



Regional News

Eyes on Wellington

Issue 250

August 12, 2025

Jump to page

[Music news 5](#)
[Burger Wellington 6](#)
[Close-up 9](#)
[Gallery news 11](#)
[Kapiti elections 12](#)
[Taste sensations 13](#)
[Buy, build, renovate 14-30](#)
[Kapiti lifestyle 20-21](#)
[Master Builders House of the Year 24-30](#)
[Hospitality – events stars 31,40](#)
[Bucket list 32](#)
[Film news 33](#)
[Reviews 35](#)
[Flavours of the world 36](#)
[What's on 37-39](#)

News

Is that us, then?



Real people, real talk, real life. Aotearoa's fave trio – Jordan Vaha'akolo, Brook Ruscoe, and Marc Peard – are taking *The Morning Shift* to the people. From humble beginnings in a garage to a record-breaking rise to the top of the podcast charts, *The Morning Shift* has become a staple for thousands of New Zealanders who tune in daily: a community of Shifters, as they're affectionately known. Now, the crew will bring the podcast to life onstage with the kind of signature energy that turns commutes into therapy seshes and takes gym workouts to another level.

The *Is That Us!? World Tour (Sort Of...)* heads to eight national centres this winter, hitting Michael Fowler Centre on the 23rd of August with all the stuff you love from the podcast. Expect deep kōrero, big laughs, a few tears, spontaneous and questionable singing, plus whatever Jordan decides to overshare that night.

"This is a dream for us. To be living in these times making a living off a podcast backed by the people", Jordan exclaims incredulously. "I am so thankful this is even a possibility. I hope people are ready for an action-packed show! If people are willing to spend their hard-earned money to come then we want to make sure it's a night they won't forget. I want people to leave with laughter still in their belly and hope in their hearts. Lessspushhhh."

Marc says this is a "chance to hang out with the Shifters, have some moments, share some stories, some laughter, shed some tears during a night we will always remember", while Brook describes a mix of excitement, nerves, and gratitude.

"To be on tour with our people is something I never thought I'd get to say out loud", Brook beams. "So if you're coming out, just know you're *family* and if you see me getting emotional, mind ya business! Let's make it a night to remember."

What do we hold to be true?

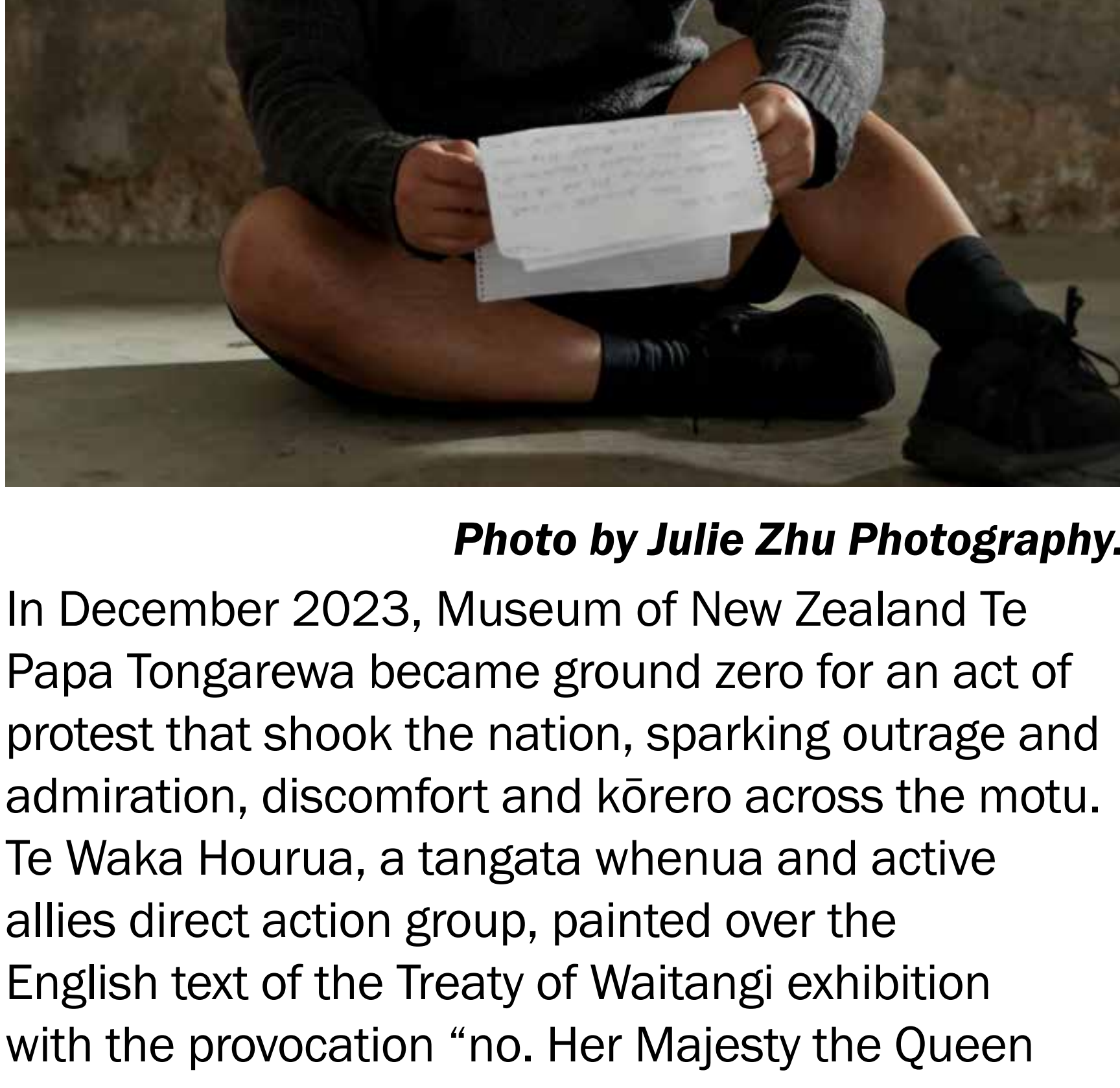


Photo by Julie Zhu Photography.

In December 2023, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa became ground zero for an act of protest that shook the nation, sparking outrage and admiration, discomfort and kōrero across the motu. Te Waka Hourua, a tangata whenua and active allies direct action group, painted over the English text of the Treaty of Waitangi exhibition with the provocation "no. Her Majesty the Queen of England is the alien. ration the Queen's veges."

While all involved faced charges, only Te Wehi Ratana was held in Rimutaka Prison. Part courtroom drama, part prison diary, part wild, absurd kōrero, *ration the Queen's veges* is the story of his 48 hours behind bars. Together with his co-writer and director Tainui Tukiwaho, Ratana built the play on letters he gathered from his fellow inmates: raw, unfiltered reflections on Te Tiriti, the Te Papa activism, the Crown, and colonisation.

"You think you know who's inside prison," he says. "But when you're in there, and you really listen, you realise: these are some of the most honest voices in the country. And they rarely get heard."

Running at Circa Theatre from the 16th of August to the 13th of September as part of the TAHI: New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance and presented by Te Pou Theatre, actor Ngahiriwa Rauhina (Ngāti Whakaue, Tūhourangi Ngāti Wāhiao, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Raukawa) is bringing the abseiling activist's story back to where the redaction reaped a reckoning.

Having heard about the action and thinking it was awesome, Rauhina is relishing the opportunity to tell the story of those on the front line and the small chance to understand how people in prison feel and felt. His challenge, he laughs, lies in "trying to make sure that I am telling the story regardless of my personal political (and very sharp) opinions".

"Nah, one thing it's about is trying to keep the light while revealing a darker side to how things are." In its Wellington debut, Rauhina hopes audiences take away a feeling of hope.

"A sense of charge! To get stuck into the mahi. That a simple act can have huge repercussions and never feel like you are helpless! Just know the strength you have is enough."

Cover: Mamma Mia!

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Published by:

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PO Box 15163,

Miramar 6243.

Sales Manager:

Frances King

Ph: 04 384 5179

frances@regionalnews.kiwi

Sales Executive:

Sarah Collins

Ph: 04 801 1111

sarah@regionalnews.kiwi

Sales Executive:

Andy Nguyen

Ph: 04 801 1113

andy@regionalnews.kiwi

Editorial Email:

news@regionalnews.kiwi

Editor:

Madelaine Empson

madelaine@regionalnews.kiwi

Journalist:

Alessia Belsito-Riera

alessia@regionalnews.kiwi

Design & Layout:

Todd Hatten

Cade Ogden

RegionalNewsNZ

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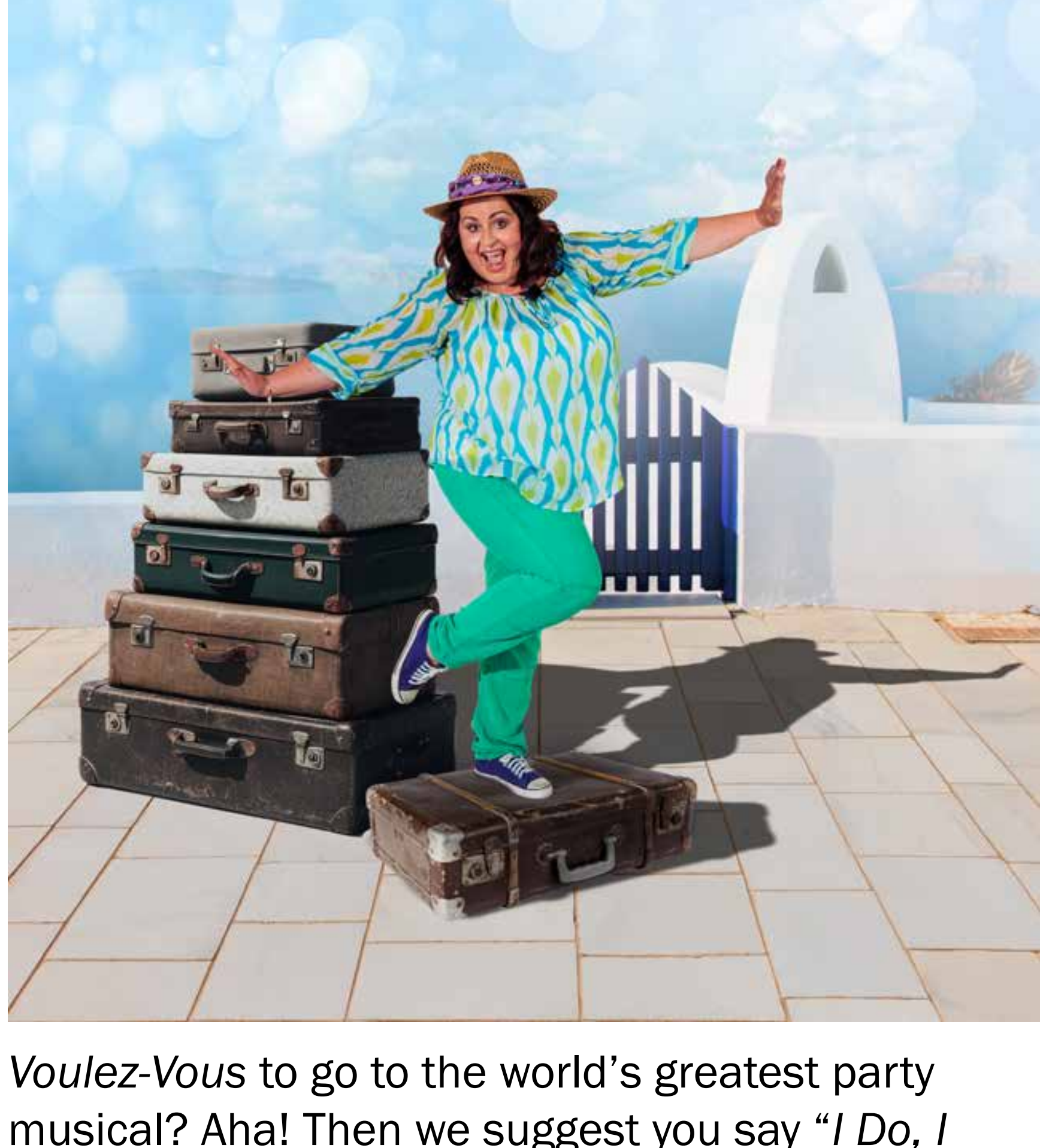
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Thank You for the Music



Voulez-Vous to go to the world’s greatest party musical? Aha! Then we suggest you say “*I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do*” to *Mamma Mia!* at St James Theatre from the 13th to the 31st of August.

Wellington’s premier theatre producers, Capital Theatre Trust and G&T Productions, are thrilled to bring their version of this sunny, funny, international phenomenon to local audiences.

“*Mamma Mia!* is packed with unbridled energy and enthusiasm”, Capital Theatre Trust chairman Sandy Brewer delights, adding that its light-hearted spirit and unforgettable soundtrack make it a joy to watch.

“You can’t help but sing along and get caught up in the fun.”

Mamma Mia! comes off the back of the producers’ critically acclaimed 2024 season of *We Will Rock You* and sellout spells of *Wicked* (2023) and *Les Misérables* (2022). Their annual productions have fast become must-do theatre appointments for those living in and visiting Wellington, and this smash-hit jukebox musical will be no exception.

If you’ve been living under a rock on an idyllic Greek island and don’t know much about *Mamma Mia!*, let us enlighten you, *Chiquitita*. Based on the songs of Swedish super-group ABBA, the story unfolds when Sophie, a young bride-to-be on a quest to find her father, brings three men from her mother’s past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago. Chaos ensues on the eve of her wedding as Sam, Bill, and Harry converge on their former *Honey, Honey*, Donna.

The eighth-longest-running show in Broadway history (where it enjoyed a record-breaking 14-year run), *Mamma Mia!* has been lapped up by more than 70 million people around the world. Indeed, it’s been translated into 16 different languages and was adapted into a star-studded film franchise that saw major success at the box office.

This is your chance to see a world-class production of this sparkling show right here in your neighbourhood. My, my – how could you resist that?

The Great Gig in the Sky



14 times platinum. On the charts for 990 weeks. More than 45 million copies sold worldwide. An induction into the GRAMMY® Hall of Fame. The best-selling album of the 70s, and the fourth-best-selling album in history.

See you on the dark side of the moon, Wellington! Pink Floyd’s eighth studio album will be brought to rip-roaring life on The Opera House stage on the 21st of August by New Zealand’s most successful rock series ever, *Come Together*, now in its fifth year of gathering Aotearoa’s musical talent under one roof. Recreating iconic albums track by track and back to back, *Come Together* delivers every guitar riff, every soaring vocal, every thunderous drumbeat, and every intricate keyboard melody with precision and passion. The attention to detail honours the original recordings while injecting new energy into these classic songs, performed note for note. And this time, it’s the cultural phenomenon, the sonic masterpiece, *The Dark Side of the Moon*, along with a bonus set of other Pink Floyd classics. Expect extended solos, spontaneous moments of magic, and an electrifying synergy between the performers, Milan Borich, Luke Buda, Jol Mulholland, Brett Adams, Matthias Jordan, Mike Hall, Alistair Deverick, Finn Scholes, and more.

The supergroup will blend the last days of psychedelia with the dawn of the electronic era. *The Dark Side of the Moon* isn’t just an album, it’s an experience. *Come Together* for an unforgettable one.

SNIPS

Record raised

A record amount has been raised for New Zealand’s rescue helicopters, with the community digging deep to give \$1.5 million during the Westpac Chopper Appeal. This includes \$106,824 raised in the Wellington region for the Life Flight Trust.

Meningococcal B

Te Pātaka Whaioranga – Pharmac is extending access to the meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero), with up to 77,000 more children able to benefit from the 1st of September. All children under five years of age will be eligible for funded doses of Bexsero, regardless of whether they started or completed their vaccine course in their first year. This replaces the current catch-up programme, which ends on the 31st of August.

Grant funding

Porirua City is opening two rounds of grant funding on the 18th of August: The Waste Minimisation Grants scheme and the Young People’s Fund, offering up to six grants of \$6000. For more information and to apply, search for the community support page at www.porirua.govt.nz

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News

Pulsating heartbeats



Photo by Michael Gibson.

Poetry will pulse through the streets, libraries, parks, bookshops, and unexpected corners of Aotearoa on Friday the 22nd of August for Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day. Now in its 28th year, the celebration will see more than 110 events burst into being across the motu throughout the week, with everything from city slams to rural rhyme nights, hip-hop gigs to inter-arts showcases coming together to prove poetry is thriving in every pocket of New Zealand.

Our cultural capital sees plenty happening across Pōneke and beyond. The 20th of August is host to a particularly special event. *(Re)generation next: The Poet Laureate Steps Down* at the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa will mark the close of Chris Tse's [pictured] term as New Zealand Poet Laureate. Before his successor is announced on the 22nd, Tse will reflect on his time and on the future of poetry alongside Ken Arkind, Cadence Chung, Gregory O'Brien, Chris Price, and Ruby Solly.

"Poetry is the heartbeat of our language, a constant, accessible rhythm that belongs to everyone,"

Phantom Billstickers CEO Robin McDonnell says.

"We are dedicated to amplifying that rhythm, through our ongoing series of poems on posters and our support of National Poetry Day – ensuring it pulses throughout our communities. We believe in its power to resonate in the open, to bridge gaps between individuals, and to breathe unexpected beauty into the everyday moments we often overlook."

The heat is rising



Photo by Becky Nevada Photography.

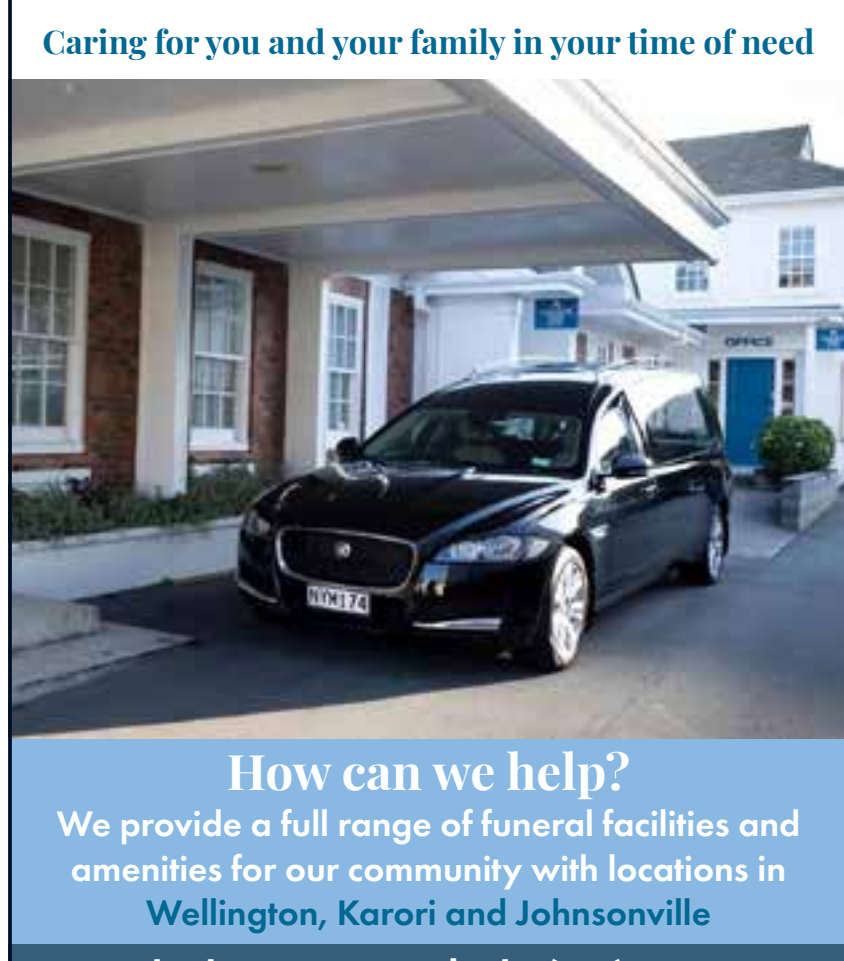
Pictured here with MC Lesa MacLeod-Whiting on the mic, Meaghan Fisher, Jenice Goveas, Elliott Lam, and Katy Borrows are amongst the rising Wellington comedians going through to the next rounds of the hotly contested Raw Comedy Quest this month.

With the regional semis on the 13th and 20th followed by the final on the 29th of August at The Hannah, the capital's premier open-mic comedy competition is heating up to boiling point. Once the tension and talent sizzles, simmers, and spills over at the Wellington final – emceed by local legend Justine Smith – the winner and runner-up will go head-to-head with other hopefuls from Christchurch, Palmerston North, and Auckland at the national final later this year.

The Wellington Raw Comedy Quest is held annually by the Humorous Arts Trust, who this month celebrate 15 years of supporting the local comedy scene and running the comp. Chair Jerome Chandrahasen says the Raw Comedy Quest is a real highlight of his year.

"I can't wait to see the next generation of Kiwi comics succeed and bring more great laughs to the capital."

A platform for that next generation, competitors will join the ranks of many Welly winners and finalists who have gone on to carve out successful careers in comedy, including Janaye Henry, Maria Williams, Gabby Anderson, Orin Ruaine-Prattley, Hoani Hotene, Luke Tawi, and Liv Ward. Cheer on the next big stars at the Wellington Raw Comedy Quest.



A chrysalis as a capsule

by **Madelaine Empson**



Borderline is what happens when four best friends – Ben Glanfield (vocals, guitar, keys), Jackson Boswell (drums, vocals), Matthew McFadden (lead guitar), and Max Harries (bass) – grow up making music together and simply never stop.

While it’s true the indie-pop outfit had high ambitions for their career in the industry when they left school to pursue music full time, “everything that’s happened since then has still been surreal”, they marvel. “Signing to a record label, travelling the world, and making and releasing music that we’re proud of is such a privilege and we’re constantly pinching ourselves.”

The rapidly rising band channel their deep connection into a shimmering sound that’s as expansive as it is intimate. Their new EP *Chrysalis* puts their friendship front and centre. “If you can hear our connection in the music,” Jackson says, “that would be really special.”

With standout singles *When It’s Raining*, *Heartbeat*, and the charting *New Romance* earning spins on the likes of BBC Radio 1 and triple j, Borderline wrote *Chrysalis* at a pivotal time and describe it as

important for their growth – both as individuals and as a collective.

“The name *Chrysalis* captures this feeling,” they explain. “The EP almost acts as a time capsule rounding out the last few years of development.”

Describing Wellington as a “fun and vibrant city”, the band are excited to head to San Fran on the 28th of August for an EP release gig that features new arrangements and some really special moments”.

Walking on air by **Madelaine Empson**



Photo by Isabella Rose Young.

Just eight months out of high school, rising pop-rockers Where’s Jai have released their debut album. Out on the 18th of July, *Fresh Out Of Air* sees the five bandmates – lead vocalists Grace Allis and Leigh Edmeades, guitarist Michael Walmsley, bassist Jai Nielsen, and drummer Gene Todd – reflect on situationships, growing up, and past versions of themselves.

“The title track uses being ‘fresh out of air’ as a metaphor for being cut off from someone you depended on”, explains Edmeades, one of the two frontwomen. “The album has everything from beautiful violin buildups to grungy guitar solos. We wanted to make a dynamic body of work with enchanting buildups, highs and lows, and a different story to each song.”

Described in an article on Ones to Watch as “the sonic equivalent of losing your breath, your balance, your grip on what the hell is going on and making peace with the mess along the way”, Where’s Jai are thrilled the album is resonating with listeners.

“That disoriented feeling is exactly what we were trying to get across.”

Now all 18, the Tāmaki Makaurau band first exploded online in 2023 with their third single *Perfect Crime*, which has more than 1.7 million streams on Spotify alone, and have since made a name for themselves thanks to their magnetic stage presence and emotionally charged shows.

They’ll play Wellington for the first time ever at San Fran – “such a cool venue” – on the 23rd of August.

Keep on climbing



“Ever since we started making music, we wanted to create moments to share with friends,” electronic dance music duo SACHI says. “We want to give everyone an uplifting and euphoric experience. Our music paints this picture of different energies coming together as a whole.”

Wellington audiences will be lucky enough to see this pulsating picture painted in real time when SACHI takes San Fran on the 21st of August. They bring an electricity that has seen them dominate festival circuits not just in Aotearoa, but the world, becoming the first Kiwi act to play at Belgium’s Tomorrowland festival – one of the most prestigious electronic music festivals in the world – in 2022.

But first, let’s zip-file back to where it all began. One of SACHI’s earliest champions was renowned producer Diplo. The duo – Will Thomas and Nick Chrisp – found Diplo on the streets of Auckland and slipped a USB through the window of his SUV. Their efforts paid off when he responded and offered a coveted co-sign by playing SACHI’s early tracks *Hold On* and *No More* on his *Diplo & Friends* BBC Radio 1 show.

In the aftermath, SACHI exploded as a homegrown phenomenon, achieving two chart-topping platinum-certified singles, *No More* and *Shelter*, as well as an official remix of Lorde’s hit single *Green Light* alongside Montell2099.

Between 2016 and 2021, the producers rolled out a series of three EPs that collectively amassed more than 50 million streams. 2023 saw them headline a tour across their home territory to sold-out crowds and elevate the live show to surreal new heights that keep on climbing. Watch them scale up to the apex so far this winter.

If these walls could talk



“Every so often,” writes *Tamworth Country Music Capital News*, “an artist emerges who has everything it takes to reach the pinnacle of country music success. I have no hesitation in predicting that that is what lies ahead for Jenny Mitchell. She’s a star.”

From the deep south of New Zealand and now based in Melbourne after being hand-picked to support Kasey Chambers on a 32-date tour across Australia, Mitchell is a two-time Golden Guitar nominee with country music in her bones. Growing up on a musical diet of The Chicks, Hank Williams, and Dolly Parton, she penned her first songs at the age of 11 and released her first album at just 15. No stranger to the road, she often gigs with her sisters The Mitchell Twins and country-music-loving dad Ron Mitchell, who all feature on her new album *Forest House*.

Released in May this year, *Forest House* is a collection of songs that explores what can happen within the four walls of a home. The new beginnings and the leaving. The opening, closing, and slamming of doors. The good, the bad, and everything in between.

Taking the new album for a spin around the motu, Mitchell’s *The Forest House Tour* reaches Old St Paul’s on the 17th of August and gives audiences a chance to pick up limited-edition merch that supports Women’s Refuge through their national Safe Night programme.

“*Forest House* made me think a lot about how lucky I am to have grown up in a safe, loving house but it also made me think about those who don’t have that privilege”, Mitchell says.

“Women’s Refuge are working day and night in our communities and I wanted to find a little way to contribute to their incredible work.”



Burger Wellington

by Todd Hatten



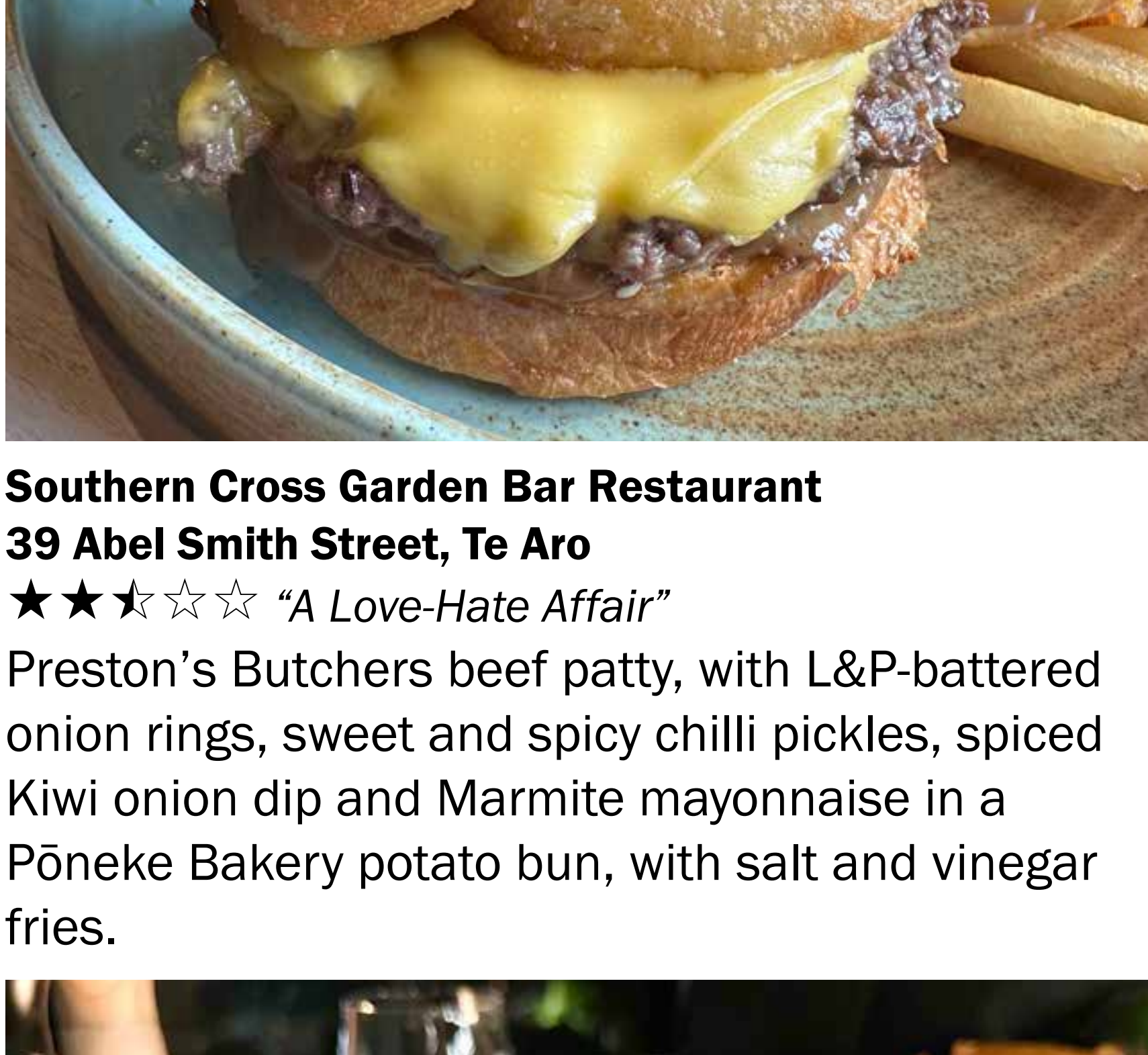
Food is love. That's the theme for this year's Burger Wellington, and I've once again put my body on the line, overloading on carbs to seek out the most interesting and creative interpretations.

Zephyr knocked it out of the park again this year with their creative take on the dating show Blind Date. Each of the three sliders corresponds to a love interest hidden in a sealed envelope. The barberry accompaniment was my favourite, but you'll have to try them yourself to find out who my match was.

Wellington Chocolate Factory's entry is the first dessert burger I've encountered that doesn't involve perishable or temperature-sensitive ingredients, which means you can take it home to enjoy at your leisure.

Kakariki Coffee's offering looks like it belongs on an episode of MasterChef. Designed to look like a bouquet of flowers, the skewers represent the flower stems, and the accompanying trio of potato bites come in a heart-shaped tin like a box of chocolates. From chef Bobby Ping, the man behind 2024's runner-up (and my personal favourite), I'm already looking forward to what he comes up with next year.

Cable Top Eatery earns the distinct honour of serving my first ever five-star rated burger. A tribute to mums, it's a succulent roast chicken dinner – stuffing and all – in a fry bread burger bun, with gravy, of course! Each burger comes with a classic 'mummism', curated from staff members' own childhood memories. Mine was “money don't grow on trees”. Even without a money tree, I'd happily pay for this burger again and again.



Southern Cross Garden Bar Restaurant

39 Abel Smith Street, Te Aro

★★★★☆☆ “A Love-Hate Affair”

Preston's Butchers beef patty, with L&P-battered onion rings, sweet and spicy chilli pickles, spiced Kiwi onion dip and Marmite mayonnaise in a Pōneke Bakery potato bun, with salt and vinegar fries.



Forage Kitchen + Bar

345 The Terrace, Te Aro

★★★★☆☆ “Manaaki Stack”

Hāngi-style beef brisket with apple and maple mayo, hot pickled cabbage in a kawakawa-infused Dough Bakery bun, with truffle and foraged horopito-dusted kūmara chips.



Wellington Chocolate Factory

5 Eva Street, Te Aro

★★★★☆☆ “Love is in the Air”

Handcrafted marshmallow filled with maraschino cherries and covered in Wellington Chocolate Factory chocolate in a housemade brookie bun. Designed to release a gentle plume of smoke when opened.



Sweet Mother's Kitchen

5 Courtenay Place, Te Aro

★★★★☆☆ “Southern Love Affair”

Shredded beef brisket, with Swiss cheese, jalapeño coleslaw, mayo and beef jus in a Dough Bakery sesame seed milk bun, with straight-cut fries seasoned with Louisiana salt and a housemade heart-shaped cornbread.



Zephyr Café & Bar

217 Wakefield Street, Wellington Central

★★★★☆☆ “Sauce of Attraction”

Middle Eastern lamb sliders with baby cos and braised shallots in saffron milk buns. Accompaniments: Apostle chilli honey and dukkah-spiked burger sauce; sticky barberries with Zany Zeus Greek yoghurt and sumac; and smoky eggplant and olive muttabal with Zany Zeus feta.



Kakariki Coffee

10 Customhouse Quay, Wellington Central

★★★★☆☆ “S(a)tay With Me”

Grilled satay chicken with Mightygreen microgreens, Asian cabbage and cucumber slaw, and peanut sauce in a housemade flaky roti bun, with a potato trio of crispy potato gratin, potato fondant and crumbed potato balls. Presented like a bouquet and box of chocolates.



Kelburn Village Pub

87 Upland Road, Kelburn

★★★★☆☆ “Nahua Romance”

Pulled pork with Pickle & Pie pickles, pickled onion and housemade Aztec molé made with Wellington Chocolate Factory dark chocolate in an Arobake charcoal bun.



Cable Top Eatery

1 Upland Road, Kelburn

★★★★★★ “Te Māmā”

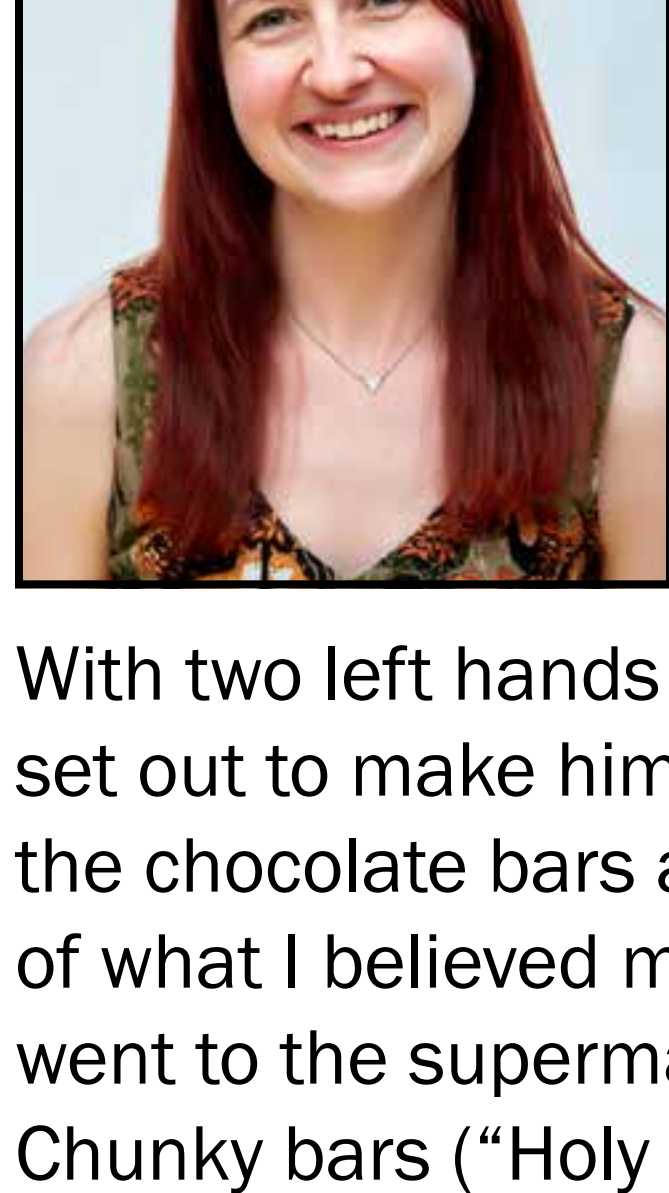
Roast chicken with herbed stuffing, roast vege fritter, kawakawa mayo, rocket, feta, and locally foraged kawakawa slaw in housemade fry bread, with a side of rocket salad and Māmā's signature gravy.

[Back to contents](#)

A word from Maddi...

The gift that keeps on giving

by **Madelaine Empson**



I get very excited about birthdays. Mostly mine*, but also those of the people I love. For my partner Dan’s birthday, I decided to go all out and make a present in what would be my first attempt at a DIY craft project as a grownup. What could go wrong?

With two left hands and misplaced confidence, I set out to make him a ‘KitKat bouquet’. Picture the chocolate bars as red roses for an indication of what I believed my creation would look like. I went to the supermarket to buy 30 full-size KitKat Chunky bars (“Holy hell girl, where are you going to put those?”, the customer in line behind me asked) and headed to my parents’ house, where Mum lay in wait with crêpe paper, a pair of scissors, and a correctly placed sense of foreboding.

Drunk on the power of a how-to YouTube clip I had watched several months prior, I set out with frenzied energy and very little idea of how to make this thing (I’d forgotten the instructions and couldn’t find the video again). Afterwards, we stepped back to take it in. A monstrosity of glitter, ribbon, lace, and tulle. Out of the shocked silence, I offered, “I think that’s one of the ugliest things I’ve ever seen.”

Mum unfroze, her relief palpable. “I have to say I quite agree.”

Cackling, we tore it apart and started again, going more off Mum’s ideas than mine (always listen to your mother). We ended up with more of a potted KitKat tree, and it’s unequivocally the coolest project I’ve had a hand in to this day. I got home beaming, but couldn’t tell Dan why. He might’ve cottoned on to *something* though, judging by the way he enquired about the red glitter on my nose. When it finally came time to give him the tree, it went down a (literal) treat. For about a week, he’d sneak downstairs at midnight to raid the fruit, and I’d wake up to wrappers everywhere. I think the record was four. While it has long been barren, occasionally, I hide new KitKats in the tree. He marvels that it must be regenerating.

**A note from the editor: Madelaine’s birthday is imminent on August the 17th, only 19 days away at the time of writing.*

From domestic to majestic



Photo by Sam Pietras.

The Jazz Orchestra Composer Series began during New Zealand Music Month in May to showcase original works from 12 different local composers. Running on the first and third Friday of every month at Bedlam & Squalor on Garrett Street right up till October when the Wellington Jazz Festival begins, the series is designed to support our artists to write more music and play more gigs. In turn, this generates more work for the excellent musicians folded into every pocket of Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Next up in the series is Jake Baxendale with *Sky Meets Country* on the 15th of August at 7pm. Baxendale is an alto saxophonist and composer who was born in rural Yorkshire, raised in remote Golden Bay / Mohua, and is now based in bustling Welly, where he studied at The New Zealand School of Music – Te Kōkī. In his life and music, he seeks to demonstrate freedom of expression, a love of nature, and the community spirit of his upbringing. In these new compositions, Baxendale has utilised tools he developed for his *Gardening Music* project. But where that album turns inward to reflect on the earth, the way gardening can restore the soul, this new work expands outward to capture the feeling of vastness that only open landscapes, bush canopies, and wide-open skies can inspire. And so, the prog-jazz legend lifts his gaze upward, from domestic to majestic, with this suite for improvisers.

Shining bright



Emily Love. Photo by Saint Andrew Photography.

From daring dancers to sensational singers, mind-bending musicians to seriously staunch beat boxers, last year’s inaugural Porirua Has Talent show gave tamariki and rangatahi the chance to shine onstage while parents and audiences watched spellbound by their skills. The 2025 finals at Te Rauparaha Arena on the 16th of August are set to stun anew.

Open to young people ages five to 25, Porirua Has Talent features finalists across three categories: vocals, dance, and groups. Tamariki aged five to 12 will compete against each other in each of categories, as will rangatahi aged 13 to 25. Whether they take home gold, silver, bronze, or cherished memories, the contestants are thrilled to have the opportunity to perform in front of their community.

“This gives us the chance to showcase our self-taught talent and show people that you can do what you put your mind to,” one contestant beams.

“The smiles on the faces of those children and young people just said it all,” Mayor Anita Baker says. “This event provides hope and inspiration to our tamariki and rangatahi and shows them they really can do anything if they put themselves forward.”

This year’s judges, who will also perform at Porirua Has Talent, include alt country singer-songwriter Ainslie Allen, Fredwyn Kisona of Tomorrow People, dancer and choreographer Aroha Davidson, and singer and MC Nathan Lopa.

Event organiser Tania Carr is excited to see what new and unexpected talents will shine in 2025. “We’ve created a really fun safe space for tamariki and rangatahi to shine,” Carr says. “I’m so excited about the finals this year. We saw some really innovative and exciting new performers at the auditions and then we also welcomed back some of the standout acts from last year.”

Come see the stars of tomorrow for yourself at Porirua Has Talent.

New voices emerge



Photo by Sameena Zehra.

From the 15th to the 17th of August, rehearsed readings of plays in progress will lilt onstage at The Hannah, followed by audience kōrero with the creators of the works. The First Draft initiative sees The Magnificent Weirdos team up with writers and devisers with lived experience of disability, neurodivergence, d/Deafness, or mental distress to bring new disabled voices to the stage.

The eight selected writers are Hamish Boyle, Emma Maguire, Sam Pretious, Ethan Rodgers, Shaun Swain, Rahera Solomon, Rem Wigmore, and Tee Wood – though as The Magnificent Weirdos co-artistic director Helen Vivienne Fletcher says, it certainly wasn’t easy narrowing it down!

“There were so many promising pieces in a range of different genres and styles, from completely silent pieces, solo shows, works inspired by mythology, comedies, dramas and more”, Vivienne Fletcher says of the selection process, which saw the company work with Playmarket New Zealand. “I’m excited for Wellington to see the diverse collection of readings we’re bringing to the stage in August.”

Wigmore is excited too! Especially to “have my first original play read and workshoped and performed, learn more about the industry, and connect with more experienced professionals”.

Co-artistic director Sameena Zehra is “thrilled that The Magnificent Weirdos is able to provide the space and time needed for these early drafts to have some external feedback coming from the audiences that these creators are making work for”.

“This is a kaupapa shared with The Hannah,” Zehra continues, “which has reinvented itself as a theatre and performance laboratory, and understands the importance of work in progress, play, failure, feedback, pushing boundaries”.

News Advice from Alan

Mistakes in the disciplinary process

by **Alan Knowsley, consultant, Rainey Collins Lawyers**



Disciplinary processes are difficult and stressful for all concerned. From my experience, the seven common mistakes employers make are:

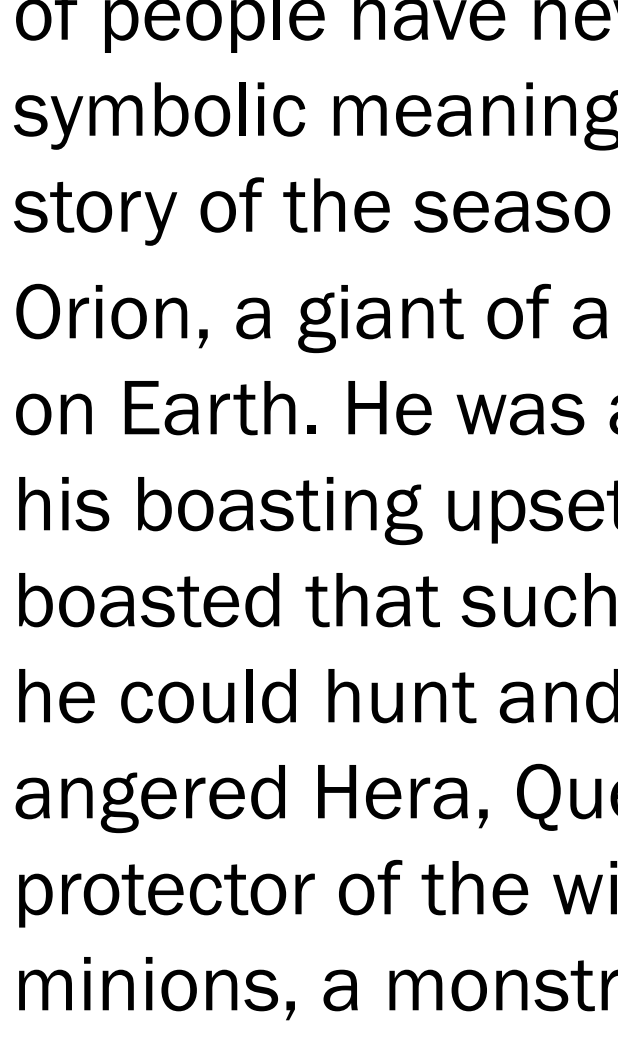
1. Failure to tell the employee what the allegations are. Tell the employee what the allegations are and provide copies of statements from witnesses and relevant material. At the start of the investigation, advise of the possible outcomes if the allegations are proved to be correct.
2. Failure to give the employee a chance to respond to the allegations. Provide a reasonable opportunity for the employee to respond. Give them a fair amount of time to prepare. Before making a decision on suspension, the employee should be informed that it is being considered and invited to provide their views on the proposed suspension. If the allegations are proven, give the employee an opportunity to comment on any proposed outcome.
3. Failure to allow for a support person or representative. The support person must be allowed to speak for and represent the employee.
4. Failure to carry out a fair investigation. It is the responsibility of the employer to establish what (if anything) has occurred. Keep an open mind and do not predetermine the outcome. Interview all relevant witnesses.
5. Failing to come to fact-based conclusions. What evidence is there to find the facts?
6. Getting the seriousness wrong. If the allegations are correct, how serious is the event? Finding serious misconduct, when it is not serious enough, happens too often. Misconduct should be dealt with at the appropriate level. What should the proposed outcome be? Should it be a warning or dismissal?
7. Failing to act consistently. How have others been dealt with (in the past or in this same event)? Outcomes do not have to be the same, but you need to be able to justify why you acted differently.

The disciplinary process must be carried out correctly. Failure to do so risks businesses facing costs and disruptions that would otherwise have been avoidable, and employees being subjected to processes that are unfair and do not give them a reasonable opportunity to answer the allegations.

Cosmic conversations

The sting in the tail

by **Richard Hall, astronomical communicator**



For most of human history there was no such thing as the ‘written word’. Knowledge was passed from generation to generation in story form... because we can all remember a good story. Many of these stories are still around today.

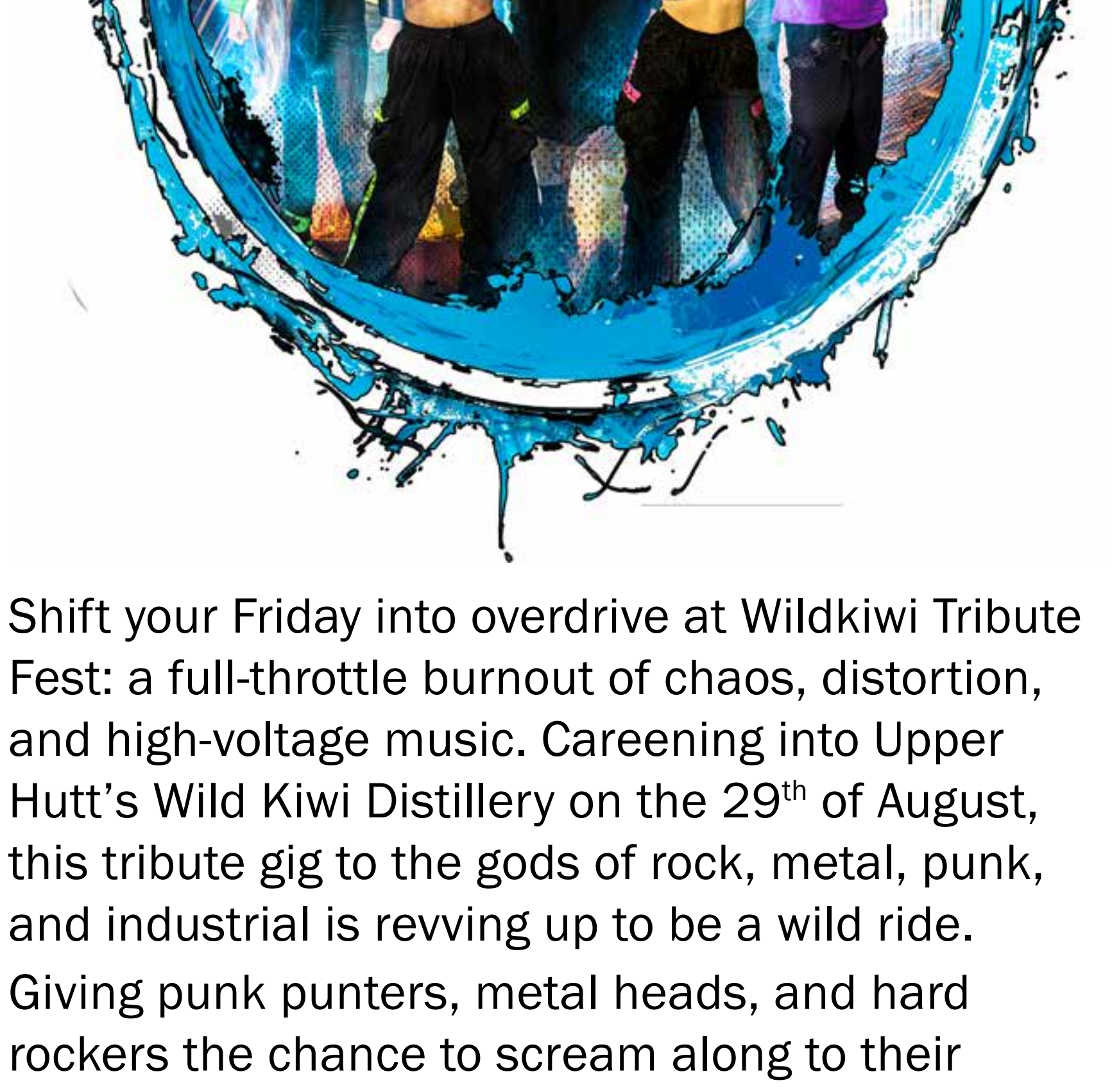
Trouble is that the vast majority of people have never been taught what the symbolic meanings of the story are. Here is the story of the seasons.

Orion, a giant of a man, was the greatest hunter on Earth. He was a favourite of the male gods but his boasting upset the goddesses. One day, he boasted that such was his prowess as a hunter, he could hunt and kill every animal on Earth. This angered Hera, Queen of the Gods, who was the protector of the wild. She sent forth one of her minions, a monstrous scorpion, to teach him a lesson. A great battle occurred between the two, but eventually the scorpion stung Orion, who fell in agony to the ground and died. Now, this upset the male gods. Feeling sorry for Orion, they resurrected him from the dead and placed him in the heavens. But this further angered Hera. She retaliated by placing her scorpion in the sky at the opposite end of the heavens. For the rest of eternity, the scorpion would chase Orion across the sky. He would never lose sight of it. Hell has no fury like a woman’s scorn!

Orion (the Hunter) and Scorpius (the Scorpion) are two of the most notable constellations in the sky. Both are set against the Milky Way and are composed of bright stars. The two constellations are almost opposite each other in the sky and have been used around the world and through the ages as seasonal markers. Here in Aotearoa, Orion dominates our summer evening sky, while Scorpius is supreme in our winter evening sky. The two are only seen together in spring and autumn when one will be setting in the west as the other rises in the east.

At present, on a clear evening sky we see Scorpius – our sign of winter. While it is in our evening sky it will be cold and chilly. We look forward to the evening when the Scorpion sets in the west and the Hunter rises in the east... spring will be here.

Raw energy



Shift your Friday into overdrive at Wildkiwi Tribute Fest: a full-throttle burnout of chaos, distortion, and high-voltage music. Careening into Upper Hutt’s Wild Kiwi Distillery on the 29th of August, this tribute gig to the gods of rock, metal, punk, and industrial is revving up to be a wild ride.

Giving punk punters, metal heads, and hard rockers the chance to scream along to their favourite anthems, throw horns with the crowd, and tear it up with a lineup of local legends, Rail Records’ first annual WildKiwi Tribute Fest will deliver wall-to-wall riffs and reverberating rhythms.

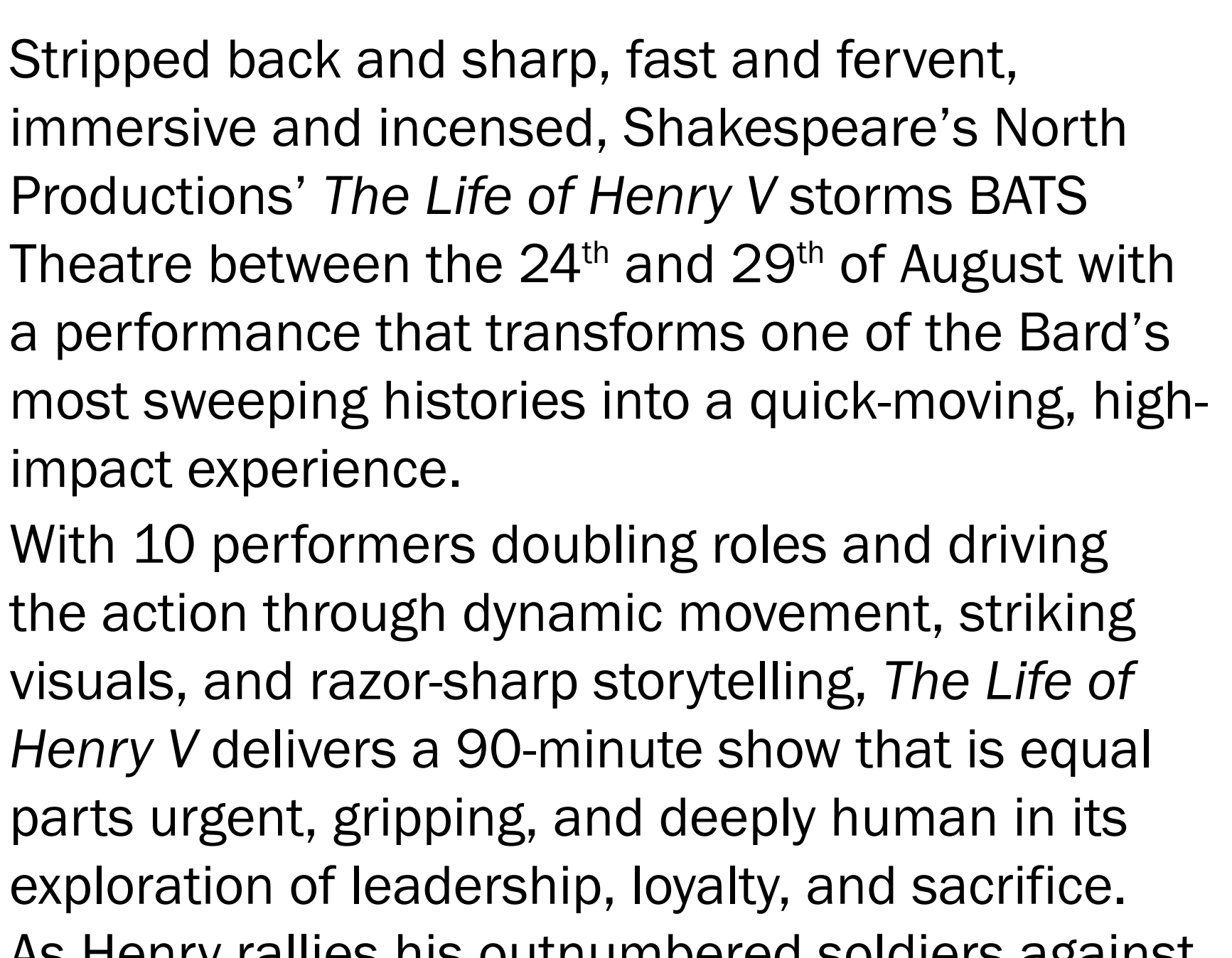
Leading the charge are The Feeders paying tribute to Slipknot, while The Neverminds deliver world-reckoning reverberations from Nirvana. The Firestarters dropkick onto the stage with a setlist from The Prodigy, Marilyn Manson rises from the depths through the yowls of The Antichrist Superstar, and GreenGaze will lead you down the boulevard of broken dreams with hits and deep cuts from Green Day.

But that’s not all. Rounding out the rowdy, raucous reunion are heavyweights Kaosis [pictured] with a full-noise performance of their signature blend of metal, hip-hop, and electronic music that shatters genre boundaries, forges a unique sound, and leaves audiences breathless and Bacchic.

Supporting it all are two of New Zealand’s top rock and metal DJs: nu metal enthusiast DJ ApenuT and grunge garbler DJ Subpop.

Rock out and rock on at WildKiwi Tribute Fest.

We band of brothers



Stripped back and sharp, fast and fervent, immersive and incensed, Shakespeare’s North Productions’ *The Life of Henry V* storms BATS Theatre between the 24th and 29th of August with a performance that transforms one of the Bard’s most sweeping histories into a quick-moving, high-impact experience.

With 10 performers doubling roles and driving the action through dynamic movement, striking visuals, and razor-sharp storytelling, *The Life of Henry V* delivers a 90-minute show that is equal parts urgent, gripping, and deeply human in its exploration of leadership, loyalty, and sacrifice. As Henry rallies his outnumbered soldiers against France, his throne contested and his kingdom divided, the play asks what it truly means to be a leader and what is sacrificed in the pursuit of power.

The production is rooted in the fiery rhetoric and harsh realities of war, highlighting the camaraderie of the soldiers and Henry’s fervour to act as a call to arms. In signature Shakespeare’s North fashion, the play prioritises audience engagement, a bold aesthetic, and making the Bard both accessible and exhilarating.

Directed and co-produced by Eli Hancock – who performed at London’s Globe Theatre in 2023 as part of the SGCNZ New Zealand Young Shakespeare Company and built the award-winning, boundary-pushing theatre company from the ground up – *The Life of Henry V* is driven by the raw intensity of Shakespeare’s text in order to place audiences at the heart of the battle. Join the fray and bask in the glory at *The Life of Henry V*.

One step at a time



Justine Thorpe is about to walk El Camino de Santiago in Spain to raise \$50,000 for Wellington Free Ambulance, the region's only free emergency ambulance service, in honour of her late-partner and soulmate Michael. I sat down with the CEO of Tū Ora Compass Health to talk about the fundraiser, which is not only her tribute to Michael, but a call for greater transparency and compassion in the way our systems support those in mourning. If you'd like to help, you can search Justine's page '800km for Gratitude' at

www.givealittle.co.nz

What led you to decide to raise funds for Wellington Free Ambulance?

On the 8th of December in 2023, my partner of 15 years, Michael, passed away after a very tragic and traumatic accident while he was riding his motorbike on his way to help a friend who was having a few mental health challenges. It's all still under the coronial process, but unfortunately, he and a tractor collided, and he lost his life at the scene. I'm wanting to acknowledge Wellington Free for a couple of reasons. Firstly, their flawless care to help him, which I know – I've got all the records. He initially survived. Based on his injuries, he was probably never going to survive, even though he fought for an hour and 45 minutes. I just want to acknowledge the care that the paramedics gave him that day.

And then throughout the process, I've obviously had to deal with lots of agencies. Police, WorkSafe, the coronial process, and there was, initially, this big void of information for me. I can say this too: initially the story we were told by police – about how it played out that afternoon, how the accident occurred – was an incorrect story. I was left with that for three months. It didn't make sense to me at all, because Michael had ridden a motorcycle for about four decades, and then a witness reached out to me. She was the lady who stayed with him until he passed. She was the only witness who saw it, because he'd left a message for me. He told her to tell me that he loved me. I always think of that: he was so injured, but he still managed to get that out.

So, she told me what she witnessed, which was contradictory to what I'd been told. Of course, that got me setting it in motion. Thinking, actually, what happened here? The coronial process takes so long. Wellington Free would do this for anyone, but because of my job, I meet with them regularly. I'd sort of come back to work by that stage, and they said to me, 'As next of kin, you can get all the details of what happened – what treatment we gave him, and all the rest of it'. That's what I did, and I had so many unanswered questions. I still do now, but ones like, was he in pain? Were they delayed getting in? Could things have been different? That would have still been in my head if I hadn't had that offer. When I did go in to meet with them, they just treated me with such kindness and compassion. It was a very empowering process. I was able to learn that he wasn't in pain for too long, and that they were on the road within two minutes. They were just totally, totally open and transparent with me. Even if they'd been delayed or something had gone wrong, I trust they would have told me. I've since had an apology from the police, but I've struggled to get information from them. Struggled with WorkSafe, so Wellington Free really stood out for me during this process. I just want to give back to them, in Michael's honour. They're an amazing organisation. They face such traumatic things, and they still turn up. They're heroes every day.

Why have you chosen to walk the Camino for your fundraising efforts?

Good question [chuckles]. There's sort of three parts to it. I've heard that it's a very spiritual and healing journey and a time for reflection. I'm self-funding the trip, because it is for me as well, right? It's a chance to detach myself for a while and just go on that journey. What I'm doing, it's very much something Michael would do. He was a really physically fit and mentally strong person, and he'd probably be thinking, golly gosh, she's really doing this [laughs]. So, I want to do some reflection for me, honour him and honour his life, and then – it's 800 kilometres, so why not use it as a lever to just really fundraise for this amazing organisation? That's why I chose the Camino.

Had the Camino resonated with you before now? Do you have friends and family who have walked it?

No, not at all. But actually, more and more people that I come across are saying, 'I've done that, here's some tips'. A lot of people have reached out – so many that I can't meet with everyone, actually! I'm really grateful for the generosity and that people are willing to share their learnings from their journey. I'm not a hiker or a trumper – I enjoy walking and I enjoy nature, yeah, but this a real challenge for me, which I think is what I need.

What will the walk entail for you and what does your training look like till then?

I've booked it through Macs Adventure because I'll be on my own, although I'll meet lots of people on the way. I do have 24/7 support from them – I think that's really important. I think it was important for my parents too [laughs].

My mum would be freaking out!

My dad is! So I start in September and I get to Santiago in October on Michael's birthday. That's the 39th day. They say it's 40 days, with a couple of rest days along the way. I've been doing a lot of extra walking to become walking fit, yoga for stretching, strength training for my legs. I'm really lucky, I've got a couple of people at work who are also personal trainers, so they're giving me lots of tips and tricks too.

I'm hearing that heaps of people are rallying around you!

Absolutely, I've just had so much support and love and care and kindness from everywhere. It's been amazing.

Are there any places along the trail that you feel a strong pull to?

Not at the moment, although I work with some amazing people, and one has done me up a big first-aid kit (bless her). She's a nurse and she does a lot of tramping. She said there's a place you can go where you can put rocks in remembrance of people. She has given me a little rock in remembrance of her dad, which I'll take for her. Michael was really into nature. I have a few rocks and things that I can take – I haven't decided which rock yet, but I will be placing something in honour of him.

Thank you for sharing your story with me. If you're comfortable speaking to this, I'd like to end by asking what you've learned about grief on your journey so far.

I think that when it initially happens, it feels like it's getting worse before it gets better. When I say it gets better, it never goes away, but your grief turns into this ability to see the happy moments for what they were, and an ability to realise – they're in you, right? You were so close to them, and they've left such an imprint in you that they're there with you. I will always remember my GP saying to me, 'You will get over that mountain, but I bet you it doesn't feel like that now'. That was about two weeks in. So maybe that's reflective of me going on this journey – up and over. I think the main thing is that I could have never imagined that level of grief. You just don't see it coming. We didn't say goodbye that morning thinking that was going to happen. But it does absolutely get better from a point of view. You start really remembering those memories and those happy times and being able to honour their life for who they were. It's a journey, and everybody's journey is different, but it's just one step at a time.

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Celebrating creative communities



Detail of Eye for Detail by Yavanna den Harder.



Photo by Kate Keep.

Showcasing 350 contemporary artworks by 260 artists from every corner of Aotearoa, the New Zealand Academy of Fine Art's (NZAFA) first annual Academy Prize for Visual Art will paint Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre in multi-coloured hues from now until the 24th of August.

Taking home the first-ever Academy Prize for Visual Art is local Wellington creative Yavanna den Harder for her charcoal on Fabriano paper *Eye for Detail* [pictured].

"From a superb field of worthy finalists that offered an extraordinary breadth of style, creativity, and exuberant colour, the judges were drawn back repeatedly to this bravura execution of hyper-realistic observation and depiction of this most critical faculty for visual art, rendered purely in her trademark charcoal," NZAFA president Wayne Newman says.

"We congratulate Yavanna den Harder on her outstanding achievement."

Almost speechless on the night of the awards, the creative force behind the work is "Absolutely stoked," she beams. "I was not expecting it!"

Alongside the winning work, five merit awards were chosen from the 90 finalists: Lynn Blann with her acrylic and charcoal piece *The Weight*, Weilun Ha's mammoth gold pigment and blue ink work *Sweetheart put me back together*, Kim Hennessy's bold acrylic painting *We Need A New Hero*, Logan Moffat's immense oil painting *The Garage*, and Benjamin Tolmie's atmospheric *Dancing with Nature | Kanikani me ao tūroa*.

The Academy Prize for Visual Art was born from the NZAFA's desire to fill the gap left this year by the cancellation of the Parkin Drawing Prize. The result is a showcase spanning the width and breadth of Kiwi creativity. This continues the core aim of the NZAFA to promote creation, understanding, and enjoyment of the visual arts.

Taking place alongside the Academy Prize for Visual Art exhibition at Tākina are three other showcases highlighting unique strands within the broader narrative of New Zealand art: Vincents Art Workshop's *Annual Group Show and 40th Anniversary Exhibition*, Wellington Sculpture Trust's *Four Decades of Public Art* display celebrating 42 years creating and promoting public art in the city, and *Poking Sticks – A Different, Irreverent Reality*, a show with a multicultural lens from nine South Island artists sharing Netherlands heritage.

Coming together, this landmark joint exhibition marks a milestone for artists and the public alike as the inaugural local art gathering at Tākina, offering a unique opportunity to experience the interconnectedness and talent spanning the Aotearoa contemporary scene.

"Tākina is Wellington's new heart of creativity, and we're delighted to fill it with the vision, energy, and diversity of New Zealand art," Newman says. "For the first time, our nation's creative spirit takes centre stage at this world-class venue."

Plunge into creativity in the heart of the coolest little capital and celebrate the artistic excellence of Aotearoa.

ACADEMY prize for visual art

7-24 August
Tākina Wellington
Daily: 10am-5pm

Adults \$11 Children \$6

[**BOOK NOW**](#)

also featuring:

- VINCENTS ART WORKSHOP
40th Anniversary Exhibition
- Wellington Sculpture Trust
- "POKING STICKS"

New Zealand
Academy
of Fine Arts

The Post

Art as a vaccine



Ask Questions by James Harcourt.

Taking shape at Thistle Hall between the 19th and 24th of August, *aMuseum & Gift Shop* contains artworks and pseudo-artifacts curated to reinforce values of humankind’s interconnectedness and place within the environment.

The varied visual art exhibition is presented as a museum with an adjoining gift store. According to its creator James Harcourt, it’s framed as a “didactic celebration of environment focused in kaitiakitanga o te taiao” or guardianship of nature.

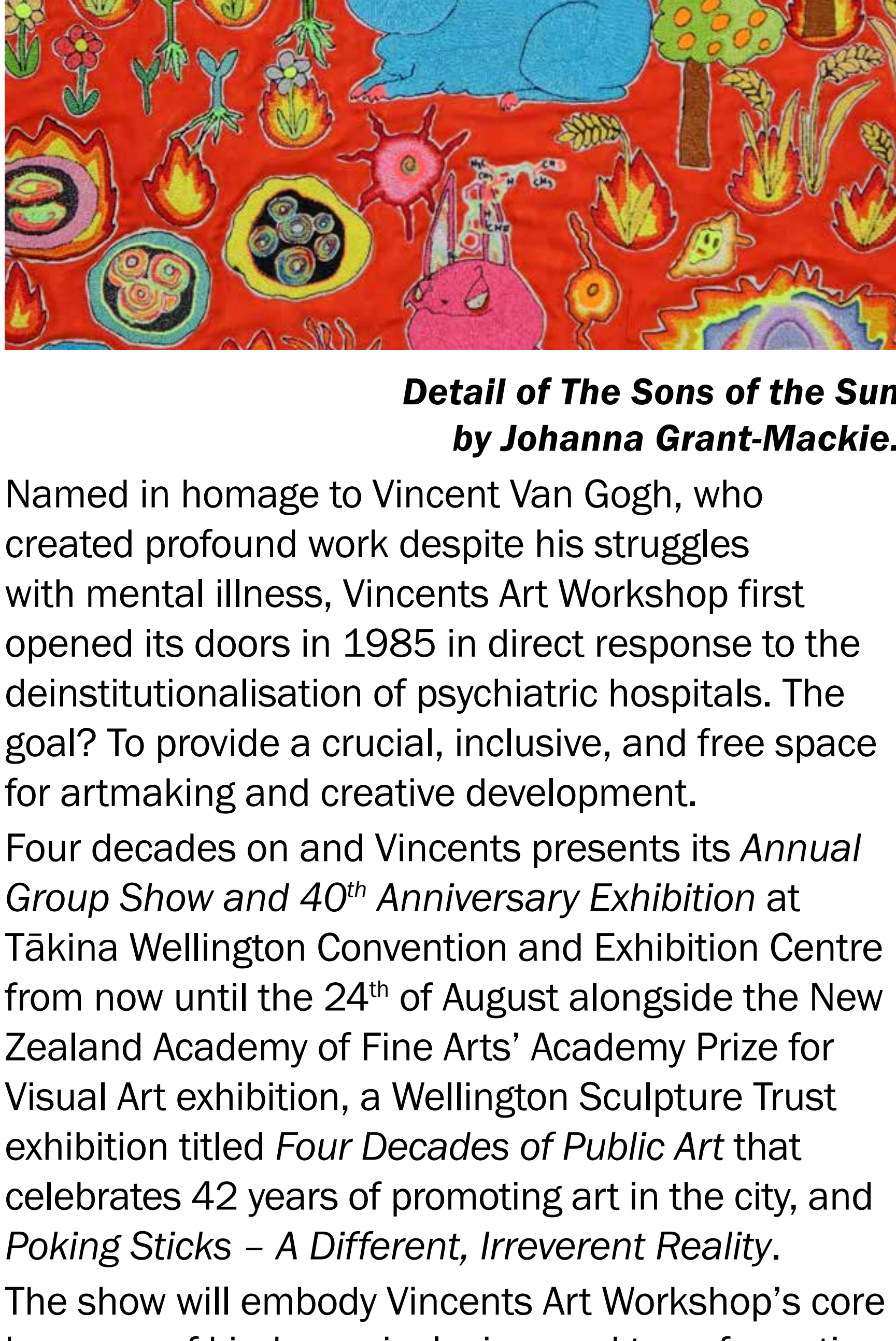
“I hope viewers that visit my show see that in this crazy mixed-up world of people there’s something underlying it all,” Harcourt says. “When we sense connection to the plants, animals, elements, and spirits, and understand that all is held in the same embrace, we can live well.”

The *aMuseum*, as the creative calls it, asks questions on where and who we are through sculpture, painting, cabinetry, embroidery, masks, installation, and costume.

“Sometimes it seems we are dwelling in the age of answers, overusing technology to deliver a quick fix of knowledge while fast leaving behind the world of wonder,” Harcourt continues, adding that “we’ve become conditioned to think knowledge is power when an ability to question is where the real power lies”.

Visual art, he says, stimulates and challenges us. “By looking at art we exercise that big muscle inside our heads to strengthen and create new pathways that may become useful. The challenge to oneself to attempt to understand is a way of protecting ourselves for the future. Art as vaccine perhaps!”

Elevate and celebrate



Detail of *The Sons of the Sun* by Johanna Grant-Mackie.

Named in homage to Vincent Van Gogh, who created profound work despite his struggles with mental illness, Vincents Art Workshop first opened its doors in 1985 in direct response to the deinstitutionalisation of psychiatric hospitals. The goal? To provide a crucial, inclusive, and free space for artmaking and creative development.

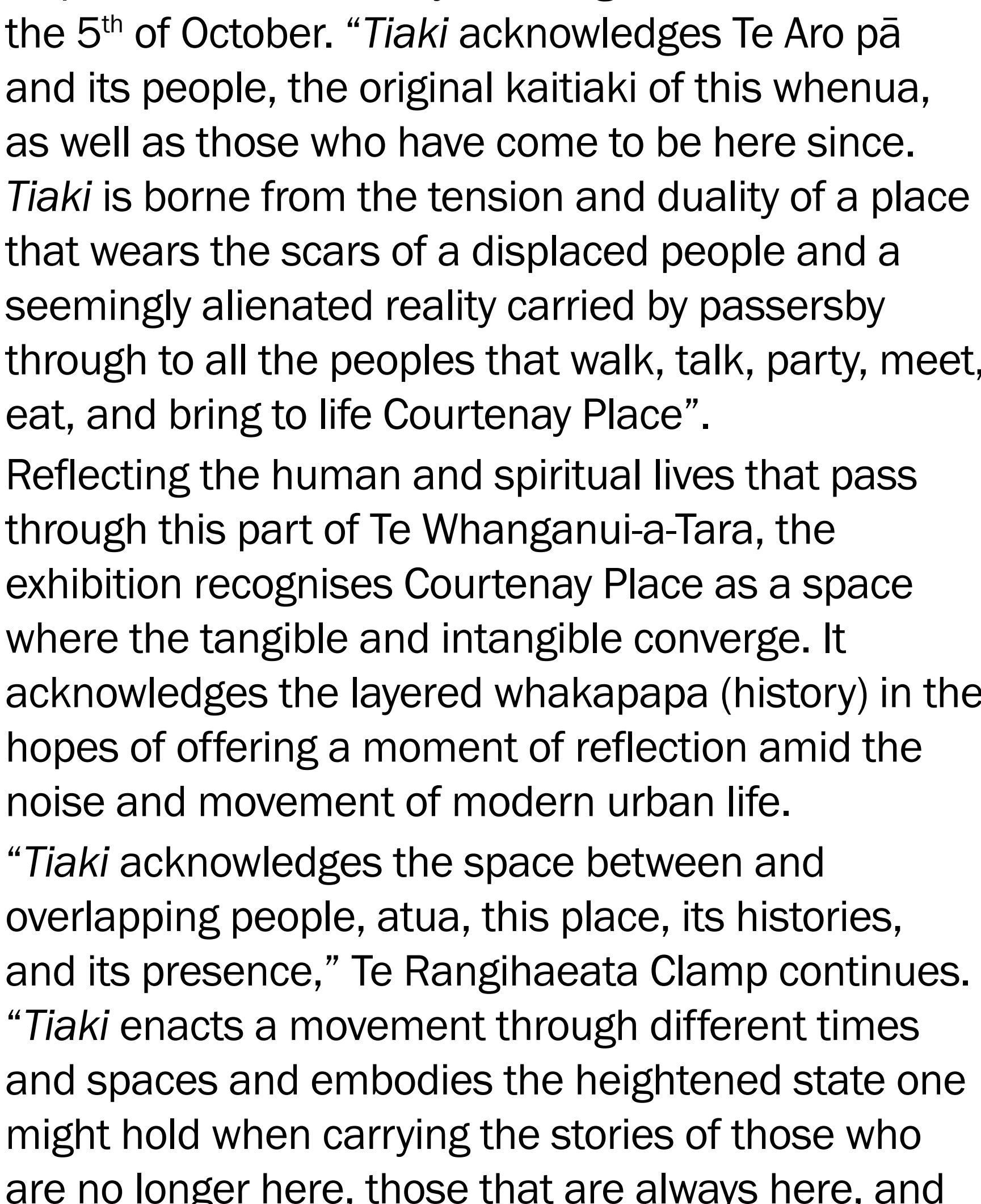
Four decades on and Vincents presents its *Annual Group Show and 40th Anniversary Exhibition* at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre from now until the 24th of August alongside the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts’ Academy Prize for Visual Art exhibition, a Wellington Sculpture Trust exhibition titled *Four Decades of Public Art* that celebrates 42 years of promoting art in the city, and *Poking Sticks – A Different, Irreverent Reality*.

The show will embody Vincents Art Workshop’s core kaupapa of kindness, inclusion, and transformation through creativity, showcasing work across a “variety of media”, curator Deborah Hope says. Ceramics and sculpture; works on canvas and paper; pencil, ink, watercolour, and acrylic pieces; and even clothing will make up the vast and varied exhibition.

“40 years is an incredible milestone,” Hope says, adding that the art workshop is a very special “safe, free, inclusive art space for the whole of the Wellington community”.

From early works that reflect the foundational years to contemporary pieces that speak to its ongoing vitality, the show honours the past, shines a light on the present, and celebrates the future of Vincents Art Workshop and the thousands of individuals who have found a voice within its welcoming walls.

Was, are, will be



“*Tiaki* is a manaia, a bearer who connects the worldly and spiritual realms”, creative Shannon Te Rangihaeata Clamp (Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Koata, and Ngāti Tama) says of his exhibition running as part of the Courtenay Place light boxes series until the 5th of October. “*Tiaki* acknowledges Te Aro pā and its people, the original kaitiaki of this whenua, as well as those who have come to be here since. *Tiaki* is borne from the tension and duality of a place that wears the scars of a displaced people and a seemingly alienated reality carried by passersby through to all the peoples that walk, talk, party, meet, eat, and bring to life Courtenay Place”.

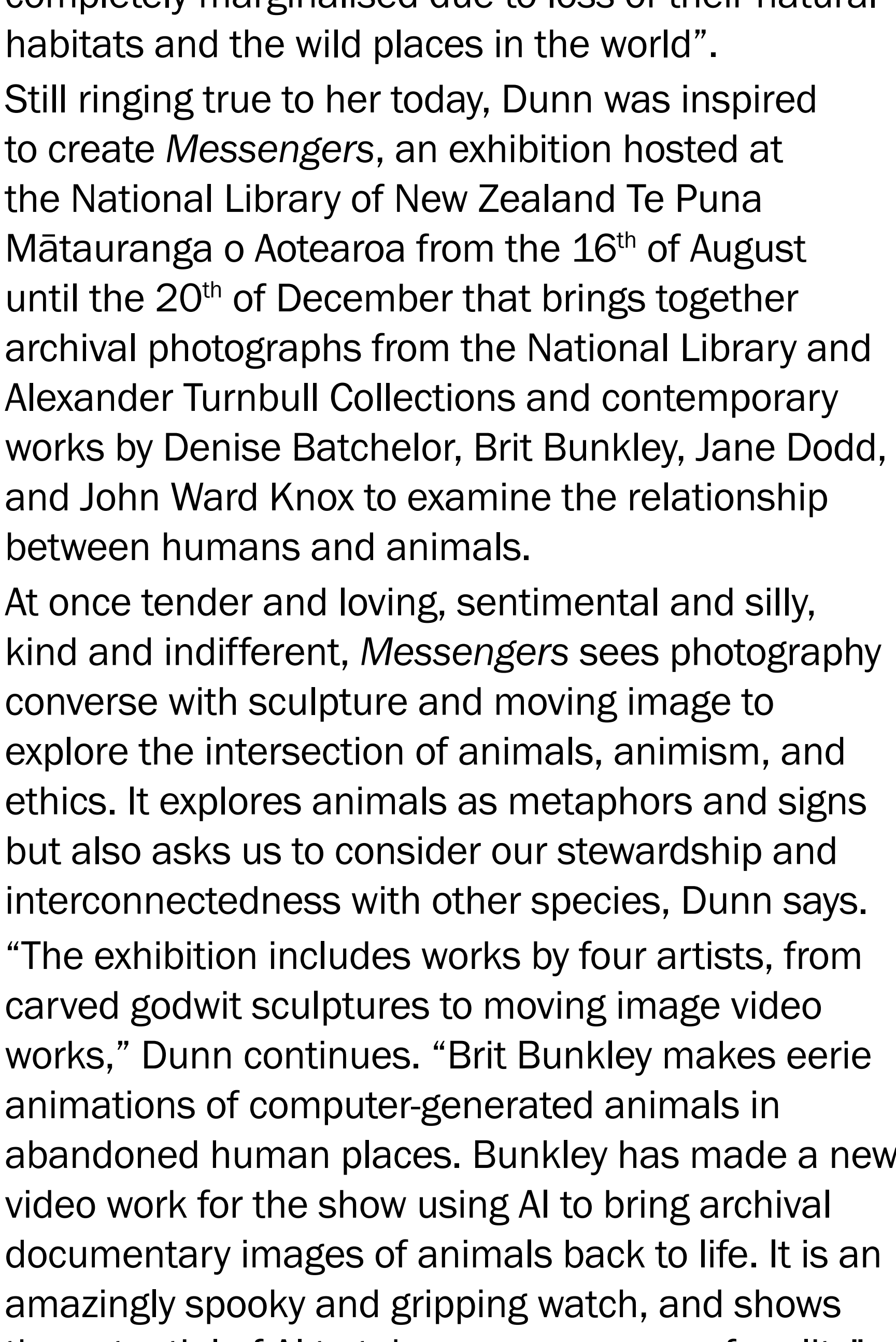
Reflecting the human and spiritual lives that pass through this part of Te Whanganui-a-Tara, the exhibition recognises Courtenay Place as a space where the tangible and intangible converge. It acknowledges the layered whakapapa (history) in the hopes of offering a moment of reflection amid the noise and movement of modern urban life.

“*Tiaki* acknowledges the space between and overlapping people, atua, this place, its histories, and its presence,” Te Rangihaeata Clamp continues. “*Tiaki* enacts a movement through different times and spaces and embodies the heightened state one might hold when carrying the stories of those who are no longer here, those that are always here, and those in between”.

Proud to see his work in the heart of Pōneke, Te Rangihaeata Clamp says his practice is a reflection of the visual language of his iwi and hapū and inspired by his whakapapa, tūpuna, and pūrākau. He hopes *Tiaki* will serve as a reminder of the history of this whenua to those passing through.

“The many tiki faces with their glistening eyes are watching and looking over their whenua and tūpuna”.

Why Look at Animals?



Detail of still from *Transit* by Brit Bunkley.

In 1977, art critic and novelist John Berger wrote an essay titled *Why Look at Animals?* that, according to City Gallery Te Whare Toi curator Megan Dunn, “challenged our sentimental attachment to animals in zoos and as pets, arguing that animals are completely marginalised due to loss of their natural habitats and the wild places in the world”.

Still ringing true to her today, Dunn was inspired to create *Messengers*, an exhibition hosted at the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa from the 16th of August until the 20th of December that brings together archival photographs from the National Library and Alexander Turnbull Collections and contemporary works by Denise Batchelor, Brit Bunkley, Jane Dodd, and John Ward Knox to examine the relationship between humans and animals.

At once tender and loving, sentimental and silly, kind and indifferent, *Messengers* sees photography converse with sculpture and moving image to explore the intersection of animals, animism, and ethics. It explores animals as metaphors and signs but also asks us to consider our stewardship and interconnectedness with other species, Dunn says.

“The exhibition includes works by four artists, from carved godwit sculptures to moving image video works,” Dunn continues. “Brit Bunkley makes eerie animations of computer-generated animals in abandoned human places. Bunkley has made a new video work for the show using AI to bring archival documentary images of animals back to life. It is an amazingly spooky and gripping watch, and shows the potential of AI to take over our sense of reality”.

With a pop-up show running at 125 Manners Street in partnership with Wellington City Council, Dunn hopes that visitors take away a sense of mystery and caution from *Messengers*. “We need to be careful what we anthropomorphise. We started with animals, now we give human qualities to AI”.

[Back to contents](#)



Kapiti elections

Championing positive change



A new independent group is contesting Kāpiti Coast District Council local elections.

We Love Kāpiti is a team of local people who want to improve the future for residents of the district. They are dedicated to changing the way the council works. As an independent group with diverse backgrounds and experiences, they make a strong team that will champion positive change.

The team will make sure that rates are affordable again, that the council makes common-sense decisions, and that it works with and for the community.

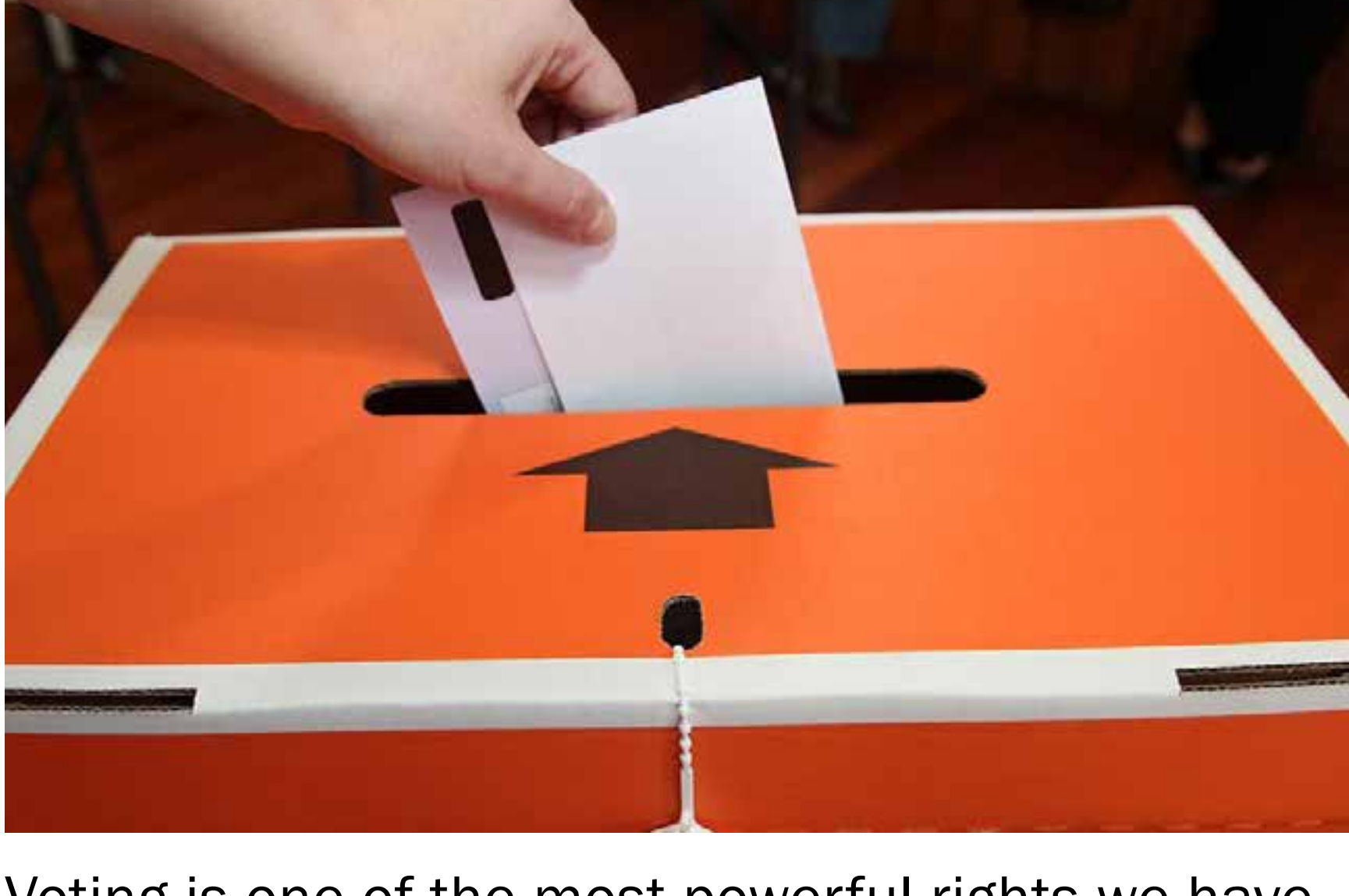
The team will halt the planned rate increases, as under the current Long Term Plan, rates will more than double. The team will cap rate increases to no more than three percent per annum, on average, without compromising essential services for the community. This is a significant decrease from the total average increase of 25 percent over the last two years with future planned rises of seven percent year on year.

The We Love Kāpiti team says that this is possible with greater fiscal responsibility in spending decisions.

Dean Harris, a We Love Kāpiti team member who is standing for mayor and councillor for the Waikanae ward, believes “the recent and proposed rate hikes are unacceptable. Our vision is a Kāpiti where people can afford to rent, own a home, raise their families, and retire with dignity – a community that thrives, not struggles”.

For more information, visit www.welovekapiti.co.nz

Make your choice



Voting is one of the most powerful rights we have as New Zealanders. Whether it's on a nationwide scale or within our town, our government bodies represent us, make decisions on our behalf, and build the world as we know it and dream of.

With local elections just around the corner in Kapiti, it's important to know when, where, and how you can make your vote count. The council meets regularly and makes decisions that impact your day-to-day life. They govern a wide range of local services including roads, water systems, rubbish collection, libraries, parks, community centres, dog registration, community and economic development, and district planning.

First off, any New Zealand citizen or permanent resident over the age of 18 can vote so long as you've enrolled. For Kapiti, you're eligible to vote if you live there or own property there. Enrolling is easy and can be completed or verified online.

Once you've enrolled, it's important to do your research. Read up on candidates and what they stand for to get an idea of who you would like to see representing you in your local government.

Once you've made your choice, head over to one of the polling stations across the district on Saturday the 11th of October to vote!

Enrol, access resources, and find out more about voting in Kapiti at www.kapiticoast.govt.nz



Phil Byrne

Candidate for Kapiti Coast District Council and Waikanae Community Board

Waikanae Beach local | Business owner
Aviation professional | 20 years' military service

Kapiti needs to get back to basics. I'm standing for Council to restore focus on the essentials: reliable infrastructure, responsible spending, and community-first services. Recent issues – like the flawed flood hazard maps – show how poor consultation and questionable planning can undermine trust. That must change.

I bring practical leadership, discipline, and a genuine commitment to public service. My priorities are straightforward: deliver value for ratepayers, protect property rights, support local businesses, and make Council decisions transparent and accountable.

I'm not here for politics – I'm here to listen, to act, and to serve.

Independent. Accountable.
Focused on what matters.

[Like & Follow on Facebook: Phil Byrne](#)

Authorised by Phil Byrne. philkayattennyson@gmail.com



Vote BEDE LARACY 1

for
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Authorised by Bede Laracy
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'Bring common sense back to the council table'

Vote Elliott 1 for Districtwide Kāpiti
because affordability, experience and common sense count when council decisions affect you!

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Authorized by Jackie Elliott
For information or a chat please contact me on
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WAIKANAĒ

Authorised by Chris Harwood chrisarwood1957@gmail.com

[Back to contents](#)



Taste sensations

A tasty treat



With an exceptional lineup including new

masterclasses, chefs, and exciting exhibitors, all the

ingredients for a great day out are sliced and diced

when The Food Show returns to Sky Stadium from

the 29th to the 31st of August.

The ultimate event for foodies, this is the show

to titillate tastebuds and satisfy a hankering for

all things delicious. A celebration of gastronomic

proportions awaits, with hundreds of exhibitors

offering the latest in niche new artisan food

and drink, exclusive show-only specials, and the

opportunity to sample and stock up on the best

products available.

The Chance Voight Cooking Theatre will be full to the

brim with talented local and international chefs. New

Zealand's very own Nadia Lim will take centre stage

with her inspiring take on farm produce. Nadia is a

crowd favourite and as a successful entrepreneur,

food writer, television personality, farmer, mother

of three, and wonderful human being, it's no

wonder that her offerings are always piping hot!

The vivacious Annabelle White will present recent

discoveries and recipes from around the world

while the passionate Sam Low will cook up some

sensational Chinese creations such as his signature

saucy fragrant eggplant and banquet-style chicken

sweetcorn soup.

Get stuck into hands-on activities at Hancocks

Cocktail Masterclasses. This year there are heaps

of options to choose from – Boozy Brunch Club,

Happy Hour: The Cocktail Clinic, Gin & Cake, and Did

Someone Say Margaritas?

The Sip & Paint with Pinot & Picasso sessions

are designed to set your creative flair free while

you enjoy some quality wine. Free Beats by Bingo

sessions will be hosted in the Morningcider Street

Food Alley, where you can expect over 100 exhibitors

introducing new food and beverage brands

alongside all your favourites. The Artisan Village

showcases foods made in small batches with the

utmost care and of the finest quality ingredients.

The Deli Collective has everything you need to create

a standout platter: cheese galore, plus so much

more! Put your creativity to the test at the Cake Off,

where amateurs and pros can whip up a delicious

and dazzling creation to wow the judges.

While exploring the show, keep an eye out for the

four Resene Tasty Colour zones – scan them all for

a chance to win a kitchen or dining room makeover!

What's more, every person who buys a ticket to The

Wellington Food Show goes in the draw for a chance

to win an incredible trip for two to the shimmering,

sparkling, azure shores of New Caledonia.

Whether you're a foodie aficionado, wine enthusiast,

cocktail connoisseur, recipe reveller, or someone

who loves discovering new things, there's something

to satisfy every palate at The Wellington Food Show,

where you'll leave feeling just as satisfied as your

stomach!

Find out more and check out the lineup in the

Chance Voight Cooking Theatre to make sure your

trip is planned for maximum enjoyment at

www.foodshow.co.nz

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29 - 31
August 2025

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delicious sauce. You just can't beat it!

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Have you ever heard of malatang? It's a popular

street food in China similar to hot pot. Mala

means numbing and spicy, tang means to boil or

blanch. In essence, a bunch of tasty and flavourful

ingredients are thrown together into a spicy broth,

creating an explosion of zesty goodness.

At Tiger Chinese Restaurant in Wellington you

can build your very own malatang! Grab a bowl and

some tongs and choose your ingredients from the

huge array of products on display. From meats and

mushrooms to vegetables and various specialty

items, not to mention every different type of noodle

you could imagine, no malatang is ever the same –

but it will always be packed full of flavour.

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Buy, build, renovate



KiwiSpan Wellington & Kapiti's experienced team are ready to help you design and build your dream shed or commercial building. Our innovative wide span technology creates more space and uses the best steel products in the country. For sheds, barns, workshops, kitsets, and more, talk to KiwiSpan today.

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Kiwi as



There are few things as iconic in Aotearoa as the gumboot. A New Zealand symbol and a staple on feet and doorsteps across the motu, they're as Kiwi as can be.

The humble gumboot is perfect for our conditions, whether you're running amuck at the farm or treading water down by the sea, tramping through city streets during a southerly (a pair of Wellies, anyone?) or jigging and jiving at a summer festy. They'll get you where you need to go no matter the weather or the circumstance.

Bata Industrials gumboots are made in New Zealand for New Zealanders. They come in all shapes, sizes, and styles to serve any purpose you may need them for. And what's more, they're strong, safe, and sustainable thanks to the Bata PVC recycling programme.

Each year, New Zealand discards 15.5 million tonnes of waste – that's 3200 kilogrammes for every one of us! Right now, we only recycle 28 percent of it. That's why Bata Industrials New Zealand has made a conscious effort to reduce waste generation through recycling and reusing PVC content in their gumboot production process.

Bata Industrials re-processes worn PVC gumboot waste into raw materials to create brand-new Bata Industrials PVC gumboots. Their whāinga is to ensure no PVC gumboots are being disposed of in landfills.

Keep Aotearoa beautiful by finding your nearest gumboot disposal bin and learning more about the Bata PVC recycling programme at www.bataindustrials.co.nz

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THE SAFETY BOOT

THE ONLY GUMBOOT MANUFACTURER IN NEW ZEALAND

Bata PVC recycling program

Take a step to reduce your carbon footprint

Each year, New Zealand discards 15.5 million tonnes of waste, that's 3,200 kg for every Kiwi! Currently, we recycle only 28% of this waste.

That's why Bata New Zealand has made a conscious effort to reduce waste generation by recycling and reusing PVC content in our gumboot production process. By using recycled content, we not only reduce the amount of waste reaching landfill but also help to lower our carbon footprint.

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Buy, build, renovate

The pulse of innovation



Sentinel Homes' designers and builders take a tailored approach to every project, customising each house to fit the requirements and preferences of its owner. Whether you're building your house from the ground up or renovating an existing structure, the result will be anything but cookie cutter.

With a reputation for excellence, these Master Builders have won countless awards both locally and nationally. At the helm of the Wellington and Kapiti branches are Hayden and Kylie Rau, who love helping their community create the homes of their dreams. "One of the main reasons we enjoy building homes for people is clearly remembering the feeling we had when building our own new home – the excitement we felt throughout the process, and the sense of achievement and satisfaction once our home was complete", Hayden and Kylie delight.

Sentinel Homes gives clients the option to create a completely custom design or use one of their popular plans as a starting point. Regardless of which one they choose, clients will work closely with the knowledgeable and passionate team to create something they love and that fulfils their needs both now and in the future. With years of experience under their belts, the team are always keeping track of new developments in the field to ensure their fingers stay on the pulse of innovation.

For one-of-a-kind homes, Sentinel Homes are the award-winning choice. Schedule your free site check and design chat at www.sentinelhomes.co.nz

Structural integrity for your build



Prenail Frames and Trusses are committed to designing and building with conviction and integrity for new homes, additions, and light commercial buildings across Greater Wellington, Wairarapa, and Manawātū.

For over 45 years, they've been known as leaders in frame and truss design and manufacture. Owned and operated by the Broadley family for nearly 25 years, the company comprises qualified draughtsmen, structural designers, carpentry-qualified builders, innovative detailers, quality-conscious fabrication staff, and proactive office personnel who provide an exceptional product and after sales service. They're bound by future thinking and unwavering integrity.

Whether you're an architect, designer, builder, project manager, or homeowner, Prenail can help at every stage of a project until your structure is on site and compliance is achieved. They take pride in providing structural feasibility at the early stages of a project, supplying buildable layouts for building consent, designing for ease of construction and material efficiencies, and manufacturing to the highest level of detail. All their work is backed by their in-house LBP Design 2 peer reviewer and professional indemnity insurances.

The team are highly experienced and follow comprehensive systems and procedures tailored to suit specific requirements. Prenail Frames and Trusses leave no stone unturned when considering the complexities of projects, making every job seamless from start to finish.

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Buy, build, renovate

Your house, your castle



Stonemasonry is an artform that adds a timeless feel to your property. When it comes to an exceptional, expert stonemason who is passionate about the craft and can show you what is possible for your castle, you can't go past Nicolas Piveteau of Le Maçon.

Born in France and based in Kapiti with his Kiwi wife Angela, Nicolas began an apprenticeship with a family friend and local stone mason, Yvon Boyer, at just 15 years old. By 17, he had enrolled as a student with the Companion du Devoir, a French craftsman and artisan training organisation that dates back to the Middle Ages. Nicolas spent a total of nine years in training through Monsieur Boyer and the Companion du Devoir, working in renovation, concrete and construction, brickwork, and even castle restoration.

Today – be it typical stone works, restorations, or creating modern designs made of stone or concrete – he helps clients realise their masonry dreams.

Your house, your castle



No matter the season, no matter the reason, there is always a chance something could happen that leaves your home cut off from a reliable water supply. From earthquakes and droughts to burst pipes or road works, your home could have a water outage at any time. The Tank Guy can help you prepare for unforeseen circumstances by installing an eco-friendly rainwater collection tank on your property.

Located in Wellington, The Tank Guy locally manufactures emergency supply water tanks with all the necessary installation gear and offers a range of sizes, delivery, and finance options. The team is happy to provide you with the correct information to install your water tank yourself in less than 30 minutes, or they can assist you directly.

With The Tank Guy, you're choosing an option with low environmental impact that will give you peace of mind in an emergency.

Invest in the best



John Barton, owner and operator of Workshop Quantity Surveyors (WQS) since 1992, will help you get the best out of your investment. All projects, whether residential or commercial, benefit from having a quantity surveyor, and getting John involved early in the process will mean you're getting the best deal every nail in the wall and every step of the way.

Based in Wellington and trusted throughout the industry thanks to his 40-plus years of experience, John provides expert quantity surveyor services nationwide. Whether you're an architect designing a dream home, or a homeowner tackling your first renovation, he can help. As a specialist in detailed project cost estimates, he will identify any cost issues before too much progress has been made and ensure your budget is realistic. He also provides insurance and loan drawdown assessments.

Bring John in at the concept stage if you want the best possible job done at the best possible price.



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Buy, build, renovate

What can't they do?



In 1998, ambitious apprentice Craig August launched CMC Electrical with two local electricians keen to get ahead. After a few years of hard work and building a solid reputation across the region, Craig and his wife Rachel purchased the business outright and have never looked back.

Today, CMC Electrical and Pump Services employ nine staff – two in the office and seven electricians – who work across Greater Wellington, including the Hutt Valley and stretching all the way up to South Wairarapa. Craig, Rachel, and their team of IQP qualified Master Electricians offer a comprehensive range of electrical services, from residential renos and electrical repairs to commercial maintenance and installations, including test and tag. When it comes to pump services, they can conduct wastewater and water pump repairs, maintenance, installations, and more.

CMC has always taken pride in not just the services they provide, but the way they provide them. They turn up when they say they will and they get the job done, working to stick within the quotes they give – free of charge for smaller jobs. They can work outside regular business hours to suit your schedule if needed and offer an emergency callout service to boot.

Rachel, Craig, and the team thrive on finding faults others can't, a skill that only a quarter of a century in the industry (and then some) will teach you. In short, there's nothing CMC can't fix and nothing they can't do.

Leaders in the field



In 1997, Steve Douglas decided to start a business with the aim of developing a scientifically tested range of premixed and rapid-set concrete that would meet the needs of the New Zealand construction industry. The result was Mastermix.

Based in Foxton, Mastermix delivers just what Steve set out to achieve over two decades ago and has now become the leading name in Kiwi concrete, whether that's for sewer repairs, manhole installation, slab pouring, or fireproofing. The team are still just as committed to innovation too, with new products constantly being developed.

Mastermix has a strong focus on offering a complete service to customers. From developing the best range of products to solve whatever problem you may have, to staff fully trained to advise you about concrete supply, the team provide expert advice and solutions that last. Choosing the right product to suit your project's needs can be difficult, but Mastermix is here to save you time and money by walking you through the entire selection process.

The company offers everything from premix concrete to coating and repair systems, waterproof mortar mixes to traffic management solutions. They work with construction companies across the country on everything from major projects to small repairs and their projects can be found across the motu.

If you're in the market for high-quality trade solutions from a dedicated and passionate team, look no further than Mastermix.



The industry leaders when it comes to concrete products and supplies.

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Kapiti lifestyle



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KAPITI COAST

Custom-designed kitchens to fit your home perfectly
Whether you have kitchen ideas of your own, or you don't know where to begin, Kitchen Creators in Paraparaumu can design, manufacture and install your new kitchen from start to finish.

Location: 144 Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu | Open: Monday-Friday
Contact: 04 298 2421 | www.kitchencreators.co.nz


Locally crafted kitchens, made for the Kapiti Coast

When it comes to creating a space that truly feels like home, local expertise makes all the difference, and that's exactly what Kitchen Creators brings to the Kapiti Coast. For almost four decades, this locally owned business has been designing, manufacturing, and installing beautiful kitchens tailored to the needs and lifestyles of Kapiti families.

Whether you're dreaming up a kitchen for a brand-new home or ready to upgrade your existing space, Kitchen Creators offers end-to-end service with a personal touch. Their customer-first approach starts the moment you step into the Kapiti Road showroom.

The team is flexible and experienced, able to work from your existing plans or arrange an onsite visit to understand your vision and space. With three distinct kitchen ranges – classic, executive, ultimate – there's something to suit every style and budget. All cabinetry is manufactured in Kapiti, just behind the showroom. This allows the team to manage each project's timeline to its unique demands.

The Kitchen Creators team doesn't stop at kitchens! They also offer custom joinery for bathrooms, laundries, wardrobes, TV and entertainment units, window seats, and more. Make Kitchen Creators your go-to local experts for creating beautiful, functional spaces throughout your home.



pzazz building
making living spaces come alive

The team at Pzazz Building Kapiti are your local renovation experts. We renovate bathrooms, kitchens, attics, and basements. We also specialise in extensions, decks, outdoor living areas and home recladding.

We are proud to also offer in house concept design, 3D design and consent drawings services. – Get in touch now to book your FREE in-home consultation.

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Pzazz Kapiti are proud backers and sponsors of Work Ready Kapiti giving back to the community.

Seamless and stress-free Seamless and stress-free

Home renovation can seem daunting when you first start out. Whether you know exactly what you want or you're not even sure where to begin, Pzazz Building can help you through the experience in a seamless and stress-free manner with their five-step renovation process.

With a team of Kapiti locals running the show, Pzazz has a combined experience of almost 90 years. It goes without saying that they're experts in any kind of renovation and can come up with a plan within your budget that you'll love and deliver it on time. Having been in business for decades, they have a solid reputation for delivering results their clients love and have pages and pages of five-star reviews to show for it.

Starting with a free in-home consultation, the team creates a 3D flythrough of your property based on your ideas and requirements. This way, you can visualise your concept before beginning the build process. From the first swing of the hammer to the final lick of paint, you'll be kept in the loop about all developments to ensure you'll be completely satisfied with the results.

Trust the experts to bring your ideas to life. Get in touch at www.pzazz.co.nz





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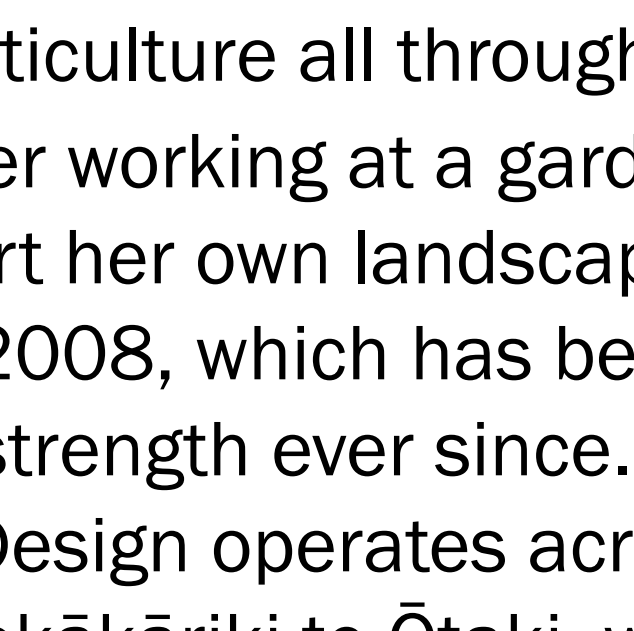
Maximise potential

When the Kapiti Hardscaping team walk into an outdoor space, they see the hidden potential it holds. With their technical expertise and creative vision, they can craft a space that goes beyond what you imagined.

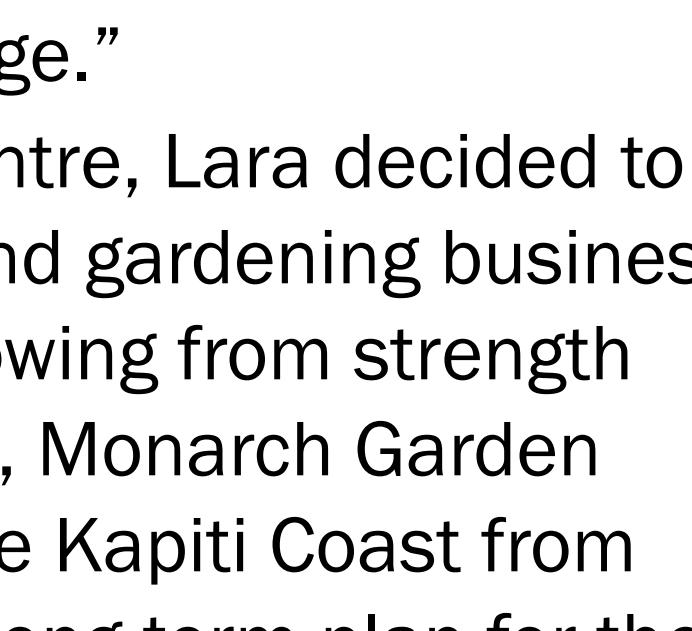
Since opening up shop in 2019, they have worked with over 200 clients along the Kapiti Coast, transforming 8200 square metres of outdoor spaces in the process. They maintain clear communication and meticulous attention to detail, putting their 75-plus years of combined experience to good work in order to enhance your property's beauty and functionality and improve your lifestyle.

Kapiti Hardscaping deliver premium craftsmanship and bespoke solutions for residential and commercial properties across a range of services. From landscape design to arborist and tree management, retaining walls to fences and decks, plus any and all of your hardscaping needs, the team can help you maximise your space's potential.


The crew keeps their core values front of mind to deliver a personalised experience that goes above and beyond. Innovative, reliable, community focused, transparent, and environmentally responsible, their craftsmanship reflects their commitment to excellence, ensuring every project is beautiful, practical, and can be enjoyed for years to come.



Monarch Garden & Design Ltd
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Lara Close of Monarch Garden & Design has been gardening for as long as she could walk.

"My grandmother was a writer of gardening books, and she got me into the garden when I was three," she says. "I grew up on a four-acre section and did horticulture all through college."

After working at a garden centre, Lara decided to start her own landscaping and gardening business in 2008, which has been growing from strength to strength ever since. Today, Monarch Garden & Design operates across the Kapiti Coast from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki, with a long-term plan for the team to expand their services further across the region.

From the weeding, pruning, planting, spraying, and mulching that goes into ongoing garden maintenance to designing and landscaping a space from scratch, Lara and her team can help with pretty much everything. They're friendly, creative, reliable, and passionate, always going above and beyond to exceed expectations.

Lara also runs Monarch Cleaning Services, offering residential, commercial, and rental cleaning across the Kapiti Coast.

Whether you need a hand with just the odd job or you'd like to make your yard and home shine, get in touch with Lara at Monarch Garden & Design to get started.



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Dobbins Office Furniture has everything you'll need to make your workspace just right, from day dot. A proudly Wellington-based company since it opened in 1990, Dobbins Office Furniture ships nationwide via their online store. They have an extensive collection of New Zealand-made and imported ergonomic furniture for both the office and home. Every piece of furniture is a testament to their commitment to quality. A well-crafted desk and chair is paramount for your productivity, creativity, and success. That's why Dobbins Office Furniture offers a catalogue of top-notch products with durability and reliability front of mind.

Make your workplace the best it can be with practical, ergonomic chairs, fixed height or standing desks, high-tech options, and so much more. Whatever you may require, they stock the best brands at great deals.

If you can't find what you're looking for or need some more information, the knowledgeable team can answer all your questions and help you design a space that works. They also offer custom furniture and office design services to suit your individual or business needs.

Get in touch today to transform your workplace into a haven of flexibility, efficiency, and productivity! Strive for success with Dobbins Office Furniture.

Kapiti lifestyle

Ticking all the boxes



As a Harcourts real estate agent, Sue Ayton helps buyers and sellers achieve their property goals along the Kapiti Coast. She makes dreams come true and has the feedback and five-star reviews from clients to show for it.

Praised for her “outstanding communication and professionalism” as well as her engagement by purchasers Chris and Jim, Sue always tries to establish a rapport with her clients to understand what they are looking for and what they need to live the lifestyle they want. A great listener, she takes preferences into account to find the perfect deal that ticks all the boxes.

Sue’s client Toni has bought and sold with her because she is “someone who genuinely cares about finding the best home for her buyers and goes out of her way to enable her sellers to present their home in the best way possible”. With careful attention to detail and personal touches, Sue always goes the extra mile. “She knows the market well and she never wavers in her passion and energy throughout the entire process,” Toni says. “A real gem of a person and a fantastic agent.”

Whether you’re hoping to sell your property to someone who will love it as much as you have, or you’re looking for your dream home in Kapiti, with Sue at the helm you’ll get five-star service and exactly what you wanted. Find out more or get in touch with Sue to arrange a consultation at www.harcourts.net/nz

A simple change



Your home is your special sanctuary; it should reflect your style and serve your needs. From windows and walls to flooring and fixtures, personalising your property is one of the best parts of being a homeowner. You don’t embark on a full-scale renovation to refresh your home – by switching up your flooring you can give your home a whole makeover.

Flooring Design is one of New Zealand’s most trusted names with owner-operated businesses dotted up and down New Zealand. Your owners are Raymond and Julie Hardgrave of the Kapiti and Levin locations. The husband-and-wife team have been in the business of flooring for over four decades, at the helm of Flooring Design stores for more than 15 years, and in the Wellington Region for nigh on two decades. They’re as trusted as they come.

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During all of August and September, Flooring Design Kapiti and Levin are having a huge sale. Pop on into the showrooms to have a chat with the sales consultants and find out how you can transform your home with Flooring Design.

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Keep winter out



Did you know that one of the biggest factors of heat loss in your home is warmth escaping through your windows and doors? With temperatures plummeting into the single digits and weather getting wetter, make sure yours are in tip-top shape.

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Led by Craig and Selena Burrows in Wellington and Kapiti, and Hayley and Stu Simonsen in the Hutt Valley, the Exceed team has the practical skills and the logical know-how for all your window repairs and security needs. They stand behind their workmanship 100 percent, so wherever you are in the region, you can expect expert service and quality work on time, every time.

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Master Builders House of the Year

Built to your lifestyle



The kitchen is where memories are made, where holidays are spent and special occasions celebrated, where we tell our family and friends we love them with a home-cooked meal, pass on family traditions, and go day in and day out to nourish our bodies and our souls. It's the heart of our home, which is why a kitchen you love is integral to your wellbeing.

Rochelle Jackson, the owner and operator of Kitchen Elements, knows this better than anyone. "We create kitchens that welcome you into the space," she says. "We look at the architecture of the home, the style of the client, and the vibe and feeling they want."

Designing and manufacturing kitchens right here in New Zealand, Kitchen Elements can help you bring your dream kitchen to life in a tailored way. By getting to know you, your needs, and your lifestyle, the team of designers, manufacturers, and installers can craft a space that synchronises with your world.

"We tailor the design to suit our client and hopefully future-proof it," Rochelle says. "We try to think of how long someone is going to stay in the home and take that into consideration when building their kitchen, so that it moves and works for them through their different stages of life."

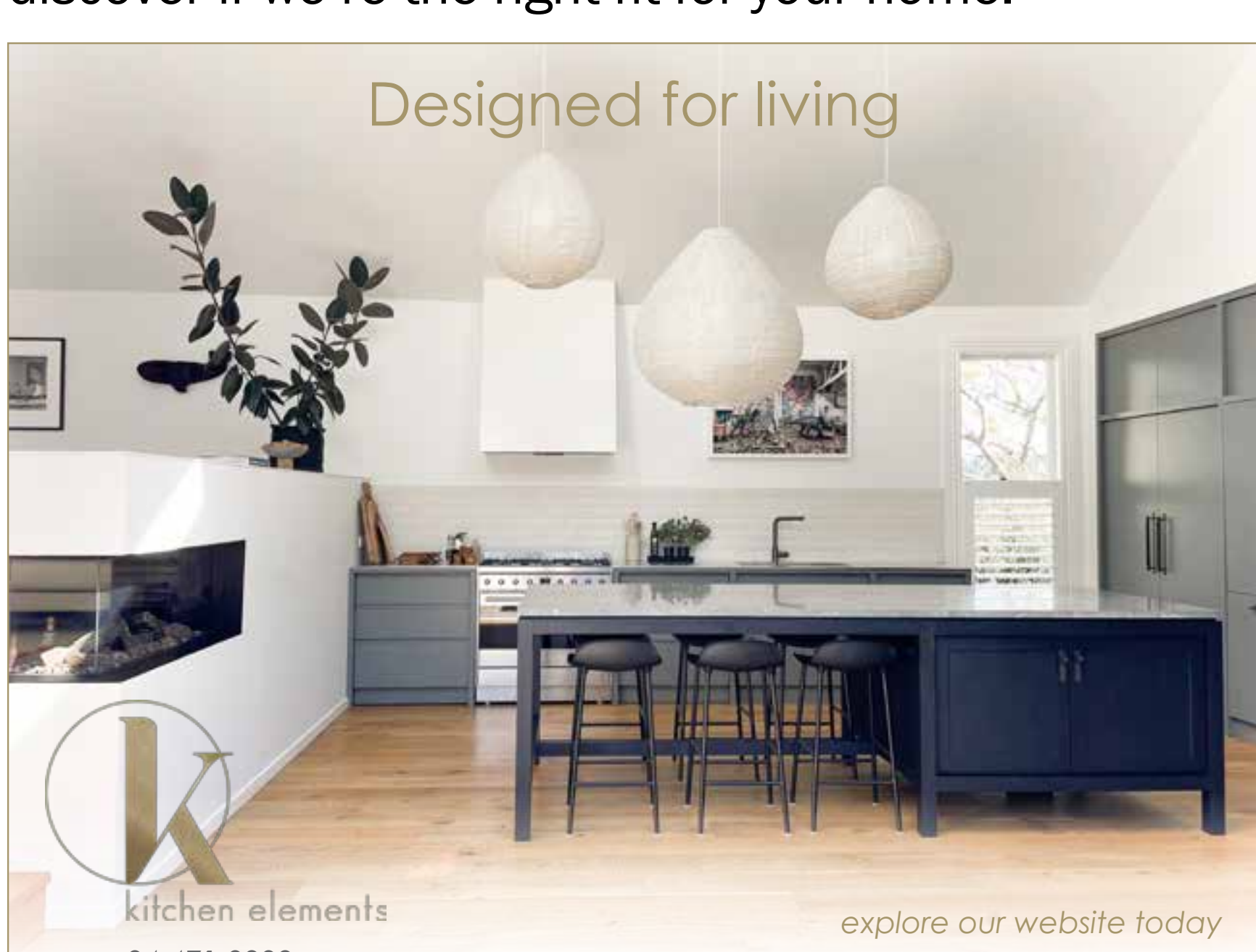
"At Kitchen Elements, we focus on timeless design and enduring quality – building things that last a lifetime, beyond trends and consumerism. We design everything with a focus on exceptional quality," Rochelle explains. "There are ways to cut costs in cabinetry by using certain materials, but that can impact durability. Our goal is to work within your budget while still delivering long-lasting, high-quality construction. It's all about finding the right balance."

Whether you're renovating or building new, Kitchen Elements is dedicated to maximising your space to create room for life to unfold. By understanding your vision, they craft thoughtful, tailored solutions that bring clarity and flow to your home. With a focus on smart storage, their custom designs are made to fit your lifestyle – right down to the smallest detail. And once your kitchen is complete, their craftsmanship often extends into other areas, including wardrobes, laundries, bathrooms, and beyond.

"We create the initial layout alongside the client and then we make a 3D model, which can look almost like a photograph. And we try and make the process fun. Sometimes it's like we're shopping with a friend," Rochelle beams. "We're changing someone's home and the way that they live, so if we can understand everything about our clients then we can really personalise the design. By custom making it and not following trends, the kitchen doesn't become dated, so the investment lasts so much longer."

A thoughtfully tailored design enhances the functionality of your space, ensuring your kitchen performs beautifully now and for years to come.

"Browse the gallery online," Rochelle says, "or visit our Thorndon Quay showroom to experience the craftsmanship firsthand, have a conversation, and discover if we're the right fit for your home."



Designed for living



kitchen elements

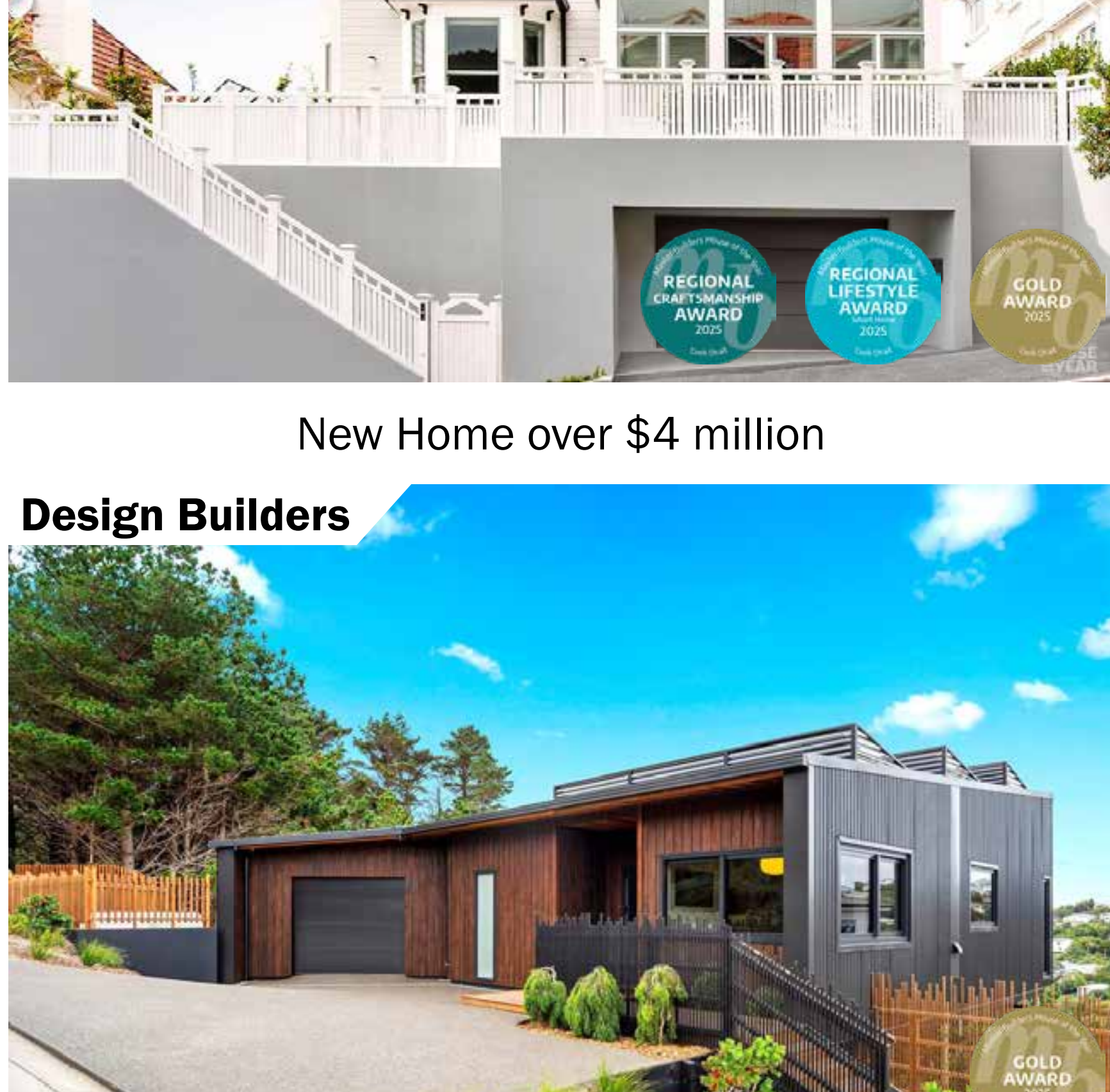
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Master Builders House of the Year

KiwiBuilt



New Home over \$4 million

Design Builders



Bunnings New Home \$1 million-\$1.5 million

Davma Construction



Bunnings New Home \$1 million-\$1.5 million

Scotty's Construction



Resene New Home \$2 million-\$4 million

Scotty's Construction



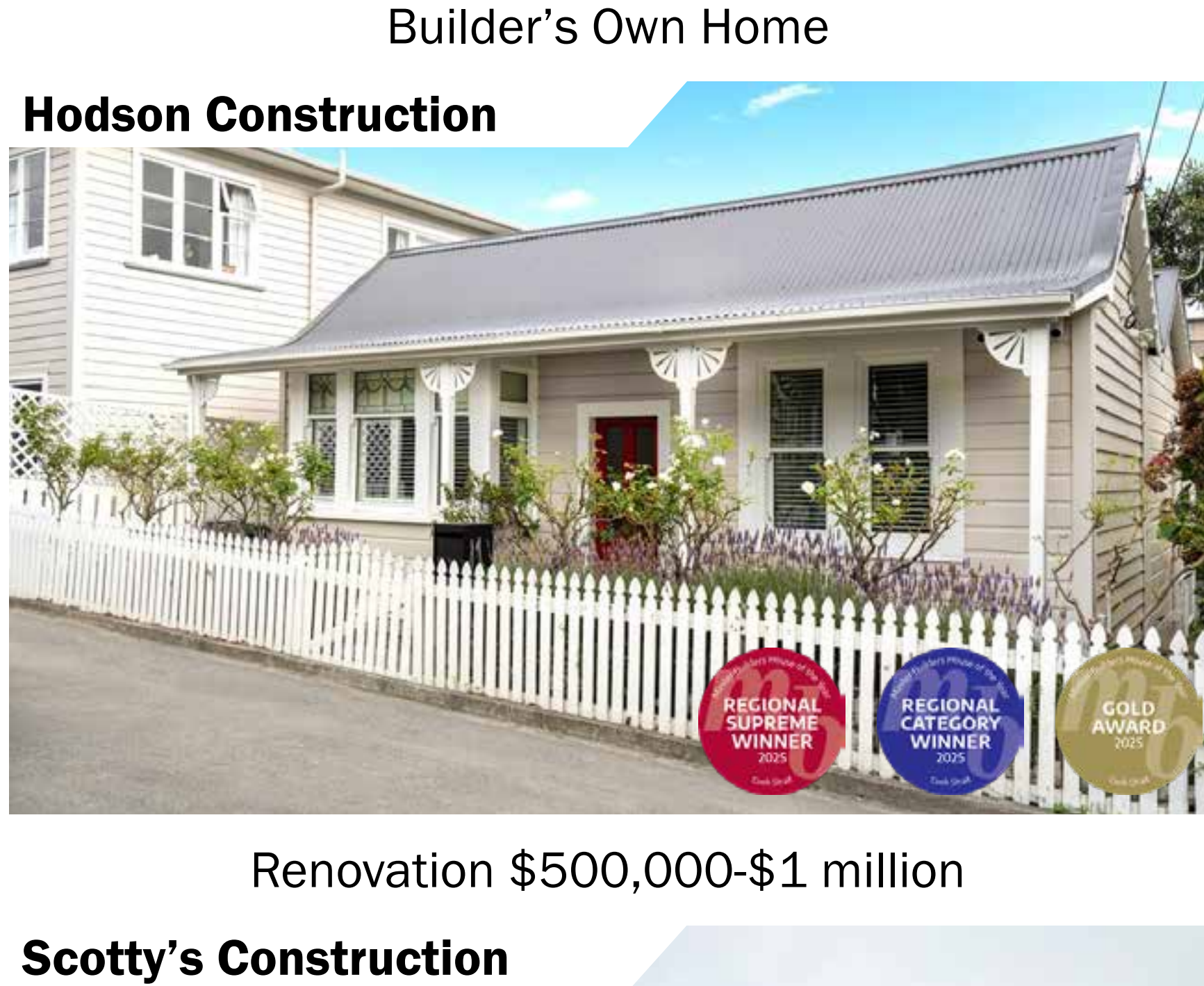
Resene New Home \$2 million-\$4 million

David Reid Homes (Kapiti)



Bunnings New Home \$1 million-\$1.5 million

David Reid Homes (Kapiti)



Bunnings New Home \$1 million-\$1.5 million

David Reid Homes (Kapiti)



Altus Window Systems New Home \$750,000-\$1 million

Jennian Homes Wairarapa



Volume/Group Housing New Home \$500,000-\$750,000

K B Gleeson Building



Builder's Own Home

Hodson Construction



Renovation \$500,000-\$1 million

Scotty's Construction



Renovation over \$2 million

The foundations of excellence

Recognised as a hallmark of quality, the annual Registered Master Builders House of the Year awards are the most prestigious in the country. They celebrate excellence in building, recognising the craftsmanship of the best homes in Aotearoa, and the craftsmen behind them.

The competition, which is judged by a team of experts, is divided into regional and national awards. Bronze, silver, and gold commendations are awarded to both new builds and renovations alongside specific honours for categories. From each region's entries, up to 100 properties will reach Top 100 status, progressing to a second round of judging for the national competition. The winners, including House of the Year, will be announced at the National Awards Gala, which will be held in Christchurch at Te Pae on the 22nd of November.

The Registered Master Builders brand is the foundation of excellence. With an unsurpassed heritage of over 100 years, members are dedicated to building the unique places that define Aotearoa.



REGIONAL SUPREME WINNERS Awarded to three Regional Supreme Award recipients from each regional event: House of the Year under \$7 million, House of the Year over \$7 million, and Renovation of the Year.

PINK BATTS CRAFTSMANSHIP Awarded to the entrant who attains the highest score out of the points available in the Workmanship section of the judging criteria.

REGIONAL CATEGORY WINNER Awarded to the highest-scoring Gold Award winner from each category.

GOLD Awarded to builders whose entries achieve 90 percent of the points available and are judged to be at least 80 percent above industry standard.

SILVER Awarded to builders whose entries achieve 82.5 percent of the points available and are judged to be at least 65 percent above industry standard.

BRONZE Awarded to builders whose entries achieve 75 percent of the points available and are judged to be at least 50 percent above industry standard.

SAPPHIRE Awarded to an entrant who has received three Regional Supreme Awards regardless of whether these homes are renovations or new builds.

REGIONAL SPECIAL AWARD Bestowed by the judges when a house is worthy of special recognition.

REGIONAL LIFESTYLE AWARDS Awarded to the entrant who attains the highest score in each Lifestyle category, including the APL Environmental and Sustainable Excellence Award, the Plumbing World Bathroom Excellence Award and the PDL by Schneider Electric Smart Home Award.

Regional Supreme Renovation 2025

Bridging worlds



Taking home the crown at the 2025 Registered Master Builders House of the Year awards in the Wellington and Wairarapa region is Hodson Construction's 100-year-old character cottage in Mount Victoria. Awarded Regional Supreme and Gold, this Renovation \$500,000-\$1 million Regional Category Winner marries 21st-century innovation with all the old-time charm of Wellington's iconic heritage homes.

What makes this extraordinary home stand out from the rest is the fresh perspective Hodson Construction has brought to the renovation. Blending period charm with contemporary calm, the transformation respects the property's original form and history while gently extending its function with modern luxuries and style. The new design sees the double-gabled roofline extended at the rear of the house to include an addition that opens into warm, sun-filled living areas along the southern boundary. This strategic placement takes advantage of Wellington's weather patterns, bringing northern light into the space in such a way as to make daylight a design element through top-lights and skylights that catch the sun as it arcs overhead.

The three-bedroom, two-bathroom home rethinks family living without losing its heritage. Outdoor material choices bridge old and new styles in a harmonious way, while concrete floors, brick elements, and profiled metal roofing softened by roasted-ash timber, bespoke joinery, and a cohesive natural palette define the indoors. A concrete staircase physically and visually connects the original cottage with its contemporary counterpart. Hodson Construction's thoughtful material expression and an architecturally assured approach ensures the reimagination of this cottage is both respectful and radical. As the team brings the 100-year-old home seamlessly into the 21st century, they have created a house that stands as the epitome of Wellington's eclectic charm.

Helmed by Registered Master Builder Jayden Hodson, the full-service construction company specialises in architectural renovations, alterations, extensions, and new builds. With nearly 20 years of experience, Hodson Construction's ethos is to add value through workmanship and passion for the craft. The team of dedicated professionals collaborate with several top architects and a long-time crew of sub-contractors, ensuring each project is not only unique but thoughtfully, sensitively, and intentionally designed to balance lifestyle, form, and function.

Jayden and the Hodson Construction team have restored homes from the inside out to retain and enhance character, built extensions that seamlessly combine the old with the new, and crafted houses from the ground up that are perfectly tailored to the owner's lifestyle. Their award-winning style and craftsmanship are second to none.



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Master Builders House of the Year

Dream builders



From concept to completion, Davma Construction is committed to excellence and exceeding client expectations with every project. Their philosophy is to create extraordinary, which rings especially true with their Registered Master Builders House of the Year submission.

With a team of skilled Master Builders at the helm, Davma Construction has built a reputation across the region for transforming a site into a dream home. They deliver nothing but the best through unwavering attention to detail and exceptional craftsmanship garnered from years of experience. Innovative and diligent, the award-winning team thinks outside the box to bring your vision to life to the highest standard. They keep communication open and flowing throughout the entire process and offer the peace of mind of a 10-year Master Builders Guarantee when the job is done.

“My team and I have been building dream homes for decades,” founder and owner Mark Davidge says. “Our journey is defined by a passion for innovation, precision, and unwavering dedication to quality. We take immense pride in delivering high-quality projects that not only stand the test of time but also leave a lasting impact on our clients.”

By choosing Davma Construction, you’re choosing to build your dream from the ground up with a team that is not only skilled and knowledgeable but genuinely committed to bringing your vision to life. Find out more and get in touch to discuss your project at www.davma.co.nz

Want for nothing



Martinborough is widely considered one of the more luxurious destinations in the Lower North Island and Davma Construction’s Registered Master Builders House of the Year submission takes the cake for luxe property in the area. Dark and handsome, this 274-square-metre masterpiece has it all.

Whether you’d indulge in drinks on the deck or a couple of laps in the heated pool, an aperitif in the lounge or pétanque on the lawn, this massive Wairarapa property is an entertainer’s dream thanks to its double lounge setup, indoor-outdoor flow, sprawling deck, breakfast bar, separate laundry, and all the amenities one could dream of. What’s more, each living space is sun drenched and spacious with décor details and thoughtful accents that make the property feel like a luxury lodge.

The exterior features a charcoal shiplap cladding, a black roof and joinery, and contrasting hardwood entry pergola and backyard deck. The inside continues with the moody aesthetic in the kitchen and second lounge but enjoys a bright main lounge and dining room, with sliding glass doors slipped beside the fireplace and a sage-coloured entrance that make the home feel light and airy.

The three bedrooms are cosy yet filled with light, while the beautifully tiled family bathroom and refined ensuite are spa-like and spacious. This Bunnings New Home \$1 million-\$1.5 million category home is a dream come true.

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Master Builders House of the Year

Home and away



Stylish yet sleek, the Jennian Homes Wairarapa Registered Master Builders House of the Year submission is clad in brick and contrasting dark vertical weatherboard. The 198-square-metre Masterton home stands tall in the Volume/Group Housing New Home \$500,000-\$750,000 category, with many exquisite details and smart design features that appeal to everyone.

A gabled, pavilion-style home with great kerb appeal, the H-shaped property features two wings: one for socialising and one for private relaxation. The social side enjoys an open-plan kitchen, dining room, and sitting room with a scissor-truss ceiling and sliders that connect to a long patio perfect for alfresco dining in the beautiful Wairarapa climate. This wing also features an office or media room, accessed through stylish barn-style sliding doors, that acts as a link to the other wing.

Crossing the bridge to the other side of the house, the private side features three bedrooms, a family bathroom with freestanding bath and powder room, a laundry, and a double garage for hobbies and storage. The main suite features a walk-in wardrobe, luxurious ensuite, and its own patio accessed through sliding doors. Each room is bright and airy, letting in the Wairarapa sun all year. The gorgeous outdoors are always visible.

With plenty of room for everyone and thoughtful details that only skilled builders like the Jennian Homes Wairarapa team would think to include, this property truly feels like home.

Custom creations



Craftbuilt industries are proud to have worked alongside Corey from Kiwibuilt and Mona from Callidus Architects on this beautiful award-winning character home that is truly stunning in every detail. We were privileged to manufacture the matai stair handrails, newel posts and balustrade components, archways, corbels, fretwork, and custom-made floor air vents, as well as the hand-carved Schnauzer dog that sits proudly at the top of the staircase.

The team of award-winning master joiners are true artisans of their craft. They love the inherent beauty of wood – how each piece has its own grain and character. They take great pleasure in the processes of woodworking and continuing the legacy of the skilled craftsmen who have gone before, paying meticulous attention to detail to craft unique items that are beautiful stand-alone or as part of a larger project.

Craftbuilt specialises in residential, commercial, and bespoke designs. We can replicate fitments and joinery for New Zealand's heritage homes, helping clients restore their historic houses back to their former glory using traditional techniques woven in with the use of modern machinery and know-how.

We work with a variety of solid timber, including walnut, ash, oak, and cedar, plus most native timbers. We also specialise in curved staircases, solid timber handrails, and gable louvre vents, along with a wide range of custom-made furniture.

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Master Builders House of the Year

Restore, renew



Wellington's quirky and characterful neighbourhoods are best known for their heritage villas. Ramping up the charm across the city, these turn-of-the-century jewels are elegant and fanciful, but many of them are sorely in need of some tender love and care. KiwiBuilt specialises in renovating and restoring the beautiful homes that make Wellington so iconic.

Working closely with skilled architects, the Registered Master Builders can make the old dames shine again, restoring them to their former glory while updating them with all the modern amenities you may want and adding your own signature flair to the design. The skilled crew of craftsmen and apprentices blend traditional building techniques with modern construction to ensure your home retains its charm while meeting the demands of contemporary living.

The KiwiBuilt team is passionate about helping Wellington's historic buildings live anew. They are detail-oriented in their approach, transparent in their communication style, and committed to finding innovative solutions for any challenge that arises to ensure they can make their client's vision a reality.

New builds are also on the cards for KiwiBuilt. You don't have to get your hands on an older structure to achieve the same flair and detailing because they can recreate something new in the same style – just like they did for their 2025 Registered Master Builders House of the Year submission. Get in touch and find out more at www.kiwi-built.nz

Past and future collide



Though it may find itself in the New Home over \$4 million category in the Registered Master Builders House of the Year competition, KiwiBuilt's Kelburn villa looks as if it has been there for decades. The home is nestled snugly into the hilly neighbourhood with carefully crafted details that evoke a time gone by and match Wellington's signature heritage buildings.

The three-bedroom, three-bathroom 245-square-foot home's calling cards are its character features and period charm. Featuring expansive views overlooking Wellington's skyline, the project began as a rejuvenation before the original structure was deemed unusable. The result is a newly built home that echoes the style of turn-of-the-century villas but with all the new amenities and luxuries, including five-car parking, a gym, ensuites, and a state-of-the-art kitchen and pantry.

While symmetry, consistency, and elegance define the appearance of the new two-floor villa, its beating heart is an automation platform that manages more than 100 metres of custom-designed lighting, CCTV, alarms, intercom systems, and more. Seamlessly integrating the pinnacle of smart-home innovation with old-time charm and detail, this Kelburn home marries the past and the future in the present.

One of the contractors even carved the family dog to sit at the top of the stairs. Thoughtfully designed and expertly constructed by KiwiBuilt, it's not just the best of both worlds, but the best of all worlds.

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Master Builders House of the Year Building for you



Crafting a home that is unique is at the forefront of every Design Builders Wellington project. Taking care of both the design and the build as their name suggests, the award-winning company is passionate about bringing every client's vision to life no matter how challenging it may be.

Wellington's managing partner Mark Davidge has in-depth knowledge of his craft as well as an impressive portfolio of state-of-the-art homes, the latest being Design Builders' Registered Master Builders House of the Year submission. The team of Master Builders craft unique homes from Wellington to Mackays Crossing and across to the Remutaka Range.

"This is a fantastic part of New Zealand; there is such variety in the landscapes, from dramatic coasts to peaceful rural settings, to the bustling city," Mark says. "That's why it's such an inspiring place to bring your vision to life for you".

Building in this part of the country is always a challenge due to the weather and terrain, but the Design Builders Wellington team take it in their stride, viewing each obstacle as an opportunity to engineer a creative solution. The entire process is built around the client. From concept to completion, your style, needs, budget, and vision are at the heart of the project, so that when it comes time to hand over the keys, your expectations have not just been met but exceeded. Craft your home your way with Design Builders Wellington.

Room with a view



Perched 11 metres off the ground at its apex in order to make the most of Brooklyn's cityscape and harbour views, Design Builders' Registered Master Builders House of the Year submission has been dubbed the spider home. The Bunnings New Home \$1 million-\$1.5 million category property isn't enormous at 153 square metres, but it is exceptional.

Despite being perched high off the steep terrain, the foundations appear minimal and inconspicuous, giving the impression that the house is floating high above Wellington. With a sprawling deck overlooking the pine forest and the capital's skyline, you'd be hard pressed to spend time indoors were it not for the seamless indoor-outdoor flow, floor-to-ceiling windows, and beautifully designed interior.

The two-bedroom home has an open-plan kitchen, living room, and breakfast nook setup that ensures the view can be enjoyed from everywhere. The cream-coloured kitchen, light wooden floors, and neutral living area strike the perfect balance with the rich, red-toned timber ceiling cladding, built-in furniture, and feature walls. The bedrooms and luxurious bathroom are both spacious and comfortable.

At the rear, sheltered from the wind, is an apron of flat lawn with a firepit perfect for playing and relaxing. Beefed-up insulation, thermally broken joinery, and an oversized solar power system generates and stores power, keeping the property warm or cool depending on the season. High above it all, this Brooklyn home brings the outdoors in.

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[Back to contents](#)



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No matter the season, the weather, or your interests, Kaikōura is perfect for any and all travellers.

Mountains rise high above the clouds to the west while the briny deep stretches endlessly east. For an adventure by sea try whale watching, kayaking, boating, or fishing. If you're more of a land lubber, then you're in luck, because Kaikōura has quad biking, horse riding, cycling, and tramping excursions aplenty.

If the weather isn't on your side, there are plenty of museums, galleries, and boutiques to peruse in the town centre. How about touring Kaikōura with your tastebuds? The seafood capital of New Zealand has some of the freshest kaimoana around, plus the nearby farms supply seasonal produce year-round.

Swing through town between the 17th and 21st of September to enjoy the famous Kaikoura Hop – a car show that brings engines and entertainment, food and fun to town. Glinting with glitz and glamour, get all shook up for this year's theme Viva Las Vegas!

Treat yourself



Poised on the magical shores of Lake Wakatipu, Azur is the ultimate luxury accommodation for an escape to a Queenstown wonderland. Whether you're in town for an extreme sports excursion, a gastro getaway, or for the beautiful scenery, Azur invites everyone to experience pure bliss.

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A musical feast



Artwork for the Martinborough Music Festival features landscape contours and earthy sage green, hinting at this year's theme – bringing the world to Martinborough. Artistic directors Wilma Smith and Donald Armstrong will be joined by artists from Australia, Germany, and Russia in a four-concert programme that includes music from Australia, Hungary, France, the US, Russia, Poland, Czechia, and Argentina. A commissioned work by renowned NZ composer Louise Webster, who has strong family ties with South Wairarapa, is also featured. Violinist Natalia Lomeiko and violinist/violist Yuri Zhislin will be joined by Melbourne-based violist Caroline Henbest, and cellists Ashley Brown and Matthias Balzat (former and current NZTrio members). Internationally celebrated concert pianist Jian Liu and classical saxophonist Simon Brew round out the artists. The 2025 festival runs from the 19th to the 21st of September in the Martinborough Town Hall. Visit www.martinboroughmusicfestival.co.nz for more information and tickets.

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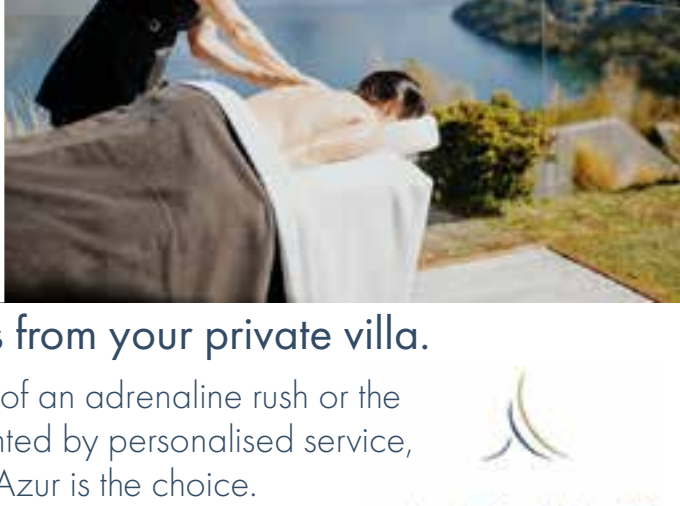
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Bucket list

Wild places, real people



Aotearoa has one of the most unique and diverse ecosystems in the world. Vast and varied, our landscapes are second to none and our flora and fauna are unlike anywhere else. Driftwood Eco Tours keep the environment front of mind while sharing New Zealand's nature with Kiwis and visitors alike. Since 2004, Driftwood Eco Tours have fostered close relationships with South Island locals who share their lives, culture, and work with visitors. With a maximum of only eight guests per tour, each tour brings you closer to nature through exclusive experiences that foster personal connection and allow for more time to explore. The guides are passionate about their work, with endless local knowledge, plenty of stories, and a desire to welcome their guests into their world.

The new Canterbury High Country & West Coast tour takes visitors on a six-day nature and heritage tour through the central swath of Te Waipounamu. The coast-to-coast adventure goes off the beaten track and into some of the most dramatic landscapes as it skirts spots few get to see. From private high-country farms, gardens, and a small gold claim to the rugged beauty of the Southern Alps and West Coast, this tour gives you a chance to relax, enjoy the scenery, and hear the tales and history that make this part of Aotearoa so special.

With Driftwood Eco Tours, you'll arrive as a guest and leave feeling like a local. Experience the rural heartland authentically, intentionally, and sustainably.

Trail paradise



Not only is Lake Tekapo one of New Zealand's most picturesque locations, it's also the site of Merrell Race Tekapo, an awe-inspiring trail run along fun tracks framed by stunning lake views and snow-capped peaks.

Taking place on the 13th of September, this race features seven distances. Choose from the 50km ultra marathon, 32km trail run, or the 21km, 16km, 12km, or 5km run or walks. There's even a Kids Dash for the young ones. Whether you're a first-timer keen to explore the sites in a fun way, or you're a seasoned professional looking for your next big challenge, run the trails to experience this beautiful slice of Aotearoa.

Merrell Race Tekapo is as much about the elite runners as it is about someone running their first race. With well-marked and well-supported courses, everyone can tackle the routes with confidence. In fact, each course is designed for maximum appeal and minimum congestion, plus runners will be traversing one of the most interesting, epic, and scenic terrains in the country. There are even a few extra features added to amp up the fun factor.

After you've raced to your heart's content, relax your muscles in the local hot pools while basking in the serenity of this International Dark Sky Reserve. Or, if you're keen to keep the blood pumping, hoof it up the mountains to play all day on the snow fields.

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[Back to contents](#)



Film news

Silver screen sorcery



Still from *Notes from a Fish*.



Still from *Ballad of Wallis Island*.

Step into the lights, camera, action of Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival (NZIFF), where during 10 days in August, movie maniacs and film fanatics can rack focus on over 100 films from near and far.

Taking place across Embassy Theatre, Light House Cinema Cuba and Petone, Massey University National Academy of Screen Arts Cinema, The Tea Gardens Massey University, Roxy Cinema, and

The Welsh Dragon Bar between the 14th and 24th

of August, this year's action-packed programme

promises to electrify, ignite, and uplift audiences

whether they're keen for jump scares and jeebies

or tears and tall tales.

Opening the Te Whanganui-a-Tara leg of NZIFF is

Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or winner *It Was*

Just An Accident. Filmed in secret in Iran, this road

movie revenge thriller from Jafar Panahi featuring

biting black humour, borderline absurd happenings,

and vividly shifting viewpoints from a vanload of

ex-prisoners looks at bigger questions around

morality, justice, unhealed trauma, and the impact

of the Iranian regime. The premiere on the 14th

may be sold out, but you can catch its subsequent

screenings before it peels out of the capital.

The closing film, screening on the 24th and 27th, is

another Cannes Film Festival favourite. Directed

by acclaimed Norwegian filmmaker Joachim Trier

and starring Elle Fanning and Stellan Skarsgård,

Sentimental Value tells the story of two estranged

sisters forced to confront their distant forgotten-

filmmaker father who abandoned them as kids.

“This year, the Cannes Film Festival offered an

incredibly rich and inspiring selection of works

from all over the world,” NZIFF artistic director

Paolo Bertolin says. “Films that speak to the hearts

and minds of the audience, commenting on the

personal and the political. And yet, despite the grim

reality of the world, many of these films are bringing

hope and light, displaying the healing power of

cinema.”

The Aotearoa and Pacific contingent is equally

strong, with gothic psychodrama, romance, sport,

horror, and our signature brand of comedy stepping

into the spotlight.

With something for every kind of silver screen

savant, this year's selection has been sorted into

several strands. Frames explores and expands

the language of documentary filmmaking while

Treasures revives hand-picked classics and

recently restored films. Māhutonga lights the way to

Aotearoa's storytellers and Fresh features first-time

narratives from bold new international voices. Tune

into Rhythm for narrative and documentary films

centred around music and its forms or Portraits

for character-driven narrative and documentary

films that draw us into the lives of ordinary and

extraordinary people. Journeys takes audiences

on adventures through regions whose stories offer

fresh insight into place, identity, and experience

while Widescreen offers vivid snapshots from

diverse realities from across the globe. Nocturnal

is a late-night strand devoted to films that revel in

genre, irreverence, and the unexpected and Visions

showcases the distinct cinematic style of revered

masters and emerging talents.

Peak filmmaking



Still from *Zahir*.

Take to the hills from the comfort of the cinema at

New Zealand Mountain Film Festival. Screening a

unique collection of epic films, the only homegrown

adventure filmmaker competition in Aotearoa

smashes into Wairarapa Events Centre in Carterton

on the 24th of August along its nationwide tour.

Five extraordinary short films make up this year's

programme of adventure films.

Winning Best Film on the Environment, *Footprints*

on Katmai zeroes in on painter Max Romey, who

follows his grandmother's footsteps to one of the

most remote, bear-populated beaches in Alaska

but discovers instead an ocean of problems.

Stranded in Liberia's Gola rainforest, filmmaker

Jude Kriwald faces hunger, isolation, robbery, and

disappearing trails in *Alone Across Gola*, a raw tale

of a solo journey chasing a childhood dream that

won the Best Adventurous Sports and Lifestyle

category.

Zahir follows Katherine and Eline as they take on

an iconic rock route by bike.

The festival's Best Short Film winner is *Body of a*

Line, a cleverly animated short film that morphs

into real life as Madaleine undertakes an intimate

and creative journey to climb a difficult rock route.

Trango takes home the festival's Grand Prize.

Displaying immeasurable trust, navigating risk,

grappling with grief, and facing physical danger,

a group of ski mountaineers undertake the first

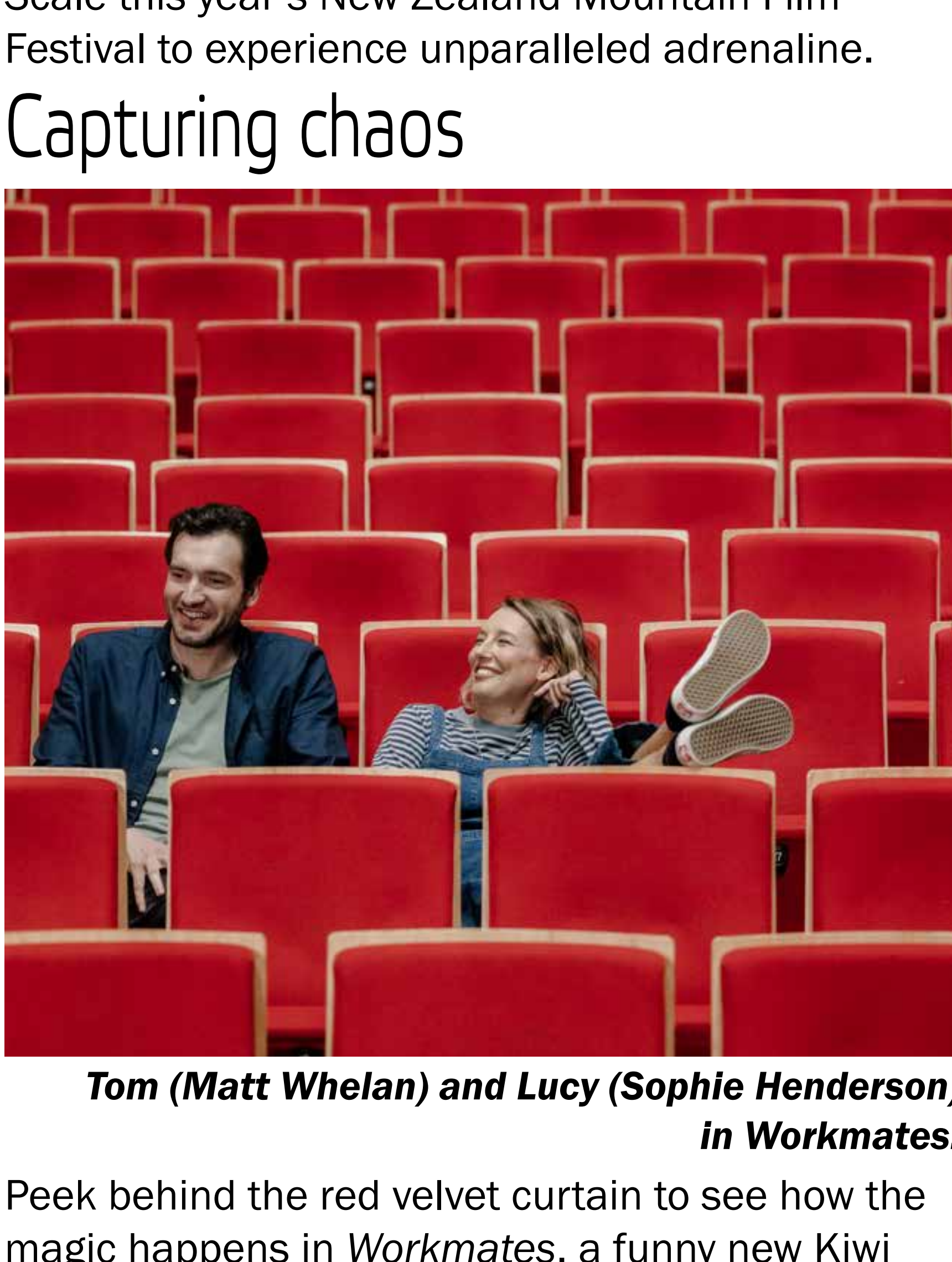
descent of the Trango Glacier after two years of

attempts.

Scale this year's New Zealand Mountain Film

Festival to experience unparalleled adrenaline.

Capturing chaos



Tom (Matt Whelan) and Lucy (Sophie Henderson)

in *Workmates*.

Peek behind the red velvet curtain to see how the

magic happens in *Workmates*, a funny new Kiwi

comedy romance about best friends, art, ambition,

and messy feelings in messy theatres. Premiering

as part of the 2025 Whānau Mārama: New

Zealand International Film Festival and making

its grand nationwide entrance into theatres on

the 21st of August, *Workmates* is a love letter to

theatre, friendship, and a creative community that

refuses to quit, even when the odds are stacked

against it.

Lucy (writer Sophie Henderson) and Tom (Matt

Whelan) are best mates running a tiny, broke

theatre, but when an accident forces them to shut

down, they find out just how far they'll go for the

theatre and each other. Drafted during the COVID

lockdowns, *Workmates* is a semi-autobiographical

story born out of Henderson's desire to honour her

time at Auckland's Basement Theatre, which she

co-ran with friend and *Workmates* producer Sam

Snedden. Directed by Henderson's husband Curtis

Vowell, it captures the gritty, joyful, behind-the-

scenes chaos of the independent theatre scene.

“*Workmates* is funny and romantic,” Henderson

and Vowell say. “It's about being in love with

someone at work you shouldn't be in love with. And

it's about how hard and how fun it is to make art at

the bottom of the world.”

Snedden says that *Workmates* “will appeal to

anyone who has ever fallen in love at work, or to

anyone who has lost sleep, perspective, and hair

over their job”.

[Back to contents](#)



Camp, cruel, couture



Get ready for a night of shade, sequins, and sheer disrespect at Ivy Bar & Cabaret on the 23rd of August as Pōneke's pettiest drag stars tie their hair up for *B*tch Stole My Brand – A Rotten Drag Show*.

Each queen is stealing another's look and absolutely ruining it at this roast-meets-fashion crime scene. For one night only, your favourite local girls will step out of their heels and into the platforms of someone else to impersonate and absolutely trash each other's personas. Expect scandalous parodies, bitter banter, and outfits that will make your jaw hit the floor. They say imitation is a form of flattery, but at *B*tch Stole My Brand – A Rotten Drag Show* it sure ain't! Ripe and ready for roasting are seven of Welly's iconic queens, keen to jump out of the frying pan and into the fire. Organiser Faux Femm will strut her stuff as Aotearoa drag supermodel Myrtle Montgomery. Miss Leading will go viral to become Te Whanganui-a-Tara's most contagious germ Amoeba Geezer. Slay West will suit up as fannypack queen Maria Richman. Amoeba Geezer will transform into psychedelic supermodel Blink Bogan. Myrtle Montgomery will make your head spin as Miss Leading. Maria Richman will step up as tattooed temptress Faux Femm. Blink Bogan will don satins and sparkles as Slay West.

It's camp. It's cruel. It's couture(ish). It's *B*tch Stole My Brand – A Rotten Drag Show*.

Say what?



Wonderful, wild, and above all else witty, women comedians take over Kapiti Playhouse at 8pm sharp on the 23rd of August for 2020 Entertainment's *That's What She Said*.

In the hot seat as the hostess with the mostest is award-winning comedian and improviser Mo Munn. Recently named Wellington's Best Newcomer at the NZ International Comedy Festival, she brings high energy, smart writing, and razor-sharp timing to her all-encompassing stage presence.

Fresh from a 2025 Billy T Award nomination, Lesa MacLeod-Whiting headlines *That's What She Said*. With a slew of Wellington Comedy Awards, including Best MC (2024) and Best Comedian (2023) under her bedazzled belt, she's known for her absurd characters, political satire, and lightning-fast crowd work. You've probably seen her on stages across the capital delivering a bold, original, and engaging show.

Appearing alongside these leading ladies are four fantastic female farceurs. 2019 Wellington Raw Comedy Quest semi-finalist Miranda Camden is a snappy, fast-paced force to be reckoned with who shares unfiltered stories of modern life. Hailing from Scotland, Lorraine Hamilton knows how to tell a tall tale with the perfect amount of dry observation. Kitty Doyle delivers quietly cutting takes on relationships, culture, and daily life in true English fashion. Rounding out the lineup, Katy Borrows is a fresh voice in comedy who welcomes audiences into her own little world. Don't miss a bill packed with rising stars and award-winning luminaries delivering a heaping dose of sharp, smart, and side-splitting stand-up with a pinch of chaos for good measure.



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Party Faithful

Presented by Orchestra Wellington

Conducted by Marc Taddei

Michael Fowler Centre, 26th Jul 2025

Reviewed by Ruth Corkill



Party Faithful is a remarkable concert programme, presenting two symphonies – both Aotearoa premieres – by 20th-century masters. Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 20 *The First of May*, and Benjamin Britten's Symphony for Cello and Orchestra, Op. 68 both emerged from complex times in the artists' careers, when each composer was publicly celebrated yet privately vulnerable. The two men were near exact contemporaries: while Shostakovich navigated his perilous acclaim under the shadow of Stalin's purges, Britten lived a precarious double life in England – a semi-closeted gay man, who nevertheless enjoyed the official patronage and personal friendship of the British Royal Family.

We open with Britten's Symphony for Cello and Orchestra, an intellectually demanding work composed for the legendary Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. Soloist Lev Sivkov joins the orchestra, and from the outset commands the stage. The piece unfolds as a series of musical affirmations and challenges that threaten to destabilise the work, before once again allowing the soloist enough momentum to counterbalance the orchestra. Sivkov's characteristically intense style extracts each phrase with precision, switching deftly between tones in an assortment of grainy, breathy, and rumbling theme-fragments. He fires volleys only to cut them off abruptly, or detonates hard-struck chords only to demur and dapple us with a warm, golden cadenza. The audience is engrossed, and even Sivkov's fellow musicians seated around him seem transfixed by his playing.

By the time Shostakovich composed the symphony featured in tonight's programme, his friend and fellow composer Mikhail Kvadri – who had received the dedication of his extraordinary First Symphony – had already been executed. Fittingly then, the Shostakovich we hear in this Third Symphony brims with political contempt and anxiety. The work uses a single-movement structure, with marches, brass flourishes, and lyrical passages tripping over each other in their desperation to proclaim the praises of the Soviet State, without a single theme repeated.

The conclusion is a driven and disquieting fanfare, culminating in a compelling choral section from the Orpheus Choir.

Shostakovich: UNPACKED with Antipodes Quartet

Presented by The New Zealand String Quartet Trust

Prefab Hall, 6th Aug 2025

Reviewed by Ruth Corkill



This is my first encounter with the Prefab Hall venue, and I am impressed. The glass and cathedral-grain plywood interior is an ideal backdrop for this intimate chamber music performance. There is minimal but effective stage dressing consisting of suitcases, sheet music, and candles. In the front row, we are within touching distance of the cellists.

The production includes many thoughtful touches. The programme notes for each piece are written by a different musician, and include their personal musings and emotional responses to the works. Before each musical work, NZSQ violinist Peter Clark reads a poem by a well-known author from Aotearoa. Each poem is cleverly chosen to resonate with the themes of the music. It's an effective convention; the poems feel almost like palate cleansers between courses of rich food.

We begin stirringly, with the newly formed Antipodes Quartet in their Wellington debut, playing Dmitri Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 7 in F-sharp minor. Right from violinist Mana Waiariki's adroit opening the quartet are precisely attuned to each other. This is an emotionally and structurally complex work, which I last saw performed by the internationally renowned Borodin Quartet, yet I was astounded and moved by this rendition.

Antipodes Quartet follow the Shostakovich with Gao Ping's *A Lingering Echo – homage to Dmitri Shostakovich*. We then have a reshuffling of musicians. Antipodes Quartet cellist Lavinnia Rae is joined by two New Zealand String Quartet members and guest violinist Arna Morton for Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 6 in G major. It's a tremendous pleasure to see these different combinations of artists working together, especially at such close quarters when the minutiae of their techniques can be appreciated. All eight musicians return to the stage for the decadent and diabolical final work, Shostakovich's *Two Pieces for String Octet*. The octet produces a gloriously balanced sound – each young musician synergistic with their counterpart. Luminary cellist Inbal Megiddo is especially magnificent, drawing overwhelmingly beautiful phrases from her instrument.

Mana Moana

Presented by

New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Brent Stewart

Michael Fowler Centre, 24th Jul 2025

Reviewed by Tamsin Evans



There are so few opportunities to enjoy collaborations like this one that the audience dived wholeheartedly into the enormously uplifting experience *Mana Moana* offered us. The very full programme was a repertoire of songs from around the Pacific Islands arranged for Signature Choir and the NZSO. "Pasifika music is grounded in storytelling, vocal interplay, and spiritual expression while orchestral music brings scale, structure, and emotional range," Signature Choir founder and music director Fepulea'i Helen Tupai says.

The Signature Choir embraces more than 50 vocalists, and was formed three years ago in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington to promote Pacific language and culture through music. The local audience loves their local choir and plenty of waves, smiles, greetings, and eye contact between singers and family in the crowd added to the palpable excitement in the sold-out auditorium.

We voyaged between the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, and Tonga, guided by exceptional talent: Helen Tupai and Jadrah Tupai, director and co-director of the Signature Choir; Brent Stewart conducting the NZSO; and MC Tofiga Fepulea'i.

With one of Aotearoa's leading comedians at the helm, the evening was filled with laughter as well as the simple but powerful happiness inspired by the music.

And the music was awesome. The choir was superbly supported by the orchestra. Voices might sometimes be overwhelmed by instruments but not in this performance. The sounds of the Pacific were front and centre and the orchestra proved how musical traditions can step out of their familiar spaces. Western culture claimed the term 'classical' for its music and musicians, but the NZSO showed us how they can flex those boundaries. Expert arrangements and wonderful performances demonstrated how cultures can combine in musical and metaphorical harmony.

Whoops, cheers, dancing, clapping, singing, laughter, and delight were the other prominent sounds of the evening, all of them rapidly growing in the last quarter of the show. Pure joy.

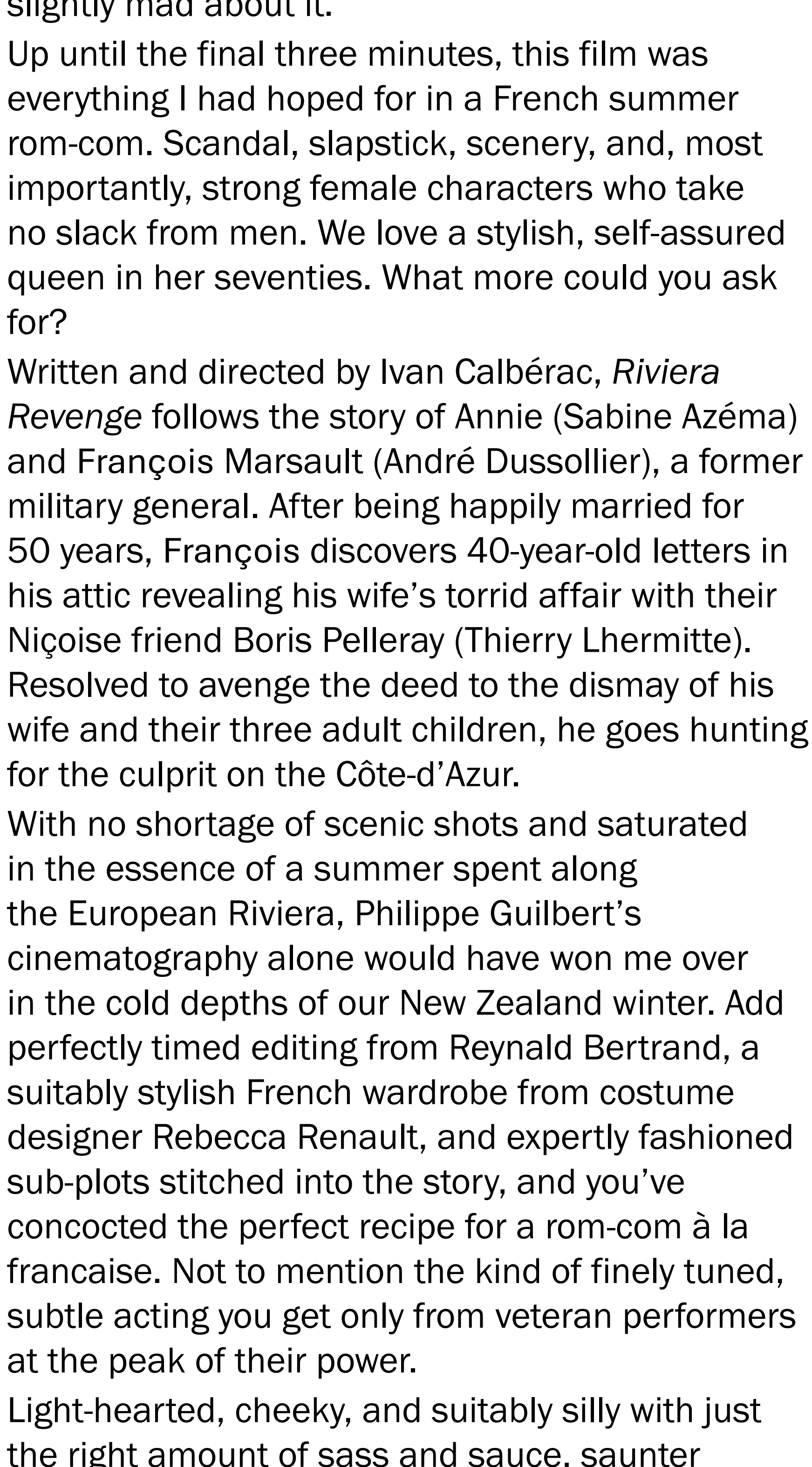
Riviera Revenge

(N'avoue jamais)

94 minutes

★★★★

Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera



Docking half a star for the ending! Look, I'm a sucker for the type of unresolved conclusion that makes most people angrily shake their fist at the sky. Exhibit A: *La La Land* – perfect movie, no notes. Exhibit B: *Inception* – it's the way it had to be. I love when you invest hours of your time and become emotionally attached to characters only to find that, like in life, the ending is not tied up in a pretty little bow like you'd hoped for. But *Riviera Revenge*? That cut deep, and if you can't tell, I'm slightly mad about it.

Up until the final three minutes, this film was everything I had hoped for in a French summer rom-com. Scandal, slapstick, scenery, and, most importantly, strong female characters who take no slack from men. We love a stylish, self-assured queen in her seventies. What more could you ask for?

Written and directed by Ivan Calbérac, *Riviera Revenge* follows the story of Annie (Sabine Azéma) and François Marsault (André Dussollier), a former military general. After being happily married for 50 years, François discovers 40-year-old letters in his attic revealing his wife's torrid affair with their Niçoise friend Boris Pelleray (Thierry Lhermitte). Resolved to avenge the deed to the dismay of his wife and their three adult children, he goes hunting for the culprit on the Côte-d'Azur.

With no shortage of scenic shots and saturated in the essence of a summer spent along the European Riviera, Philippe Guilbert's cinematography alone would have won me over in the cold depths of our New Zealand winter. Add perfectly timed editing from Reynald Bertrand, a suitably stylish French wardrobe from costume designer Rebecca Renault, and expertly fashioned sub-plots stitched into the story, and you've concocted the perfect recipe for a rom-com à la française. Not to mention the kind of finely tuned, subtle acting you get only from veteran performers at the peak of their power.

Light-hearted, cheeky, and suitably silly with just the right amount of sass and sauce, saunter to *Riviera Revenge* in cinemas, but be warned: *N'avoue jamais* or never admit – the original title – is perhaps a better indicator of what to expect!

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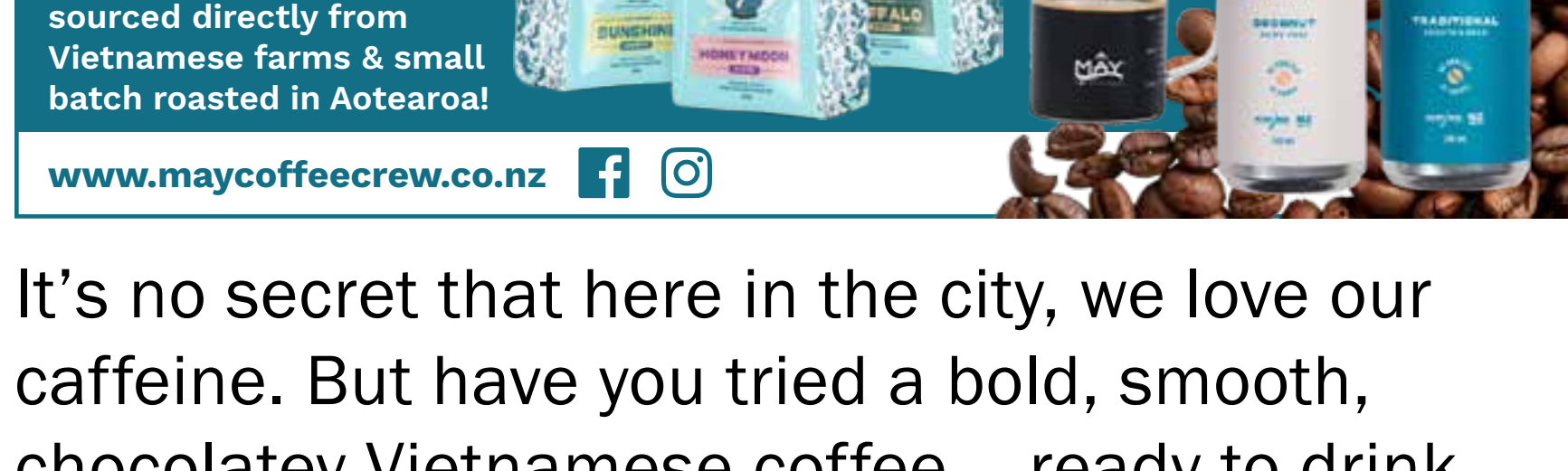
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Sabaidee
Pah Khao Lao

Feast on authentic Lao, Thai & Vietnamese cuisines in our cosy restaurant!

340 Jackson Street, Petone, Lower Hutt
Phone 04 568 2999 | www.sabaideepahkhaolaorestanttakeaway.com

Offering a delightful fusion of flavours derived from vibrant Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese cuisines, Sabaidee Pah Khao Lao Restaurant and Takeaway takes diners on a captivating gastronomic journey. Owned and operated by a Wellington-based Laotian family, Sabaidee Pah Khao Lao Restaurant and Takeaway transports diners to Southeast Asia with its atmosphere and décor. As you step into the restaurant, you are greeted by warm hues, traditional artwork, and a cosy ambiance that reflects the rich cultural heritage of three diverse and beautiful nations.

Enjoy the freshly cooked cuisine made from recipes passed down for generations.



KCB
K-Chicken & Beer

K-Chicken & Beer – Authentic Crispy Korean Fried Chicken!
Phone 04 333 0320 | 55 Courtenay Place, Wellington

The reviews are in and Wellingtonians are obsessed with KCB's Courtenay Place location! With queues out the door and a menu serving up authentic, crispy Korean fried chicken, K-Chicken & Beer is beloved across the North Island thanks to their other locations in Paraparaumu, Miramar, and their newest spot in New Plymouth.

Burgers, wings, boneless chicken, and bowls of chibap make up the KCB menu – not to mention the huge array of tasty sides that includes kimchi, cheese balls, ddukbokki, pickled radish, chips, and more. With heaps of options in every category, taste all your favourite Korean fried chicken specialties and more at KCB.

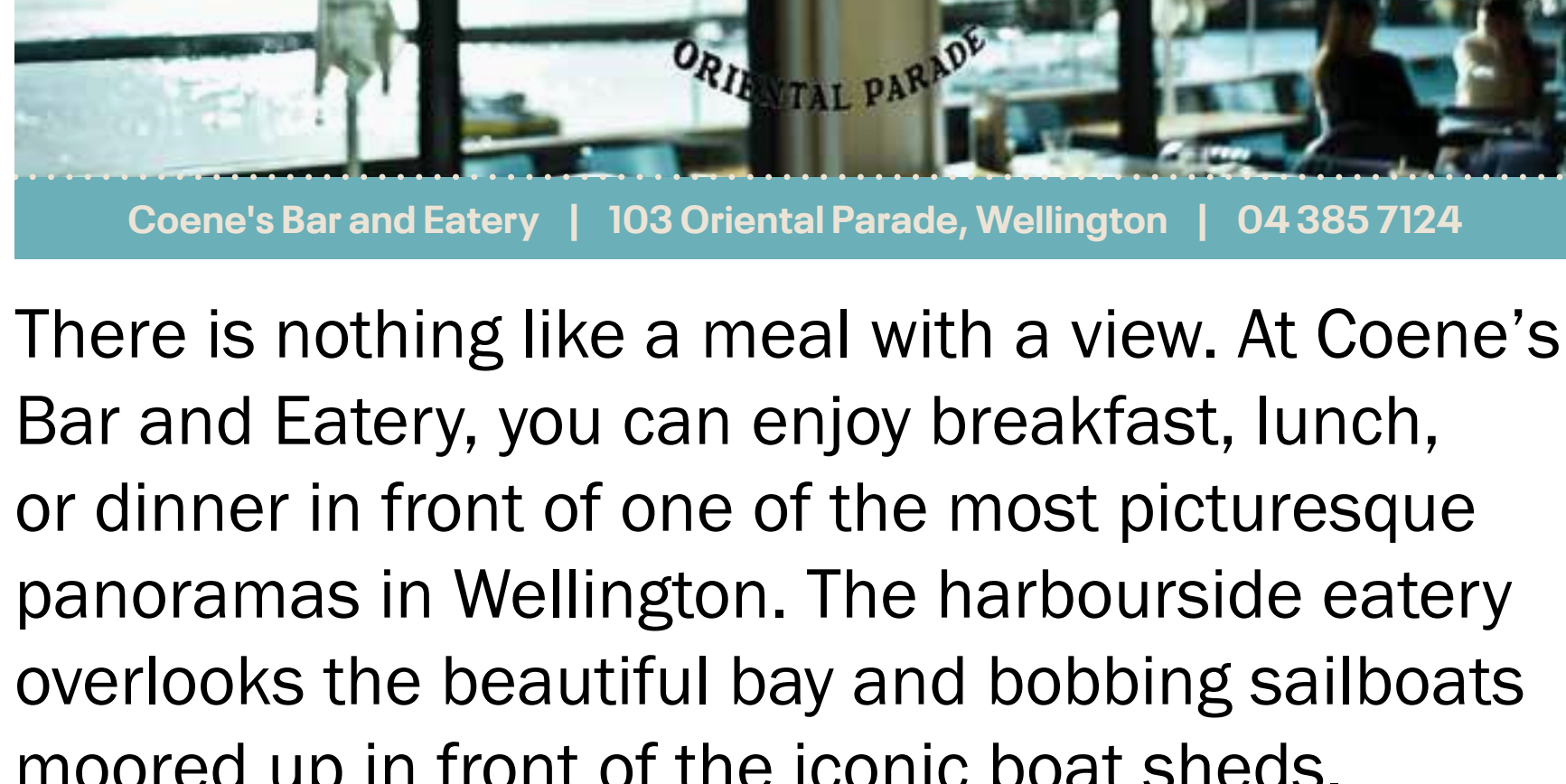


Ruchi

Authentic Indian flavours
World-class hospitality
Refined dining ambiance

Tue-Sat 11:30am-2:30pm, 5pm-9:30pm | Sunday 5pm-9:30pm
91 Jackson Street, Petone | 04 568 7000 | www.ruchipetone.co.nz

Taking a leap of faith during the COVID pandemic, Sherry began serving up authentic curries made from recipes passed down through generations at Ruchi Indian Cuisine Petone. Since 2020, his eatery has collected hundreds of five-star reviews and is highly recommended by Restaurant Guru, where customers call it the “best restaurant in the Hutt with fantastic food and top-notch service.” With a regular and vegan menu, Ruchi Indian Cuisine strikes a sweet, salty, and savoury balance in each of their dishes. Every meal is made from the freshest ingredients to ensure the flavours are sharp and rich. With everything from tikka masala to mango kulfi, check out Ruchi Indian Cuisine for a trip to a world of flavour.



COENE'S
BAR AND EATERY
ORIENTAL PARADE

Coene's Bar and Eatery | 103 Oriental Parade, Wellington | 04 385 7124

There is nothing like a meal with a view. At Coene's Bar and Eatery, you can enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner in front of one of the most picturesque panoramas in Wellington. The harbourside eatery overlooks the beautiful bay and bobbing sailboats moored up in front of the iconic boat sheds.

As for the menu, there is something for all palates seeing as it's inspired by cuisines from around the world but made from the freshest New Zealand ingredients. Sun-soaked all year round and beautifully designed and decorated in a coastal theme, choose Coene's Bar and Eatery for your next meal with a view!



Regal Chinese Restaurant
Lunch and Dinner

Bringing families together with authentic Yum Cha and famous Peking Duck for over 24 Years.

Yumcha:
11am - 2.30pm
Dinner:
5.30pm - 10:00pm

04 384 6656 | Level 1, 7-9 Courtenay Place, Wellington | www.regalchinesewellington.com

When it comes to yum cha in Wellington, there are few places more iconic than Regal Chinese Restaurant. Their menu is chocka with authentic Cantonese-style delights, serving up your favourite deep-fried, baked, and steamed goodness as well as famous rice and noodle dishes.

For those who haven't been to yum cha, let Regal Chinese Restaurant take you on the journey. Taking a seat in the beautiful space, you'll be approached with endless dishes containing scrumptious bites of a variety of foods from vegetarian to meaty, sweet to savoury.

Don't forget the piping hot tea that accompanies every yum cha excursion!



PANDAN
ASIAN CUISINE

Authentic dishes inspired by Malaysian, Indian & other Asian cuisines, from rich curries to classic Nasi Lemak – genuine flavours served with pride!

04 566 7619
5 Melling Road, Lower Hutt
www.pandanasiancuisine.nz

Pandan Asian Cuisine in Lower Hutt serves up a smorgasbord of flavours from across South East Asia. Which includes Malaysian staples, South Indian delights, and everything in between. The menu is as diverse as it is delicious, yet every dish shares the same commitment to fresh ingredients and consistent quality.

From curries, stir-frys, satays, and authentic seafood dishes, the dedicated kitchen crew takes great care in preparing everything to the correct standards, plus there are plenty of vegetarian options as well. Welcoming people from all cultures with all kinds of dietary requirements, Pandan Asian Cuisine is ready to take your order.

[Back to contents](#)



What's on



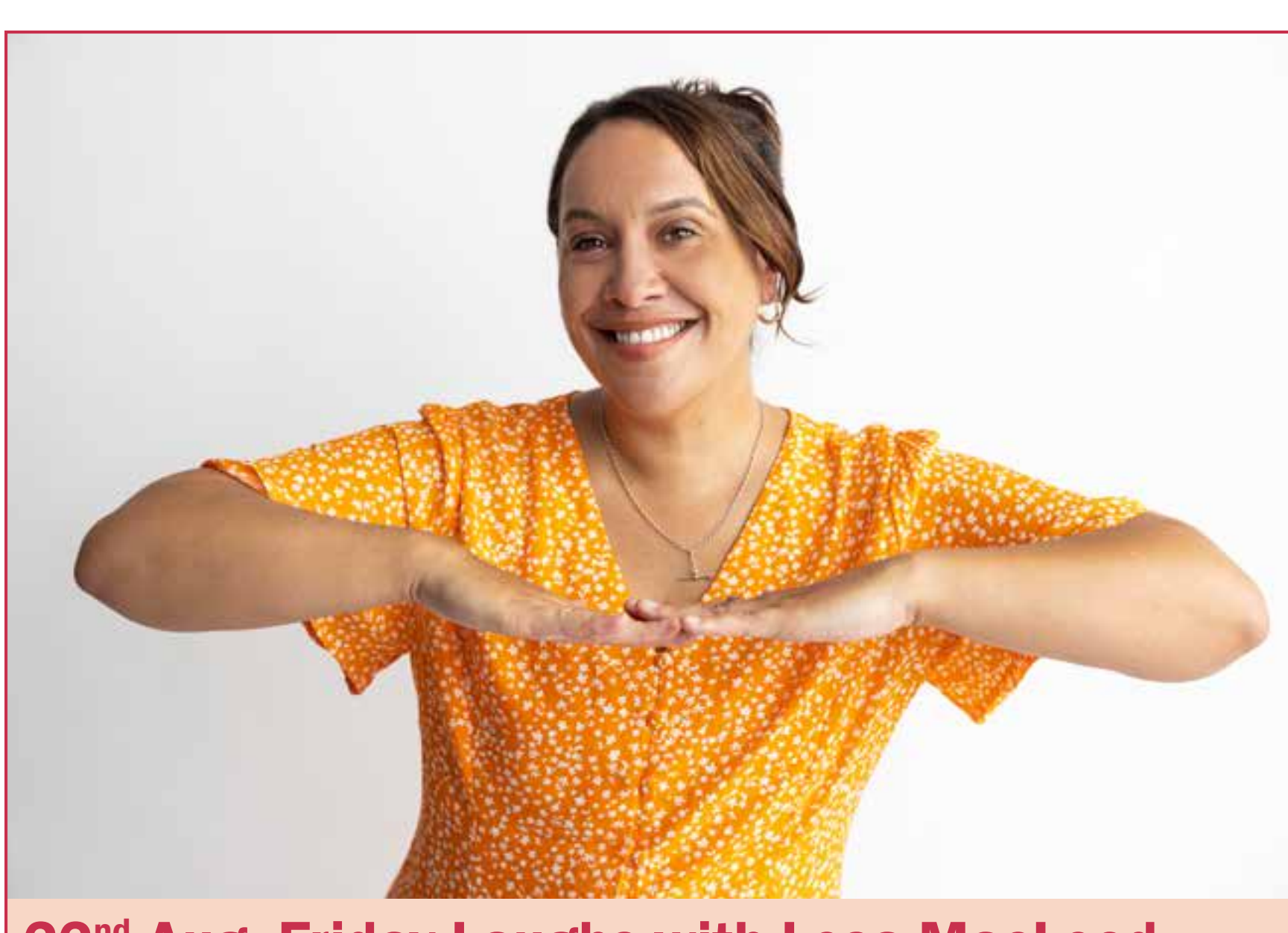
15th Aug. SAPPHO: A Deliciously Sapphic Cabaret: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. This cast of femmes and them will have you yearning and flustered with gay panic. Serving up everything from poetry to burlesque, drag to song and comedy, get weak at the knees and beg for more at *SAPPHO: A Deliciously Sapphic Cabaret*. **Photo by Harnden Creative.**



24th Aug. Waikanae Music Society Presents: Tony Yan Tong Chen: *Waikanae Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa Street, Waikanae* – 2:30pm. Winner of the Wallace New Zealand National Piano Competition in 2019, Chen [pictured] is one of our country's most esteemed pianists. His upcoming programme includes offerings from Chopin, Beethoven, Scriabin, Ravel, and Romantic composer Sergei Bortkiewicz.



16th Aug. Drag Brunch Club: Divas through the Decades: *The Garden Hotel, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – 11:30am. Divas Through the Decades is a glittering tribute to the legendary women who shaped the soundtrack of our lives. From disco queens to pop powerhouses, local drag stars will serve high energy, fierce looks, and unforgettable tributes. **Ms Leading.**



22nd Aug. Friday Laughs with Lesa MacLeod-Whiting and Kura Forrester: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. 2025 Billy T Award nominee Lesa MacLeod-Whiting emcees a two-hour comedy showcase featuring Sandy Burton, Alayne Dick, Leki Lyons, and Mike Fowler, with 2019 Billy T Award-winner Kura Forrester [pictured] in the headliner hot seat.



27th Aug. Wellington Viola Academy: *St Andrew's on The Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 12:15pm. The Middle Fiddles, alongside special guests from the acclaimed viola quartet Bisnaga Vortex and cellists Gemma Maurice and Jorge Acosta, will delight with a programme for viola ensemble including music by Albinoni, Bach, Bartók, Elgar, Telemann, and Vivaldi.



20th; 25th Aug. It Was Just an Accident: *Embassy Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 1:30pm; 8:30pm. Winning the Cannes Palme d'Or and opening Whānau Marama: New Zealand International Film Festival, Jafar Panahi's rousing new narrative film addresses the violence of Iran's regime and its officials head-on, as well as its victims' intense desire for revenge.

What's on

Wairarapa

16th Aug. Wairarapa A&P Society & Garden Barn Masterton Presents: Wairarapa Garden Fiesta: *Clareville Showgrounds, Chester Road, Carterton* – 9am. From plants to produce, flowers to fun, this one-day garden show has everything and more for indoor and outdoor spaces.

23rd Aug. Waimeha Winter Party 2025: *Waimeha Camping Village, Cape Palliser Road, Martinborough* – 6pm. Dance the night away at one of the most picturesque campgrounds in Wairarapa to bangers from The Satisfactions and DJ Gravy.

24th Aug. New Zealand Mountain Film Festival: *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 4pm. Enjoy an outstanding collection of unique adventure films from New Zealand's only homegrown mountain film festival.

Kapiti

16th Aug. Kāpiti Concert Orchestra Presents: From Berkahn to Beethoven: *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. Alongside conductor Michael Vinten, pianist Diedre Irons performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4.

23rd Aug. 2020 Entertainment Presents: That's What She Said: *Kapiti Playhouse, Ruahine Street, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. Join Lesa MacLeod-Whiting, Mo Munn, Miranda Camden, Katy Burrows, and Kapiti locals Lorraine Hamilton and Kitty Fitton for an all-women comedy extravaganza.

24th Aug. The Zimmermans play Bob Dylan: *St Peter's Village Hall, Beach Road, Paekākāriki* – 6:30pm. New Zealand's pre-eminent Bob Dylan tribute band presents a night of rollicking rockin', folkie, funkier songs from one of the world's greatest songwriters.

28th Aug. Beats By Bingo with Mistress Viv: *The Bond Store, Birmingham Street, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. Play bingo with songs that will take you through the ages from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s.

31st Aug. Kapiti Brass Presents: Hymn Fest: *St Paul's Anglican Church, Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu* – 2:30 pm. Kapiti Brass plays a selection of the finest hymns and sacred music.

Events

16th Aug. Coven: An Evening for Queer Women and Gender Minorities: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Bring your gal pals, find your coven, and dance the night away at a sexy soirée. This party's theme is Coven Rouge: a sapphic showgirl dance party!

22nd Aug. Phantom Billstickers National Poetry Day: *Various locations and times in Wellington.* National Poetry Day is a one-day nationwide celebration of poetry that features events of all kinds throughout the week.

29th-31st Aug. Wellington Food Show: *Sky Stadium, Waterloo Quay, Wellington Waterfront* – 10am. Explore a capital culinary event where food lovers unite for a day of indulgence, discovery, and inspiration.

Music

15th Aug. Jazz Orchestra Composer Series Presents: Jake Baxendale: *Bedlam & Squalor, Garrett Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Jake Baxendale is lifting his gaze from the domestic to the majestic with his new suite of music for improvisers *Sky Meets Country*.

16th Aug. Sue Dyson – Welcome To Our Lounge: *Hilltop, Upland Road, Kelburn* – 7pm. Performing songs from Linda Ronstadt and Carole King, vocalist Sue Dyson and pianist Mitch Dean will enchant and enthrall audiences.

16th Aug. Nota Bene Chamber Choir Presents: The Wedding of Liesl and Duncan: *Wesley Methodist, Taranaki Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. You are cordially invited to the most dramatic, musical, and slightly chaotic wedding of the season featuring Brahms, Haydn, Schubert, and other wonderful German composers performed by Nota Bene and soloists Barbara Paterson and Robert Tucker.

16th Aug. Take The Power Back: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Delivering their world-class show with all the aggression, power, and passion of the original band, Take Back the Power presents the ultimate Rage Against the Machine experience.

17th Aug. Jenny Mitchell: *Old St Paul's, Mulgrave Street, Pipitea* – 7pm. Award-winning songwriter Jenny Mitchell returns home for a national tour celebrating her acclaimed album *Forest House*.

17th, 19th Aug. Goodnight Kiwis: Live Lullabies and Anthems: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Featuring songs from Dave Dobbyn, Nicki Minaj, Barney the Dinosaur, and more, enjoy an evening of snuggles and giggles from TikTok star chrsluxon.1.

21st Aug. SACHI: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. New Zealand's own dance music duo SACHI come to Pōneke after touring around the globe at summer music festivals. Tune in for a chance to catch some of their upcoming new drops.

21st Aug. Come Together – Pink Floyd: The Dark Side of The Moon: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of The Moon* isn't just an album, it's an experience. Catch Milan Borich, Luke Buda, Jol Mulholland, Brett Adams, Matthias Jordan, Mike Hall, Alistair Deverick, Finn Scholes, and more perform it from cover to cover.

22nd-23rd Aug. Finis Omnium III: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Taking place over two hellacious nights and featuring some of New Zealand's best bands, this metal music festival is set to get things raging for a third year in a row.

23rd Aug. Where's Jai: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Expect to dance, scream, and maybe even cry while listening to the debut album *Fresh Out Of Air* from Where's Jai.

23rd Aug. Krackerjack: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Celebrate cultural traditions and Polish tunes with a Kiwi twist. Expect a rollicking good time of soulful harmonies.

28th Aug. Borderline: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Rapidly rising indie-pop outfit Borderline channel deep connection into a sound that's as expansive as it is intimate.

28th Aug. Danica Bryant + The Band: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Danica Bryant and her iconic three-piece not-a-girl-band celebrate their newest pop-rock album *Feast*.

29th Aug. Rail Records Presents: Wildkiwi Tribute Fest: *Wild Kiwi Distillery, Brewtown, Upper Hutt* – 6pm. Get ready for a full-throttle night of chaos, distortion, and anthems at this rock, punk, and metal tribute fest.

Performance

13th-31st Aug. Mamma Mia! The Musical: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – various times. This sunny, funny international phenomenon unfolds on a Greek island paradise when, on the eve of her wedding, a bride-to-be's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

15th-17th Aug. The Magnificent Weirdos Presents: First Draft: *The Hannah, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – various times. Writers in the early stages of creating new work present rehearsed readings of pieces in progress for the public, followed by audience kōrero with each writer or creator.

15th Aug-13th Sep. ration the Queen's veges: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. Inspired by true events, this one-man show is a story of how one action can inspire change in unlikely places.

16th Aug. Porirua Has Talent Finals 2025: *Te Rauparaha Arena, Parumoana Street, Porirua* – 10:30am. Tamariki and rangatahi take to the stage to showcase their amazing skills in the grand final of Porirua's popular talent show.

23rd Aug. The Morning Shift: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. From humble beginnings in a garage to a record-breaking rise to the top of the podcast charts, Aotearoa's favourite trio – Jordan Vaha'akolo, Brook Ruscoe, and Marc Peard – are taking *The Morning Shift* to the people for the first time ever.

23rd Aug. B*tch Stole My Brand – A Rotten Drag Show: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. Wellington's finest (and pettiest) drag artists are coming together for the messiest, most unoriginal concept yet: each queen is stealing another's look and absolutely ruining it.

24th-29th Aug. Shakespeare's North Productions Presents: The Life of Henry V: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 7pm. In this stripped-back performance of Shakespeare's historical drama *Henry V*, 10 performers cut straight to the core themes of leadership, loyalty, and sacrifice to deliver an immersive experience of war.

29th Aug. Wellington Raw Comedy Quest Final: *The Hannah, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – 8pm. Witness the rising stars of stand-up comedy before they hit the big time in Humorous Arts Trust's premier comedy competition.

Galleries

Until 24th Aug. New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts Presents: Academy Prize for Visual Art: *Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro.* Showcasing 350 contemporary artworks by 260 artists from every corner of New Zealand, this prestigious competition highlights extraordinary artistic talent.

Until 24th Aug. Vincents Art Workshop Annual Group Show: *Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro.* This significant exhibition will showcase the vibrant work of its artists and serve as a powerful retrospective, tracing the workshop's four-decade history and highlighting the transformative journeys of artists who have fostered their creativity within its walls.

Until 5th Oct. Tiaki: *Courtenay Place, Te Aro, Wellington.* Shannon Te Rangihaeata Clamp's *Tiaki* connects the worldly with the spiritual and acknowledges the space between overlapping people, atua, this place, its histories, and its presence.

16th Aug-20th Dec. Messengers: *National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, Molesworth Street, Te Aro.* *Messengers* explores animals as metaphors and signs but also asks us to consider our stewardship and interconnectedness with other species.

18th-24th Aug. aMuseum & Gift Shop: *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro.* James Harcourt's exhibition of visual art is a didactic celebration of environment focused in kaitiakitanga o te taiao.

Festivals

Until 31st Aug. Visa Wellington on a Plate: *Various locations and times in Wellington Region.* Electrify your taste buds at food-based festivities. Get hyped for pop-ups, masterclasses, workshops, festivals, unique events, and more.

14th-24th Aug. Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival: *Various locations and times in Wellington.* Explore films from Aotearoa and beyond at New Zealand's biggest international film festival.

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 19 August.

To the best of our knowledge, the information provided to us regarding the above events was correct at the time of press. Our company accepts no liability for events postponed, cancelled, sold out, or otherwise adapted.

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Sky Stadium

Name
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