

Hamish Williams
The Amazing Maze and Nightmares Haunted Attractions
2861 State Highway One, Sanson.

Property sold. Maze to relocate.

The Amazing Maze along with Nightmares Haunted Attractions are searching for a new home after the property where it has been located for 4 years has been sold.

The business which is located on State Highway One just south of Sanson and formally known as "Woodlands Lodge" suffered major fire damage from a gas explosion back in February 2009. The building has been left in a burnt out state for the last two years while owner Hamish Williams has faced some difficult decisions; the most challenging of which was a short fall exceeding \$600,000 between the cost to rebuild and money received from his insurance. Despite this Hamish has managed to maintain and operate much of the business in temporary buildings onsite. The public have continued to be supportive, understanding and accommodating while visiting the attractions.

This year during Easter weekend when The Amazing Maze held its annual Giant Easter Hunt the maze saw almost 800 people visit in just one day when in previous years it was around 300. The temporary buildings accommodated all this with only one common complaint; nobody likes using porta-loos.

Hamish is now starting the search for a suitable property to relocate the maze business and this is proving to be quite a difficult task. There are a lot of things to consider when choosing the location, for example having easy access, visibility from a main road and the land must be agronomically suitable for growing maize.

The new owner of the Sanson property, Mr Alan Parker, is a farmer from Hawke's Bay, and his plan is to demolish the burnt remains of the house and build a Café and redevelop the property. Mr Parker takes ownership of the property in September.

Hamish Williams is a young business entrepreneur who brought the regional Amazing Maze franchise after the Marton Maze was closed when that property was sold. He opened at the former Woodlands Lodge property, and grew the business to include the Amazing Maze, CornEvil and the Trees of Terror. Mr Williams won the Australasian Nescafe Big Break in 2002, when he was just 16, winning more the \$20,000. The competition was open to young people with great ideas who need cash to start their business. Mr Williams used it for his Hydroponic lettuce operation Fresh n Fancy Lettuce which he currently still operates.

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