

COVER STORY



Cheryl MacGregor noticed an immediate difference when she tried her soap on her baby's skin and was sold on using quality natural ingredients.

Sweet-smelling scent of

Couples seek to make every day a special occasion with candles and soaps

"BRINGING A little bit of happiness," is the very genuine business objective behind new Tauranga-based boutique soap and candle business, No. 3.

Started by Cheryl MacGregor and Wayne Lewis last year, No. 3 produces a range of quality, handcrafted soaps and candles made with natural, vegetable-based and sustainable products, including essential oils, gentle butters and even raw silk.

The soaps include fragrances such as rose geranium and frankincense, patchouli and citrus, and maychang and cananga. There is an unscented soap for extra sensitive skin, a neem and peppermint soap for dogs, and a shaving soap which is proving popular with the resurging interest in traditional shaving for men.

The candles are made with soy, vegetable and bees waxes that come in a range of fragrances.

No. 3 came about with the pair wanting to start a business



As well as their range of fragranced soaps, No. 3 offers a shaving soap which is proving popular with men and a special soap for keeping the dog clean.

together – something that would add a little bit of happiness to people's lives and something they could build from scratch.

"We settled on the name No. 3 after deciding that we have two beautiful sons, and instead of having any more children we would create No. 3, so it's our third baby," says Wayne.

"Our soaps and candles are designed to be used – not sitting in a drawer or gathering dust on a shelf. It's about making every day a special occasion. At the heart of No. 3 is a genuine desire to bring a little bit of happiness."

Cheryl says the products also reflect the couple's commitment to using natural ingredients.

"After trying the first batch of soap on our baby and noticing an instant difference in his skin, our obsession with beautiful, healthy and functional products began.

"There is always such a focus on what we put into our bodies, but little attention is given to what we put on to our bodies. No. 3 soaps contain no fragrance oils, added

chemicals or detergents that most mainstream soaps have."

Cheryl and Wayne have been experimenting with a range of raw ingredients for many months, testing the results on friends, family and colleagues before settling on the current range.

"We are constantly coming up with new and different