features leading pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, along with tertiary education institutions. Healthcare services are robust, with both public and private hospitals delivering high-quality care to residents.



## Affordable Housing

Average house value - Year ended: March 2024



Source: Infometrics Quarterly Economic Report

## Commute & Distances

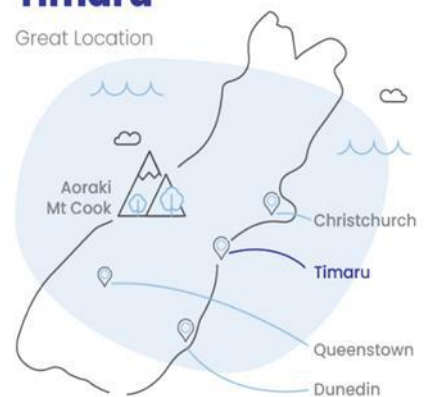


## Explore our backyard



## Timaru

Great Location



## Embrace the outdoors and culture

**Spectacular natural beauty:** South Canterbury is renowned for its stunning landscapes. The region is framed with snowy mountains, glaciers, braided rivers, blue lakes, and rolling hills, creating a stunning backdrop for a multitude of outdoor activities. Within a two-hour drive, you can travel from serene beaches to exhilarating ski fields in the Southern Alps. Enjoy jetboating, climbing and fishing, or explore the spectacular landscapes that define the region.

**Caroline Bay:** At the heart of Timaru lies Caroline Bay, a vibrant community spot offering a range of recreational activities. The Caroline Bay Pool offers year-round swimming, while the surrounding amenities cater to family fun and relaxation. Local parks and camping grounds further enhance the recreational offerings, making the bay a focal point for outdoor enjoyment.



**A rich cultural and arts scene:** South Canterbury is home to a dynamic cultural scene, with vibrant arts, drama, music, and cultural events that enhance community life. The region's local attractions, such as the Aigantighe Art Gallery and the South Canterbury Museum and Library, provide opportunities to participate in and enjoy the rich tapestry of cultural activities that define the district.

**World-class sports and recreation:** Sports enthusiasts will find a wealth of opportunities in South Canterbury, with the region offering top notch facilities for rugby, cricket, athletics, tennis, or more adventurous pursuits like in-line skating and motorsports, there's something for everyone.

South Canterbury is known for its welcoming spirit and providing a secure and stable environment for families and individuals, with a low crime rate and low unemployment. The area is home to over 70 cultural and ethnic groups, fostering a diverse and inclusive community. South Canterbury encompasses three distinct districts:

- **Timaru**, including Arowhenua/Temuka and Geraldine, offers a blend of urban and rural charm with excellent amenities and schools.
- **Waimate**, including the Hakataramea Valley, is known for its serene landscapes and rural appeal.
- **Mackenzie**, covering the Mackenzie Country and the Fairlie Basin, features dramatic alpine scenery and outdoor adventure.

Click [here](#) and watch stories of why people love living and working in Timaru.

To find out more about what the Timaru region has to offer we recommend you visit these links:

[Venture Timaru](#)

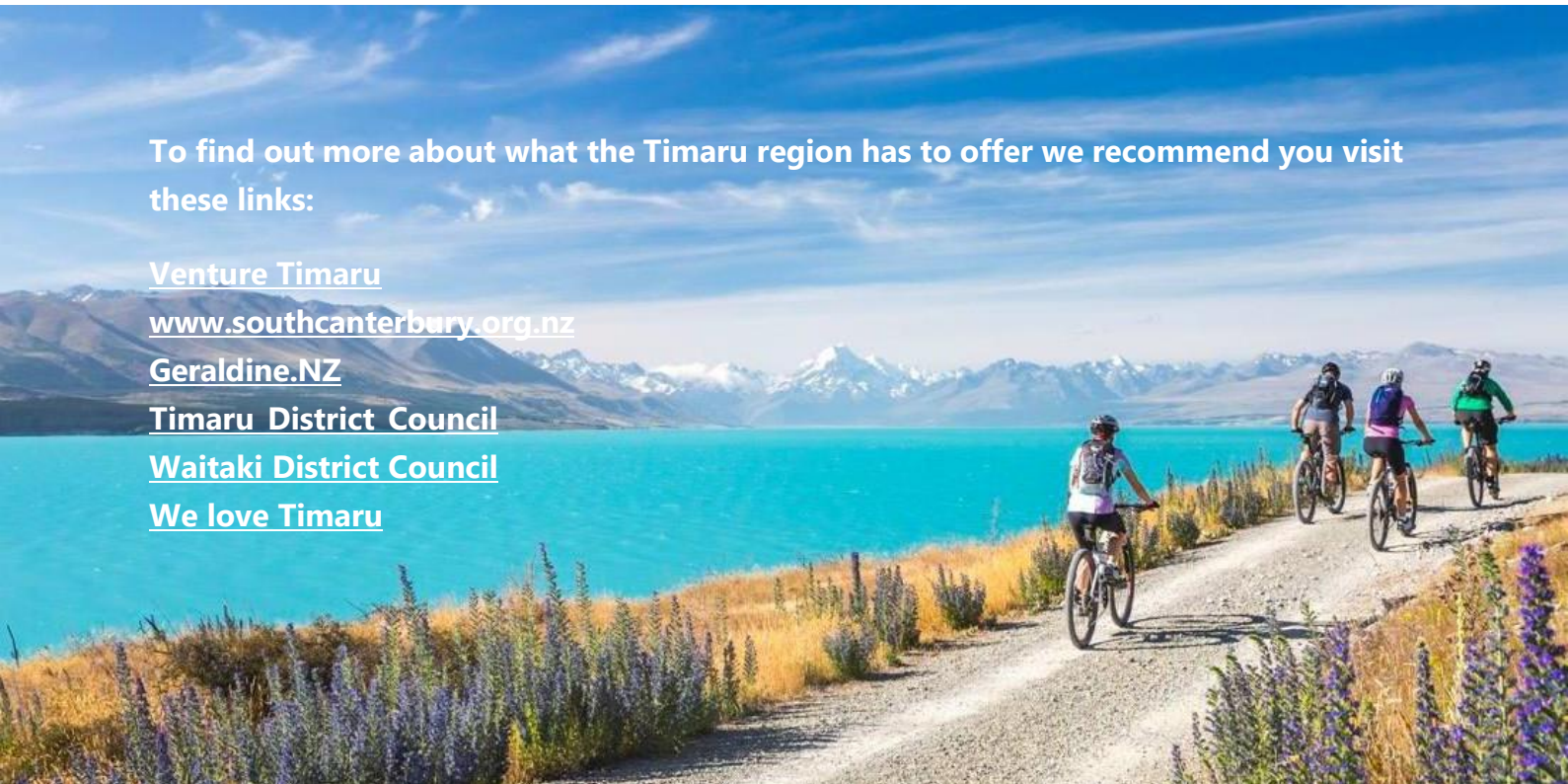
[www.southcanterbury.org.nz](http://www.southcanterbury.org.nz)

[Geraldine.NZ](#)

[Timaru District Council](#)

[Waitaki District Council](#)

[We love Timaru](#)



## How to Apply

Confidential applications or expressions of interest should be directed to our General Manager.

To apply by email, please attach your cover letter and CV and send to [kelley@gressons.co.nz](mailto:kelley@gressons.co.nz).

**Kelley O'Malley**  
General Manager

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