

Regional News

Wellington

Issue 248
July 15, 2025



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News

Take the plunge



Dive into the flowing waters of deeply danceable DJ beats from Berlin-born, Aotearoa-based groove maker Sanoi. Crafting a current of sweet sounds that will whisk you out to sea, Sanoi picks up the oars alongside For-tunes and Wētā Digital artist ZIPZAP to turn Underworld Tavern into an immersive underwater world on the 26th of July.

Sanoi Underwater World is a transformative experience that will drench audiences in the ebb and flow of warm, melodic, groove-driven techno. With curated local support from Wellington's finest as well as a special pre-party, Pōneke audiences will be soaked to the core in good vibes.

Having graced festival and club stages across Aotearoa, Australia, and Europe, Sanoi – also known as Jonas Fischer – has a distinctive sound where finely crafted drums take centre stage. Emphasising a unique groove, the result is music that is all at once meticulous, melodic, and mischievous.

Constantly developing as an artist, Sanoi released his album *Echoes of Home* in 2023. For the record, he drew inspiration from his homeland Germany, focusing on the organic house and techno scene of Berlin while challenging conventional music production norms by steering clear of familiar tropes and techniques. The result is eight tracks carefully curated with a rich tapestry of ambient layers, recorded sounds, and melodies that range from quirky and playful to nostalgic and melancholic.

Let the waves wash over you and go with the flow of the music at Sanoi Underwater World.

Bring on the belly ache



Prowling into The Fringe Bar on the 19th of July, El Jaguar [pictured] is ready to roar at Saturday Laughs to make the stage his personal wrestling ring and become the luchador he always dreamed of being.

The alter ego of Christchurch-based Canadian comedian Derek Flores, El Jaguar is inspired by lucha libre, a Mexican style of wrestling. From the dusty streets of central America, rising triumphant as the wrestler everyone wanted to be in the World Wrestling Federation circa 1990, he then plunged into obscurity. But El Jaguar is back, baby... and it's going to be muy divertido!

Using only his fast wit and tight lycra, the wrestling wonder boy will take audiences on a roller coaster ride of averageness, careening down the sad back alleys of regret before crashing headlong into the punishing pillows of self-doubt. After all, he is a luchador who only wrestles with the ghosts of long-ago glory.

Joining El Jaguar on stage from a galaxy far, far away (Russia) is Anya Rzhevitskaya in the hopes that you'll be interested in coming to the dark side. A regular performer and producer on the Pōneke comedy scene, she's more than ready to leave audiences in stitches.

Rounding out the lineup are local Wellingtonian jokester Kasia Wayfinder and the head of the Humorous Arts Trust himself, Jerome Chandrahasen, as your MC. An integral cog in the capital's comedy machine who is usually working behind the scenes of each beloved *Laughs* series two-hour comedy showcase, it's not often that Chandrahasen steps out into the limelight to deliver his signature style of side-splitting comedy. Get ready to rumble at *Saturday Laughs*.

Cover: Bret McKenzie, *Creepy-Crawly Carnival*, NZSO

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NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC

The fast and furriest



Get ready to be enchanted, amused, and slightly creeped out – in the best way possible – as the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra presents a bugged-out musical adventure for the whole family.

Creepy-Crawly Carnival in Wellington, with the orchestra led by acclaimed conductor André de Ridder, is a concert bursting with colour, critters, and comedic flair when two charming works come together for an unforgettable afternoon on the 10th of August.

Oscar-winner Bret McKenzie [pictured], who hosted the hit Muppets live show *The Jim Henson Retrospectacle* with the NZSO in 2018, returns as narrator for Camille Saint-Saëns’ timeless *Carnival of the Animals*.

Known for bringing humour and heart to every performance, McKenzie will lead audiences through a musical safari filled with hopping kangaroos, stately swans, and bumbling elephants. The suite, a cornerstone of children’s classical repertoire, becomes a laugh-out-loud journey with McKenzie’s storytelling magic at the helm.

Whānau will also step into the miniature world of arthropods with Albert Roussel’s *The Spider’s Feast: Symphonic Fragments*, where buzzing, wriggling life takes centre stage. But this isn’t just any bug’s life – it’s uniquely New Zealand. With imaginative flair, this performance reimagines Roussel’s garden setting as the native bush teeming with giant wētā, huhu grubs, and fluttering forest dwellers. And beware: the ever-hungry spider is always on the hunt. Expect giggles, gasps, and maybe a few shivers as kids squirm in delight through the quirky and playful suite.

Whether you’re a budding entomologist or just fond of furry, feathered, and fantastic creatures, this family concert promises music that moves, tickles, and inspires.

Creepy-Crawly Carnival is part of the NZSO’s *Immerse* festival, where Maestro de Ridder will lead the NZSO for two further concerts at the Michael Fowler Centre: *Enchanted* on the 8th of August and *Ascension* on the 9th of August.

Seats will be in hot demand, so crawl, flutter, or gallop your way in at www.nzso.co.nz

From dark to light



Photo by Jim Tannock.

“You know what to say when you know who you are.”

Jazmine Mary is thrilled to release their third album *I Want To Rock And Roll*, a dark and dreamy catalogue of the highs, lows, and artistic growth the award-winning indie-folk artist has experienced since their 2023 sophomore record *Dog*.

“I was feeling such devastation and heartbreak and sadness in the last two years, that when there were moments of relief from that, that’s when I was writing”, Mary says. “They’re expressed in moments of relief because it turns out, when you’re in bed, sad, you can’t write music.”

“You’re in complete darkness, but you can see the light on in the kitchen in the gap below the door”, Mary continues, adding that it was a time of discovering who they were, who they are. From that, you can create.

Just out in June, the emotionally and texturally abundant album features Jazmine Mary faithfuls Dave Khan, Louisa Nicklin, and Arahi, lush cello accompaniments from Womb’s Cello Forrester, and clarinet and bass from Cass Basil. It straddles time, place, and hopeful circumstance, spanning the spectrum of dark to light across bright folk gems that vibrate with haunting, heart-wrenching lyricism.

“Each song is a really different emotional space. So there’ll be times that I’ll relate more to my own songs, and other times I feel a stranger to them.”

Mary will take to the road with their full band to celebrate *I Want To Rock And Roll*. Having garnered a steady and devoted cult following in part thanks to a stage presence deemed at once mesmerising and unsettling, the album release show on the 31st of July at Meow should not be missed and certainly won’t be forgotten.

SNIPS

Nominations open

Nominations for candidates to stand in the Wellington City Council local elections are open until noon on the 1st of August at wellington.govt.nz/elections

Streetworks start

In preparation for the reopening of Te Ngākau Civic Precinct in March 2026, streetworks are starting in the area from July. These include the Wellington Water Wakefield Street and Victoria Street rising main projects, the removal of the Amora overbridge, the Wellington Water Market Lane and Willeston Street pump station renewal projects, and the Harris Street upgrade. Find more information at wellington.govt.nz/te-ngakau-streetworks

Timetable changes

Increased services and extended bus routes have gone into effect for the Northern suburbs, improving morning commutes for Wellington Hospital workers and access to services for Summerset on the Landing residents. Earlier services are on route 52, with extra services and changes to the 56, 57, 58, 60, and 60e routes. View new timetables at metlink.org.nz



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When you have your own family, their wellbeing is always front of mind. Atareira is here to help when you and your whānau need it most.

As a charitable trust with a 40-year history of providing support to families, Atareira has resources available for all ages. From mental health services to addiction support, child and youth programmes to transitional housing options, the organisation has you and your family’s best interests at heart.

Family support services are available through Atareira to anyone living in the Wellington Region. When a family member is mentally unwell or coping with addiction issues it can be confusing and stressful time. Atareira enhances their wellbeing by building on their resilience, provides further understanding, and affirms their experience of supporting someone with mental health and/or addiction concerns.

Atareira also provides compassionate and caring one-on-one support aimed specifically at children and youth who are experiencing mental health or addiction issues or who have a family member experiencing mental health or addiction issues.

Other resources available to individuals and families through Atareira include free group anxiety management programmes for those 18 and older, and transitional housing services for those who are temporarily experiencing homelessness.

Atareira provides the tools and resources necessary to struggling families and individuals to get back on their feet when they need it most.

The rumours are true

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



Chris Parker is in the (Opera) House on the 19th of July with his new show *Stop Being So Dramatic*.

The self-proclaimed People's Princess of Aotearoa is desperate to prove he's really chill and down to earth, so he Zoomed in to spill the tea.

What do you have to say about these drama queen allegations?

Well, they're very much true. They've been flying around since I was a child. I've always just been dramatic. I studied at Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School in Wellington, so I've even tried to make a name for myself with these allegations.

We love a diva. What can we expect from your new show?

Stop Being So Dramatic examines my history of performing and how I got to where I am now. It also examines some of the things that held me back – spoiler alert: they were all me – and how we get in the way of ourselves and the drive I have now to not diminish those parts of myself. I really celebrate them and perform them at their full scale. It's about embracing those things that some people might classify as cringe, but I consider my special powers.

What do you love about comedy?

I love its directness. I love its access. It's the most connected I feel to the audience. In a play, your scene partner is the other actor, but in stand-up I like to think it's the audience. You and them are trying to form this genuine connection. Your better shows are always the ones where you are actually connecting with the audience rather than going through the material that you've gone through a million times. It's such a beautiful promise. You're going out there to make an audience laugh. There is no other hidden agenda, I'm just trying to give you the best night out.

What are you excited about for your Wellington show?

I think the Opera House is the best venue for comedy in the country, and Wellington has always been a highlight of the tour. This will be my third time doing a show in that venue and they're always amazing. Wellington is the best city to have a little romantic weekend away. I do enjoy touring around the entire country but there's something so beautiful about going to Wellington. And also, because I studied there for three years, there is this real-life satisfaction I feel being back. Now I can go into Iko Iko and buy a random little mug. When I was a student, I couldn't do that – my dreams have all come true [laughs].

We're so excited to have you – hopefully Wellington's wind and weather will cooperate.

It won't. Don't say that; it never does. I'm not going to Wellington for the weather! No one is! That's a good sign about a city. When people turn up even though they know the weather is terrible, you know you've got a good city on your hands.

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NZSD 2nd Year Classical Ballet student, Oria Riches. Photo by Stephen A'Court.



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All the roads that led me here

by **Madelaine Empson**



Willie Nelson and Delaney Davidson.

“Incontestably one of Aotearoa’s most influential and lauded contemporary songwriters”

(Undertheradar), Delaney Davidson has taken

to the road this month to celebrate his extensive

and star-studded catalogue with special band

The Anniversaries. With an artistry that straddles

modern Americana and the blues, country and

rock, folk and noir, the inimitable Kiwi musician is

only just home from a guest performance in the US

with Tami Neilson, who’s currently on tour with Bob

Dylan and Willie Nelson.

“There have been moments in my life where the

body feels like it is operating at another pace to

what is happening or how the head is working”,

he tells me. “Meeting Willie was one of those

moments.”

Looking back over 20 years, more than 14

albums, countless collabs and awards... what

major milestones jump out at you?

Wow, there are some hefty ones. My dad passing,

recording solo album number 10, getting to work

with Dave Dobbyn, watching my friends and

their amazing musical works develop. Working

with Tame Iti. A lot of touring and travelling that

somehow feels like it’s not possible to do any

more. Moving into album production. Seeing the

musical world change with COVID and the advent of

streaming. Getting to the point where I feel like I am

older but also still a kid.

The upcoming Anniversary Tour reaches Meow on

the 18th and St Peter’s Village Hall in Paekākāriki

on the 19th of July. I wouldn’t be surprised if you

had stories to tell from past times at both venues!

I have played a lot of times at St Peter’s. Feels

like the last time was with Barry Saunders. Some

memories from these last shows were people

getting into it and dancing, turning the night into

what every musician wants to see: a country-style

hall full of people having a good time. Somehow, in

Paekākāriki, this feels like it’s often the case with

these shows. It’s not a city show and has a small

draw from the surrounding towns. Also being on

that beautiful Kapiti Coast helps with the sweep of

the water and that feeling of possibility blowing in.

Wellington’s windy spirit always has some sort of a

folk feel to me.

Can you describe meeting Willie Nelson recently

after he sang on Beyond the Stars, a song you co-

wrote with Tami Neilson about the loss of both of

your dads?

I tried to remember to just soak it up. Be there at

the table, a small circle of light in the dark tour

bus. I thought of my dad and I thought of all the

roads and things that had led to this point. It was

like a million things colliding inside me. Such a

powerful moment and all in a matter of minutes.

Afterwards I just cried on Tami’s shoulder. I felt

like I was trying to process so many things. All the

times I had sung Willie’s songs – at tables, funerals,

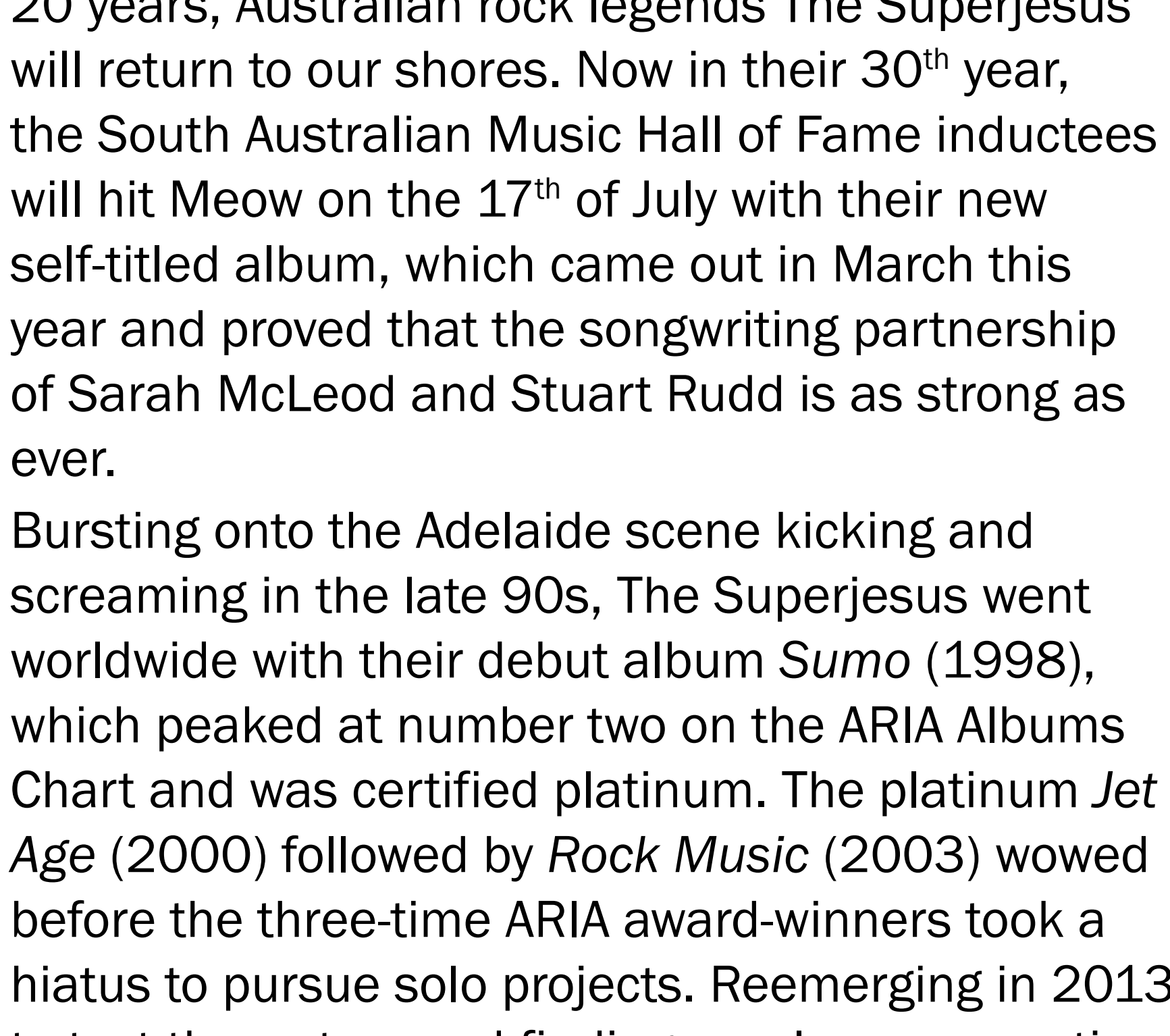
wakes, to myself, with friends – and hearing him talk

about singing one I had co-written.

I felt like I had been connected to the spirit I have

chosen to live my life by. It felt profound.

Keeping it cosy



Hobnail.

What do opera singers, a jazz band, a Klezmer

group, reggae rockers, kapa haka, and a

male voice choir have in common? They’ve all

performed at the eclectic Friends of Pātaka

Winter Music Series in the last three years alone!

Not to mention indie-folk bands, cellists, flute

quartets, and so many more musos who have

entertained audiences as part of the annual mid-

winter fixture.

The format is simple: four consecutive Sunday

afternoon concerts are held out of the cold in

the inspiring setting of Porirua’s Pātaka Art +

Museum. Celebrating a special milestone this

year, the one-hour concerts are free for Friends

of Pātaka members and children, or just a small

charge on the door. Make sure to leave enough

time to explore the wider art museum and voila,

you have the perfect family outing!

For its 20th birthday, the 2025 season will open

on the 20th of July with Papaioea Piano Trio, who

will present a beautiful programme that includes

Beethoven’s Ghost Trio. The following week, it’s

Fran Barton and Kevin Clark on the 27th of July:

singer and pianist presenting their “jazz to pop to

razzmatazz, humour, and everything in between”.

On the 3rd of August, Hobnail takes a turn with

their “illustrious blend of Celtic, folk, country, and

rock – dazzling instrumentation, award-winning

songwriting, and”, as they say, “vocals so tightly

knit they could be family”.

Every year includes a concert by the talented

young musicians of Porirua. The Friends of Pātaka

Winter Music Series continues this tradition,

concluding with a bang as two groups from Mana

College – a vocal duo and a drum and guitar duo

– take the stage on the 10th of August.

30 years and counting

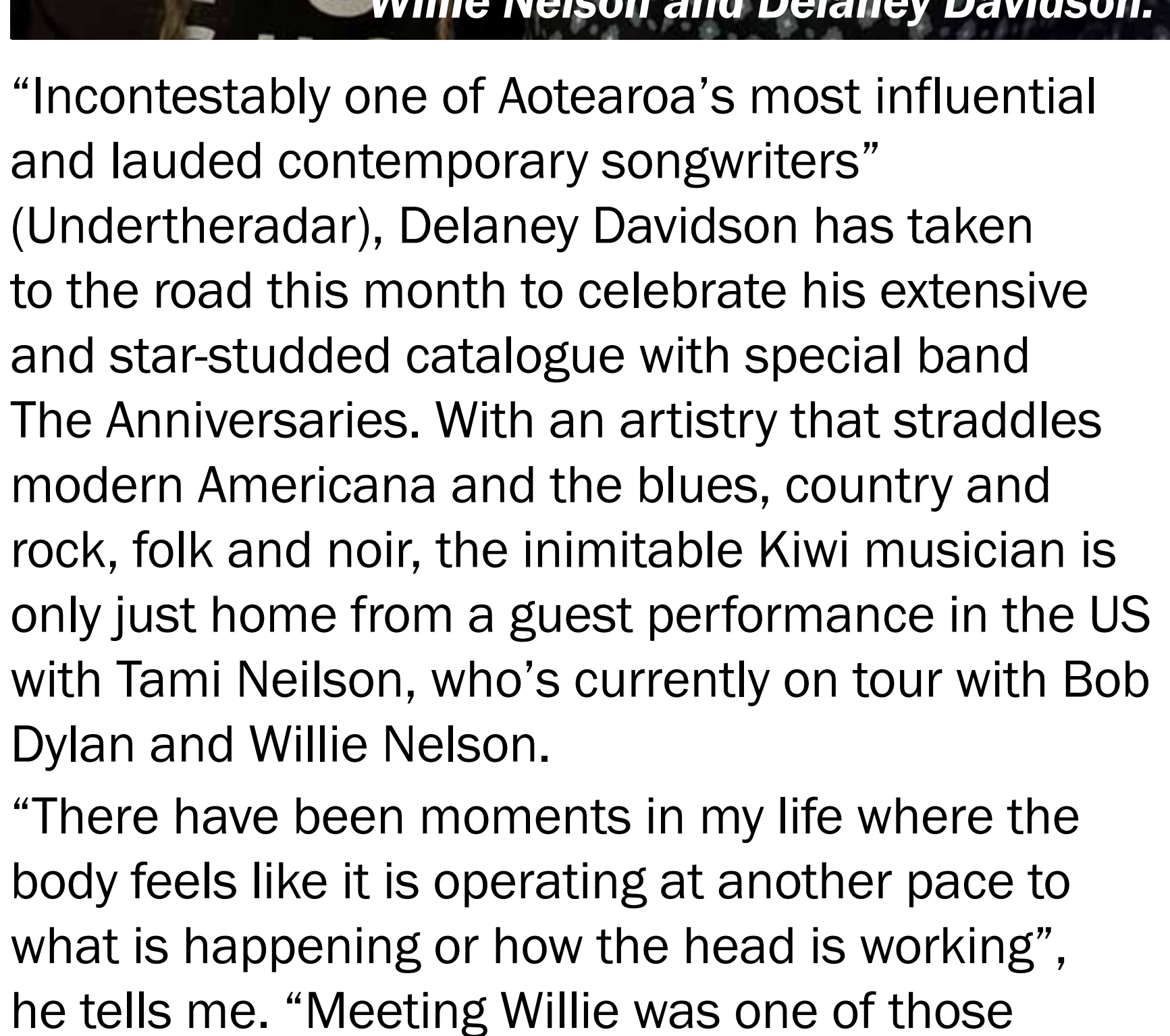


Photo by Andrew Treadwell.

Drum roll please... for the first time in more than

20 years, Australian rock legends The Superjesus

will return to our shores. Now in their 30th year,

the South Australian Music Hall of Fame inductees

will hit Meow on the 17th of July with their new

self-titled album, which came out in March this

year and proved that the songwriting partnership

of Sarah McLeod and Stuart Rudd is as strong as

ever.

Bursting onto the Adelaide scene kicking and

screaming in the late 90s, The Superjesus went

worldwide with their debut album *Sumo* (1998),

which peaked at number two on the ARIA Albums

Chart and was certified platinum. The platinum *Jet*

Age (2000) followed by *Rock Music* (2003) wowed

before the three-time ARIA award-winners took a

hiatus to pursue solo projects. Reemerging in 2013

to test the waters and finding a welcome reception

from the public, they headed back into the studio

for 2016’s EP *Love and Violence* before releasing a

live double album.

2025 looks to be a ripper. Praised by music

journalists as one of the best rock albums of the

year, their fourth studio album *The Superjesus*

cracked the top 10 ARIA Albums Chart and ARIA

Vinyl Chart. McLeod has also recently been

appointed chair of Australian Women In Music.

Holding their place as one of Australia’s most

respected live bands and showing no signs of

slowing down, The Superjesus are keen to share

their new catalogue with Aotearoa audiences

alongside a setlist full of fan favourites like *Gravity*,

Secret Agent Man, *Down Again*, and *Now and*

Then. In concert, they’ll be joined by magnetic New

Zealand pop-rock band The After.

Doc Edge

The Edge of Impact



Still from *Folktales*.

Taking place on the frontlines of change, each of the eight films making up Doc Edge 2025's Edge of Impact programme spotlights a powerful story where identity, environment, politics, and tradition collide.

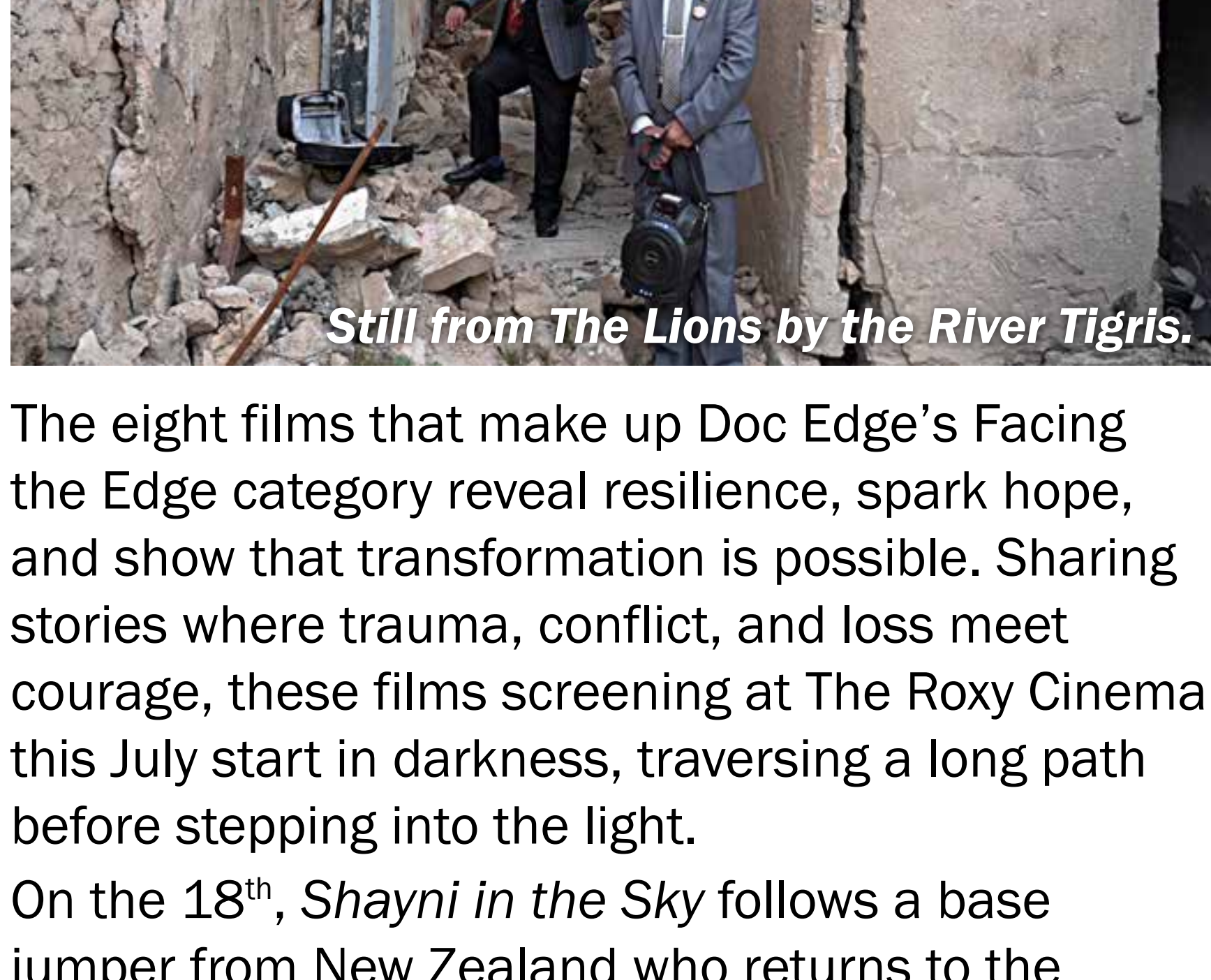
Screening at The Roxy Cinema on the 27th of July, *Folktales* [pictured] zeroes in on troubled teenagers who run wild with Norwegian huskies. Exhausted by loneliness, social anxiety, and all the crushing pressures felt by Gen Z, three teens enrol in a traditional folk high school where, dropped in the Arctic for one year, they must rely on themselves and a pack of loyal sled dogs to survive. Here they are free from the pressures of tech, social media, and modern life and learn to face themselves for the first time as they transition from youth to adulthood.

How to Build a Library captures the birth of a community that grows one book at a time. Screening at The Roxy Cinema on the 26th of July, the film follows two intrepid young women who set out to transform a crumbling colonial-era library into a dynamic cultural hub for the city's young people.

What begins as a vision for creative revival soon becomes a powerful act of reclamation, their story a celebration of youth activism, cultural rebirth, and the real work of decolonisation.

The Edge of Impact programme also comprises *Before the Moon Falls*, *Made in Ethiopia*, *OCEANIA: Journey to the Center*, *The Promise*, *YUMI: The Whole World*, and *Yurlu | Country* – each one a story that calls on us to witness, reflect, and rise to action.

From dark to light



Still from *The Lions by the River Tigris*.

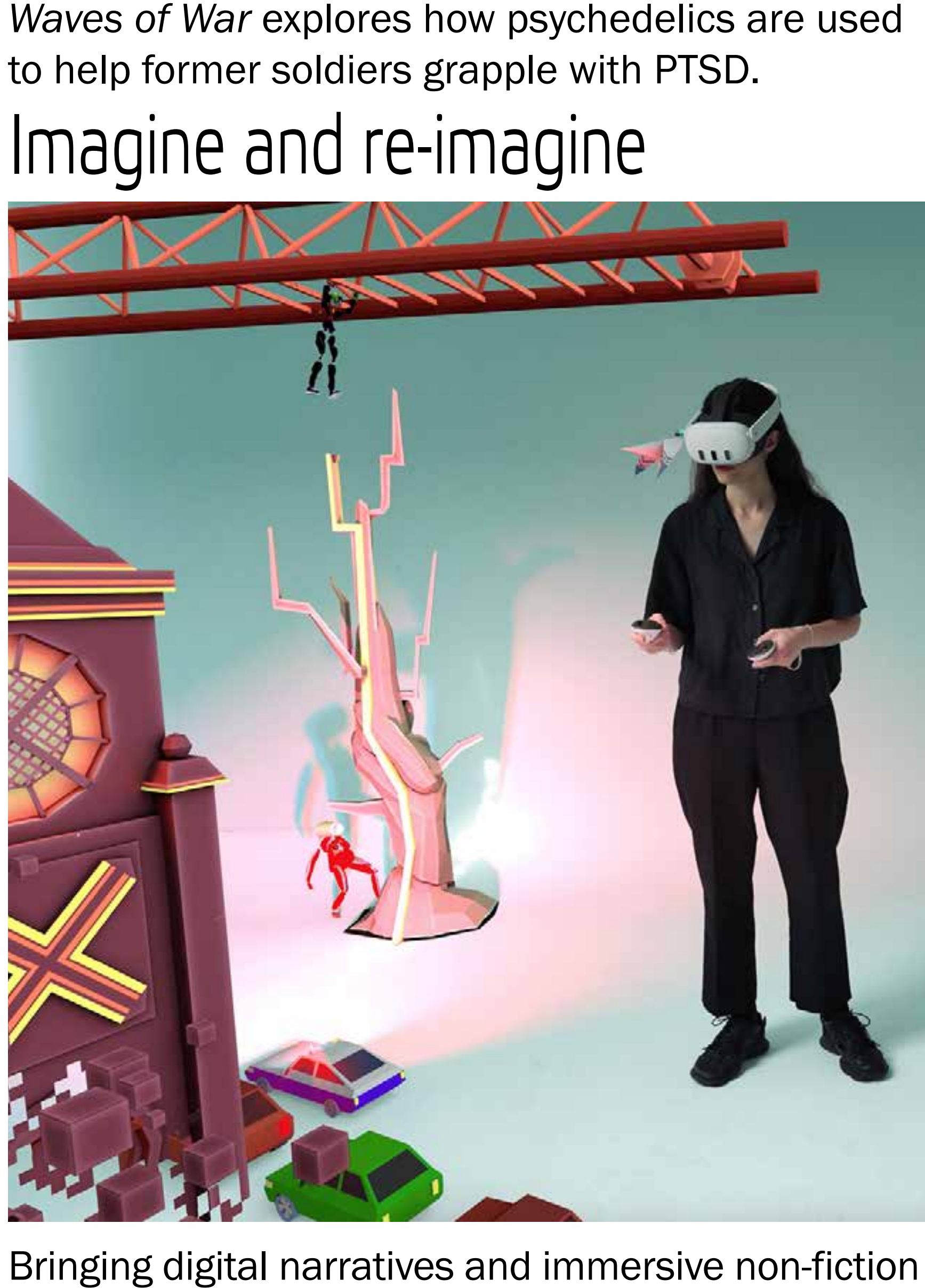
The eight films that make up Doc Edge's Facing the Edge category reveal resilience, spark hope, and show that transformation is possible. Sharing stories where trauma, conflict, and loss meet courage, these films screening at The Roxy Cinema this July start in darkness, traversing a long path before stepping into the light.

On the 18th, *Shayni in the Sky* follows a base jumper from New Zealand who returns to the Norwegian mountain where her husband died. *Carrousel* takes viewers to France and places paradise and pollution side by side on the 19th. In a small city in northern India, unhappy couples seek relationship advice at their local police station in *Marriage Cops*, which also screens on the 19th.

Remaining Native on the 20th sees a 17-year-old Native American runner navigate college athletics, the memory of his great-grandfather's 50-mile escape from boarding school connecting past, present, and future. On the 21st, *Night is Not Eternal* follows Cuban activist Rosa María Payá as she challenges an oppressive regime and fights for democratic reform in Cuba.

The Lions by the River Tigris [pictured] on the 24th captures a story of resilience against a backdrop of destruction as people restore a war-torn city's 8000-year-old identity. Oscar®-winning filmmaker Errol Morris confronts family separations in the USA in *Separated* on the 25th, while on the 26th *In Waves of War* explores how psychedelics are used to help former soldiers grapple with PTSD.

Imagine and re-imagine



Bringing digital narratives and immersive non-fiction to life, the Doc Edge Immersive Exhibition expands the way we experience and connect with stories.

The digital storytelling platform presents a new way of seeing the world, showcasing 12 impact projects – six international and six from New Zealand – across two categories under the 2025 theme Imagine & Re-Imagine.

The Digital Storytelling programme brings narratives to life, expanding the way we connect with stories. Striking visuals, immersive sound, and dynamic structures reimagine reality, offering fresh perspectives on real-world issues.

Hikairo ki Tōngariro blends story, art, and music to spotlight the untold legacy behind the *Ka Mate* haka. *The Great Kimberly Wilderness* explores Australia's Purnululu National Park. *Pepe: Moth Dances* is a ritual of sound, motion, and spirit rooted in Te Ao Māori and resonating across time. *Kapwa* interrogates cultural erasure within the Philippine diaspora. *Mirror* explores concepts of home and memory. *Te Rerenga o Muriwai* focuses on women ancestors.

Meanwhile, the Interactive Non-Fiction category invites audiences to step inside the story, breaking the barrier between observer and participant.

Through interactive installations, live performance, and sensory-driven experiences, these works foster deep, personal connections to real-world narratives.

No two encounters are alike in the multidisciplinary installation *Illuminated Horizons*. *Impulse: Playing with Reality* [pictured] brings together gameplay and first-hand accounts to paint a portrait of ADHD. *Mammary Mountain* explores disease within the body. *Sight Unseen* is a photographic reimagination of Wellington's cityscape. The symptoms of vestibular migraines are brought to life in *Turbulence: Jamais Vu*. *The Visitor's Book* bridges past and present through Antarctic exploration history.

Experience new ways of seeing the world through Doc Edge Immersive Exhibitions at The Roxy Cinema between the 16th and 27th of July.

Morsels of magic



Detail of still from *Mother of Chooks*.

Bite-sized but no less powerful than their feature-length counterparts, the short films making up Doc Edge pack a punch. They're short, sharp, and unforgettable, presenting diverse snapshots of life from around the globe and right here at home in Aotearoa.

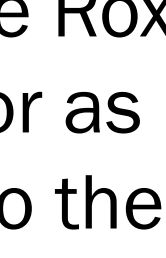
From human trafficking to homelessness, painting to politics, history to health, music to masonry, and more, the New Zealand Shorts programme features 11 narratives from our shores. Nine short films make their world premiere, including *Feel It from My Words*, *Hou Rongo: Reviving Moriori Culture*, *I Know I'm Going to Paint*, *Ko Tātou Te Wai: We Are the Water*, *Old Men Build a Bridge*, *Nothing is Impossible: The Primanavia Story*, and *Onwards*.

Others like *Little Potato* make their international debut. *Home* and *Pōneke Classical Sessions* capture life right here in Wellington, spotlighting our vibrant cultural scene and our housing crisis.

The 18 international shorts span the gamut of human experience. Depicting life in every corner of the world, these stories have travelled from India, Afghanistan, China, Hawai'i, Latin America, Doha, Vietnam, Syria, and beyond. The collection includes *A Good Question*, *Alofa*, *Correct Me If I'm Wrong*, *The Honest Poet*, *MĀHŪ: A Trans-Pacific Love Letter*, *Mother of Chooks* [pictured], *Pee Shy*, *Qotzuñi: People of the Lake*, *Sandcastles*, *The Sardine Roaster*, *Shepherd Boy*, *They Call Me the Tattoo Witch*, *Two Travelling Aunties*, *Voices from the Abyss*, *What Does The Mud Whisper*, *Where is Home?*, *Who Loves the Sun*, and *On Healing Land*, *Birds Perch*.

Whether amplifying homegrown voices or funnelling in narratives from faraway realities, each of the 29 short films provide powerful perspectives. Catch them screening at The Roxy Cinema in conjunction with feature titles or as part of six short film collections from the 16th to the 27th of July.

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The Rose of Tralee



Though lovely and fair as the rose of the summer
Yet, 'twas not her beauty alone that won me
Oh no! 'Twas the truth in her eye ever beaming.
So go the lyrics of the famous Irish ballad *The Rose of Tralee*, which inspired the annual festival in County Kerry, Ireland. Held each August, The International Rose of Tralee Festival is one of Ireland's largest and longest-running events and bills itself as a celebration of the "aspirations, ambitions, intellect, social responsibility, and Irish heritage" of modern young women. Featuring women of Irish descent from across the globe, the winner of the pageant is selected based on personality, their likeness to the attributes mentioned in the song, and their ability to stand as a good role model.

With Kiwi Keely O'Grady crowned the Rose of Tralee in 2024's festival, New Zealand will again be entering the competition in 2025, putting forward Ciara Jo Hanlon [pictured] as this year's representative.

You can help support Ciara's journey by attending the Wellington and Hutt Valley Irish Societies' Mid-Winter Céilí at Vogelmorn Hall on the 26th of July. Chase away the winter blues and warm your shivering bones by dancing the night away to Irish tunes from Wellington's own Great Beag Céilí Band. Featuring a special performance by local Irish dancers, hearty Irish stew, a pop-up bar by Te Aro Brewing Company, and a raffle, this night of revelry will transport attendees of all ages to the emerald and vibrant shores of Éire.

The stuff of legend



Photo by Captured By Friday Photography.

1827 Suffolk, England. The small village of Polstead is rocked by the murder of a young woman, Maria Marten, at the Red Barn, so called for its red clay-tiled roof. Maria was meeting her lover William Corder there before eloping to Ipswich. A year later, her body was discovered hidden beneath the floor. What happened, and why?

The Red Barn Murder became the stuff of legend, inspiring plays, ballads, and songs and continuing to fascinate to this day. Now, the newest theatre company on the Kapiti Coast will deliver an innovative reimagining of the infamous events.

Formed by Sera Devcich and Jessica Clough – the creative team behind last year's extended, sold-out, and highly decorated season of Nick Dear's *Frankenstein* on the Kapiti Coast – Maven Theatre Company was born out of a passion for bold storytelling and the desire to bring more locally produced, ambitious, meaningful, and expertly crafted theatre to the region. Theatre that provokes thought and challenges conventions. Enter *The Ballad of Maria Marten*.

Rather than providing a literal retelling of the historical true crime, Maven's inaugural offering explores Maria's story through the eyes of the women who loved her. Through a mix of storytelling, dance, and humour, Maria's fate unfolds to illuminate a complex narrative of love, loss, prejudice, and patriarchal power.

The Aotearoa premiere of *The Ballad of Maria Marten* is presented in partnership with Te Raukura ki Kāpiti and is on now at the venue until the 19th of July.

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A word from Maddi...

Water off a Gavin's back

by **Madelaine Empson**



Last week, I attended a special gala to celebrate the new look and kaupapa of Hannah Playhouse, now christened The Hannah. It was a wonderful event and the performances were exquisite. Shoutout to The Māori Sidesteps for the best interpretation of *Karma Chameleon* ever, and to Imogen Stone of Laser Kiwi for defying gravity by rolling *up* a rope into the sky (how on Earth?) (good boogly woogly!) (inside joke).

Afterwards, I flitted about mingling and was doing alright until I went to say my goodbyes. Instead of just – you know, saying goodbye, I panicked and informed a person I'd only just met that I “best be off – I’m on the lam”.

For those understandably unfamiliar with informal North American idioms, this means on the run from the law. To clarify, I am not on the run from the law.

The stranger blinked twice, to which I responded, “That’s the first time I’ve said that in my life, and I think it surprised us both.” I then left without another word.

I’ll never forget accidentally punching K.C. Kelly in the Circa Theatre foyer three years, eight months, and 29 days ago because I was so excited to meet him. The brilliant but baffled actor and director responded with the kind of grace I did not deserve, a fact I proved later that evening when I accidentally punched two other patrons whilst trying to explain what had happened.

Then there was that time I poured an entire cup of water down Gavin Rutherford’s back after a show. I am still perplexed as to how this happened but there is a 50 percent chance he remembers it fondly.

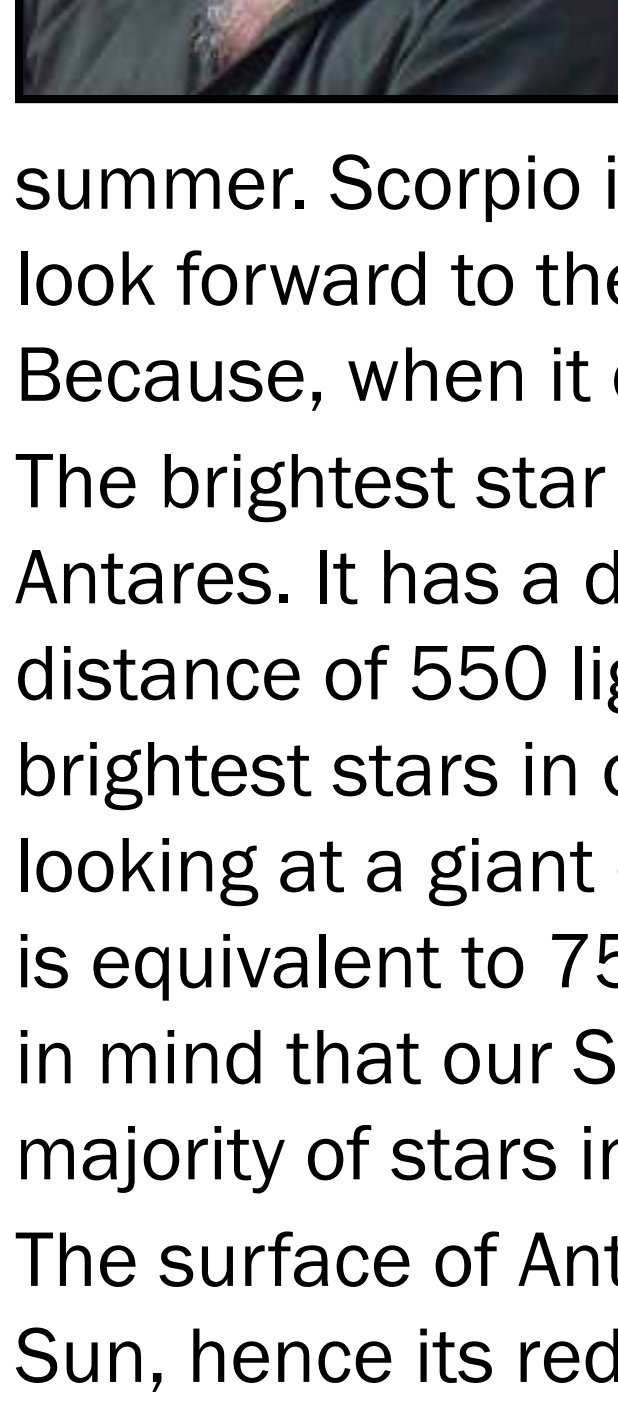
A very kind and mistaken person once called my social awkwardness endearing. I think it’s better summed up by one of my favourite memes, which reads: ‘Anxiety tip: Next time you cringe over some embarrassing moment you had years ago try to remember other people’s embarrassing moments. You can’t can you? That’s because you’re the only embarrassing human to exist, everyone else is always thinking about how cringey you are.’

So, when you next wake up at 3am with a start and a grimace thinking about that stupid thing you did, take comfort in the fact that you (probably) didn’t pour water down Gavin Rutherford’s back on the 8th of August 2016.

Cosmic conversations

The red supergiant

by **Richard Hall, astronomical communicator**



Setting due west after sundown, we see the constellation of Orion, the Hunter. Turning to the east, we see the constellation of Scorpio. These two constellations mark the seasons. Throughout summer, Orion dominates our evening sky. It is our sign of summer. Scorpio is our sign of winter. We now look forward to the Scorpion setting in the west. Because, when it does, spring will be here.

The brightest star in the constellation of Scorpio is Antares. It has a definite red hue. Despite its vast distance of 550 light-years, Antares is one of the brightest stars in our sky. This tells us that we are looking at a giant of a star. Its total energy output is equivalent to 75,900 suns. In saying that, bear in mind that our Sun is bigger and brighter than the majority of stars in the Milky Way galaxy.

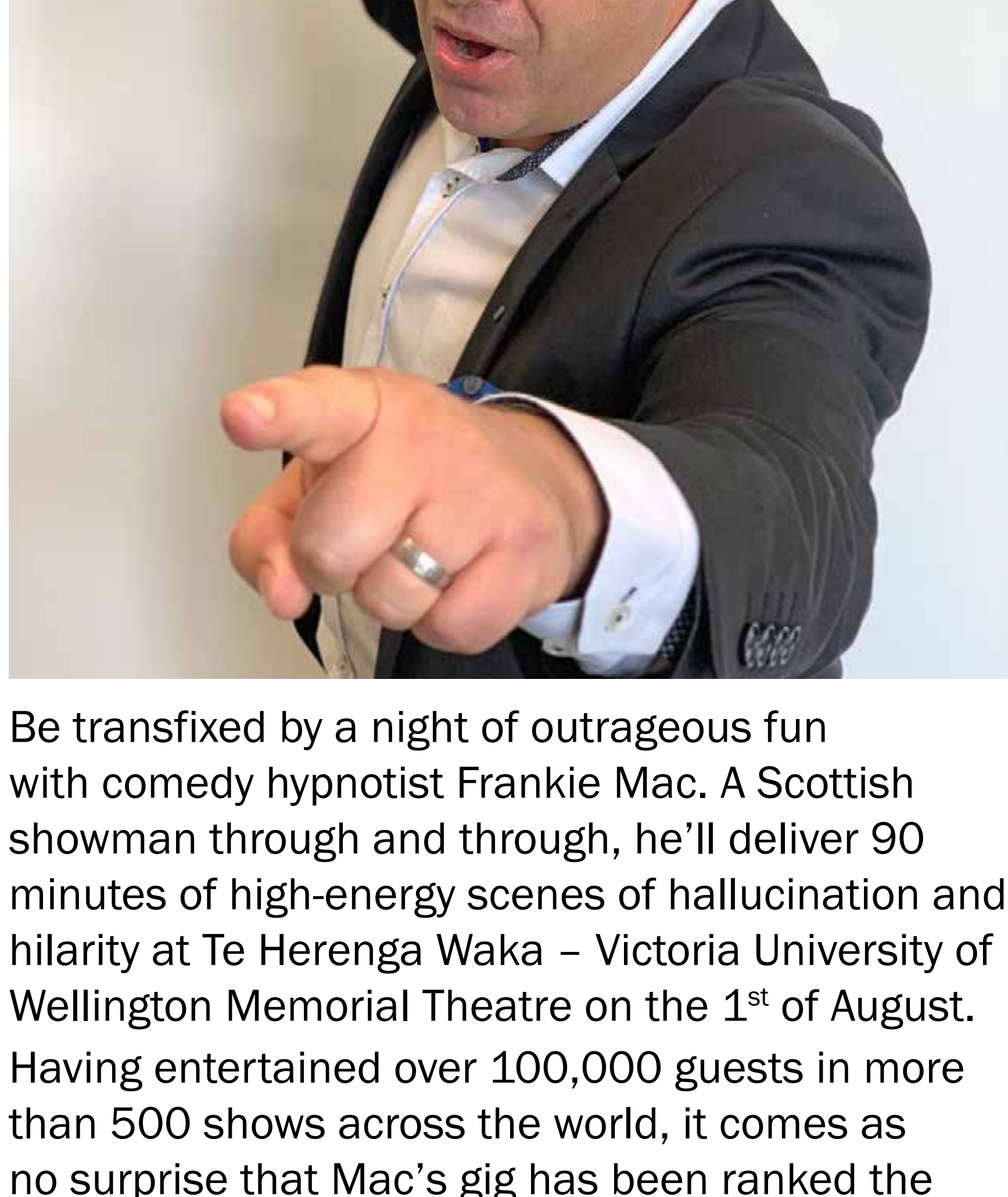
The surface of Antares is not as hot as that of our Sun, hence its reddish colour. However, the total amount of radiation emitted is compensated by its enormous size. Antares is a colossal star with a diameter 680 times larger than our Sun. If we were to put Antares where our Sun is, its surface would be just beyond the asteroid belt. The Earth, along with Mercury, Venus, and Mars would be inside it! Antares has a companion star which, due to contrast, appears to be a small greenish star.

Well, small only when compared to Antares. The companion is hotter than our Sun and is 2754 times brighter. The two stars orbit around each other in a period of 1218 years. The companion can only be seen with a telescope.

Antares is only 15 million years old. I say ‘only’ because this is a very young age for stars. Our Sun, for example, is 4600 million years old. However, baby Antares is highly unstable and is expected to explode as a supernova sometime in the next 10,000 years. When it does, it will turn our night sky into broad daylight.

Could be tonight!

Humour meets hypnosis



Be transfixed by a night of outrageous fun with comedy hypnotist Frankie Mac. A Scottish showman through and through, he’ll deliver 90 minutes of high-energy scenes of hallucination and hilarity at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington Memorial Theatre on the 1st of August. Having entertained over 100,000 guests in more than 500 shows across the world, it comes as no surprise that Mac’s gig has been ranked the number-one comedy-hypnotist show in the UK.

A collision of jaw-dropping theatre and genuine hypnosis, the performance accesses deep into the human psyche to deliver a night of endless laughter.

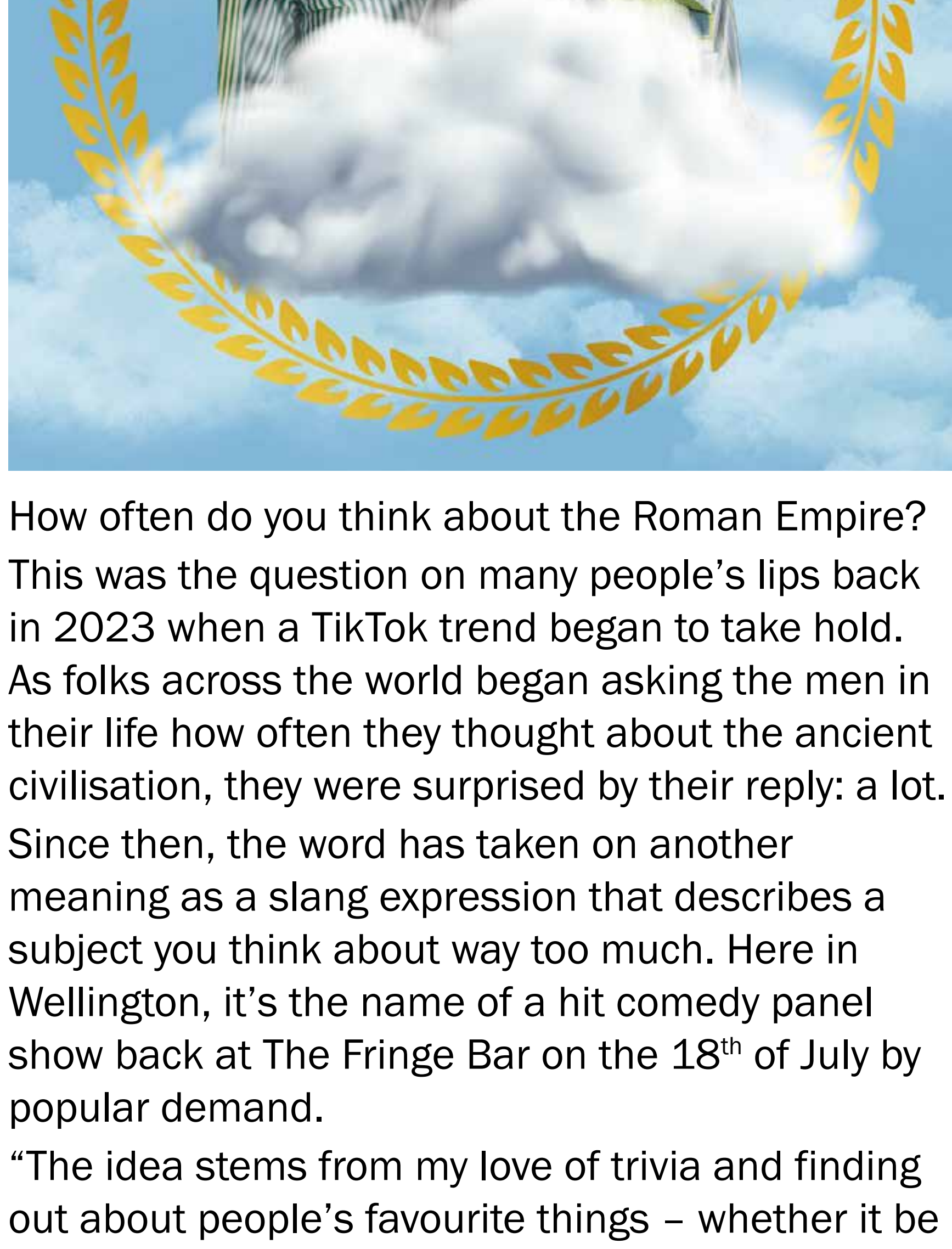
As an interactive show, volunteers will be called to the stage where they will be guided into a dreamlike state of hypnosis in which they’ll become highly suggestible. They won’t be faking it – volunteers will be in a real state of heightened focus where they’ll be more open to suggestions.

The result? A captivating and comedic experience for audiences and volunteers of all ages! And don’t worry, participants: even though you’ll be hypnotised, you’ll remember it all. Plus, as a true professional, Mac prioritises fun, ensuring that every recruit is treated with dignity and respect.

The entertainment comes from seeing others in amusing, light-hearted situations, not ridicule.

With over 15 years of performing across the big blue marble on stages, in universities, and at private functions, comedy hypnotist extraordinaire Frankie Mac will craft an unforgettable experience that blends humour, hypnosis, and unparalleled showmanship right here in Pōneke.

Veni, vidi, vici by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



How often do you think about the Roman Empire? This was the question on many people’s lips back in 2023 when a TikTok trend began to take hold. As folks across the world began asking the men in their life how often they thought about the ancient civilisation, they were surprised by their reply: a lot. Since then, the word has taken on another meaning as a slang expression that describes a subject you think about way too much. Here in Wellington, it’s the name of a hit comedy panel show back at The Fringe Bar on the 18th of July by popular demand.

“The idea stems from my love of trivia and finding out about people’s favourite things – whether it be hobbies or hyper fixations, I love discussing and delving deeper into finding this out,” host Keegan Thomas says. “The aim of the game is to have a fun chaotic evening”.

In the new iteration of Thomas’ live panel show, two teams of Wellington-favourite comedy duos will be pitted against each other armed with their own personal Roman Empire. July’s gladiators are improvisation duo Mo & Ralph and award-winning sketch comedy duo Ginge & Minge [pictured].

“These teams know each other, have put their blood, sweat, and tears into shows together, and now will have to not only prove they know their own obsessive subject, but also their other half”, Thomas says, adding that there is a chance for audience members to put their Roman Empires up for discussion as well. “Your weird niche subject you think of way too much is valid. Regardless of what it might be, there is no shame here”.

Close-up

by Alessia Belsito-Riera

A real-life superhero



When I call up professional dancer and illusionist Anthony Street, he answers chirpily that he's currently en route to the warehouse where he's getting organised for his upcoming tour of Aotearoa, which reaches The Opera House on the 20th of July.

"I love touring in New Zealand! It's one of the most beautiful countries I've ever been to."

That means a lot from an internationally renowned performer who has travelled the globe with acclaimed shows like *Celtic Illusion*, *Ballroom Blitz*, and *Lord of the Dance*. His newest endeavour, *ILLUSIONIST ANTHONY STREET*, is a more personal one, where the spotlight falls not just on magic, but on the man behind it.

"It's not just about grand-scale illusions," Street says. "It's about connection. It's about those close-up, intimate moments that feel even more impossible. And it's about inviting the audience right into it, getting people up on stage, making them part of the experience."

Whether it's mind-reading, levitation, vanishing, escapes, or simply watching Street charm a crowd with nothing but a deck of cards, the show will leave audiences of all ages spellbound. I got to have a peek behind the curtain with Street in the lead-up to his Kiwi tour.

I hear there was a specific moment in your life that made you fall in love with magic.

Yeah, at the carnival. I was about eight or 10 years old, and I used to always hang out with my granddad when he would perform. He was a singer, so he was always at markets and carnivals and things. This one particular day at a carnival, I was just looking around and checking the place out when I came across a magician, and it was the first time that I'd ever seen magic being performed. I was hooked straight away. That Christmas I got my first magic set. It just grew and grew and now I tour the world with my own production, which is every magician's dream.

I do share that story in the show. The stories in the show that relate to each trick are true. It's the evolution of where it all began, what inspired me, who helped me achieve these goals, and how I got to where I am. Magicians are professional liars, but I'm not just spinning some tacky story, it's all real. It helps make whatever trick I do a bit more special.

What was it about magic that hooked you in?

When I was a kid, I wanted to be a superhero. Having an ability or a power that no one else has is really exciting. Being a magician kind of gives you that ability, to a degree. Doing something that no one else can do is kind of like having a superpower.

So, I haven't grown out of it. I still love it.

What have been some career highlights?

Just the fact that I actually have a career in magic. That I am continually doing it, and we're not only just doing it in Australia, we're performing on world stages – New Zealand, Hong Kong, America. That to me is a highlight as a whole. There's no particular one moment because every day there's something new and exciting we're doing. The show is constantly evolving and growing and we're expanding. Every day I feel super lucky and thankful that this is my life.

That's such a testament to your dedication to your craft.

Well, not only just me or the craft, it's the commitment of all my crew, artists, performers, and the people who are behind the scenes. I'm just the frontman of the whole product. You strip back the curtain and there's a whole crew of people who are working tirelessly and very passionately who don't get seen, running mad trying to make it all happen. It's all their commitment that makes the shows successful and adds the wow factor for the audience.

On that note, how do you go about creating a high calibre show like this one?

It's a lot of work. The general consensus of an illusion is people assuming it's just putting a girl into a box and it's all easy, and sleight of hand is harder, whereas actually it's the opposite. To do illusions it takes a lot of work with choreography, lighting, music, and the coordination of all the crew backstage. If one person slips up on their cue, it can ruin the whole effect. To make an illusion successfully, everything has to line up perfectly to make it appear seamless and believable for an audience member. Sleight of hand, once you've got the skill, you can perform right under their nose. That's the easy part. Whereas illusion, I've got all these big things happening – it's not easy to make a full human body disappear! There are only so many places it can go. So we have to convince you. It takes lots and lots of hours and days and weeks of rehearsal.

No pressure [laughs].

The pressure never ends! It's constant. Even when you're backstage and a routine is happening, we're all on the edge of our seats hoping that everything goes to plan. Every night is a different show with a different audience, different stage, different lighting. So we're constantly being thrown different challenges while having to make the same effect work every single night.

What kind of tricks can Wellington audiences look forward to?

This show is more participation and the magic happening with them in their hands. There's a few grand illusions as well, but I don't want to give too much away. My favourite trick is a card trick that involves everyone in the audience. It leaves everyone stumped. The small things are what seem to blow everyone's minds – even more than the big things.

What's a phrase that you live by?

You've put me on the spot now! Something like, nothing great is easy work or, if it was easy, everyone would be doing it.



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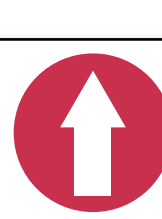
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Overflowing with hope



Stella Clarkson and Joshua Guillemot-Rodgers.

Photo by Ross Brown.

“Artistic risk-taking, cultural connection, and dance that really speaks to the contemporary New Zealand experience” collide in the Royal New Zealand Ballet’s (RNZB) new season, according to artistic director Ty King-Wall. Featuring a historic first-time collaboration with The New Zealand Dance Company (NZDC), *Home, Land & Sea* comes to Wellington’s St James Theatre from the 24th to the 26th of July.

The bold exploration of national identity, connection to place, and our collective future features three groundbreaking works that push boundaries, open minds, and defy expectations of ballet.

At the heart of the season is the world premiere title work *Home, Land & Sea*, choreographed by acclaimed NZDC artistic director Moss Te Ururangi Patterson (Ngāti Tūwharetoa) and scored by Shayne P Carter. The poetic response to the complex history of Aotearoa, evolving national identity, and ongoing search for belonging features six dancers from each company.

Chrysalis, a world premiere by RNZB choreographer-in-residence Shaun James Kelly, explores metamorphosis and personal transformation through the transcendent music of Philip Glass and costumes by Rory William Docherty.

Premiered as part of *Tutus on Tour*, *The Way Alone* by master choreographer Stephen Baynes is a deeply personal response to the music of Tchaikovsky.

Striking a delicate balance between reflection and resilience, connection and culture, *Home, Land & Sea* is overflowing with hope.

Awaken your senses



FLIGHT. Photo by Axis Productions.

Two unassuming shipping containers have taken up residence in the heart of Wellington’s CBD. Inside? Tiny universes, epic adventures, worlds unknown that blur the lines between reality and imagination.

Following a widely successful extended season in Auckland, DARKFIELD settles into Odlins Plaza until the 27th of July. The internationally acclaimed immersive audio experiences from Realscape Productions push the boundaries of sensory storytelling, delivering theatrical shows that have captivated audiences around the world.

The “skin-tingling, breath-quickenning stuff” (*The Stage*) comes to Pōneke in the form of SÉANCE and FLIGHT, two immersive worlds that use utilise 360-degree binaural sound and innovative special effects to challenge the senses and explore the depths of human psychology and perception.

For SÉANCE, the custom-built shipping container’s interior is transformed into a Victorian séance room. It explores the psychology of a group of people, asking that they believe not only what is happening inside the container, but also in what might be conjured up into the room with them.

FLIGHT’s container interior replicates an airline cabin. The unsettling journey in complete darkness explores the Many-Worlds Interpretation of quantum mechanics, taking audiences through two journeys, two worlds, two realities.

Offering deeply intimate experiences, DARKFIELD explores the mysteries of the supernatural and the subconscious, leaving audiences feeling “palpably, certainly, alive” (*Exeunt Magazine*).

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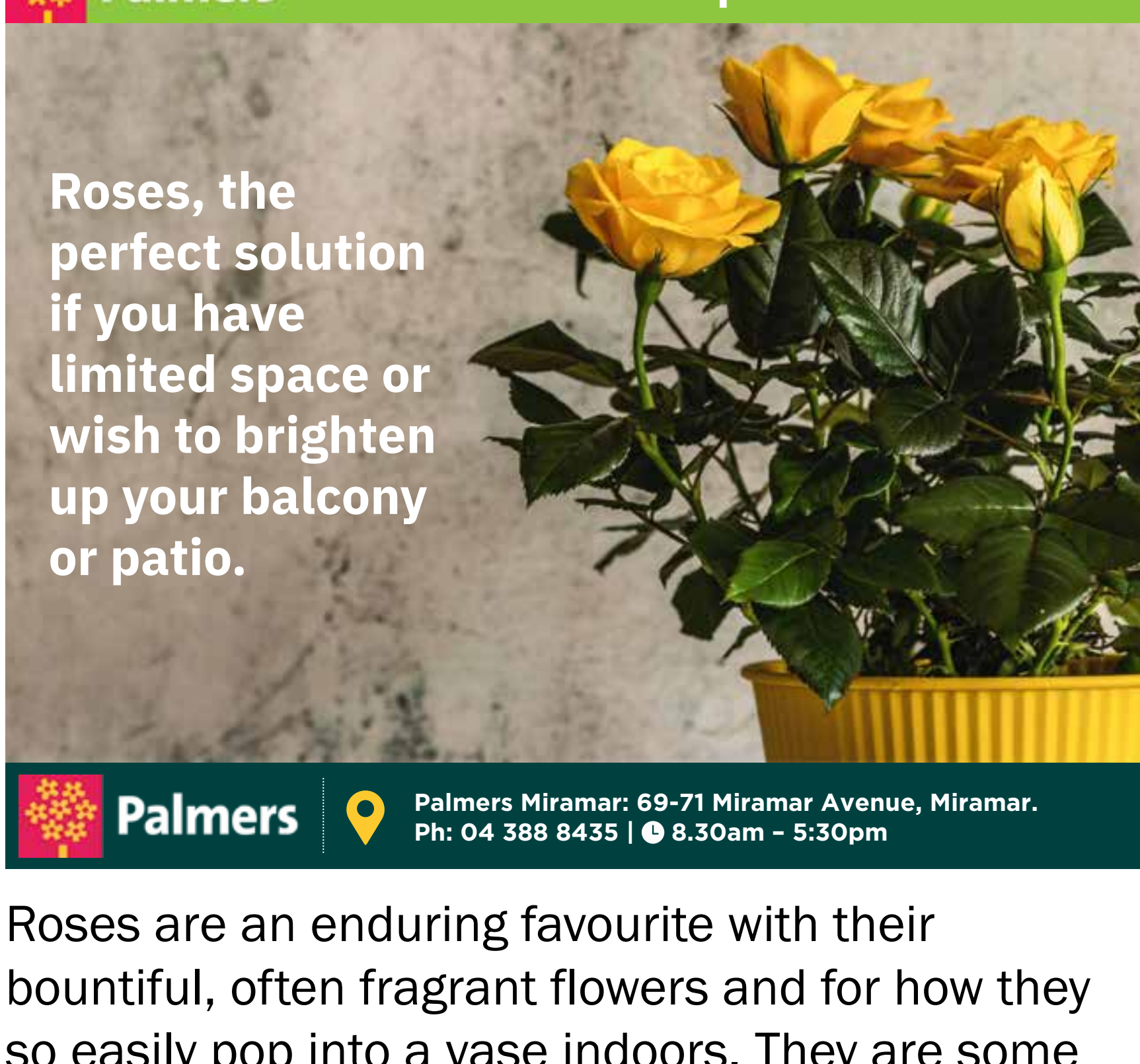
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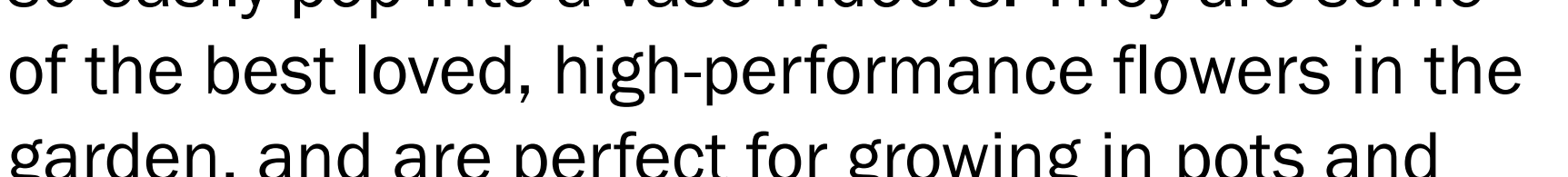


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Roses flower more profusely than almost any other garden plant. The best-performing varieties repeat flower, providing an abundance of colour from spring right through to the very end of summer, with the finale being stunning rose hips, which are both beautiful and a feast for the birds.

By combining roses, perennials, and annuals in your pots and garden beds, you can create a tapestry of different colours and textures. For a calm classic colour combination, white and cream flowers sit perfectly amongst green foliage. If more vibrant colours are your style, then anything goes! Combining roses with different-sized blooms can provide an extra dimension of interest. Some varieties have glorious, many-petalled rosette blooms whilst others have a cluster of flowers atop a multitude of stems.

Fragrances vary greatly, from the classic fruity and floral through to the powerful and heady.

Roses are great survivors, living through fairly extreme conditions. Although happiest in the sunniest spot, some varieties thrive in shade.

We have a rose for everyone be it colour, fragrance, or to fill a corner in a patio or courtyard. Pop into Palmers Miramar for help with your selection.

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Independence and strong community connection live hand in hand at Wainuiomata Masonic Village. Our beautifully designed independent living retirement village has 80 easy-care villas built over the last five years, a vibrant Village Hub, and a thriving community of more than 100 residents.

We're located in the heart of Wainuiomata Valley and a very short walk to Woolworths, Mitre 10, pharmacies, hairdressers, and many takeaways. We're next to a medical centre, opposite a pharmacy and dentist, and beside a park and children's playground. It's a 15-minute drive to Queensgate Shopping Centre and less than half an hour into Wellington.

Quality of life is front of mind at Wainuiomata Masonic Village. The golden years are meant for enjoying passions, hobbies, and time with friends and loved ones, which is why the facilities are thoughtfully designed to cater to the needs of seniors, providing safe and comfortable spaces to relax, socialise, and thrive. From well-maintained common areas to private residences, group activities to cosy corners, every aspect of the village prioritises resident wellbeing.

We're a friendly village community, offering many activities as well as resident-run events and the opportunity to host your own celebrations in our Village Hub. Wainuiomata Masonic Village prides itself on being more than a place to live. It's a home – where meaningful connections are made and memories are cherished.

Call our friendly village manager Esther to come for a visit and find out more at www.masonicvillages.co.nz

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We offer a high quality professional Daycare Programme for people with mild cognitive impairment and related disorders, in a socially stimulating home like environment. Support and guidance is offered to families and carers. Volunteers welcome.

To find out more contact:
Marsden Club, 11 Newcombe Cres, Karori | 476 6719
Chelsea Club, 7 Toru St, Lyall Bay | 387 7207
www.marsdenclub.org.nz

The Marsden and Chelsea Clubs provide accredited day programmes in safe and home-like surroundings for people living at home with mild to moderate cognitive impairment and related conditions. They also provide support and guidance for carers.

The clubs offer care for people living at home who would benefit from one or two regular days out, stimulating company, and tailored activities. Club members flourish supported by professional caregivers and carefully selected volunteers. For most members, attendance is free and funded by Health NZ. Transport can be arranged.

A typical day sees club members picked up from their homes in the morning and driven to their closest club. They are greeted with a home-baked morning tea and a catch-up on news based around the paper. Next are structured activities, including gentle exercise to music, quizzes and crosswords, arts and crafts, listening and singing to music, bowls, and garden walks.

Members eat a home-made lunch and dessert before having an afternoon rest. Around 2pm, they go out for a drive or a visit to the local library before coming back for afternoon tea. Around 4pm, members are driven home.

The Marsden Club has limited vacancies and Chelsea is accepting members onto their waiting list. Referral is via your GP. A morning tea visit to check out the club before or after the referral is welcome. Find out more at www.marsdenclub.org.nz

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Rather than run out of funds, get in touch with financial advisor Maurice Mehlhopt for a cost-free chat discussing a solution. He can help you get to know and understand your options, one of which is to live your life to the fullest by cashing in on a small portion of the equity you have worked hard for many years to build.

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With decades of experience in the field, Maurice specialises in helping retirees achieve financial freedom. With a proven track record and hundreds of happy clients, he'll help you take control of your future during the golden years of your life. Find out more and get in touch at www.retirementfunding.co.nz

Do you remember when The time of your life



Hit us baby one more time with the songs of the 90s at *Cringeworthy*. Performing all the tunes that you really, really want to hear at Circa Theatre from the 9th of August to the 6th of September, this high-octane explosion of 90s nostalgia will have you chasing waterfalls down memory lane.

Following the success of *Cringeworthy* 60s, 70s, and 80s, this new show starring Andrea Sanders, Jared Pallesen, Kali Kopae, Devon Neiman, and Mackenzie Htay pays homage to smash-hit international and Kiwi music in the last decade of the 20th century. Throw it back to bops like *Can't Touch This*, *Weather With You*, *Love Shack*, and *How Bizarre* as the cast weave together witty narratives reflecting the lifestyle, news events, and culture of the time.

A diverse decade chocka with musical gems across all genres, get ready to get jiggy to country, hip-hop, swing revival, boy-band and girl-group chart-toppers, and iconic bangers. On the local scene, Kiwi classics from Crowded House, Dave Dobbyn, The Exponents, Margaret Urlich, Supergroove, True Bliss, Ardijah, Southside of Bombay, and The Chills will round out the track list.

Pair the setlist with snappy dance moves, fly fashion, scintillating vocals, and a generous dollop of cheesy comedy, and in the words of Steven Tyler, you won't want to miss a thing.

Get ready to party like it's 1999 and do the running man in to the time machine to *Cringeworthy: The 90s*.

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Ye Olde Pinball Shoppe features a comfortable lounge environment complete with couches and large screens with live cameras for you to watch your friends play their games and share in their excitement. It has become the go-to hangout spot where aficionados and amateurs of all ages and abilities can hone their skills and connect with likeminded individuals. Tournaments, socials, and training sessions take place regularly, with monthly freeplay nights open to everyone.

Ye Olde Pinball Shoppe can also help you find your favourite machine to bring home, offering white-glove home delivery, setup and support – choose from Dune, Jim Henson's Labyrinth, The Princess Bride, King Kong, Harry Potter, and more. Currently available to play in store are classics like The Addams Family, The Twilight Zone, The Lord of the Rings, and Medieval Madness, as well as modern favourites like Godzilla, Labyrinth, Jurassic Park, Dungeons & Dragons, and so many more.

A harlequin neon dreamscape, a starting point for epic adventures, and the home of endless fun, give into nostalgia and relive the memories at Ye Olde Pinball Shoppe.

A mighty legacy



Zealandia Te Mārā a Tāne never forgets its origins, some 30 years ago now when a band of determined Wellingtonians pushed to turn the city's former water reservoir into a fully fenced ecosanctuary.

Now we have staff at the sanctuary who grew up in the capital hearing and seeing kākā, kākāriki, and more recently tieke/saddleback in reserves – if not in their own backyards. They don't remember when these once abundant manu/birds were absent from our skies and our ngahere/forests.

In fact, these remarkable endemic species were missing for a century, along with tuatara, the prehistoric reptile that has also found sanctuary within the predator-exclusion fence that encompasses Zealandia.

While Zealandia Te Mārā a Tāne is now a celebrated and indeed award-winning destination, but let's time travel back to when the idea of establishing a fenced sanctuary was first mooted. While many in the community saw it as an exciting new approach to urban conservation, it wasn't universally embraced. There are always sceptics who question spending on visionary projects, and to be fair, the world-first fence needed a substantial investment from council and fundraising. Many of those who enjoyed biking or walking around the old reservoir felt aggrieved. Undeterred, in another world-leading effort, 13 species of introduced predators – possums, rats, and weasels through to hedgehogs and feral goats – were removed from the valley. Once species started to be brought back to Wellington after that long absence, including kiwi pukupuku/little spotted kiwi, kākā, and tuatara, more people started to understand and sign up for the fledgling ecosanctuary.

Zealandia relies on the generosity of its supporters: our band of around 550 volunteers, our 15,000 loyal members, and our many generous donors and those who leave us bequests. Zealandia Te Mārā a Tāne remains a shining example of community spirit. We have a 500-year vision but already after its first quarter of a century, it has left a mighty legacy.

For ways you can help and to leave your legacy on our journey, please visit

donate.visitzealandia.com



**Regeneration
for generations**

Keriū. Photo by T M Davidson.

Leave a legacy towards our 500-year journey of restoration. A gift for those who will sit in the shade and bathe in birdsong, long after we're gone.

Get in touch today
donate@visitzealandia.com

ZEALANDIA
TE MĀRĀ A TĀNE

Do you remember when Bliss is guaranteed



We cater for groups looking for a retreat, family event, study group, girls getaways | We are private and conveniently located

309 Middle Road, Havelock North, Hawke's Bay | Phone: 06 877 5656

Ben Mob: 027 445 9297 | Rae Mob: 027 292 6750

Email: info@arapatalodge.co.nz | www.arapata.co.nz/ngamoe-lodge

Positioned within the Arapata Estate, about three kilometres from Havelock North and 25 minutes from Napier airport, the sophisticated Ngamoe Lodge is the perfect getaway to experience the serenity and beauty of the natural landscape of Hawke's Bay.

Ngamoe Lodge offers the latest in comfort and amenities combined with a contemporary design.

With four bedrooms, each with access to an ensuite – two of the king beds can be split for twin occupancy – it provides space for socialising and privacy amongst families or groups of friends or coworkers.

A fully equipped kitchen with open gas hobs, a complete laundry area, a veranda with seating overlooking a rural vista with views across the plains, and a private courtyard at the rear for outdoor dining and barbecues make the lodge a special destination.

Elegant and sophisticated, on the first morning of your stay, breakfast provisions will be provided, ensuring you wake up with a smile. Other extra touches include Bluetooth speakers connected throughout the living areas, Sky TV, and WiFi at no extra charge.

Ngamoe Lodge also has airy living spaces and expansive lawns ideal for small functions, private dinners, wine tastings, all-day meetings, and small celebrations. Up to 40 guests can comfortably enjoy the lodge. Onsite catering is available with menus tailored to allergies, needs, and tastes.

Plenty of activities, eateries, wineries, towns, and picturesque hotspots are within easy reach, but you may be hard-pressed to leave Ngamoe Lodge, a slice of heaven on Earth.

Settle into paradise



ARAPATA
~
BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATION HAWKE'S BAY

Just a three minute drive from the Havelock North village centre

We cater for groups looking for a retreat, family event, study group, girls getaways | We are private and conveniently located

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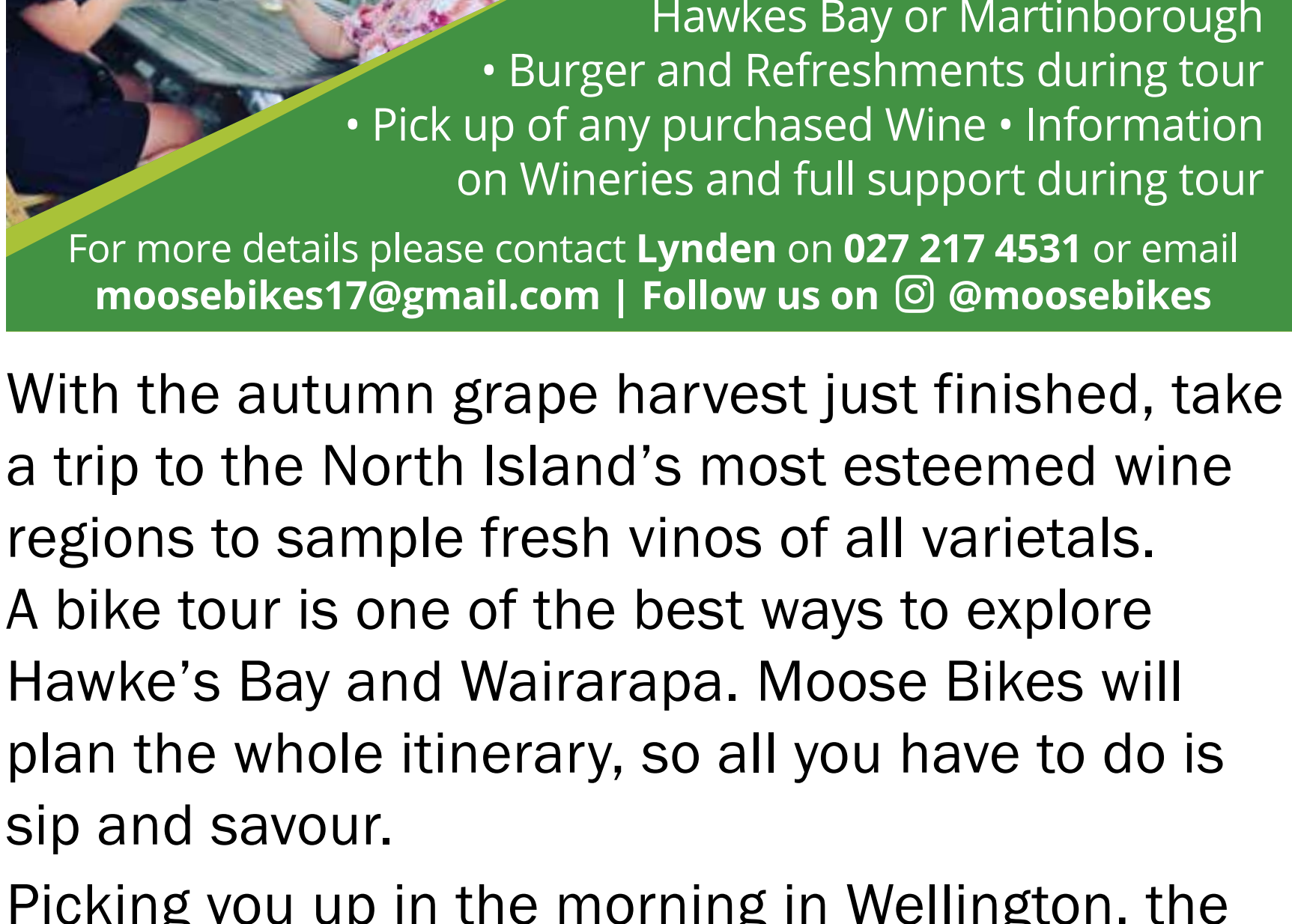
Retreat to your own private corner of New Zealand and enjoy the serenity and tranquillity of Arapata Lodge. Perfect for large friend groups, family holidays, workshops, work functions, or gal-pal getaways, this breathtakingly beautiful location will make any experience special. Nestled into the lush rolling hills of Hawke's Bay in the Arapata Estate, you'll be perfectly positioned to experience the best of the region's wineries, eateries, activities, attractions, and centres... if you can bring yourself to leave!

As tasteful as it is restful, Arapata Lodge is blessed with both character and style, plus contemporary amenities and furnishings guaranteeing a luxurious stay. Three king bedrooms – one with an ensuite – plus a fourth with ensuite above the barn means this accommodation can sleep up to eight guests.

The main living area is ideal for socialising, featuring a comfortable sitting room framed by an open fire. The kitchen is fully equipped with everything you need for a weekend spent enjoying the company of loved ones, while the sprawling front deck and intimate rear deck are ideal for evening barbecues. Plus, guests have access to a full laundry, Sky TV, and unlimited WiFi, not to mention exquisite views you could get lost in for hours.

Relax in the quiet, peaceful surrounds and listen to the birdsong, play pétanque, or chill under the grapevine pergola. When night falls, soak your troubles away in the outside bath on the rear deck, a blanket of stars twinkling overhead.

Cycle, sip, savour



HAWKES BAY & MARTINBOROUGH

WINE TOURS

GREAT FOR: • Hens Parties • Stag Parties

• Staff Team Building • End of Year Function

TOURS INCLUDE: • Pick up and drop off from Palmerston North and Wellington • Drop off with bikes in Hawkes Bay or Martinborough

• Burger and Refreshments during tour

• Pick up of any purchased Wine • Information on Wineries and full support during tour

For more details please contact **Lynden** on **027 217 4531** or email moosebikes17@gmail.com | Follow us on @ [@moosebikes](https://www.instagram.com/moosebikes)

With the autumn grape harvest just finished, take a trip to the North Island's most esteemed wine regions to sample fresh vinos of all varietals. A bike tour is one of the best ways to explore Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa. Moose Bikes will plan the whole itinerary, so all you have to do is sip and savour.

Picking you up in the morning in Wellington, the Moose Bikes team will drive you to either of these two beautiful regions. Scenic and smooth, you'll even be able to have a tippie (or two) on the van ride there.

Once arrived at your chose destination, you'll saddle up on the provided bikes, water bottle and winery map in tow. You and your crew of six to 18 people will be able to visit three to four cellar doors before stopping for barbecue-cooked burgers and nibbles come lunchtime. After fuelling up, get back behind the handlebars for another couple of pit stops.

Traversing five to six kilometres of terrain, it's up to you how many wineries you visit. If you like one in particular, you're welcome to stay. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to sample locally brewed craft beers and ciders, gin, and even olive oil.

Your Moose Bikes guide will follow in the van all day, so if you're done with cycling, you can catch a ride to the next location. Or you can simply sign up for the van tour. Plan your next tippie trip with Lynden at moosebikes17@gmail.com

Find your style



Local Living

Fashion, footwear and accessories - From the designer range Lemon Tree Design to everyday labels such as Elm, Eb & Ive and Betty Basics

Visit us in store or shop online!

www.locallivingwairoa.co.nz

148 Marine Parade, Wairoa

Do you remember the last time you stepped into a chic local boutique that had everything you needed and wanted, plus a dedicated and interested shop attendant who provided great service? It might feel like a thing of the past, but you can find all this and more at Local Living.

Nestled in the heart of Wairoa, Hawke's Bay, Local Living is a boutique clothing and footwear store that's all about bringing style, comfort, and quality together. Owner Diana is passionate about helping customers find pieces that they love and that will make them feel amazing each time they put them on. She takes her time with each customer to ensure she can help them find exactly what they're looking for, whether she's known them for years or has just met them for the first time.

From comfy jeans and cosy jumpers to statement skirts, dresses, footwear, and accessories, Local Living's kaupapa is to help people feel confident and look great. Diana is always bringing in new items, sourcing her products from some of the best and most stylish Kiwi and international brands such as Lemon Tree Design, Moana Road, Skechers, Elm, Silent Theory, and so many more.

And the best part? You don't have to be in Wairoa to shop! Local Living has expanded to offer stock online. Now, wherever you are in Aotearoa, you can enjoy the same handpicked styles and thoughtful service. Your next favourite outfit is just a click away at www.locallivingwairoa.co.nz

Back to contents



Family – retirement

Best of both worlds



Retire your way in the city you love at Enliven's Huntleigh Retirement Apartments. Located in the heart of Karori, residents get the best of both worlds at this well-connected village.

Just a short bus ride from the city centre and the bush, Huntleigh residents can enjoy everything wonderful Wellington has to offer while still having the luxury of living in a small community. Karori's town centre has everything you may want, including grocery stores, a library, a community centre, restaurants, shops, hairdressers, eateries, and more, which means if you don't feel like venturing into the city, you can just walk into town.

As for Huntleigh Retirement Apartments, the newly renovated one-bedroom options are spacious, bright and light, warm, and thoughtfully decorated in a sleek, modern style. All residents have access to the community facility, which includes a large lounge and function room, a dining room with small kitchen, and a library. The grounds, rates, security, and more are all taken care of within your weekly fee so you can focus on enjoying your life.

Community is an important part of life at Huntleigh. Residents will have plenty of opportunities to socialise and are encouraged to get involved, pick up new hobbies, and pursue their passions. Furthermore, as your needs change, so can your care, with Huntleigh Home situated right next door you can always have peace of mind about being looked after.

By choosing Huntleigh Retirement Apartments, you don't have to compromise on independence or security.

Vibrant community living in the heart of Karori

Price from \$525,000

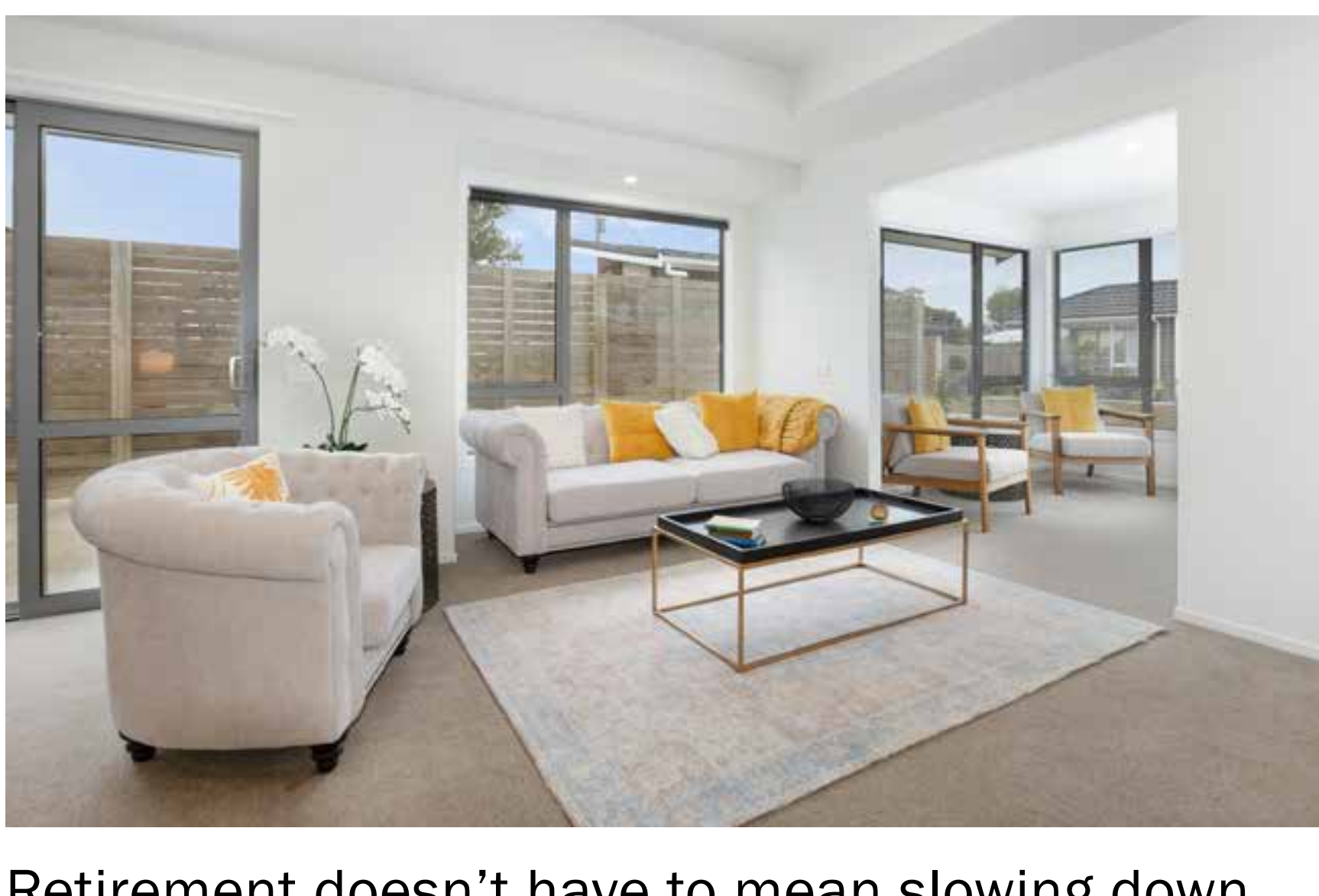
Enliven's Huntleigh Retirement Apartments in Karori, Wellington

- Newly refurbished 1 bedroom apartments
- Modern kitchen, bathroom & double glazing
- As your needs change, so can the support we provide as Huntleigh Home is right next door

AVAILABLE NOW

Contact Anna to arrange a viewing on **04 464 2020**
Visit: enlivencentral.org.nz

Life your way



Retirement doesn't have to mean slowing down – it means having more time to do the things you love and live life how you want. Enliven's Kandahar Retirement Village offers a boutique lifestyle to its residents, complete with a vibrant community, access to nature, proximity to bustling towns, and all the comforts of an assisted living environment.

Brand-new two-bedroom villas are now available in Kandahar Retirement Village. Located in the beautiful Lansdowne suburb of Masterton, this manicured and beautifully crafted extension in an established community is due to be completed at the end of August 2025. The villas are spacious, modern, sunny, and bright, offering all the small luxuries and amenities that make life comfortable and carefree. Plus, with all the gardening, rates, security, and other features taken care of, residents don't have to worry about a thing except enjoying life to the fullest.

Residents will have access to a vibrant community centre where they can enjoy socialising, clubs, events, and outings with their community. Picking up new or old hobbies is encouraged, and Masterton's centre is just a short drive away, meaning residents have access to everything the bustling town has to offer.

What's more, as needs change, so too can the care Enliven provides thanks to the neighbouring Kandahar Home and Kandahar Court giving preferential entrance to Kandahar Retirement Village residents.

Choose a boutique lifestyle where you know your neighbours and have access to everything you love at Kandahar Retirement Village.

Retire in the sunny Wairarapa

Enliven's Kandahar Village boosts a vibrant community with lots happening

Enliven's Kandahar Village in beautiful Lansdowne, Masterton

- Close to everything like vineyards, cafes, bush walks, bike tracks & shops – live your lifestyle while knowing that everything is taken care of
- As your needs change, so too can the care we provide with Kandahar Home and Kandahar Court just around the corner
- Spacious two-bedroom villas available now featuring modern kitchens, bath rooms and open plan living

Call Sharon | On **06 370 0662** to view

Family – retirement

Making the right choice for 2025



Wakefield Homestead aims to make a positive difference in people's lives. A family working with families, this beautiful rest home is nestled into Wakefield Village, just a 20-minute drive from the bustling and creative hub of Nelson. Welcoming, comfortable, safe, well connected, community minded, and caring, Wakefield Homestead is a lovely place to call home.

There are 23 beds at Wakefield Homestead, split between single and couples' rooms, with vacancies opening soon. Catering to a wide range of age groups, Wakefield offers respite, palliative, and primary health funded short-term care, plus day stays and carer support. The team comprises three registered nurses, healthcare assistants, an activities coordinator, a physiotherapist, social worker, podiatrist, dietician, spiritual advisor, kaumatua, hairdresser, and a pool of kind volunteers.

Residents living at Wakefield Homestead are encouraged to make themselves at home. The team suggests bringing personal furniture and special items to decorate the space, and sometimes even a pet can be brought along. Meals are homecooked, healthy, and delicious. There are shared lounges for socialising, shops around the corner, a beautiful park next door, and a busy activities and social calendar. Residents can go on group outings every week, get involved in a hobby, learn new skills, play music, dance, participate in games, and so much more.

Wakefield Homestead truly feels like home.

A caring gift



Drafting up a current will may not be at the top of your priority list, but it's paramount that everyone has one that is up to date. Not only will it make sorting out your affairs easier on your loved ones, it will also make it less expensive. What's more, it's your last chance to make a lasting contribution and cement your legacy.

When working on an updated will, consider a bequest to Mary Potter Hospice. Your gift will help people with life-limiting illnesses live full, comfortable, and dignified lives. Even a small contribution will help provide end-of-life care, including grief and bereavement support. The donations enable the hospice to focus on patients' quality of life, and to support their loved ones too. In fact, one in seven Mary Potter Hospice patients wouldn't have received care had it not been for someone making a bequest in their will.

"It costs around \$16 million a year to provide Mary Potter Hospice's services to our patients and their family," chief executive Tony Paine says, adding that while the government supports half of this, the rest is made up through the generosity of others.

"The donations we receive help us not just to support our patients, but to provide great care to their family as well."

Anyone who bequeaths a gift to Mary Potter Hospice in their will becomes a member of the Camellia Heritage Club, a very special group of valued supporters. Any little bit helps – find out more at www.marypotter.org.nz

ENRICH
FINANCIAL

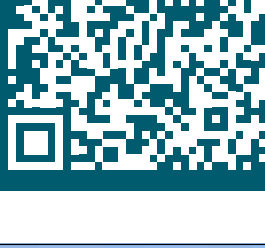
Investment Advice
KiwiSaver Advice
Wealth Management
Enrich Your Future Today

enrich.financial

A final gift that speaks from the heart

Include a gift in your Will to Mary Potter Hospice.

Create a lasting tribute to honour the memory of your loved one while ensuring free care for generations to come.



Scan me to do your free online Will, or for more info phone 04 381 0163, email bequests@marypotter.org.nz, or visit marypotter.org.nz/bequests



Wakefield Homestead

Make 2025 the year to look after you

Our aim is to make a positive difference in people's lives.

- Supported living
- Day and social programmes
- Registered nurses on site
- Physio

We want this to feel like home and encourage you to bring your own furniture and special items.

10a Edward Street, Wakefield
Phone 03 541 8995 | Mobile 027 440 9083

Family – retirement – travel

A sanctuary for giants



Fly south to the Otago Peninsula this winter. As one of Aotearoa's most diverse and abundant wildlife hotspots, here you can encounter albatross and delve deep underground to uncover some interesting human history as well.

The Royal Albatross Centre gives visitors viewing access to the world's only mainland breeding colony of northern royal albatross. Located at Taiaroa Head Nature Reserve, albatrosses find a sanctuary to raise their young.

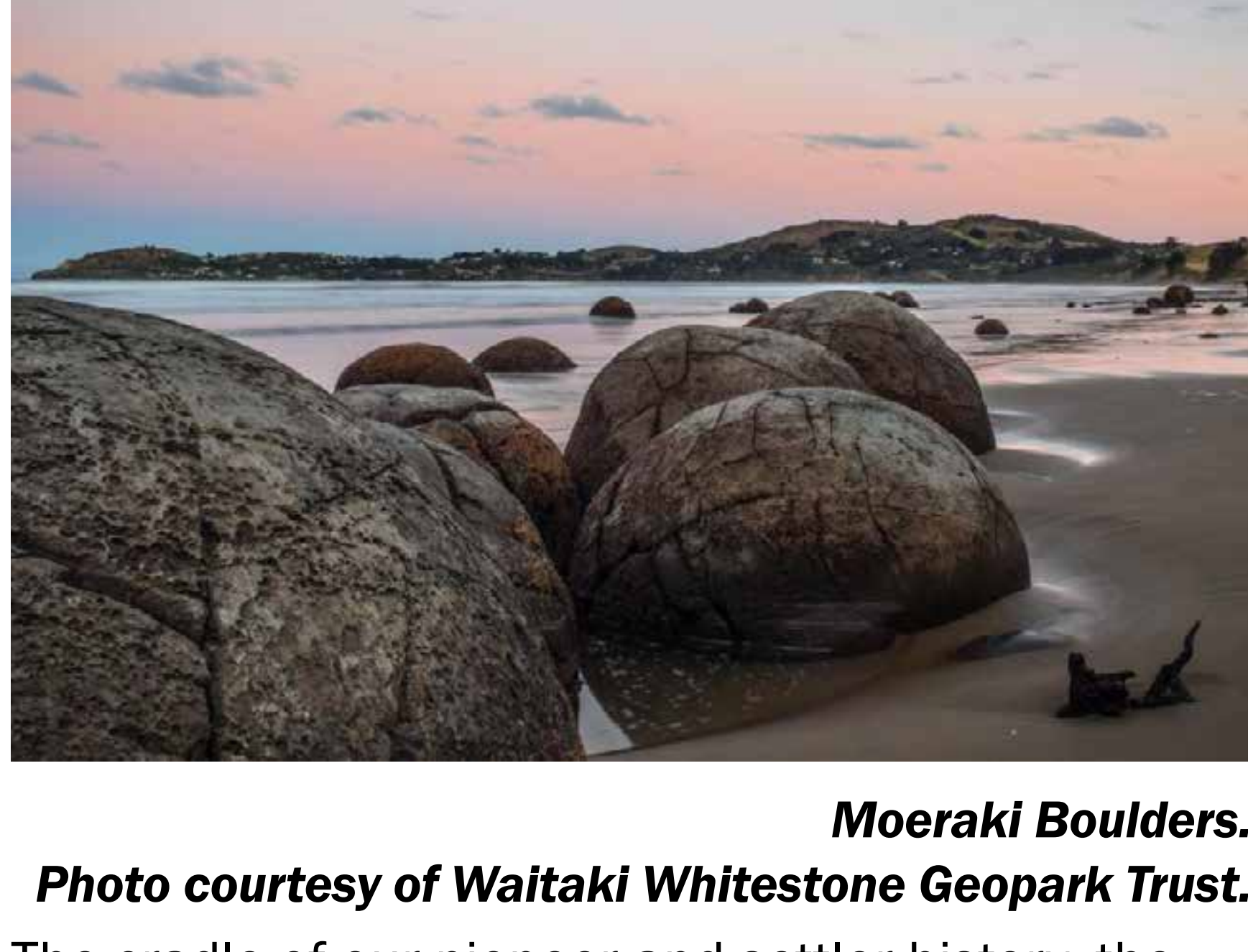
Royal albatrosses, toroa, are one of the biggest sea birds. A graceful giant, their wingspan exceeds three metres. Their breeding season takes an entire year, so there is always something to see at the colony. Though they fly an estimated 19,000 kilometres per year and spend over 85 percent of their life out at sea, the species is endemic to New Zealand.

At the Royal Albatross Centre, visitors can view the colony from the observatory and learn all about them on guided tours. Your guide will take you through the birds' fascinating history before leading you on a short walk uphill to the observatory.

Hidden underneath the colony is a military fort established in the 1880s in response to fear of Russian invasion. Walk through the tunnels to see the Armstrong Disappearing Gun and learn about the headland's human history.

What's more, members of Otago Peninsula Trust and SuperGold Cardholders can have 50 percent off select activities, including Unique Taiaroa Tours or Albatross Classic Tours.

Hopping through history



Moeraki Boulders.

Photo courtesy of Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust.

The cradle of our pioneer and settler history, the South Island's natural and cultural landscape is unmatched. From the arrival of the first inhabitants to more recent migrations, settlements have cropped up along rivers and coastlines, in mountains and forests, between valleys and gorges as people grew increasingly enchanted by the beautiful landscape.

Central Otago is known for its gold mining history. Visitors can learn all about the fascinating albeit brutal history of the pioneers and prospectors in centres like Clyde and Alexandra. Along Central Otago's Goldfield Heritage Trail, visitors can still pan for the precious metal amongst the historic miners' trails, stone cottages, and relics of mine machinery.

The Waitaki District is a geological wonderland. Formed under an ancient sea on the remains of prehistoric creatures, Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark features magnificent geological and geomorphological elements that are an integral part of the district's identity. The limestone built architecturally renowned Ōamaru, valuable fossils have emerged, and caves served as homes for its first peoples Kāi Tahu Whānui, the area's kaitiaki.

There are heaps of quaint towns to visit that hold secrets to all sorts of quirky histories. Geraldine for example is home to the Vintage Machinery & Car Museum. One of the finest in the Southern Hemisphere, this hotspot is chocka with unique vehicles and apparatuses that can't be found anywhere else.

**Visit the only
mainland breeding
colony of Northern
Royal Albatross!**

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Taiaroa and
its fully restored
Armstrong Disappearing
Gun from 1886**

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FORT TAIAROA
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Mining for gold was reliant on water power from water races high in the hillsides overlooking the site with numerous sluice guns carving out vast areas of the hillside.

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Family – retirement – travel

Like riding a bike



Photo by Will Nelson.

You never forget how to ride a bike. Whether you've been a regular cyclist your whole life or haven't hopped behind the handlebars since school, getting back out there is like... well, riding a bike!

As a low-impact, low-stress form of exercise, cycling has numerous benefits for seniors, with studies showing that it can boost mental, physical, and cardiovascular health, improve the immune system, help with weight loss, improve memory and reduce symptoms of Alzheimer's, improve joint health and balance, and slow down the ageing process. It's also a great way to socialise while staying active and having fun in the great outdoors.

Aotearoa is a biker's paradise, with endless tracks and trails skirting breathtaking views. It's a great way to explore any environment from the bush to the beach, the city to the countryside. One of New Zealand's most popular areas for cycling is picturesque Central Otago, which is home to famous trails like the Otago Central Rail Trail, Clutha Gold Trail, Lake Dunstan Trail, and Roxburgh Gorge Trail.

Bike It Now! has a range of self-guided tour options to suit all levels, abilities, timeframes, and interests. Tours include short single-day trips, two-day adventures, three to five-day excursions, and six to 10-day experiences ranging from Grade 1 all the way up to Grade 3, depending on the course. Get cycling again with Bike It Now!

Life in luxury



Retirement means having the time to enjoy life to the fullest, and what better way to seize each day than by waking up in front of a brand-new picturesque Kiwi view each morning? With a motorhome, you can explore our beautiful country from tip to toe, living the life you want with each new dawn.

Life on the road doesn't have to be rough. In fact, with a bespoke Hobson motorhome, you don't have to compromise on any of the amenities or small luxuries you have at home. A Hobson motorhome is designed with you front of mind, which is why every client is encouraged to be intimately involved in the design process. From custom units to handcrafted cabinetry, unique paint and fixtures to window placement, every tiny detail of a Hobson motorhome reflects your needs and preferences.

With years of experience in the industry, and an excellent reputation both in Aotearoa and Australia, the team have refined their manufacturing and finishing techniques. This helps them deliver a product that is tailor-made to your specifications and constructed from the highest-quality materials.

With aesthetically appealing interiors and elegant design curves, each standard motorhome is designed to be your home away from home. Features include slide-out sides, satellite television, air conditioning, and state-of-the-art sound systems, plus any other details you desire.

Enjoy your evenings and mornings perched in front of beautiful Aotearoa views from the comfort of a Hobson motorhome.

OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL
ROXBURGH GORGE
CLUTHA GOLD TRAIL
THE LAKE DUNSTAN TRAIL

"Top notch and absolutely awesome" – Dean and Louise

Roxburgh Gorge Trail, Photo by Will Nelson.



Bike It Now!
Central Otago

BOOKING NOW FOR 2025/2026!
It is essential to book early to avoid disappointment.
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for winter deals!




Lake Dunstan Trail, Photo by Will Nelson.




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Family – retirement

Smooth sailing



For legal services from Wellingtonians, for Wellingtonians, Sievwrights Law is the first port of call. The experienced local team have cultivated a reputation for excellence and are committed to helping their community with all personal, commercial, and property-related legal needs. When it comes to wills, power of attorney (POA), and elder law, Sievwrights can help you get your affairs in order. POA grants someone the authority to act on your behalf legally, financially, and personally when you are unable to, while a will outlines how your assets should be handled after your passing, guaranteeing your wishes are followed even when you're not here. It's crucial to sort these matters before they're needed to ensure everyone is on the same page and that proceedings run smoothly.

The team take a tailored approach with each client. Their top priority is ensuring you achieve your goals and will work tirelessly to exceed your expectations. With a deep understanding of the New Zealand legal system, they prioritise communication and listening to your specific needs and concerns so they can help you achieve the desired result.

Siewwrights Law can guide you through the complexities of the legal system, providing peace of mind and helping you understand all the technical details so that you feel in control of your interests. Find out more or get in touch at www.siewwrights.co.nz or call us.

A big, beautiful world



From Tawa to Miramar, Wellington City Libraries provide an educational and recreational space for all ages. Books, magazines, and more can take you to faraway worlds or help you discover the magic of home, but there is more than reading to do at your local library.

Regularly scheduled events across the city's libraries offer fun activities for little and big Kiwis alike, with a busy calendar that includes film screenings, story time, book clubs, English language classes, colouring-in sessions, knitting circles, LEGO® play time, and so much more. There are also special events planned into each month's busy calendar.

Youth Night on the 19th of July and 16th of August at Te Māhanga Karori Library is open to teens 14 and over who are keen on gaming, books, making music, watching movies, eating pizza, and generally just hanging out with like-minded rangatahi.

At Ngā Puna Waioira Newtown Library on the 31st of July, catch Queer Histories of Pōneke, an event that celebrates our local Rainbow community with a discussion from Will Hansen (Kawe Mahara Queer Archives Aotearoa), Kerry Pollock (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga), and Gareth Watkins (PrideNZ.com).

Right now, Wellington City Libraries is hosting a competition to design a new library card to mark the occasion of Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library opening in 2026 until the 20th of July. Submit your entry to any branch for a chance to see your design on thousands of Wellingtonians' library cards!



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is now incorporated with Sievwrights Law

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John Porter



Beverley Roche



Karen McIlwee

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• Enduring powers of attorney • Relationship property advice and agreements • Sale and purchase of properties

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CARE, COMMUNITY, AND CONNECTION
Acacia Cove, a country-style village situated on the beautiful Wattle Downs Peninsula has 31 weekly activities

For those who appreciate the tranquility of an estuary setting Acacia Cove has it all, as well as its own restaurant, heated indoor pool, library, bowling green and gym.

Whether you choose to live in a villa or one of our luxurious apartments, you'll have the security of a 24 hour, fully monitored emergency call system built in.

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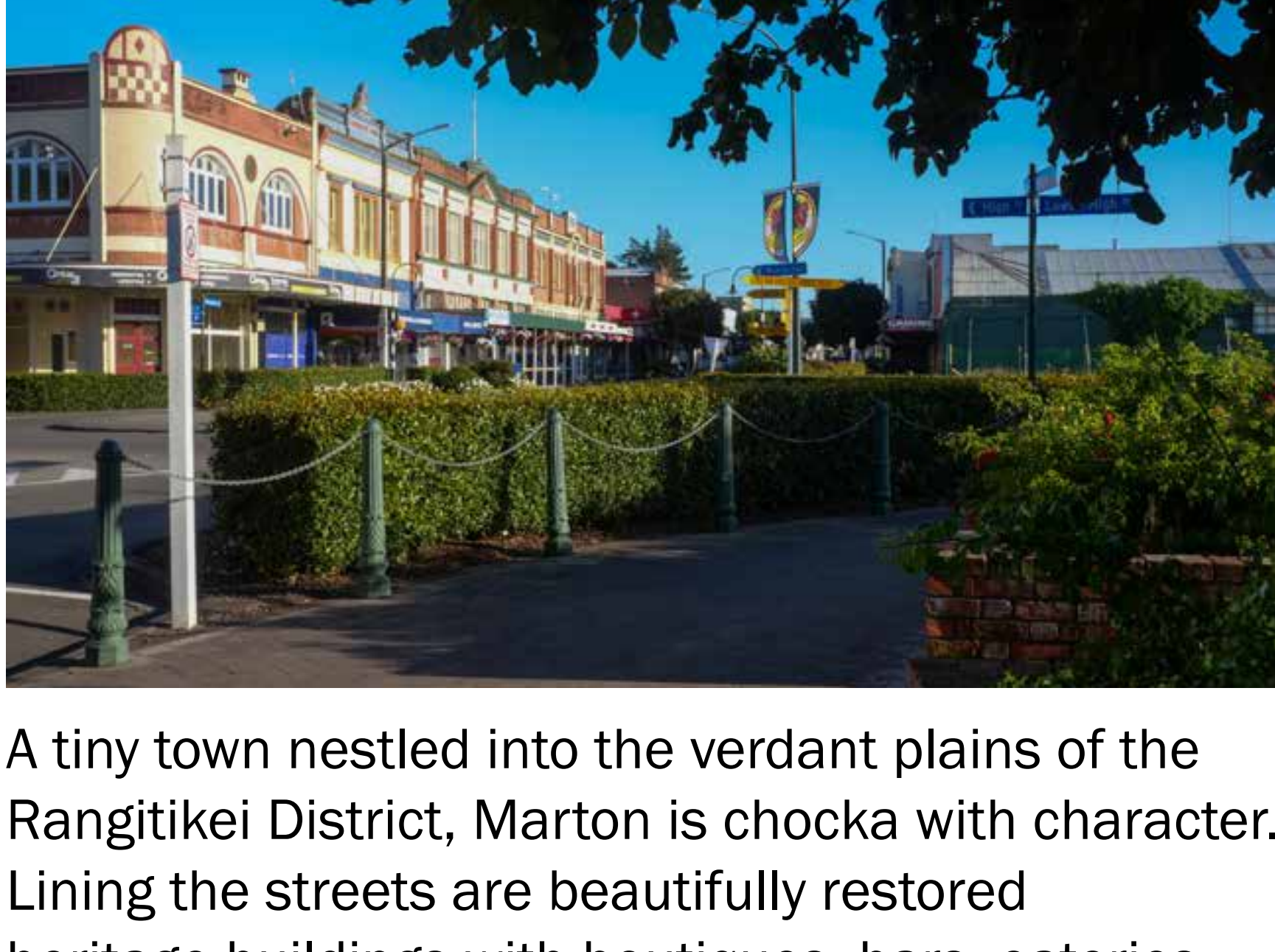
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Family – winter wonderland

Small but mighty



A tiny town nestled into the verdant plains of the Rangitikei District, Marton is chocka with character. Lining the streets are beautifully restored heritage buildings with boutiques, bars, eateries, bookshops, and cafés tucked inside. In fact, a stroll down the main street is rather picturesque with its bricked walkway and flowering greenery.

There is plenty to do nearby if you're willing to hop in the car. Framed by the distant mountain range, Dudding Lake is tranquil and serene, especially as the sun drops below the horizon. Perfect for swimming in the warmer months, the fishing is good all year round. Sir James Wilson Memorial Park is within walking distance from the centre of town and is tailor-made for afternoon ambles and morning picnics. Luckily, Marton is the central hub for many nearby farms, so fresh produce is never hard to find.

Cosy, quaint, and cute as a button, stop off in Marton for a Rangitikei treat.

Snowy escape



The snowy season is finally here! Slopes dusted in white, picturesque chalets, and plenty of spots for après ski make Ruapehu the perfect winter wonderland.

Mount Ruapehu enjoys over 1000 hectares of rideable terrain across several ski fields. There are convenient accommodation options nearby as well as shuttles and gear rentals. Whether you're an absolute beginner or a seasoned professional, you'll get a world-class experience.

Ruapehu is great for families beyond the fields too. Go on hikes, walks, or bike rides to soak in the natural beauty. From forests to mountains, river gorges to high deserts, the possibilities for adventure are endless. Hit the links, go on a horse trek, and try your luck fishing.

This picturesque district has heaps of towns to explore. Ohakune is the gateway to Tongariro National Park and has a fabulous park for tamariki. Raetihi, National Park Village, and Whakapapa are ideal bases for snow seekers. Don't forget Taumarunui, Waiouru, Ōhura, and Ōwhango!

Wonderful winter



Tūrangi is often considered a gateway to Tongariro National Park. Nestled on the plains below the Kaimanawa Ranges, it's the perfect base to access everything that winter has to offer and get in touch with nature. The park is the North Island's hotspot when it comes to snowy activities, with several ski fields just a hop, skip, and a jump from Tūrangi. Another nearby drawcard is the Tongariro National Trout Centre, perfect for kids and adults alike.

You'll catch more than just fish here – bring home a boatload of memories as well!

Bike or walk the Tongariro River Trail, which is beautiful in all seasons. White water rafting is still available this time of year as well – so long as you aren't worried about getting soaked! If you're in the area for romance, stroll along the Tokaanu Historic Wharf or Tokaanu Thermal Walk for breathtaking vistas before jumping into the Tokaanu Thermal Pools. The private, natural mineral pools are the perfect place to unwind in therapeutic waters after a long day of fun.



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Te Ope Whakaora



WINTER SHATTERS LIVES

Winter is perhaps the toughest time of year for struggling Kiwis.

The high cost of rentals, extra heating bills and needing to put food on the table just adds to their constant financial and emotional pressures. When the bills keep coming, something must break.

Winter Shatters Lives.

The Salvation Army's wraparound services ensure that lives are not shattered by the cold realities of winter.



Please donate now, for Kiwi families in need this winter.
SalvationArmy.org.nz/Winter or **call 0800 53 00 00**

Winter shatters lives



Winter can be the toughest time of year for struggling Kiwis. With the cost-of-living crisis making a huge impact, New Zealand families are already stressed about making ends meet. For them, the colder weather is devastating. Extra heating, warm clothes, and hot meals mean the bills just keep coming, and for many, it's money they simply don't have. The extra expenses during winter just add to the financial struggles and emotional pressures.

That's what John* and Jess* faced on their challenging journey of recovery from addiction in the biting cold of winter. For them, trying to keep warm on extremely limited financial support was an ongoing battle. "Heating was a luxury we could not afford," John says bluntly.

That's the situation facing thousands of families this winter, but The Salvation Army can help families rebuild with comprehensive wraparound care that provides services to ensure that lives are not shattered by the cold realities of winter. "Those services were a game changer," Jess says.

With families struggling to cope with increased costs across all areas, practical help is urgently needed as winter continues to hit hard. As always, The Salvation Army is there to provide a helping hand.

Donations make a life-changing difference by helping to provide food, warm clothing, blankets, budgeting advice, counselling, or emotional support to those in need. Please help support Kiwi families in need this winter at www.salvationarmy.org.nz/winter

*Names have been changed to protect privacy

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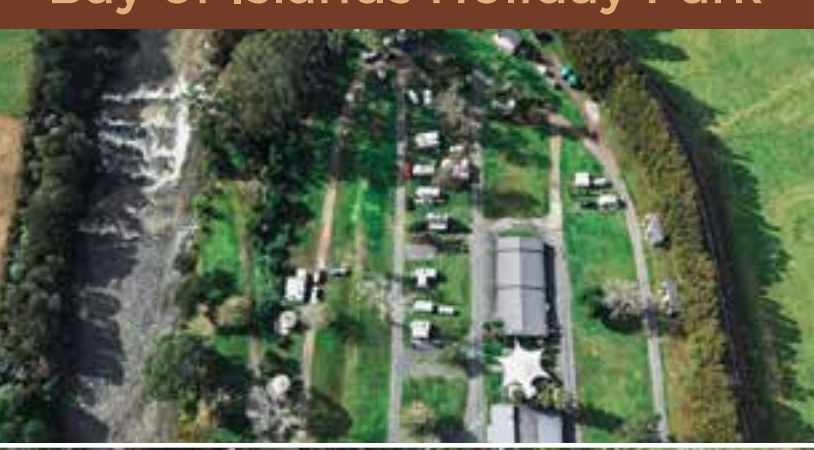
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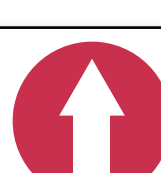
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by Alessia Belsito-Riera

Harnessed, harvested, honoured



Sugar Plum Fairy.

Artist William Franco pushes the boundaries of traditional sugar sculpture, working with a common material in new ways while staying connected to his Indigenous culture.

At Toi Pōneke Arts Centre, longstanding creative With Lime collaborators Franco and Miki Seifert present the explorative gallery experience *Azúcar / Sugar* until the 8th of August. I talked to Seifert about the exhibition, which comprises sugar sculptures, videos, and digital art to examine the connection between sugar, colonisation, global trade, and climate change.

What inspired the exhibition?

This installation started with a question. A friend asked Willie why he used sugar to make his decorative skulls for Día de Muertos/Day of the Dead. Years ago, Willie had travelled through Mexico and learned the traditional method for making sugar skulls, but he had never stopped to question why they were made from sugar.

This led us to an exploration of how sugar has shaped our world with a special focus on the role it played in colonisation and the development of global trade. We traced sugar’s journey from a luxury spice to a global commodity, revealing its central role in building international trade networks and economic systems that defined the modern era.

We wanted the installation to recognise how this expansion affected Indigenous communities, whose traditional ways of life were often disrupted as land was converted for sugar cultivation. Many lost access to ancestral territories and saw their cultural practices change as colonial systems took hold. We also wanted to make connections between sugar’s environmental impact and present-day environmental crises. Colonisation and large-scale sugar production altered entire ecosystems, clearing forests and changing local water systems. These environmental changes, along with the health impacts of increased sugar consumption, continue to affect communities today.

What do you hope visitors take away from the exhibition?

We hope visitors leave with a deeper understanding of this fundamental shift in how humans relate to the natural world. When you see a sugar skull at a Day of the Dead celebration, we want you to recognise that it’s not just a beautiful cultural tradition – it’s part of a much larger story about how different cultures view the relationship between people and the environment.

Our goal is to help audiences understand how sugar production became a symbol of this transformation. Indigenous communities often saw land, water, plants, animals, and humans as interconnected living spirits. The colonial approach treated these same elements as separate resources to be extracted and converted into wealth.

We’d like people to think about how this shift affected not just the physical landscape, but entire ways of understanding and living with the natural world. Many Indigenous communities lost not only their ancestral territories, but also their traditional relationships with the environment.

Most importantly, we want visitors to leave questioning how we might reconnect with more sustainable ways of seeing our relationship with the natural world. By understanding how sugar’s story reflects this broader transformation, we can better appreciate and consider what it might mean to treat the environment as a living entity rather than just a source of profit.

Creating with clay



Artwork by Pamella Annsouth.

150 years of collective pottery experience comes together under one roof at Pātaka Art + Museum.

The 70s Dames shines a spotlight on three distinctive yet equally masterful creatives – Anneke Borren, Pamella Annsouth, and Jenny Shearer – until the 27th of July.

“Although our three styles differ our skills are on the same level,” Shearer says. “My and Anneke’s work is mainly wheel thrown, functional objects with individual decorative elements. Anneke has decorative wall plates set alluringly in a spiral on the wall. Pamella’s quirky female figures are sculptural works, each with an accompanying painted panel.”

All three of the creatives began working with clay in the 1970s when there was a world-wide surge and interest in the medium. But “each of us travelled in different dictions”, Shearer continues. Borren finds influence in her Dutch roots and European cultural identity, Shearer in the Leach-Hamada influence and Japanese aesthetics, and Annsouth in her creative family and partner Mirek Smíšek as well as in her other freelance work in stage design and illustration.

Despite or perhaps due to their differences in practice, *The 70s Dames* aims to give a representation of recent work evolved over years and years of constant creativity.

“We hope visitors will take away a sense of the enjoyment that was had during the creation of these works,” Shearer beams. “We also hope to raise awareness of the vibrancy of the New Zealand craft-art movement that has staged a revival over the last decade or so.”

Reigniting joy



Painting by Simon Olsen.

An emerging Wellington artist who rediscovered his love of painting during the first COVID lockdown, Simon Olsen says that his works capture the often-overlooked beauty of everyday life. “Gratitude is what art requires of me, and fosters in me, including gratitude for what is life-sustaining,” he says.

Right Under My Nose, his debut exhibition at Thistle Hall running from the 15th to the 20th of July, is a dream come true for the creative, who sees the show as the beginning of his journey as a professional artist.

Featuring large-scale works of native birds and butterflies and paintings of his four daughters and of his dearly departed brother, *Right Under My Nose* celebrates what is miraculous but often taken for granted in a busy world. As a whole, Olsen’s practice expresses gratitude for his renewed appreciation for life since quitting alcohol in 2010 and falling in love with his wife.

Olsen’s current technique involves applying paint in multiple layers, with the canvas rotated for gravity to work the paint in different directions.

“My style is generally expressionist, with a mix of colourful impasto and drip painting to add texture and movement,” he says, adding that trusting the creative process is an important aspect of his practice. “I used to have some unhelpful coping mechanisms with handling uncertainty and change. Painting teaches me to let go, to be open-minded and willing to change and adapt”.

Visitors are invited to join Olsen in producing a collaborative painting and share in the joy of creativity. “I hope people leave the exhibition thinking about what they are grateful for,” Olsen adds, “and about how they can express that through any kind of creative process.”

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Wairarapa – buy, build, renovate

Crafting your dream space



There is no right or wrong answer in interior design. Rather, it's about finding pieces that you love and that make your space feel like you. That's the kaupapa at Guthrie Bowron, a decorating company in Wairarapa that is committed to helping clients create a home that brings them joy.

Co-owner operators Amanda and Karl Herrick offer a complete design service at their Masterton location and at their new Greytown hub. They bought the Guthrie Bowron Masterton business in February 2024 and have been building on the name's excellent reputation ever since, creating a place that fosters inspiration and helps clients craft their own special spaces.

A one-stop shop for any and all interior design projects, Guthrie Bowron has a huge catalogue of wallpapers, paints, curtains and blinds, and flooring to suit every taste and budget. The friendly and knowledgeable team are passionate about working with clients to create a tailored design that reflects their lifestyle and aesthetic.

"Not only can we help you with flooring, window furnishings, tiles, wallpaper, paint, and homewares, but we can help you collate your ideas into a design concept", Amanda beams. "We love being part of your projects and get very invested in what our customers are creating".

Whether you're a professional painter, decorator, or DIY-er, or you're simply trying to spruce up a corner of your home, stop into the Masterton or Greytown Guthrie Bowron stores to talk to the team about your dream space.

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Lower Hutt – buy, build, renovate

Years of dedication



Just Blinds has been helping Wellingtonians find the perfect blinds and curtains to help keep homes warm in winter, cool in summer, and looking their best all year long for decades. Locally owned and operated, the team has recently moved to a new and improved location in Lower Hutt, but don't worry, they'll still serve customers across the region.

Just Blinds offers all types of blinds manufactured in New Zealand and also shutters from Santa Fe. With so many materials, colours, and patterns to choose from, it's easy to forget that the most important step is picking the best type of blind for your situation. Different blinds perform different functions, which is why Just Blinds has a huge range of products in all kinds of designs and materials, helping you elevate your space both functionally and stylistically.

The friendly and experienced team can guide you through the decision-making process by outlining different features and taking into consideration your needs, budget, and circumstances. By carrying out a free, no-obligation measure and quote, the Just Blinds team can understand the full scope of what you're looking for. They'll help you select from the seemingly endless colours, patterns, designs, materials, and mechanisms. With maintenance and repair services available too, stop by the new Alicetown showroom for the same custom solutions and five-star service the Just Blinds team has always delivered.

Keeping you comfortable



For 15 years, Eco Wellington has been keeping Wellingtonians warm in winter and cool in summer with insulated, double-glazed, secure, high-quality uPVC doors and windows. Starting as a one-man army with Ross McKitterick at the helm, Eco Wellington has grown into a team venture that services the entire region. In fact, they're still growing, having recently changed their name to Eco Wellington from Eco Doors & Windows to reflect consistency with Eco Auckland and Eco Tauranga. They've also recently relocated to Lower Hutt to accommodate their continued success. uPVC windows and doors are especially great in winter. Thanks to their superior insulation, they trap heat inside the house while preventing cold air from seeping in. They also reduce condensation and noise.

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Because of these features, legacy competitors struggle to meet these key benefits, high R values (insulation), noise reduction, and maintenance reduction. Tried and tested in Europe for over 60 years, Eco Wellington has a solution for all properties.

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Kapiti lifestyle

Keeping it coastal



Queen Elizabeth Park. Photo by Jet Productions.

Beaches and bush, culture and cuisine, flora and fauna, suburban hubs and scenic hotspots, the Kapiti Coast has everything you could want and some. Long, sandy beaches, cute cafés, creative spaces and boutiques, and an abundance of wildlife and natural beauty all come together to shape a lifestyle that champions quality over quantity and enjoyment of the simple things.

Comprising Paekākāriki, Raumati, Waikanae, and Paraparaumu, Kapiti is just an hour north of Wellington. Despite the short drive, the weather is completely different thanks to the mountain range that traps in temperature and weather to create a beautiful microclimate that's often substantially warmer and sunnier than the capital!

There are endless hiking and biking tracks in the mountains and coastal parks ranging from easy to epic. Check out Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve, Queen Elizabeth Park, Waikanae River Trail, and the Paekākāriki Escarpment Track, which belongs to the larger Te Araroa Trail. Go quad biking, try horseback riding, jump into paintballing, or spend the day at one of the native wildlife sanctuaries. Kids and grownups alike will love a night walk through the forest to try and spot a kiwi in its natural habitat. When the sun goes down, you can still stay outdoors; park up in one of the public parks for a picnic under the stars.

With a popping events calendar to boot, Kapiti is where nature beckons, art flourishes, and a seaside vibe infuses life.

Stress-free and straightforward



Harcourts Waikanae real estate agent Anita Humphrey takes a personalised approach with every client. Whether you're buying your dream home on the Kapiti Coast or selling a long-held property, her professionalism and genuine care help ensure the outcome you're aiming for.

Since joining Harcourts Team Group, Anita has built a strong portfolio of successful sales and satisfied clients. She received the Rising Star Award in December 2023 and placed in the Top 20 for March 2025 for the Wellington Region. She was also recognised for outstanding performance from January through March 2025.

Previously, Anita spent 23 years delivering IT solutions. Her work spanned Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa for Fortune 500 company Johnson & Johnson. This global experience underpins her professionalism and strategic thinking.

Anita has strong project management, communication, and negotiation skills that she applies to every property transaction, making the process stress-free and straightforward for her clients and ensuring everyone is on the same page.

With her family having lived in Waikanae Beach for more than 10 years, Anita offers in-depth local insight and a strong connection to the area. She's passionate about helping others enjoy this special part of the world and is committed to keeping the Kapiti Coast thriving by supporting both buyers and sellers in reaching their goals.

If you'd like Anita to guide your next property move, visit www.harcourts.net/nz or scan the QR code below.

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SEE WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

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Fangs and fur



From vampire vixens to wolfish wonders, *Bite Me, B*tch – A Twilight Drag Spectacle* is the campy, sexy, supernatural soirée your inner teenager has been thirsting for. Sink your teeth into a night of blood-soaked bacchanalia at Ivy Bar & Cabaret on the 26th of July.

Bloodlust and body glitter, fangs and fur collide at this tasty tribute to the vampire saga that defined a generation. Inspired by Stephanie Meyer's book series and the subsequent films starring Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, and Taylor Lautner, the enchanted extravaganza hosted by Wellington's Playboy Bunny and blonde bombshell Bunny Holiday [pictured] will serve immortal beauty, supernatural drama, and performances hotter than a werewolf in heat.

Expect high fashion, higher cheekbones, and a whole lot of bite from a cast of Dracula daddies, drag stars, and demonic dolls. Myrtle Montgomery, Blink Bogan, Pelham, Judas Kiss, Robin Yablind, Pita Pocket, and Amoeba Geezer have joined forces, sharpening their fangs and stilettos, and are ready to each bring their own deadly twist to the *Twilight* universe.

Come dressed to kill or dripping in sparkles – either way swoop in before tickets disappear like a vampire at sunrise. Whether you're Team Edward or Team Jacob, get ready for a bloody good time at *Bite Me, B*tch – A Twilight Drag Spectacle* where you're guaranteed to glitter, to gasp, and to howl at the moon.

Witchcraft and wonder



Dust off your broomsticks and saddle up with your black cat for a dizzyingly delightful adventure with *Kiki's Delivery Service*. Screening at the Embassy of Japan in its original language with English subtitles on the 24th of July, this witchy, wonderful anime is guaranteed to brighten even the darkest of winter evenings.

Written, directed, and produced by legendary Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki and animated by Studio Ghibli, *Kiki's Delivery Service* is a 1989 fantasy anime that follows the story of a young witch Kiki and her chatty black cat Jiji.

As all young witches must do, Kiki goes out on her own with her mother's old, reliable broomstick. She lands in the Scandinavian-inspired port city of Koriko. Moving into a room above a bakery, Kiki opens a business delivering goods by broomstick: the Witch Delivery Service. Here begins the adventure of a lifetime, where the young witch learns the delights and difficulties that come with growing up, responsibility, and finding your place in the world.

The coming-of-age anime based on the 1985 novel of the same name was the first Studio Ghibli film to be successful on initial release. It has garnered critical acclaim, multiple awards, and a huge fanbase as a heartwarming and beautifully animated tale of independence and identity.

Perfect for ages five to 105, *Kiki's Delivery Service* will whisk audiences away to a world of witchcraft and wonder.

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Wellington Silver Screeners: Verity Mackintosh

In our Wellington Silver Screeners series, Alessia Belsito-Riera shines a spotlight on the movers and shakers working in the film capital of New Zealand.



Producers Verity Mackintosh and Libby Hakaria.



Still from Kōkā.

With her new film *Kōkā* having recently been released in cinemas just in time for Matariki, Wellington-based producer Verity Mackintosh is looking forward to hearing the conversations it will spark.

“It’s a beautiful film to just go to yourself, but you really want to go and see it twice and bring the entire whānau, because it’s an incredibly unifying and enriching film for everybody,” she says. “I’m so deeply proud of it.”

Kōkā went to Māoriland Film Festival earlier in March and won the Tōtara – Best Drama award, followed by imagineNATIVE in June.

With decades of experience working in the film industry both here in Aotearoa and abroad in a huge range of roles, Verity has reached the conclusion that every country has its stories.

“It just depends on whether your eyes are open to see them and to see the benefit of them,” she says. “I’ve always grown up in a world where there’s more than one way to solve or to approach anything. Different cultures or different backgrounds, it didn’t matter, every way was valid, and I’ve learned a lot through that. It’s such an enriching and nourishing way to look at the world.” Today, as a producer, she focuses on supporting deeply enriching narratives that celebrate Aotearoa. *Kōkā* stands as a testament to this vision. I sat down with her to discuss the story that makes her shine.

What sparked your interest in filmmaking and storytelling?

I was in high school, actually, and I really loved Judy Bailey [laughs]. I loved how welcomed to everyone’s living room that she was, and how dependable she was. So that sparked my interest in television and film. I started doing work in my teens on commercials and then I started TV school in Dunedin and working at *What Now* in Wellington, before it moved back down to Christchurch. After that I worked at Gibson Group in the camera department on *The Insider’s Guide* series, which I adored. Then I worked my way up from production assistant to producer with Sticky Pictures. We did *The Living Room* and *The Gravy* series, which were arts and culture shows. It was an amazing time; I was with them for about three years.

After that I did science and innovation and education work with CWA, and then I moved to Taiwan – my husband worked for Foreign Affairs and we were posted to Beijing, but part of that time meant that we had a couple of years in Taiwan. There I found aid programmes where I could help teach art and photography to children in the hill tribes that couldn’t make it down to the schools. We helped raise a lot of money to build a community centre so the children could go to a safe place and learn from their own community members. In Beijing I was working for Natural History New Zealand (NHNZ) as their lead producer in the Beijing office and I developed and created a number of series about China for foreign audiences. Whilst I was there – you know, when you’re away from home, you suddenly become extremely patriotic about home. At least I did, perhaps because of the circle that we were in for foreign affairs as well. It just further galvanized the fact that when I came home, I really wanted to make taonga for New Zealanders.

Was working in the Beijing film industry different from New Zealand’s?

Yeah, it was. It’s supercharged. Here in New Zealand, you might be able to do one or two big projects a year. There you’re doing multiple projects of that size almost every month. It’s quite a different industry: a completely different population base in terms of numbers, but also a different prospect for how to release.

What draws you to the role of producer?

It’s always been my goal to work in a producing role. I am deeply creative myself, but I have understood over the years that my creative propositions are things with a beautiful visual aesthetic and a really deep story but supporting others to tell that story.

A producer’s role is quite big, as you would expect. You’re sort of the head of the business arm, but you also communicate with the creative team to make sure that we have everything to create the film. So that goes from business to contracting to day-to-day scheduling and management. Obviously, that’s once you’re in production, but before that, it’s stakeholder engagement and fundraising and being a general cheerleader.

Where my role differs from other producers is that I am there from developing the script, right through financing, the whole way through production and post-production, all of the marketing and all of the release work. It’s because I’ve had so much experience across my entire career in each of those and I really enjoy every different aspect. My role is extremely varied. It’s such a funny term, the word producer, because it means nothing of note to people outside of the industry, because it really just doesn’t even encompass all of the aspects of that role. A vision or a script can’t really go anywhere without having a producer attached to it.

Tell me about your latest project Kōkā.

Kōkā is a Māori drama. It’s majority in te reo Māori, Ngāti Poroutanga, which is the original dialect from Ngāti Porou. It’s a beautiful intergenerational story, which has a lot of beautiful values that I see in this world but would also like to really encourage more of. It’s about one woman’s journey home and how important it is to get there.

I met Kath Akuhata-Brown, the director, at the end of 2018. When I read the script, it was very special. I have stayed beside her since then trying to raise the support and the finance to help bring it to the screen. It’s not often someone is releasing their debut feature in their fifties and has chosen such a strong narrative. It really shows the determination that she’s had to lead with this film. It says a lot about Kath that this is the film she wanted to birth into the world first. From the outset I felt that she was a visionary, an orator.

Even though we’ve both had very long careers in television and various other things, in film, you have to cut your cloth to be recognised as a funding partner. So when I met Kath, we realised quite early on that to be eligible for feature funding, we needed to work together and make a couple of short films as well. So, we created *Purea*, which was initially a screen test that has travelled the world in its own right and has been to most of the Indigenous film festivals and at the Smithsonian. That’s a beautiful origin story for *Kōkā*. And then we went on to create *Washday* as well, which has had a whole festival life. These were all the stepping stones that we needed to work on together to galvanize our relationship for the industry to see.

I read that part of Kōkā was filmed in Wellington. How would you describe working in the capital’s film industry?

I try to bring all of my filming work here. I live here, I love the city, and there are so many extremely talented crew around. We have this wonderful industry here with great studios like Avalon and Lane Street and Stone Street, two of which we used. We really wanted to run the production out of here and support our local industry, which, at the time when we made this film, there was not a lot happening. The American strikes were on, so the entire production world just screeched to a halt. It was important for us to take that opportunity and run with it. Working in Wellington has been great. We love Screen Wellington. We filmed all over – pretty much the entire way around the coastline, in Porirua, in Upper Hutt – but we traversed most of the country from the West Coast of the South Island right up to the East Coast of the North. Moving over 100 people to do something like that is an enormous undertaking.

What advice would you give to somebody who wants to get into filmmaking?

Like with any job, always have an open heart and an open mind. This industry is so deeply fuelled and connected by the relationships that you make, so always be available to help. If a role comes up that isn’t exactly what you want, don’t turn it down. Get in there and show how much you really want to be in this industry, and it will look after you. But don’t lose sight of your vision.

What’s next?

I have a documentary that I’m about to release. I’m deeply proud of this one as well. The project is called *Joy, Full & Fearless*, and it’s a documentary about New Zealand author Joy Cowley, who, at 88, has never had a documentary made about her.

DARKFIELD

Presented by Realscape Productions

Running at Odlins Plaza till 27th July 2025

Reviewed by Madelaine Empson



By now, anyone wandering Wellington's wonderful waterfront would have spotted two large shipping containers set up at Odlins Plaza. In giant block letters, one reads FLIGHT, the other SÉANCE. But what worlds wait inside?

DARKFIELD is an immersive audio experience that takes place in total darkness, but not before audiences see the inside of the containers. This gives us a setting for the experience to unfold and grounds us in reality before the rug is pulled out from underneath us (figuratively, but it sure feels literal) and our imaginations take flight.

Which brings me to *FLIGHT*. With the Australian and New Zealand set built by Show Works, stepping inside this container elicits a collective audible gasp. It looks practically identical to the right side of an airplane cabin, complete with round windows through which a faint glow emits. Familiar sounds you'd hear on any flight beep and crackle through the provided headsets. Hilariously, and without being asked to do so, many of us fasten our seatbelts. On small overhead screens, flight attendant Eugénie Pastor relays safety instructions and our captain, Nigel Barrett, dials in. Cue lights out.

It's pitch black as the sound of our plane taking off blares in our ears. I nearly get vertigo and, as I thrust back in my seat unwittingly, I curse inwardly for having forgotten my sucky lollies. Then I remember... this isn't real! Talk about suspension of disbelief.

Fictional babies start to cry from multiple seats as their ears pop from the altitude and I find myself counting my blessings I'm not seated next to one of them before remembering, again, that I'm on the ground in Wellington. A hilarious highlight of the 360-degree audio performance comes when our flight attendant tells the babies to stop crying, please, and dead silence ensues.

The story that unfolds from here is a touch on the nose radome, particularly with the reference to a passenger named Mr Schrödinger. As someone who genuinely felt like they were on an airplane in the first five minutes, the script's diversion into fantastical realms muddled my experience. I'd be curious to see a storyline that leans more on the merits of such a brilliant and unique concept – perhaps one that takes audiences on a regular flight filled with interesting character studies or relationship (aero)dynamics. Nevertheless, I'd recommend *DARKFIELD: FLIGHT* for the highly detailed set and the singularity of the experience: apart from next door at SÉANCE, you'll never see (or hear) anything like it!

SÉANCE sees audiences enter a room single file, peeling left and right to sit on either side of a large rectangular table that runs the length of the shipping container. Small golden bells dangle on red strings, but other than that, the set (built for Australia and New Zealand by Form Imagination) is stark, cold. We're instructed to place both hands on the table and to not, under any circumstances, take them off for the duration of the experience, lest we break the connection and unleash a spirit. Nervous energy crackles down the table like electricity. When the lights go out, Tom Lyall performs a séance through our headphones, seemingly stomping up and down the table and whispering sweet spooky nothings in our ears. I can't spoil the story here, but there's a certain melting, squelching sound that still makes me shudder!

With artistic direction from David Rosenberg and Glen Neath, executive direction from Andrea Salazar, and creative direction from senior creative producer Victoria Eyton, DARKFIELD is produced by Amy Johnson and Nathan Alexander of Realscape Productions. I would've loved to have seen more character development throughout both stories, but wholly enjoyed my time in the alternative worlds, the heart-palpitating dark fields conjured up by this creative team. Enter at your own peril!

NYO Adventure

Presented by

New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Adam Johnson

Michael Fowler Centre, 5th Jul 2025

Reviewed by Tamsin Evans



After the opening piece, *Don Juan* by Richard Strauss, conductor Adam Johnson told us it wouldn't be the last time the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) National Youth Orchestra (NYO) string musicians would play it. *Don Juan* is apparently one of the more difficult pieces in the repertoire and, should they pursue their careers with other orchestras, they will probably find themselves playing it in their audition. On the strength of this performance, their careers, and those of their colleagues, are off to a great start. The sound was lush and deep with strong rushes of romanticism through lovely legato playing.

Soprano Madison Horman, a local from Palmerston North with an impressive musical education, took on the challenge of Strauss' *4 Lieder*, Op. 27. Horman has a rich tone and although a little outweighed by the orchestra in early, quieter passages, her big voice did justice to one of the most frequently performed of Strauss' works.

As well as an opportunity for the country's best young musicians to play and perform together, the NYO also supports an annual composer-in-residence. This year, Luka Venter drew inspiration from UNESCO's International Year of Glaciers' Preservation to take listeners inside a glacier. Glaciers are in a constant state of change and Venter captured the sounds of that perpetual movement with a mysterious accuracy. As well as depicting the vivid blue colour of the ice, we could hear the light dancing through the form of the glacier.

Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 brought together all the hard work our National Youth Orchestra musicians have put in on their own, in their regional groups, and finally, as one orchestra rehearsing together for the last week. The passion of the piece was matched by passion in the performance. It feels harsh to pick only one amongst so many, but the standout was the principal clarinet in the Adagio. Long passages, played with infinite care and attention, held the narrative perfectly.

The Sound Inside

Written by Adam Rapp

Directed by Stella Reid

Circa Theatre, 6th Jul 2025

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Bella Baird is a brilliant but brittle Ivy League creative writing professor. Christopher Dunn is her talented yet angry and somewhat mysterious student. Surrounded by real life and literary fiction, an unusual friendship grows between their two lonely souls. Then one winter's day, Bella asks an unthinkable favour of Christopher and their figurative and literal bonds turn full circle.

With much of the text delivered in direct address to the audience, Dulcie Smart has a huge job to do in playing Bella and does so with the self-assurance of an accomplished international stage and screen actor. As Christopher, Kieran Charnock carefully carries the awkwardness and sometimes disingenuous nature of a young novelist struggling to find his identity and voice.

Stella Reid's tight and flowing direction makes the most of Meg Rollandi's creative set design that allows multiple rooms, a bar, and a park to co-exist without need for walls. Natasha James' moodily effective lighting design that employs three onstage lamps, plus top and side light through haze, emphasises the darkly multi-layered narrative. Thomas Arbor's shapeshifting music and sound effects provide a pulsing sonic backdrop, most appreciably during the scenes where both actors are on stage.

I appreciate the expressive and often lyrical writing, the exploration of the loneliness that sometimes accompanies high intelligence and literary sensibility, and the encircled creativity of the story. I would like to have seen Bella and Christopher interact more often and have more actual dialogue and less reported speech than Adam Rapp's script gave them as their refreshingly non-sexual relationship unfolded. This I think would have allowed me to emotionally invest in the characters and their fates, rather than marvelling at their intellectual capabilities. Ultimately, *The Sound Inside* tugged more at my head than my heart.

With an award-nominated script, high production values, slick direction, and highly rated actors, *The Sound Inside* is a classy piece of theatre that will leave you with much to chew on and dissect.

The Phoenician Scheme

101 minutes

M

★★★★★

Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Rieraa



By the time Anatole Zsa-Zsa Korda's sixth assassination attempt is underway, Wes Anderson's orderly, well-balanced world has been blown to smithereens... quite literally. As for Korda (Benicio del Toro), he seems more annoyed than afraid.

We soon learn that this is nothing out of the ordinary for 'Mr Five Percent'. The world's most elusive businessman seems to profit from dubious dealings – hence the routine assassination attempts. Except this time, something has changed. After his latest plane crash, Korda had a vision: a Biblical, black and white cut scene in which he appears to be on trial for his life. Perhaps he died for a moment this time. Regardless, it won't be his last vision or death.

He decides to appoint his only daughter, Liesl (Mia Threapleton), a nun, as sole heir to his estate. Thus begins *The Phoenician Scheme*, setting Korda, Liesl, and Norwegian entomologist tutor-turned-administrative secretary Bjorn (Michael Cera) on a madcap venture to revolutionise the area formerly known as Phoenicia.

Written by director Anderson and Roman Coppola, *The Phoenician Scheme*, like any Anderson film, is distinctively his in every aspect. From sets to sound, dialogue to dramatics, the master of arthouse filmmaking has done it again. His latest is isolating yet intimate, microscopic yet monolithic, a perfectly choreographed two-step where moments of high-stakes intellect waltz onto the screen only to be replaced by a lindy hop of unhinged absurdity.

Adam Stockhausen's sets look as flimsy and fabricated as Korda's grand scheme, while Bruno Delbonnel's cinematography makes everything seem toy-like and distant yet still utterly personal and aesthetic as in true Anderson fashion. The score, crafted meticulously by Alexandre Desplat, is incessant. Like a dripping tap, it accompanies every breath, every argument, every drop of every pin. As messy as Korda's world, it eats away at your sanity as the story devolves into chaos and uncertainty.

Add flat lays, extreme long shots for exposition, and hyper-detailed closeups overflowing with props and the result is a reality that seems both utterly fabricated and inherently real, chaotic and choreographed, impossible and familiar. Despite its orderly appearance and general dreaminess, *The Phoenician Scheme* is a world of inconsistencies, opposites, coincidences, tragedies, and miracles. Like every Wes Anderson film, it's a bit like life itself.

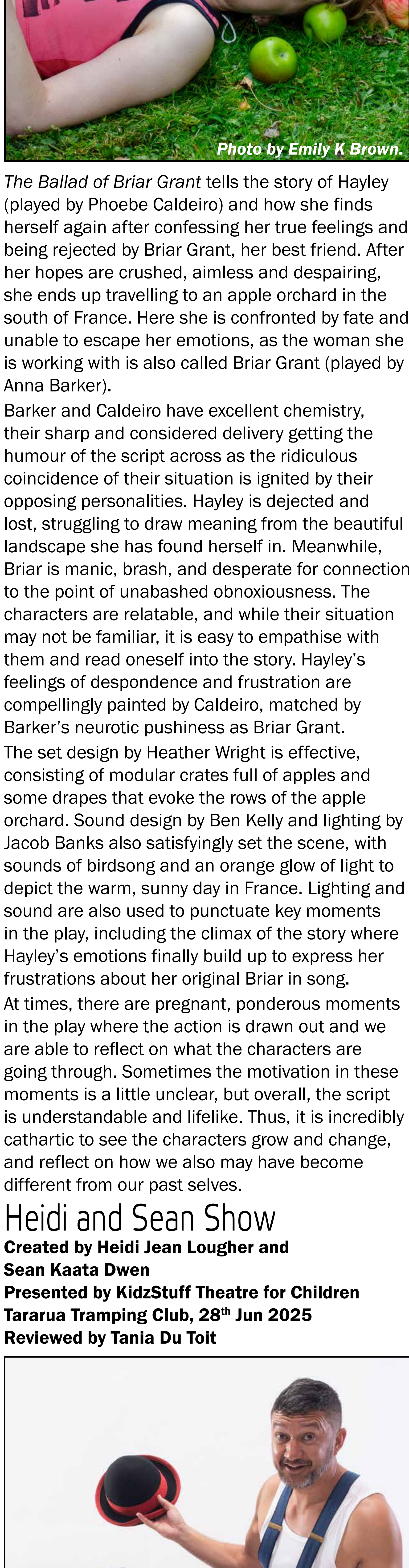
The Ballad of Briar Grant

Written by Jack McGee

Directed by Lia Kelly

BATS Theatre, 8th Jul 2025

Reviewed by Stanford Reynolds



The Ballad of Briar Grant tells the story of Hayley (played by Phoebe Caldeiro) and how she finds herself again after confessing her true feelings and being rejected by Briar Grant, her best friend. After her hopes are crushed, aimless and despairing, she ends up travelling to an apple orchard in the south of France. Here she is confronted by fate and unable to escape her emotions, as the woman she is working with is also called Briar Grant (played by Anna Barker).

Barker and Caldeiro have excellent chemistry, their sharp and considered delivery getting the humour of the script across as the ridiculous coincidence of their situation is ignited by their opposing personalities. Hayley is dejected and lost, struggling to draw meaning from the beautiful landscape she has found herself in. Meanwhile, Briar is manic, brash, and desperate for connection to the point of unabashed obnoxiousness. The characters are relatable, and while their situation may not be familiar, it is easy to empathise with them and read oneself into the story. Hayley's feelings of despondence and frustration are compellingly painted by Caldeiro, matched by Barker's neurotic pushiness as Briar Grant.

The set design by Heather Wright is effective, consisting of modular crates full of apples and some drapes that evoke the rows of the apple orchard. Sound design by Ben Kelly and lighting by Jacob Banks also satisfyingly set the scene, with sounds of birdsong and an orange glow of light to depict the warm, sunny day in France. Lighting and sound are also used to punctuate key moments in the play, including the climax of the story where Hayley's emotions finally build up to express her frustrations about her original Briar in song.

At times, there are pregnant, ponderous moments in the play where the action is drawn out and we are able to reflect on what the characters are going through. Sometimes the motivation in these moments is a little unclear, but overall, the script is understandable and lifelike. Thus, it is incredibly cathartic to see the characters grow and change, and reflect on how we also may have become different from our past selves.

Heidi and Sean Show

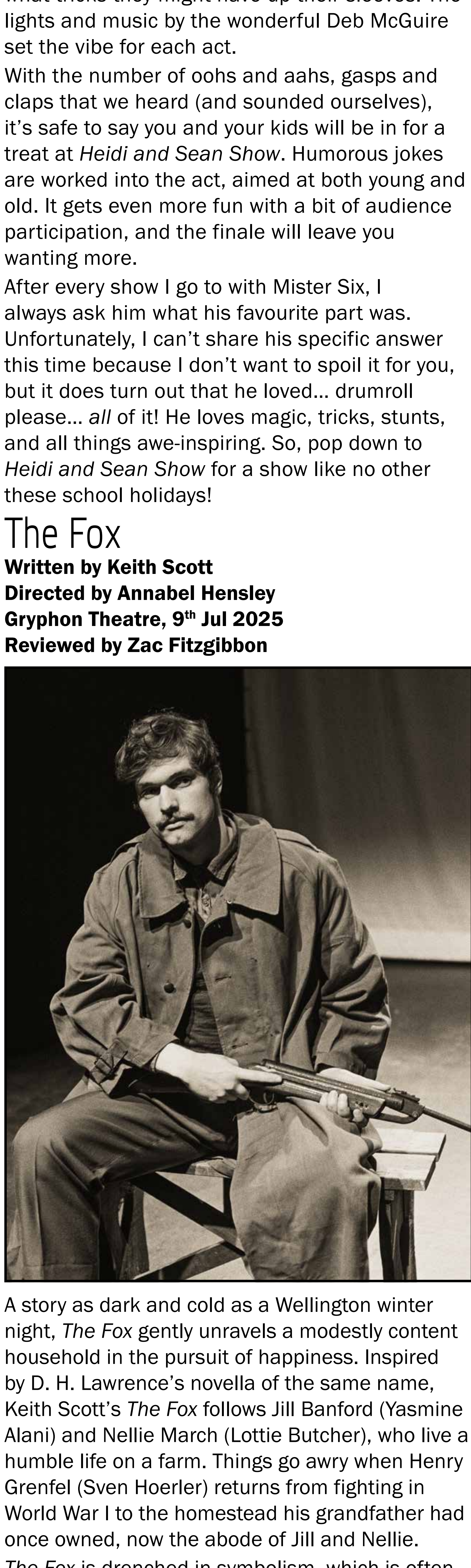
Created by Heidi Jean Lougher and

Sean Kaata Dwen

Presented by KidzStuff Theatre for Children

Tararua Tramping Club, 28th Jun 2025

Reviewed by Tania Du Toit



Mister Six and I had the privilege of being in the presence of a famous duo at *Heidi and Sean Show*. Heidi Jean Lougher and Sean Kaata Dwen have trained and performed all over the world, including Vietnam, Scotland, and Iceland, and they did not disappoint. They may have even encouraged my son to attend circus school one day!

Although the weather is wet, the Tararua Tramping Club Clubrooms are warm and cosy. We were warmly welcomed by Fergus Aitken and show producer Amalia Calder at the door and make our way to the lolly table, which has become a part of our tradition when attending KidzStuff shows. Then we go to scout out some choice seats. The venue is already pretty full, and I am surrounded by lots of excited faces. What I love about the theatre is the fact that there aren't allocated seats, and the kids are welcome to sit on the rug right in front of the stage. Talk about front-row action!

Heidi and Sean's simple but effective staging, costumes, and props make us intrigued about what tricks they might have up their sleeves. The lights and music by the wonderful Deb McGuire set the vibe for each act.

With the number of oohs and aahs, gasps and claps that we heard (and sounded ourselves), it's safe to say you and your kids will be in for a treat at *Heidi and Sean Show*. Humorous jokes are worked into the act, aimed at both young and old. It gets even more fun with a bit of audience participation, and the finale will leave you wanting more.

After every show I go to with Mister Six, I always ask him what his favourite part was. Unfortunately, I can't share his specific answer this time because I don't want to spoil it for you, but it does turn out that he loved... drumroll please... *all* of it! He loves magic, tricks, stunts, and all things awe-inspiring. So, pop down to *Heidi and Sean Show* for a show like no other these school holidays!

The Fox

Written by Keith Scott

Directed by Annabel Hensley

Gryphon Theatre, 9th Jul 2025

Reviewed by Zac Fitzgibbon

A story as dark and cold as a Wellington winter night, *The Fox* gently unravels a modestly content household in the pursuit of happiness. Inspired by D. H. Lawrence's novella of the same name, Keith Scott's *The Fox* follows Jill Banford (Yasmine Alani) and Nellie March (Lottie Butcher), who live a humble life on a farm. Things go awry when Henry Grenfel (Sven Hoerler) returns from fighting in World War I to the homestead his grandfather had once owned, now the abode of Jill and Nellie.

The Fox is drenched in symbolism, which is often overlooked in plays, but the actors do well to emphasise phrases so that the audience can easily understand the references. Whether it is the titular fox or a deer, everything in the script has a deeper meaning. It takes paying a penny for your thoughts to a whole new level. We are prompted to view everyday life through a different lens, eager to dissect the meaning in everything. *The Fox* serves as a warning about the place we put men in our lives and homes and the damage they can cause.

The cast keep the audience engaged throughout – no mean feat for just three actors – and portray their characters with nuance, showing us the complexity and frailty of their relationships. I particularly enjoy the queer coding between Jill and Nellie.

The set (Ewen Coleman) provides the perfect backdrop and really feels like the quaint home Nellie and Jill have spent years perfecting. It is also refreshing to see how well utilised the set is, as each part serves a purpose.

This Wellington Repertory Theatre production will get you pondering on many levels as it asks a question about the cost of happiness and whether it is achievable. I know I will still be thinking of it in the days ahead. Come in from the cold and see for yourself the damage a fox can do.

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Lower Hutt five star

Going the extra mile



Photo by Phillip Capper.

Cole Komarkowski's zest for life translates into everything she does. As a Ray White real estate agent in the Hutt Valley, this passion and positivity has earned her a reputation for excellence. She provides five-star service with a smile, exceeding client expectations whether they're buying, selling, or simply enquiring.

Born and raised in the Hutt Valley as well as bringing up her own whānau here, Cole works in the place she calls home. She loves her community and everything that makes it wonderful, plus she has the insider knowledge only a local has. All this, combined with her property knowledge from renovating her own homes with her husband Aiden, makes her the perfect choice for buyers wanting to settle in the area. Whether you're looking for your first home or a family home, an investment property or somewhere to retire, Cole can help you find it. Cole has a background in marketing and is a true people person. Caring and empathetic, an excellent communicator and experienced negotiator, she is also a skilled seller. She knows the local market like the back of her hand and always goes the extra mile to ensure your property will get the best price possible.

For five-star real estate service that seamlessly exceeds expectations from the first handshake to the final key handover, get in touch with Cole at Ray White Kemneys Brothers in Petone.

Going the extra mile



No matter the service you're looking for, hiring the best-rated professionals ensures the job will be completed to the highest standards. There's nothing quite like a proven track record and five-star reviews to guarantee reliability, professionalism, and quality workmanship. Make Google your first port of call. You can learn a lot about a company just by searching them up on the web and reading the reviews customers have written about their experience. You can find out whether the team you're thinking of hiring live up to their promises. A proven record and high demand means other clients have been satisfied with the work and recommended the business to others. There are plenty of Lower Hutt companies with nothing but five-star reviews to back them up. By choosing verified businesses over ones with no background info, you're more likely to find trained professionals.

Professionals have often been in business for a long period of time. To get good at something and become an expert, it can take years of experience, training, and practise. Look for long-standing businesses who know their way around the job or someone who has undergone extensive training and holds the necessary qualifications.

To help you choose someone you can trust, we've gotten in touch with some of the highest-rated professionals in Lower Hutt. No matter the job, hire the best to make sure it gets done exactly as you've envisioned it.



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TJ was my superstar mortgage broker who helped me purchase my first home recently. TJ made the process easy, and I couldn't have done it without her. I appreciated her super quick responses, her ability to get things done efficiently, her strong knowledge of the industry, and her great personality, which anyone will get along with! She sorted out any issues that arose during the process, and as someone doing this for the first time, this meant a lot to me. I highly recommend TJ to anyone looking for a mortgage broker and look forward to continuing to work with her. Thanks so much, TJ!

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What's on



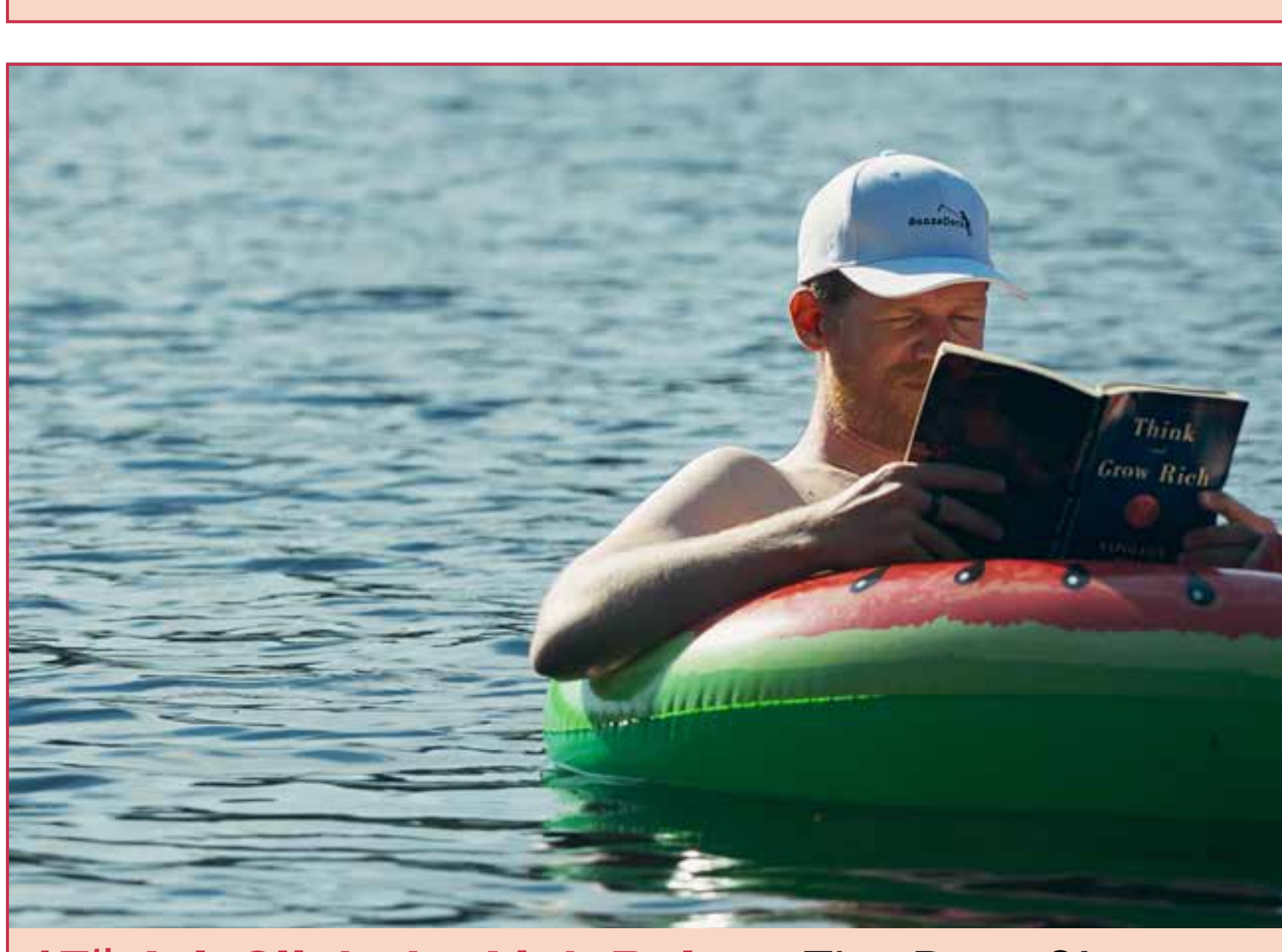
16th Jul. Show Me Shorts Presents: South African Short Film Night: Southern Cross Garden Bar Restaurant, Abel Smith Street, Te Aro – 7pm. Enjoy a vibrant collection of five short films from South Africa. Catch *Punter* by Jason Adam Maselle, *Catch Me Baby* by Luyanda Ngcobo, *Redreaming* by Alessandro Gueli, *The Other Side* [pictured] by John DeVries, and *Noise & Neighbours* by Liza Ludick.



22nd-26th Jul. Lost Things Found: Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro. *Lost Things Found* is a self-portrait installation made up of hundreds of things Morgan Dean has found on the ground. The Wellington-based creative has been collecting the items since she was a child in Helensville. In her installation, they are presented in a chronological order in the shape of the Kaipara River.



26th Jul. Princess Chelsea's Midwinter Ball: Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro – 8pm. *Princess Chelsea's Midwinter Ball* returns. Esteemed comedian Tom Sainsbury will host an evening of live performances from Princess Chelsea & The Dream Warriors alongside Grecco Romank and Luke Buda. Get hyped for mead specials, live sword fighting, best-dressed competitions, and more. **Princess Chelsea.**



17th Jul. Click the Link Below: The Roxy Cinema, Park Road, Miramar – 8:15pm. Having its world premiere as part of Doc Edge International Film Festival, Audun Amundsen's *Click the Link Below* follows a filmmaker seeking financial freedom who dives into the world of online marketing under the mentorship of Akbar Sheikh, a former homeless man turned digital millionaire. **Audun Amundsen.**



25th Jul. New Zealand Comedy School Presents: Best in Class: The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro – 8pm. NZ Comedy School alumni and NZ International Comedy Festival Best Newcomer Award-winner Mo Munn [pictured] joins a lineup of Pōneke pranksters. Laugh and celebrate their achievements while helping raise money for the school's Diversity Scholarship fund.



26th Jul. Showstopper: A Magical Musical Drag Show: The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro – 8pm. Maria Richman, Blink Bogan, Rainn Bowes, Braiden Butter, Dan the Drag Thing, and Willy SmacknTush are here to give you the ol' razzle dazzle. Slaying upstage, tap dancing downstage, defying gravity, and soaring sky high, get ready for an off-off-off Broadway bonanza. **Willie SmacknTush and Blink Bogan.**

What's on

Wairarapa

18th Jul. Kenny Mill: *Club Wairarapa, Essex Street, Masterton* – 7:30pm. Playing music you know and love, Kenny Mill will have you dancing along to your favourite tunes.

19th Jul. Cam and Sam Present: Elton John

vs Billy Joel: *Cophthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park, Solway, Masterton* – 7:30pm. After wildly successful sell-out shows across New Zealand, join Cam and Sam for an intimate night with the greatest hits of Elton John and Billy Joel.

19th Jul. Red Scare Theatre Company Presents:

Before We Slip Beneath the Sea: *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 7:30pm. An immersive play set on a small island off Wellington's north coast, where the local community have gathered for the last time in the wake of an impending evacuation due to rising sea levels.

26th Jul. Book Launch: Lofty – The Short Life of Lieutenant Frank Long DFC: *Hedleys Bookshop, Queen Street, Masterton* – 2:30pm. Discover the story on Masterton's own wartime hero Lieutenant Frank Long written by local historian Neil Frances.

Kapiti

Until 19th Jul. Maven Theatre Company Presents:

The Ballad of Maria Marten: *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – various times. *The Ballad of Maria Marten* explores the notorious Red Barn Murder of 1827, which has become a part of British folklore and the subject of sensational gossip and grim speculation.

19th Jul. 80's Disco Extravaganza Night: *Otaki RSA, Raukawa Street, Ōtaki* – 6pm. Come dressed to impress for this RSA dance party celebrating the music of the 80s.

26th Jul. Saturday Laughs with Alan McElroy and Samantha Hannah: *Waikanae Club, Elizabeth Street, Waikanae* – 8pm. MC Alan McElroy hosts an evening of laughs featuring award-winning Scottish-born, Wellington-based comedian Samantha Hannah.

Events

Until 27th Jul. DARKFIELD: *Odilins Plaza, Cable Street, Te Aro* – various times. *SÉANCE* and *FLIGHT* are multi-sensory audio experiences that unfold entirely in the dark. Using 360-degree binaural sound, sensory effects, and theatrical design, these works immerse audiences in strange worlds that sit just outside reality.

19th Jul. Early Bird: Daytime Clubbing for the 30+ Partygoer: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 4pm. Dance the afternoon away to tunes from the 70s, 80, 90s, and 2000s.

24th Jul. Kiki's Delivery Service: *Embassy of Japan, Willis Street, Te Aro* – 5:30pm. Enjoy a coming-of-age anime about a young witch looking for her place in the world.

26th Jul. Mid-Winter Ceili: *Vogelmorn Hall, Vennell Street, Brooklyn* – 6:30pm. Dance, eat, and make merry while raising funds to help Ciara Jo Hanlon get to Ireland to compete in the annual Rose of Tralee Festival pageant.

Music

17th Jul. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Presents: Firebird: Ravel & Stravinsky: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm.

Spanish pianist Javier Perianes and Finnish conductor Emilia Hoving deliver Ravel's Piano Concerto in G and Stravinsky's *Firebird* alongside our national orchestra.

17th Jul. The Superjesus: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. The South Australian Music Hall Of Fame inductees started out in the 90s and have since amassed an astronomical fanbase. Catch them live alongside pop rock outfit The After.

18th; 19th Jul. Delaney Davidson: *Meow, Te Aro; St Peter's Village Hall, Paekākāriki* – 7:30pm; 7pm. With multiple album anniversaries this year, Delaney Davidson takes to the road to celebrate his extensive and star-studded catalogue with special band The Anniversaries.

19th Jul. Festival Singers and St Mary of the Angels Choir Present: Handel's Messiah: *St James Anglican Church, Woburn Rd, Lower Hutt* – 3pm.

Experience the uplifting power of Handel's Messiah with a special afternoon performance directed by Ingrid Schoenfeld and William McElwee and featuring acclaimed organist Jonathan Berkahn.

20th, 27th Jul, 3rd, 10th Aug. Friends of Pātaka

Winter Music Series: *Pātaka Art + Museum, Parumoana Street, Porirua* – 2pm. Step out of the cold and into soul-warming concerts featuring the Papaioea Piano Trio, Kevin & Fran, Hobnail, and Mana College's Year 11 music students.

20th Jul. Pola & Bryson: *Mystery location in Wellington* – 3pm. Drum and bass music group Pola & Bryson present *Overgrown*.

25th Jul. Spellbound 2.0: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Step into a portal of sonic enchantment and transcendental rhythm as Valhalla celebrates psytrance, techno, and progressive music.

26th Jul. For-tunes Presents: Sanoi Underwater

World: *Underworld Tavern, Pirie Street, Mount Victoria* – 6:30pm. Dive into an immersive underwater world with German-born DJ Sanoi aka Jonas Fischer.

26th Jul. The Warratahs: *The Thistle Inn, Mulgrave Street, Thorndon* – 6:30pm. Across their seven albums, The Warratahs play a blend of Barry Saunders-penned songs that dip into country, rockabilly, and folk. Catch their special new album release show for *Burning Daylight*.

26th Jul. Chris Dent with Hannah Morrell: *Hilltop, Upland Road, Kelburn* – 7pm. Enjoy earthy, expressive, and heartfelt folk offerings at Hilltop Private House Concerts with Hannah Morrell and Chris Dent of Albi & the Wolves.

27th Jul. Sunday Concerts: Levansa Trio: *St Andrew's on The Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 3pm. Andrew Beer (violin), Lev Sivkov (cello), and Sarah Watkins (piano) will play melodies from composers Rebecca Clarke, Salina Fisher, Bohuslav Martinů, and Camille Saint-Saëns.

30th Jul. Herman's Hermits: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Rock 'n' roll legends Herman's Hermits have hit the American pop charts 22 times over their illustrious careers. Catch the icons in action.

31st Jul. Jazmine Mary: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8:30pm. Indie-folk visionary Jazmine Mary's third album *I Want To Rock And Roll* spans the dark to the light.

Performance

Until 2nd Aug. The Sound Inside: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. This Tony Award-nominated show is gripping yet delicate, exploring the limits of what one person can ask from another.

17th Jul. Bang Bang Bingo Bonanza – Wellington:

Lulu Bar, Courtenay Place, Te Aro – 7pm. Join *RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under* stars Kita Mean and Rita Menu for a night of drag bingo and cheeky surprises.

18th Jul. Roman Empire: Battle of the Duos! *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. A Roman Empire is slang for a subject you think about way too often. Catch this comedy panel show featuring iconic Welly comedy duos Ginge and Minge versus Mo and Ralph.

19th Jul. Chris Parker: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Comedian Chris Parker has heard the expression “stop being so dramatic” his whole life, but only now, at the culturally relevant age of 34, is he ready to face those drama queen allegations head-on.

19th Jul. Saturday Laughs with El Jaguar and

Anya Rzhevitskaya: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Canadian comedy act El Jaguar and Russian Kiwi Anya Rzhevitskaya are joined by Kasia Wayfinder and MC Jerome Chandrahasen for a two-hour comedy showcase.

20th Jul. Illusionist Anthony Street: *The Opera*

House, Manners Street, Te Aro – 7pm. Step into a world of wonder with illusionist Anthony Street to experience a thrilling magic show crafted to captivate audiences of all ages.

24th-26th Jul. The Royal New Zealand Ballet

Presents: Home, Land and Sea: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – various times. *Home, Land and Sea* presents three ballets inspired by journeys in unknown seas and what it means to come home.

26th Jul. Bite Me, B*tch – A Twilight Drag

Spectacle: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. From vampire vixens to wolfish wonders, this drag show is the campy, sexy, supernatural soirée your inner teenager has been thirsting for.

31st Jul-2nd Aug. Dungeons and Decades: Time

Is Just A Number: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. Wellington-based Dungeons and Dragons podcast Last In Initiative is back with three timeless tales, guaranteed to take you on a comedy-packed, action-filled romp across time, space, and the 80s.

1st Aug. Comedy Hypnotist – Frankie Mac: *Te*

Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington Memorial Theatre, Kelburn Parade, Kelburn – 7:30pm. The UK's number-one comedy hypnosis show comes to Wellington. Catch award-winning performer Frankie Mac accessing the human subconscious for entertainment at this family-friendly show.

Sports

26th Jul. Valiant Pro: Live at The 162: *The 162, Gracefield Road, Lower Hutt* – 5:30pm. Bring the whānau to experience adrenaline-inducing wrestling matches featuring some of New Zealand's biggest wrestlers.

Galleries

Until 27th Jul. The 70s Dames: *Pātaka Art + Museum, Parumoana Street, Porirua*. With over 150 years of collective experience, potters Anneke Borren, Jenny Shearer, and Pamela Annsouth come together for a group show.

Until 14th Sep. Julia B. Lynch: A Dedicated

Life: *New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, Lady Elizabeth Lane, Wellington Waterfront*. Explore the life and work of extraordinary New Zealand portrait painter Julia B. Lynch.

10th-20th Jul. Octopus's Garden: *Rice Pudding Gallery, Constable Street, Newtown*. Discover a new ceramic exhibition by Sophie Florence Arbuckle.

12th Jul-8th Aug. Azúcar / Sugar: *Toi Pōneke Arts*

Centre, Abel Smith Street, Te Aro. *Azúcar / Sugar* is an explorative gallery experience that uses sugar sculptures, videos, and digital art to study the connection between sugar, colonisation, global trade, and climate change.

15th-20th Jul. Right Under My Nose: *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro*. Simon Olsen's painting practice expresses gratitude, exploring techniques that create texture and illusion of movement.

Festivals

16th-27th Jul. Doc Edge: *Roxy Cinema, Park Road, Miramar* – various times. 78 films and 12 immersive projects collide at this Oscar®-qualifying film festival that seeks to celebrate, support, and showcase documentary storytelling.

31st Jul. International Packraft Film Festival

– Wellington: *Penthouse Cinema, Ohiro Road, Brooklyn* – 7pm. Watch soulful river journeys and epic whitewater rafting adventures, big swims and quiet moments on the big screen at this festival by paddlers, for paddlers.

8th, 9th, 10th Aug. New Zealand Symphony

Orchestra Presents: Immerse Rumakina Festival:

Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro – 6:30pm, 7:20pm, 2pm. Over the course of one weekend, conductor André de Ridder presents three concerts: *Enchanted* – Stravinsky, Dukas & Mussorgsky; *Ascension* – Schumann & Vaughn Williams; and *Creepy-Crawly Carnival*.

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 22 July.

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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right under my nose
Simon Olsen - Solo Exhibition

Thistle Hall Gallery, 293 Cuba Street,
15-20 July 2025, 11am-6pm | @simonsverreolsen



Painting co-lab - Add brush strokes to a collaborative painting

PRESENTED BY KIWITICKET

RAW COMEDY QUEST 2025

= HEATS =
FRINGE BAR
THURS 03 JUL
THURS 10 JUL
THURS 17 JUL
THURS 25 JUL
THURS 31 JUL
THURS 07 AUG

= SEMIFINALS =
FRINGE BAR
WEDS 13 AUG
WEDS 20 AUG

= FINAL =
HANNAH PLAYHOUSE
FRI 29 AUG

ALL SHOWS 8PM
TICKETS FROM KIWITICKET

Logos: THE WELLINGTON COMEDY FESTIVAL, creative12, KiwiTicket, Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council, ONE FOUNDATION



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Kidz Stuff
Heidi and Sean Show
Juggling!
Balancing!
Clowning!

Kidz Stuff Family Pass Winner
Jan Middleton - Titahi Bay

Peppa Pig
Fun Day Out!

Peppa Pig Family Pass Winners
Carole Dryburgh - Wadestown
David Nathanson - Miramar

DRACULAS

Dracula's Double Pass Winners
Howard Livingston - Wellington Central
Baiara Sletcher - Paraparaumu



Please support the Women's Refuge Annual Street Appeal in Wellington

To put your name forward to collect on Friday 25th July please email Kim at officeadmin@wwr.org.nz

To donate please do this via <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/wellingtonwomensrefuge>

If you live outside of Wellington please contact your local Refuge to support their appeal.

44 Wigan Street, Wellington

Regional News

Eyes on Wellington

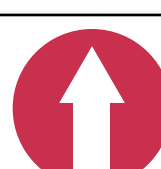


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Wellington | Te Whanganui-a-Tara

Michael Fowler Centre

Fri, 08 Aug, 6.30pm

ANDRÉ DE RIDDER APPEARS WITH
SUPPORT FROM THE DIESSL FAMILY

ENCHANTED

Stravinsky, Dukas & Mussorgsky

André de Ridder Conductor

Mussorgsky *Night on Bald Mountain*

Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

Stravinsky *Petrushka* (1947)



New Zealand
Symphony
Orchestra

Te Tira Pūoro
o Aotearoa

SUPPORTED BY



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Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

THE NZSO
FOUNDATION

Sat, 09 Aug, 7.30pm

ASCENSION

Schumann & Vaughan Williams

André de Ridder Conductor

Jerome Kavanagh Poutama Taonga Puoro

Vesa-Matti Leppänen Violin

Salina Fisher/Jerome Kavanagh Poutama *Papatūānuku*

Vaughan Williams *The Lark Ascending*

Schumann *Symphony No. 1 Spring*



Sun, 10 Aug, 2pm

A musical celebration of wild animals
and creepy-crawlies for the whole family!

André de Ridder Conductor

Bret McKenzie Presenter

CREEPY-CRAWLY CARNIVAL

Saint-Saëns & Roussel



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