

VICTORIAN GILT

Antique Lace, Textiles, Costume Jewellery and Sewing Tools
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Grey Summer Waiheke

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The summer has been less than kind with turbulent weather and sullen moods. Gloomy opaque skies with frequent intense bursts of rain, and the occasional shy glimpse of a real Waiheke summer sun.

Unfortunately my business path has mirrored the weather and I have been severely dumped on with my idealistic plans to transfer Victorian Gilt to Memsahib. Although I had an agreement from the 81 year old that she was ready to retire, three weeks before the agreed closing of Memsahib she suddenly changed her mind and I was evicted! I am feeling somewhat mentally bruised but following my metaphor of the weather, I know that the climate will change.

I had nearly three months of trading at Onetangi and with the valuable, if somewhat painful experience that I have gained, I feel that I have the knowledge to successfully transfer a smaller version of Victorian Gilt to Waiheke. Salutary lessons have been learned the hard way, and it is my own fault for leaping in with enthusiasm before the necessary legal paper work was finalized.

I have been given a final date of 31st march for the closing of Victorian Gilt in town, as the landlord has already re let the premises, so there can be no procrastination on that front. I envisage that I will have to close at least a week before that date in order to completely clear the premises.

A general sale has started with 10% off everything, and a greater discount for cash. All of the table linen, some lovely clothing fabric, and one rack of clothing have been reduced to 50% of its marked price, and another rack of clothing has a discount of 25% on each garment. We have several boxes of items that are listed at \$5 and \$10 per item so there are many bargains to be had. Yesterday one customer gleefully walked away clutching three items of retro clothing for \$30, so come on in and find some hidden treasure!.

I will not be reducing my favourite pieces of vintage clothing and costume and ethnic jewellery by more than 20%, for I know that they can never be replaced at the prices that I have on them, and I would prefer to transfer them to my future Waiheke business to delight future discerning buyers.

Obviously a lot of my customers appreciate that and we have been selling the beautiful dresses that hang on the walls at an unprecedented rate. Other customers have been buying the exquisite strings of antique beads, collectable brightly coloured Bakelite bangles, and large signed pieces of superbly crafted costume jewellery, before they are packed away for my future venture.

I am trying to find affordable premises in the Oneroa township, which for those of you who don't know our beautiful island, is the main town. I have a couple of options which although not ideal are I feel workable. I will keep you in touch and there will be another newsletter before we close in the city.

Thank you as always for your loyal custom and generous comments about the shop and the newsletters, this one due to circumstance has had to be more business like.

I hope to see you in the near future

Kind regards

Gill Ward