

Region News

Eye *Livingston*

Issue 257

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News

Star-studded skirmish

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



Photo by Kiah DeRose Photography.

A star will be born on the 29th of November. Descending from the heavens to Ivy Bar & Cabaret, local up-and-coming drag artists Mia Gayn, Joe Withanee, Rover Stimulation, Johnny Raven, Silica Gel, Bobby Bottle Blond, and Tina Coco Couture will take to the stage in the electrifying finale of *Rising Star 2025*.

Featuring jaw-dropping outfits and show-stopping spectacles, the *Rising Star* finale follows three heats of fierce competition in which the seven finalists battled it out against their eliminated adversaries in the hopes of securing the crown. Now, in their last challenge, they have been tasked with creating a performance based on someone iconic to them to answer the question, “What does performing mean to you”, organiser and *RuPaul’s Drag Race Down Under* season four contestant Olivia Dreams [pictured] says.

“The most surprising thing about the performers competing is the level of creativity and detail they are all bringing to the competition,” Dreams says. “They’re all performers who are bringing their authentic selves and showing the judges why exactly they deserve to be the next *Rising Star* – there’s been such close scores through the competition, so I’m excited to see what the finale brings”.

With dazzling performances and some unforgettable looks under their rhinestone-studded belts, the competition is destined to be glittering, glamorous, and glorious.

“I think the best thing about Wellington’s drag is that it’s quite a cauldron and mixing pot, there’s a little bit of everything”, Dreams beams, adding that for those just starting out, the best thing to do is to “show up, make connections, and just have fun. You don’t need to be the perfect drag artist from the get-go – part of the fun is discovering who you are and what you like along the way”.

See who will fall from grace and who will be the new face of the Wellington drag scene at *Rising Star*.

Awareness and action



Photo by Tom Noble.

Coming to The Fringe Bar on the 28th of November in the lead up to World AIDS Day on the 1st of December, *Red Ribbon Revue* balances joy with purpose, celebration with education. The cabaret spectacular featuring comedy, drag, burlesque, and musical performances aims to raise funds and visibility for HIV/AIDS support services in Aotearoa.

“As a gay man in my fifties, I witnessed the worst of the AIDS epidemic, as well as the protest and resilience that helped transform it into a manageable condition,” award-winning comedian, NZ Comedy School founder, and *Red Ribbon Revue* host Neil Thornton [pictured] says. “Now, the best I can do as a performer is to gather incredible diverse artists to carry those lessons forward while raising funds for Body Positive and Burnett, who continue the essential work of fighting stigma and saving lives.”

The event brings together performers from communities disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS with a lineup that includes 2025 Billy T Award-nominee Jak Darling, comedian and Fired Up Stilettos (FUS) founding member Anya Rzhevitskaya, multi-award-winning drag king Willy SmacknTush, veteran cabaret performer Victor Victorious, provocative yet wholesome comedian Thomas Doreen, and pole artist and FUS founding member Margot Embargot.

Pairing performance with moments of gentle education about HIV prevention and safer sex practices, treatment advances, and the ongoing fight against stigma, *Red Ribbon Revue* “proves that raising visibility can be joyful, entertaining, and deeply meaningful”, Thornton says. “World AIDS Day deserves to be honoured with both awareness and action”.

Cover: Joyce DiDonato. Summer Nights, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Photo by Brooke Shaden.

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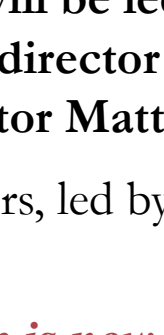
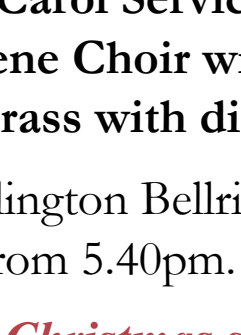
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Doors open at 6.00pm

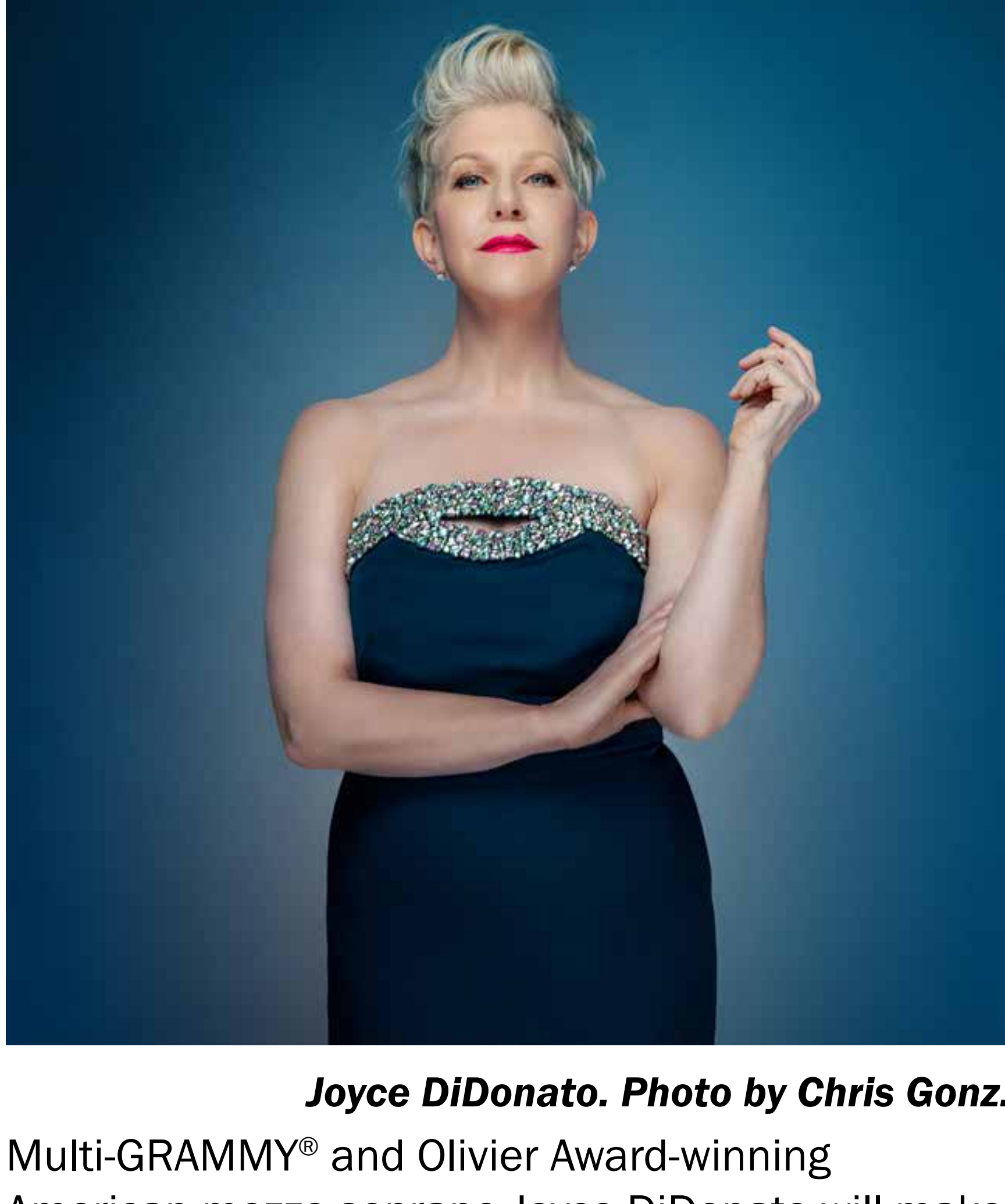
This year's Carol Service will be led by Archbishop Paul Martin SM, the Nota Bene Choir with director Maaikie Christie-Beckmann, and Hutt City Brass with director Matt Stein.

Plus the Wellington Bellringers, led by Dylan Thomas, will be ringing in the service from 5.40pm.

The Christmas shop is now open daily from 10am-4pm

All welcome! Please bring non-perishable food for the social supermarket. There will be a cash koha offertory collection during the service. Arranged by the Friends of Old St Paul's Society Inc.

Utterly uplifted



Joyce DiDonato. Photo by Chris Gonz.

Multi-GRAMMY® and Olivier Award-winning American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato will make her long-awaited New Zealand debut with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) at the Michael Fowler Centre on the 28th of November. Performing with the orchestra under the baton of acclaimed New Zealander Gemma New, the NZSO’s artistic advisor and principal conductor, the opera singer with the “24-carat gold voice” (*The Times*) will present *Joyce DiDonato Summer Nights* featuring two music masterpieces: French composer Hector Berlioz’s exquisite song cycle *Les Nuits d’été* and Austrian composer Anton Bruckner’s monumental Seventh Symphony. With DiDonato’s London Philharmonic Orchestra performance of Berlioz’s *La mort de Cléopâtre* last year praised by *The Guardian* “as a tour de force”, her Pōneke concert promises to be an unforgettable musical experience showcasing her unmatched artistry, praised by the New Yorker as “perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation”.

Speaking to her performances, DiDonato once said that she expects her audience to be “transformed” by the end of the evening. “I want them to have the experience of a lifetime and feel something deep and true that normal, everyday modern life doesn’t usually afford them. I want them to be utterly uplifted.”

In addition to her New Zealand debut performances, DiDonato will offer rare insights into her craft through a masterclass on the 27th of November. Presented in collaboration with Te Pae Kōkako – The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio (TANZOS) and the Dame Malvina Major Foundation, it will feature emerging opera talent and provide audiences with a behind-the-scenes look at the discipline and passion that define DiDonato’s career.

“We’re genuinely delighted that Joyce DiDonato has chosen to offer masterclasses as part of her New Zealand debut,” NZSO chief executive Marc Feldman says. “Her generosity – on stage and in the studio – is legendary. Her work with young singers in her renowned Carnegie Hall programme has inspired countless artists around the world. For the NZSO, this is truly an honour, it’s more than a teaching moment; it’s a chance to connect, collaborate, and help shape the next generation of operatic talent here in Aotearoa.”

Serving up fun



Lick your lips and ready your plate: the Kāpiti Food Fair will return to Mazengarb Reserve on the 6th of December in all its tummy-rumbling, mouth-watering deliciousness!

The 2025 festival is the ultimate collision of treats and beats, serving up music and mayhem, drinks and delight, performance and party vibes, food and fun from 10am to 5pm. A free bus from Paraparaumu station and accessible VIP or gold coin parking options make getting there easy, while with distinct zones, planning your big day out is a breeze.

The Tuatara Bar will be pouring craft brews, wines, local cocktails, and ciders with the nearby Main Stage keeping the vibes high all day thanks to MC AJ Crawshaw. The 80s and 90s revival party on the Thames Pacific Main Stage will see the likes of Devon Welch, Intercite, Jodie & The Stowaways, The Beat Girls, The Relatives, and Love Shack joining the lineup.

ANZ Kāpiti Kitchen Stage will stir up magic with local culinary stars La Ficelle Bakery, Lustre Kitchen and Dining, Funk with Food, and The Bond Store giving you fresh kitchen inspiration. The ZEAL Zone will showcase incredible musical talents of local rangatahi, with a dedicated kids’ zone keeping tamariki entertained with all kinds of activities. The Pavillion Street Zone and roving performers will bring festival vibes to every corner of the festival.

You bring the picnic blanket and Kāpiti Food Fair will provide everything else you may need for a day of great eats, entertainment, and vibes!

SNIPS

Sculpture commission

City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi is marking its return to its heritage home in Te Ngākau Civic Square with a new opportunity for a New Zealand-born or based artist to create a major outdoor sculpture on Harris Street in the capital. Search Sculpture Terrace Commission at citygallery.org.nz to apply now until the 4th of May 2026.

Remutaka reminder

The last week of 2025 night closures is underway for State Highway 2 Remutaka Hill from now till Thursday the 21st of November, 9pm till 4am. Escorted crossings for light vehicles are available once per night in each direction, with bookings essential at nzta.govt.nz

Submissions open

Playmarket has opened submissions for the 2026 Adam NZ Play Award, the only one of its kind for new play writing. \$8000 total is available across categories thanks to the Adam Foundation. You can make your submission under competitions at playmarket.org.nz until the 1st of December.

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News

A one-stop shop



Brendan Hall and Mitre 10 NZ CEO Andrea Scown.



On Tuesday the 12th of November, Mitre 10 opened the doors of its newest store right in the heart of Wellington City on Tory Street.

“We have a full Mitre 10, so that includes a trade drive-thru – which will have timber, building supplies, and landscaping – on the basement level, a department store like you’d see in a normal Mitre 10 on the ground level, and then on the top floor are our showrooms, related products, and café,” managing director Brendan Hall says. “It’s quite a big café overlooking the Mount Vic villas. It has an internal playground, a beautiful view, and a full-blown kitchen and chefs.”

Just like Pōneke, the Columbus Coffee café is full of personality, with a “huge 3.3-metre artificial tree as its centrepiece”. Plus, the space is flooded with natural light and flanked by an artificial plant wall. “We want customers to come in and be wowed by the space and how we’ve utilised it”, Brendan beams.

The Wellington Central location brings services that were previously unavailable to folks in the CBD, including timber cutting, delivery and trailer hire, concreting and retaining wall construction, key cutting, painting, landscaping, a huge plant section, showrooms, click-and-collect lockers, and DIY and design services.

“Customers can come and design a kitchen or a bathroom or a laundry with us and then we’ll arrange all the plumbers, electricians, tilers, and installers”, Brendan explains. “You can just work directly with us, and we’ll look after the rest.”

With 90-minute parking available in a complex that also includes Warehouse Stationery, Noel Leeming, Commonsense Organics, Look Sharp, Social Project, and a yoga studio, what makes Mitre10 Wellington Central unique is that it has been tailored specifically to inner city life.

“We’ve got the tiniest kitchen and appliances and new storage solutions that maximise space. We’re tailoring to university students, we have one-hour click-and-collect, and we’re developing one hour click-and-deliver, which will launch in the next month or two.”

Every aspect was made with Wellingtonians in mind and “designed specifically for this location”, Brendan says, from the homewares section right down to the bespoke signage.

Mitre 10 Wellington Central has more developments in the works as well, with expansion planning underway. “Next year, we’ll get an outdoor garden that’ll be elevated on a walkthrough connected to the ground floor,” Brendan says.

Mitre 10 Wellington Central is more than just a store, weaving itself into the fabric of the city by supporting organisations such as Life Flight, Predator Free Wellington, Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne, and other key charities and institutions the likes of Wellington Zoo and more.

“We want to connect with the Wellington community and build a relationship that will support locals and help them grow and thrive in the city they call home”.

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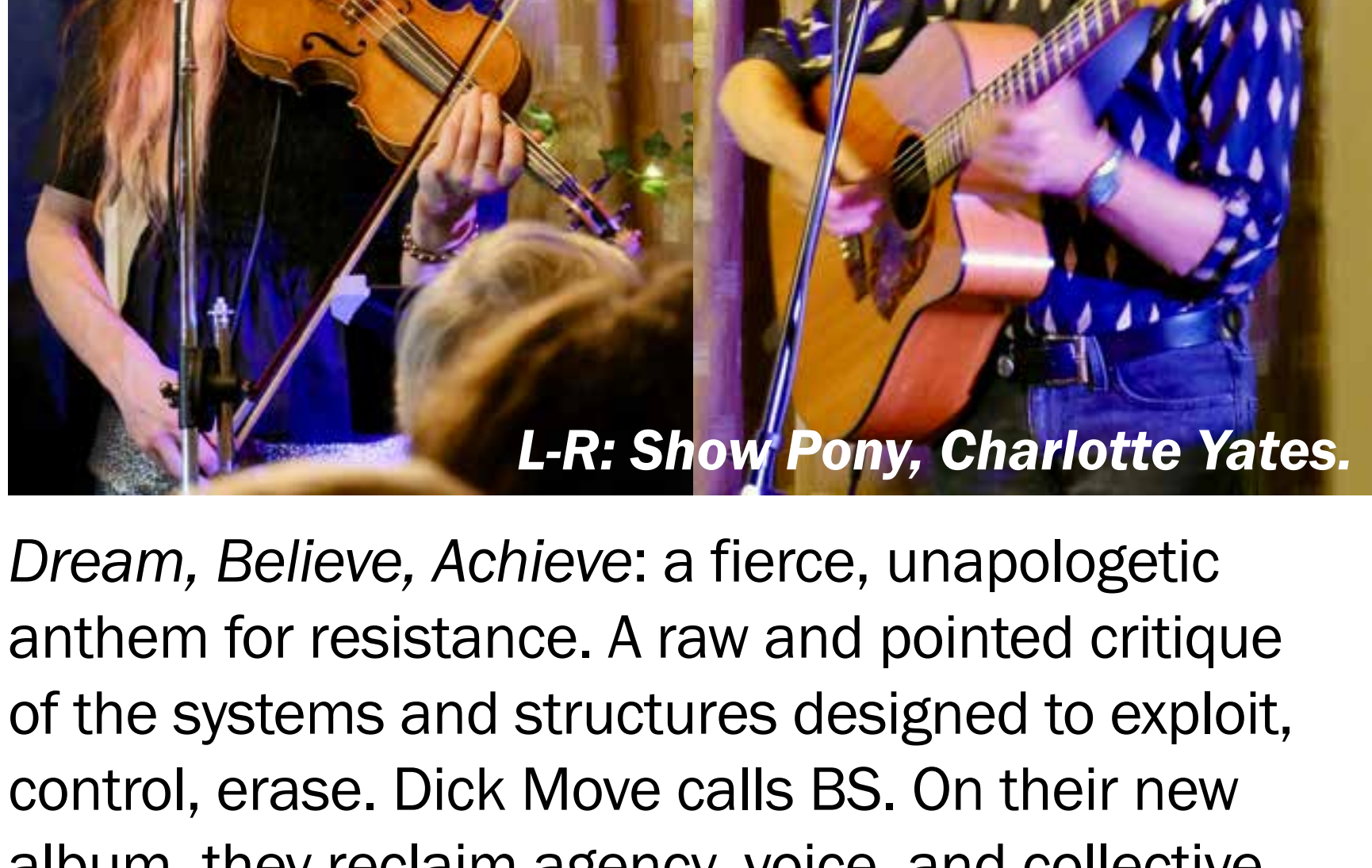
Dream, Believe, Achieve: a fierce, unapologetic anthem for resistance. A raw and pointed critique of the systems and structures designed to exploit, control, erase. Dick Move calls BS. On their new album, they reclaim agency, voice, and collective power.

Dream, Believe, Achieve is unrelenting. The mid-November release sees the Aotearoa punk force spitting 13 short, sharp, snarling protests in just 25 minutes, making for a punchy pocket rocket of an album stacked with scathing titles like *Scared Old Men*, *Try Hard*, *Bludger*, *Handful*, and the latest single *Shut Your Mouth*.

“Imagine a big smack talking, gold tooth wearing, trust fund bludging, sweaty forehead shining, boring story battling, right wing apologising, space overtaking, oxygen up sucking dude is harshing your vibe at the bar”, lead singer Lucy Suttor says about the newest track. “This is what you say”.

Alongside Suttor, the riotous fury of Lucy Macrae, Harriet Ellis, Justin Rendell, and Luke Boyes resounds and reverbs though each song, urgent and essential. Dick Move shouts about things that matter in a thick Kiwi accent that’s sounded across oceans lately. They supported Foo Fighters and The Breeders on their 2024 New Zealand tour; as well as Aussie stalwarts Amyl and the Sniffers, Cosmic Psychos, and The Chats; toured Europe in 2024 and 2025; had multiple stints across the ditch; and now maintain the momentum as socialist-party punk agitators with an album release tour that skids into San Fran on the 28th of November.

Lyrical fluency *by Madelaine Empson*



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Sharp as glass



16 years and seven albums into her extraordinary career, queen of rock ‘n’ roll Sharon Van Etten has unveiled her new band and their debut eponymous record to widespread awe and acclaim.

The Attachment Theory – Devra Hoff on bass guitar and backing vocals, Teeny Lieberman on keys, guitar, and backing vocals, and Jorge Balbi on drums – heralds “a new dawn for the music of the night”, *The Times* writes. With the gothic-tinged outfit, the *Seventeen* singer has written and recorded music in total collaboration for the first time, creating a sonically different output. The themes are timeless, classic Van Etten – life and living, love and being loved – but the sounds are new. Wholly realised. Sharp as glass.

“Sometimes it’s exciting, sometimes it’s scary, sometimes you feel stuck”, Van Etten reflects on this new artistic state of mind. “It’s like every day feels a little different – just being at peace with whatever you’re feeling and whoever you are and how you relate to people in that moment. If I can just keep a sense of openness while knowing that my feelings change every day, that is all I can do right now. That and try to be the best person I can be while letting other people be who they are and not taking it personally and just being. I’m not there, but I’m trying to be there every day.”

Hot on the (six-inch patent black stiletto) heels of the release of *Sharon Van Etten & The Attachment Theory*, fans can see the quantum leap she’s made in that direction when the tight unit comes to town, shredding The Opera House stage on the 25th of November before shooting down south then soaring back up to headline Auckland’s The Others Way Festival.

Heavier than ever *by Madelaine Empson*



Wellington band Melondrone was named by guitarist Chris after a mix of melancholy and drone, which vocalist and guitarist Dan says goes some way to describing their sound. “Driven by our desire to make better band logos and posters”, the A in melancholy was swapped for an O. Nothing to do with melons (the fruit) and everything to do with pleasing aesthetics. Joined by drummer James and bassist George, the group’s sound has deepened into something both raw and precise, gritty and polished.

In a time when daily life can feel surreal, heavy, Melondrone set out to cut through the hollow noise with their sophomore EP. Released last month, *I Think Therefore I Am Exploited* moves between the beautiful and the gnarly, layering songs of hope and acceptance that invite the listener to go easy on themselves, but hard on the foolish frameworks that limit who we can be.

Dan hopes that listeners feel relaxed and uplifted – that the music was worth their time. “We’ve tried to create something that is wild, hypnotic, and heavy. I think we’d all be stoked with people saying simply, they enjoy it.”

Grateful for all the support they’ve had so far from the people who listen to their music, Melondrone are set to embark on a four-stop national EP release tour.

“Wellington can expect a psychedelic-shoegaze-rock ‘n’ roll extravaganza, powerful music therapy, and a towering wall of sound”, Dan says, adding the setlist will be stacked with “songs from our latest EP, a couple of favourites, (a banger of) a cover, and maybe one or two pieces of newer material”.

At Moon on Saturday the 22nd of November, “We’ll be providing immersive sonic vibrations, heavier than ever, for the good people of Wellington.”

Tectonic, sonic power



Just when their fans thought there was no light at the end of tunnel, High Dependency Unit (HDU) emerged from the darkness to announce their first shows in close to a decade. The seismic event that marks the return of Tristan Dingemans, Neil Phillips, and Constantine Karlis to the stage will rumble into Meow Nui on the 26th of November.

Since their formation in Dunedin in 1993, HDU have carved out a singular space in Aotearoa’s music landscape, fusing and funnelling shoegaze and psychedelic noise into hypnotic, sonic power. Their live shows are the stuff of legend. Their 90s and 2000s studio output of albums and EPs like *Sum of the Few* (1996), *Crosschannel Multitap* (1998), *Memento Mori* (2000), *Fire Works* (2001), and *Metamathics* (2008) have become the touchstones for generations of musicians both in Aotearoa and abroad.

Known for melding sonics and psychedelia into moments that explode with aggression or burst with beauty, their Meow Nui show will revisit their formidable back catalogue and remind audiences why they’ve long been considered one of New Zealand’s most powerful live acts.

Serving as openers are legendary 1970s Zamrock pioneers W.I.T.C.H (We Intend To Cause Havoc), who are currently in the midst of a global renaissance.

With their psychedelic rock, funk, and African rhythms making them cult icons around the world, they’ll rock the capital like a foreshock to the big one.

Shake, shimmy, and get ready to rumble.

Top-tier tomfoolery



A smorgasbord of stand-up will be served on a silver platter at *Friday Laughs*, bringing crack-up comedy to Fringe Bar audiences on the 5th of December in bite-sized morsels.

Combining hilarious jokes, world-class storytelling, and a dollop of authentic emotional honesty that sometimes worries his mum, Brendon Green is a treat for every kind of comedy fan. The writer, TV creative, and comedian has spent over 15 years in the industry writing for the likes of *7 Days*, *Taskmaster NZ*, *Have You Been Paying Attention?*, *Paddy Gower Has Issues*, and many more shows, collecting nominations along the way for the Fred Award, Billy T Award, and UNESCO City of Literature Award.

Green says that he is proof that “you can be hilarious while holding kindness, empathy, and connection at your core – this is comedy that strives to make the world a better place”.

Joining Green is a local lineup and Rhys Mathewson, one of New Zealand’s most decorated comedians.

Mathewson has been doing comedy since the tender age of 15. After participating in Class Comedians in 2006, he says he knew immediately that the craft would become his life’s work. Today, he has supported top international comedians like Jack Whitehall and performed around the world, as well as won almost every comedy award Aotearoa has to offer. In fact, he still holds the title of the youngest Fred and Billy T Award winner.

Tuck into top-tier tomfoolery at *Friday Laughs*.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas



Dylan Thomas.

We at Old St Paul’s warmly invite you to the traditional family Annual Citizens Carol Service, once again hosted by the Friends of Old St Paul’s on Tuesday the 2nd of December. This year, the service will be led by our Thorndon neighbour Paul Martin SM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Wellington.

We are delighted to announce that the Wellington Combined Society of Bellringers, led by ringing master Dylan Thomas, will be back for 2025. The church doors open at 6pm, but be sure to come early to enjoy the thrill of hearing (and seeing) Old St Paul’s bells once more ring out across Thorndon from 5:40pm.

Following this spectacular sound and sight, the ever-popular Carol Service will begin at 6:30pm. Children are especially welcome, and should come ready to sing along with the fabulous local chamber choir Nota Bene, directed by Maaike Christie-Beekman. We are also excited that the hugely popular Hutt City Brass, directed by Matthew Stein, will again bring the beat – and then some!

The Carol Service has a long-standing Christmas tradition of donating pantry gifts to families in need. As generously as you are able, please bring non-perishable, packaged pantry goods for Wellington City Mission’s Social Supermarket.

There will be a cash koha offertory collection during the service.

Your favourite little Christmas shop is already open in the vestry during the church’s opening hours, which are 10am to 4pm. By shopping at this enchanting treasure trove of festive treats, you will be helping to preserve one of New Zealand’s greatest and most beautiful heritage buildings.

Such a Night

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



Pull on your *Blue Suede Shoes* and high tail it to Club Carterton on the 22nd of November – Jason Payn as Elvis is ready to cause some *Trouble*.

Introduced to Elvis via gospel records by his foster mother as a young boy, Payn’s appreciation for The King is something he’s had his whole life.

“He was the world’s first global megastar and brought what we call rock ‘n’ roll to the world,” Payn says. “As he matured, so too did his music, and that’s why I think he has such longevity. We can grow along with his music.”

Today, Payn prides himself on delivering an authentic Presley performance that celebrates the songs and soul of one of the world’s greatest entertainers.

“My mission in these shows is to help suspend disbelief for an hour or two and share Elvis’ emotion and energy through the songs,” Payn continues. “Elvis put so much effort into his performances. I like to put a lot of effort in too.”

Having competed in national and international tribute contests since 2014 – and regularly placing in the top five – he knows every inch of The King’s catalogue. He loves every Elvis era but is particularly fond of the jumpsuits worn between 1969 and 1977. In fact, on the night, he’ll be wearing one tailored by Elvis’ costume team!

Following support act Samuel R. Saffery, Payn will deliver “some bangers, some ballads, and some anthems” to get crowds *All Shook Up*.

Brass brilliance



Matthew Allison. Photo courtesy of NZSO.

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) will deliver a bold and exhilarating concert experience that celebrates brass brilliance, festive cheer, and timeless classics at the Michael Fowler Centre on the 5th of December with *Summer Brass*.

Showcasing the power and precision of the NZSO's brass and percussion sections, *Summer Brass* features a programme that will stir the soul and ignite the holiday spirit. With commanding energy and musical finesse, the ensemble presents a rich tapestry of sound – from the grandeur of Baroque masterpieces to the stirring drama of 20th-century fanfares.

Audiences will be swept away by Christopher Mowat's vibrant arrangement of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, Samuel Barber's haunting *Mutations from Bach*, and Henri Tomasi's theatrical *Fanfares Liturgiques*, a work that moves between solemnity and splendour.

As the festive season draws near, the NZSO infuses the programme with a joyful twist – beloved Christmas classics reimagined through the warm, golden tones of a brass ensemble. From jubilant carols to heartwarming melodies, the orchestra delivers holiday favourites like *Winter Wonderland*, *Sleigh Ride*, *Jingle Bells Swing-a-Ling-Ding*, and *Joy to the World*.

With its vibrant mix of Baroque elegance, contemporary drama, and festive favourites, the NZSO creates the perfect outing for families, friends, and music lovers with *Summer Brass*. Get ready to be entertained, uplifted, and inspired – this is more than a concert, it's a celebration!

Brass brilliance



The journey continues as *Wicked: For Good* – part two of the film adaptation of the smash-hit 2003 stage musical by Stephen Schwartz and Winnie Holzman – swoops into cinemas across the motu.

Following the story of Elphaba, now demonised and living in exile, and Glinda, who resides in the Emerald City palace, *Wicked: For Good* opens with an angry mob calling for the destruction of the Wicked Witch of the West. To survive, Elphaba will need to reunite with Glinda to transform herself and all of Oz.

Following its nationwide release on the 20th of November, *Wicked: For Good* will screen as part of a fundraiser supporting parents of twins, triplets, and more at Light House Cinema Petone on the 30th. Organised by local charity Multiples Hutt Valley, the fun night out with a purpose will help to raise funds for their Mental Health Care Support Pack, which aims to provide access to counselling for parents of multiples, as well as for support for newborn families, grocery vouchers for families experiencing financial hardship, and other practical and emotional care.

“Parenting multiples can be incredibly intense – emotionally, physically, and financially,” event organiser and volunteer Hannah Barnao says. “We know mental health support can be life-changing, but it’s often out of reach. This fundraiser will help us make it available when families need it most.” Catch the 4pm screening and raffle to build community and connection *For Good*.

Celebrating the summit



Climb Together. Photo by Karen Chan.

From the towering French Alps to the cliffs of Thailand, the sea walls of Spain to the Canadian wilderness, climbers around the world are united by their creativity, courage, and connection.

Curated by the team at Vertical Life and presented by Adventure Entertainment, the Climbing Film Tour returns to Aotearoa for its sixth year to celebrate the global climbing community with five films.

Les Passagers du Vide: The Treasure of the Aravis Gate by Antoine Mesnage and Loris Poussin follows six highliners who stretch a 200-metre line above an alpine village, embarking on a quest for mythical treasure that inspires meditation on balance, fear, and friendship.

Anna Hazlett's *Climb Together* sees ‘O’ Hongliam and an international crew turn local cliffs in Khon Kaen, Thailand into a sustainable climbing destination, opening routes and minds to strengthen communities.

Canadian mountain guide Julianna Howatt confronts trauma and identity after a life-changing accident, redefining what strength and authenticity look like in the mountains in Nat Segal's *Beauty in a Fall*.

After surviving a lightning strike, Marina Xena confronts her fear head-on through sea cliff climbing in *First Rush*. Her story is a raw exploration of vulnerability, courage, and rediscovering purpose.

In the all-women film *La Rubia* by Bronwyn Hodgins and Julia Cassou, Hodgins takes on the Spanish La Rubia in a journey of mental and physical intensity grounded in the power of friendship.

Tether yourself to Penthouse Cinema on the 20th of November to celebrate authentic stories capturing passion, creativity, and culture at Climbing Film Tour.

So Honest It Aches



“When we perform we develop, we learn and grow”, 3rd Act creative director Nicola Pauling says.

Now in its fourth year, 3rd Act supports older adults to explore performance and storytelling. Improv serves as a foundational building block of the year-long programme for its ability to develop confidence, creativity, and connection. Participants start as individuals with varying levels of theatre experience, which is not a prerequisite. With inclusion as a core tenet, they end as a connected ensemble, together colouring in a blank canvas with stories drawn from their own experiences and those of the people around them. These stories then make their way to the stage in the shape of a devised performance that premieres at BATS Theatre.

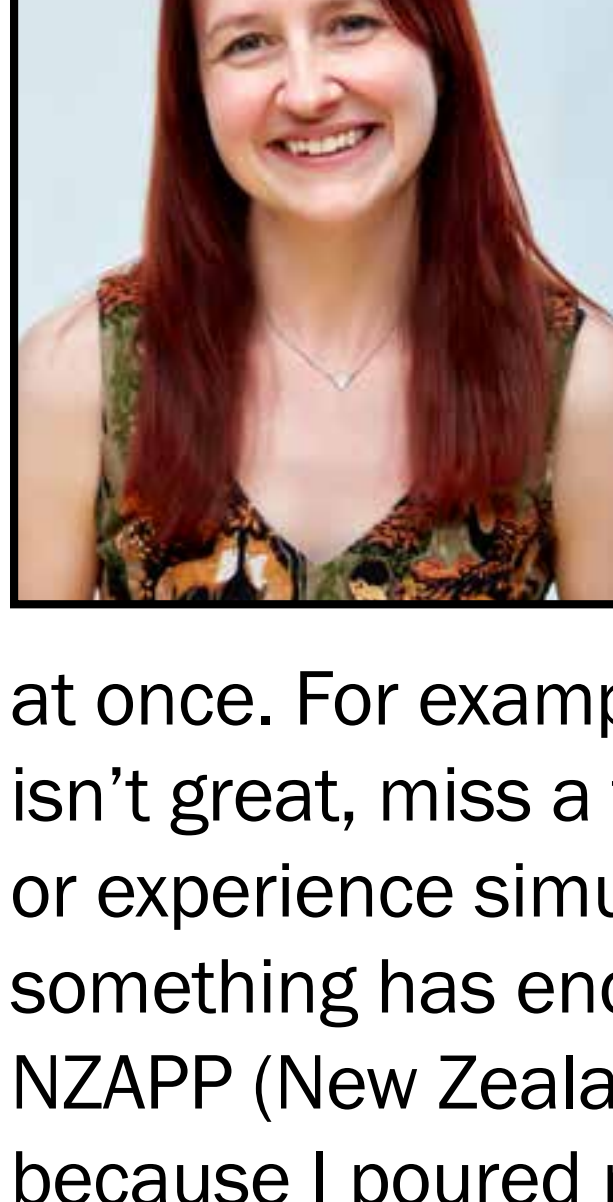
This year, the cast have chosen to explore, creatively and publicly, the stories we usually keep to ourselves.

“Life creates a collection of stories that we like to re-tell,” Pauling says, “curious stories, funny stories, dramatic stories. Then there are the stories we prefer not to share because we fear judgement, or we carry shame, or because to tell that story requires a bravery we’ve not yet found.”

So Honest It Aches will run for two nights only on Friday the 21st and Saturday the 22nd of November at 7pm. Come and support 3rd Act as they find the courage to reveal parts of themselves, of their history, that they rarely share... and certainly never in front of an audience.

A word from Maddi...

Red-faced and paintless

by **Madelaine Empson**

I write to you from the throes of the glitter crash. This is a thing where a performance you’ve been rehearsing, training, or otherwise gearing up for is suddenly... over?

One of the most powerful things I’ve learned over the years is that more than one thing can be true

at once. For example, you can like someone who isn’t great, miss a friend who wasn’t good for you, or experience simultaneous sadness and relief that something has ended. The latter is how I feel about NZAPP (New Zealand Amateur Pole Performer), because I poured my mind, body, and soul into that competition and am glad to have them back, despite the fact that I have no idea what to do with myself now and already want to do it all over again!

Let’s rewind to NZAPP itself, which I wrote about in my last column prior to competing on the 1st of November. I performed as Wednesday Addams to a Lady Gaga medley mixed by my dad, and all did *not* go according to plan.

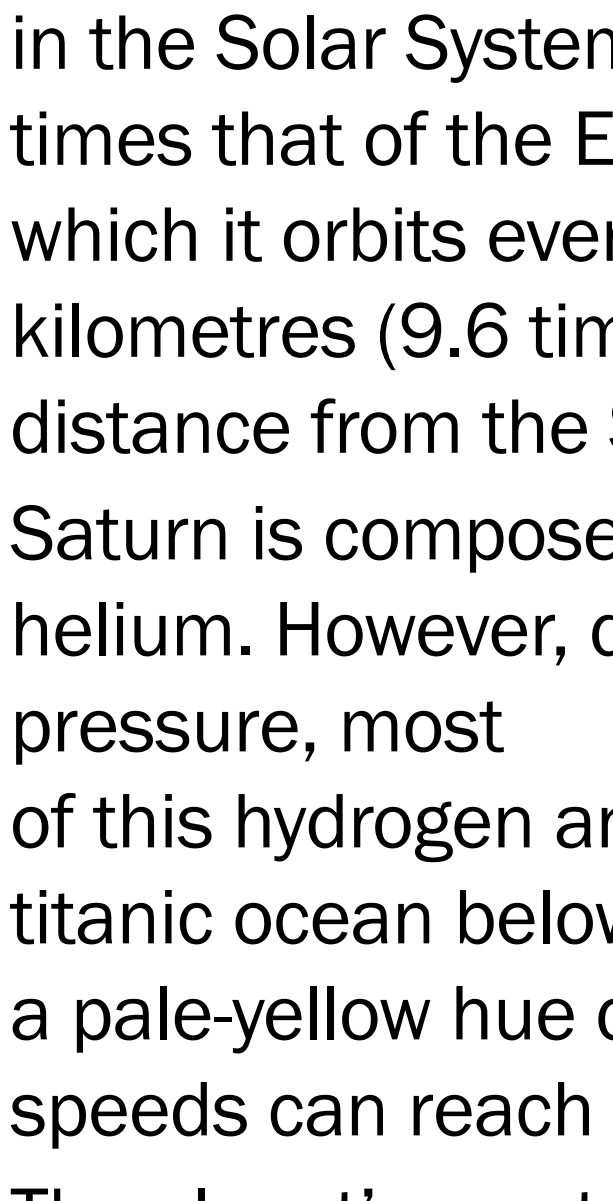
After training for three months, a period that encompassed the biggest sacrifice of all (no prosecco), I rolled my ankle the day before the competition. This was all in an ill-advised bid to procure red face paint on Halloween. Pro tip: don’t ever do this, or you might get so overwhelmed and flustered by how many other people are also out apparently trying to buy red face paint, you’ll walk out onto the street without looking and simply fall. I kid you not, the queue at Look Sharp was at least 80 people long. I got so mad with everyone in that line as if I wasn’t in it too, which echoes this terrible habit I have of sitting in traffic, being mad at the people causing traffic, because it’s *my turn* on the road, thank you very much.

Anyway, I eventually got red face paint, but when I rolled my ankle (still red-face-paintless at that point) and felt a sharp, stabby, jolty pain, I was gutted and my anxiety went through the roof. Last year I had to pull out of a comp due to an injury, so it had become a massive fear of mine that something like that would happen again. And it did. And miraculously, it was fine. Okay, so I forgot the red face paint that started it all and my poor pole teacher had to go out and get me some from the mall on the day, but with expert advice, massive support, and precautions taken, I was able to safely compete... and I came second!

Anxiety: 0. Maddi: 1. The people who rallied around me? 100.

Cosmic conversations

Lord of the Rings

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

Due north in our early evening sky is the ‘Great Square’, which consists of four bright stars that form a large square in a relatively barren region of the sky. Above the square is what appears to be a star of similar brightness. But this is no star.

This is the planet Saturn – ‘The Lord of the Rings’.

Saturn is a colossal planet, the second-largest world in the Solar System, after Jupiter. It has a mass 95 times that of the Earth. Its distance from the Sun, which it orbits every 29.46 years, is 1434 million kilometres (9.6 times greater than the Earth’s distance from the Sun).

Saturn is composed mostly of hydrogen and helium. However, due to its enormous atmospheric pressure, most

of this hydrogen and helium is liquefied to form a titanic ocean below the clouds. Its atmosphere has a pale-yellow hue due to ammonia crystals. Wind speeds can reach 1800 kilometres per hour.

The planet’s most famous feature is its magnificent system of rings which are composed of billions of ice particles, with a smaller amount of rocky debris.

The rings may be the debris of two or more moons that collided.

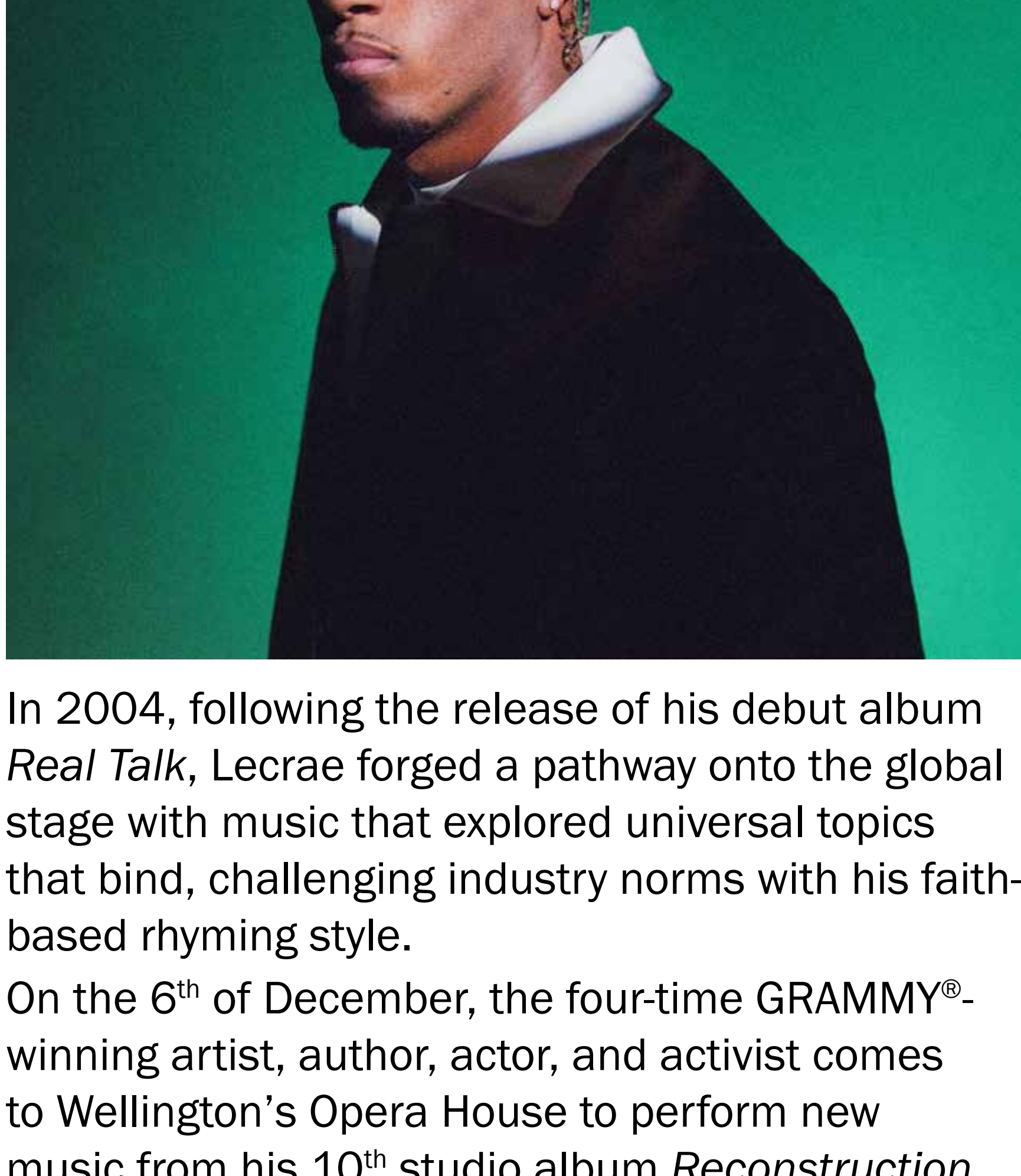
Saturn has 274 moons. Some of these moons, in particular Pandora and Prometheus, act as shepherds that keep the rings in place and prevent them from spreading out.

The largest moon is Titan, which is 11 times larger than our Moon. It has a relatively dense atmosphere of nitrogen and methane, and has a greenish terrain of continents, rivers, lakes, and seas.

But, this is no second Earth. Its surface temperature is -180 degrees Celsius, and its rivers and seas are liquid methane and ethane.

Although very different from our Earth, and hostile to life as we know it, Titan may be home to aliens! Recently, space probes have detected organic materials at its surface. Did this organic material originate from an ocean of liquid water beneath its surface? Or, did it somehow originate at its surface? Aliens may no longer be science fiction.

Positivity amplified



In 2004, following the release of his debut album *Real Talk*, Lecrae forged a pathway onto the global stage with music that explored universal topics that bind, challenging industry norms with his faith-based rhyming style.

On the 6th of December, the four-time GRAMMY®-winning artist, author, actor, and activist comes to Wellington’s Opera House to perform new music from his 10th studio album *Reconstruction* alongside songs from his decorated catalogue.

The new album continues the creative’s mission to bring Christ to the culture – an ethos that has remained consistent throughout his career. Lecrae has seen success across both gospel and hip-hop with groundbreaking albums such as *Rebel* (2008), which made history as the first Christian hip-hop album to reach number one on Billboard’s Top Gospel Albums chart; *Gravity* (2012), netting his first career GRAMMY; and *Anomaly* (2014), the first Christian rap album to go gold.

Anomaly also earned Lecrae his first number one album on the Billboard 200 and his second GRAMMY for the song *Messengers* featuring for KING & COUNTRY. *Church Clothes 4* and the deluxe version *Church Clothes 4: Dry Clean Only* followed in 2022 and 2023 respectively, while 2024 saw two more GRAMMYS added to Lecrae’s belt.

Beyond the music, Lecrae is a *New York Times* bestselling author, podcaster on *The Deep End With Lecrae*, and philanthropist who helps diverse groups like local communities, school children, and incarcerated individuals.

A continued voice for positive change, catch Lecrae amplified along his *Reconstruction World Tour*.

Ranting, raving, and ROFL-ing



Photo by Matt Grace.

Irreverent, incorrigible, and just ever so outraged, James Nokise lets loose for a *One Night Rant* at The Fringe Bar on the 28th of November.

No one is safe from the Kiwi comedian’s semi-chaotic but always-cathartic blend of humour and hot takes. Politicians, policies, preachers, and protests are all in the line of fire as Nokise takes pot shots in the name of performance.

“It’s the kind of show where no politician is safe, no policy goes un-mocked, and even the audience might get called out – all with a laugh,” the award-winning comedian says.

Fast, furious, and funny, *One Night Rant* comes fresh off the back of sold-out runs at the New Zealand International Comedy Festival w. Best Foods Mayo and Nokise’s stint on the UK comedy circuit. The two-time Billy T-nominated comedian, playwright, columnist, podcaster, theatre maker, and social commentator is at his sharpest in his newest show, which he describes as an hour of laughs with the occasional frustrated scream.

Known for his bold approach and ability to give voice to underrepresented issues, Nokise covers everything from government scandals to global chaos in *One Night Rant*, ripping into the news cycle while mixing big laughs with bite-sized truths. Designed for anyone who’s ever shouted at the TV, despaired at the headlines, or secretly enjoyed watching politicians squirm, *One Night Rant* is your one-way ticket to sweet, sweet justice.

The artistry of public bathrooms



Photo by David Le.

Art permeates all aspects of life for creative Wellingtonian Emily Hartley-Skudder. “It’s my practice, my career, most of my friends are in the arts community as well. I have a lot of art in my house. I frame my life around seeing art,” she says. After focusing on the subject in high school and letting “everything else fall by the wayside”, she enrolled at Ilam School of Fine Arts in Canterbury, where she studied for five years. In postgrad, she dove into any opportunity that presented itself, juggling side jobs and show deadlines to keep the momentum going.

Now she has shows and residencies aplenty populating her résumé, recently adding the \$40,000 Fair Trust Art Prize to her list of achievements. Funded by the Estate of Dr Eileen Fair and delivered in partnership with Palmerston North’s Te Manawa Museum, the residency aims to bring top artists to Manawatū.

Hartley-Skudder, with her vibrant oil paintings and immersive installations where everyday objects, gendered spaces, and nostalgia collide, could not be more grateful to be the inaugural recipient.

What was your reaction when you heard that you’d been chosen for the inaugural prize?

It was affirming and nice to know that people have been watching what I’ve been doing and believe in me as an artist. It’s a great opportunity to be able to continue with the momentum that I have had from previous residencies. It can be quite hard at times as an artist; you apply for a lot of things, so when I found out, I’d actually applied for about five and didn’t get any of them. It was a great feeling to receive that recognition.

How would you describe your practice?

I have a grounding in painting. I am very interested in the everyday and the domestic, but also the artificial versions of those things that we surround ourselves with. I really enjoyed collecting found objects and revisiting some of the dollhouses and miniatures I had as a child. Then it expanded to collecting all sorts of kitchen paraphernalia, then bathrooms. I make installations and then I integrate my paintings into those installations. My process normally goes: finding things, arranging them, photographing them, and then working from those sourced images to make paintings. It’s something that really excites me. There are so many things within painting that you can do, but I find it helpful to respond to existing things and objects in environments from the everyday world. It gives me something to bounce off.

What about painting keeps it the focus in your practice?

It’s become my craft. It’s the thing that I am skilled at and spent many, many years perfecting. I always like to have it as an anchor. That can be quite nice when I’m also doing a lot of organising and logistics and stuff, which is exciting and necessary for larger installations. Working out how you’re going to get bathtubs across the country is a bit less rewarding and abstract than physical painting time. I do really enjoy having that absorptive time where you can just focus on the one thing. It can be quite helpful to slow down and focus on something with everything else going around you. Even though it can be a real struggle and frustrating, I do get that satisfaction from it. It’s a feeling you’re chasing, when things are finally going well and a series of paintings are coming together. I feel truly more like an artist in that moment.

What have been some career highlights?

There’s been quite a few. I went on a residency in Xiamen, China in 2018 through Wellington City Council and the Asia New Zealand Foundation. That was my first residency, and it was so eye-opening – just the colours and materials – and opened up more possibilities in my work. There was also a shift in my work being more overtly feminist, like, putting breast pumps and speculums in it and playfully pushing that side of things. I was also the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship recipient in 2023. The exhibition for that was a really special opportunity where I was able to play the role of curator. I searched through historic and contemporary works and public collections around Aotearoa and brought them into the exhibition alongside my work. It was looking at feminine figures bathing, like the la toilette genre, which was mainly men painting naked women in the bathroom getting ready, cleaning themselves. I thought that was a really exciting way to talk about the work that I’m making by bringing in the figure, because my work is normally very absent of figures.

As the inaugural Fair Trust Art Prize recipient, you’re defining the first exhibition the prize will put forward. What do you have planned?

I’d been doing research into public bathrooms around Aotearoa already and curator Sian Van Dyk and I had, in passing, chatted about it and I’d seen and reshared someone’s post about the beautiful Art Deco building called Ladies Rest in The Square in Palmerston North. During my fellowship in 2023, I’d started looking at historic women’s bathrooms, then this opportunity came up. Working with the curator we decided that a really fantastic project would be to use that ladies restroom as a starting point. I started looking at bathrooms in the domestic realm and then thought about the combination of the public and private and how these spaces provide accessibility. Bathrooms, for women in particular at the time, were quite a huge step forward in being able to leave the house and participate in public life. Public restrooms, because they’ve been segregated for a long time, bring up discourse and controversy. So I’d like to use the opportunity to advocate for all-gender bathrooms and making public spaces safe for everyone. Many of us, being cis-gendered, take going into the women’s or men’s toilets for granted. So it’s a great starting point to consider different people’s experiences.

I’d like to bring in the Art Deco colours and I’m planning to make an installation at Te Manawa Art Gallery but also put some artwork in the historic space of the Ladies Rest.

What will the community engagement portion look like?

I’m doing talks around the project with historians about the history of public bathrooms in Aotearoa, doing tours of the space because there are interesting stories around it, and maybe getting in touch with people that remember using Ladies Rest and the attendants who have worked there. It would be nice to engage with some secondary schools and potentially do an art project with them. Another thing that I’m excited to reference is the Ralga electronics factory that was in Palmerston North. I’ve been collecting vintage hairdryers and they’re all New Zealand made in Palmerston North. They were all these wonderful colours and strange shapes. So we’re also going to work with the heritage curator at Te Manawa and hopefully have a display of different home electronics related to the domestic. I think that’ll be quite interesting to talk about how things have changed.



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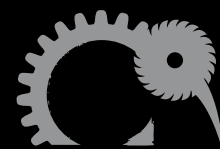
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Since receiving Rookie of the Year in 2017 at Property Brokers Palmerston North, Kay Nitschke has gone from strength to strength. She has worked tirelessly to build up her real estate portfolio, going above and beyond to make clients' property dreams a reality. With plenty of beaming reviews and a large buyer database, she has a thorough understanding of the lifestyle division and local market.

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Donna Dawson of Property Brokers Wairarapa has been in the business for 25 years. With over \$140 million sold and hundreds of happy clients, it goes without saying that her portfolio is vast, varied, and filled with dreams come true.

By connecting with clients and truly understanding what they want, Donna is able to exceed expectations with every purchase and sale. She has wide knowledge of the market in the region where she has lived her entire adult life. With an extensive network, the majority of her business are repeats and referrals from satisfied clients.

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A member of the 150 Million Dollar Club and one of Property Brokers' top agents, Jude Challies is honest and effective in her approach to real estate. She was headhunted by Property Brokers in Woodville in 2000 and has since cornered 95 percent of her local market thanks to her integrity and genuine care.

The twin keys to Jude's success are strong negotiating skills and an underlying understanding of people. Friendly and confident, she takes enormous pleasure in helping clients achieve their real estate dreams in Woodville. As professional and prepared as they come, she makes buying and selling fun and stress-free.

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Clive Williams has called Horowhenua home since his parents moved the family business up the coast from Wellington in 1976. After finishing his schooling he took over the family business with his brother, growing it from strength to strength before handing it over to his eldest son. Now, he helps new folks and neighbours buy and sell property in his hometown with Property Brokers.

With a creative approach that prioritises honesty and integrity, Clive goes above and beyond to give buyers and sellers an enjoyable experience. He comes highly recommended, having been in the business for twelve years, and is passionate about delivering excellent results.

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A familiar face on the podium at Property Brokers award nights, Jo Keddle has been in the upper echelon of the company since joining the Feilding team in 2005. Her sales exceed \$200 million and her property portfolio spans the diverse market of her hometown.

"It's a privilege and a pleasure to sell property in friendly Feilding," Jo says. "Locals trust us with their biggest asset to sell, and buyers trust us to guide them. I honour that trust."

Which is why for Jo, her clients' interests always come first! As a natural communicator and a proven negotiator, she makes buying and selling a breeze.

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A local coaster himself, Charlie Goodyer of Property Brokers Kapiti knows the market inside and out. Possessing both energy and enthusiasm, he takes a fresh approach to real estate that uses a modern, multi-platform strategy mixed with traditional marketing – an asset to buyers and sellers alike. Charlie's foundation is rooted in client relationships. He's passionate about helping people buy and sell and isn't afraid to roll up his sleeves to make it happen. Personable, diligent, and determined to make his mark in the industry and in his community, he is a great communicator who delivers an experience that exceeds expectations.

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World AIDS Day

Empowering and supporting



Photo by Michal Goga.

Toitū Te Ao provides mana-enhancing services, empowerment, and support for Māori and Indigenous people living with and affected by HIV. Although our core focus is these communities, we welcome all who seek connection and care. Founded in 2020 in response to an absence of dedicated support for Māori families, it tackles everything from hands-on care to advocacy.

Driven by kaupapa Māori, the team's hauora (holistic wellbeing) approach ensures those seeking help and support are uplifted in body and soul and supported in a way that embraces te ao Māori and strengthens connections.

Toitū Te Ao aims to support and create pathways to health, understanding, and empowerment through initiatives, activities, and services designed specifically for Māori, Pasifika, and Indigenous peoples – whether they identify as takatāpui, straight, male, female, or transgender. Available currently through the organisation is one-on-one peer support for people living with HIV and their whānau, as well as advocacy for Māori and Pacific communities, cultural guidance, and tikanga in the sexual health space. Testing for HIV and syphilis is also available at Toitū Te Ao along with training for other Māori and Pasifika health organisations to deliver testing for these diseases.

Toitū Te Ao is committed to empowering and supporting Māori, Pasifika, and Indigenous peoples affected by HIV, centred on whānau hauora.

Empathic prevention



Established in 1987 in response to the threat posed by HIV and AIDS, New Zealand was the first country to provide a nationally sponsored needle exchange programme. Internationally, prevalence rates for HIV among injecting users are around 10 percent. In New Zealand, due largely to the early introduction of needle exchange and the work of the programme, prevalence rates are at 0.2 percent. Thanks to this life-saving initiative, today Aotearoa has one of the lowest rates of HIV amongst people who inject drugs in the OECD.

The Needle Exchange Programme (NEP) gives injecting drug users access to needles, syringes, and other equipment, adopting an empathetic and non-judgemental approach to support safe practices and reduce the risk of health-related complications. Injecting drug users frequently experience stigma and discrimination, which can often present a barrier to accessing services. The NEP is a safe space and an important source of information and advice. The NEP also provides affordable sexual health products, drug testing strips, alcohol wipes, and more.

The service extends from Kaitia to Invercargill with 20 dedicated locations, one mobile exchange, and 197 pharmacies and alternative outlets. Peer led and based, and committed to a health and human rights-based service for people who use drugs, the aim of the NEP is to ensure people have access to new equipment, decreasing the risk of infection throughout all of Aotearoa.



Empowering and supporting Māori living with HIV across Aotearoa!

Our mission is to whakamana Māori living with or affected by HIV through mātauranga, awareness, and stigma reduction guided by a kaupapa Māori approach.

We strive to foster whānau ora and holistic well-being, upholding mana and strengthening connections within te ao Māori.

No matter how people identify — takatāpui, straight, male, female, or transgender, our services are here for everyone!



Toitū te Tangata | Toitū te Whenua | Toitū te Ao
We stand undisturbed as a people, we stand undisturbed on our land, we stand undisturbed in this world.

www.toituteao.org



New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme

Peer-to-peer dedicated service & needle and syringe programme for people who inject drugs.

New Zealand has the lowest rate of HIV amongst people who inject drugs in the OECD thanks to the early introduction of a state funded national needle exchange programme.

For more information & assistance, please visit our Lower North Island branches:

- Wellington, 233A Willis Street, Open 9am to 7.30pm M to F and 1pm to 5pm on Saturdays
- Palmerston North, 81 Grey Street, Open 10am to 7pm M to F and 11am to 3pm on Saturdays



- Masterton, 17 Hope Street, Open 10.30am to 4.30pm M, W, and F
- Whanganui, 195 Wicksteed Street, Open 10am to 6pm M to F
- Napier, 60A Munroe Street South, Open 9am to 6pm M to F

Phone 04 3828 404 | www.nznep.org.nz

World AIDS Day

Radical resilience



A global movement to unite people in the fight against AIDS and HIV, World AIDS Day on the 1st of December shines a light on real experiences of people living with the virus, while championing the strength and resilience of the communities most affected.

An estimated 40 million people live with HIV, and more than 44 million have died of HIV or AIDS-related illness over the past 40 years, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

Today, medical advancements have made it possible for people with HIV to live a long and healthy life. With effective treatment, the virus can be suppressed to undetectable levels, allowing those affected to maintain their health. Undetectable means the virus is untransmittable, driving the goal of ending AIDS by 2030.

HIV continues to be stigmatised and misunderstood, which is why World AIDS Day is important. On the 1st of December, wear a red ribbon in solidarity against HIV stigma and to remember lives lost, honouring their memory and emphasising the urgency of ending the HIV pandemic.

In 2025, the theme for the 37th World AIDS Day is Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response. It highlights the impact of the funding cuts and showcases the resilience of countries and communities stepping up to protect the progress made in the fight against HIV, driving the response forward regardless.

Donate, spread the word, and wear a red ribbon on World AIDS Day.



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Transitional Housing

Available to all ethnicities, we are a not-for-profit non-government agency with over 45-year history of providing community-based mental health & addictions support to individuals, whānau, child and youth, and transitional housing in the Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Porirua and Kapiti regions.



Mon – Fri 8:30am – 5:00pm | Level 1, 265 Wakefield St, Wellington
Level 3, 105 High Street, Lower Hutt | Level 6, 14 Hartham Place, Porirua
Phone 04 499 1049 | www.atareira.org.nz


Aotearoa New Zealand Sex Workers' Collective




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04 382 8791 | nzpc.org.nz






**I'M
HEALTHY
AND I LIVE
WITH HIV**



bodypositive.org.nz/imhealthy





**WORLD
AIDS DAY**

DEC 1

**WEAR A RED RIBBON
ON 1ST DECEMBER**

*in solidarity with
People living with HIV*





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Luxury getaways

Leap into luxury

Nothing says romance like a getaway to the lap of luxury. Crafting a curated experience tailored to your every need, luxury accommodation ensures your stay is nothing but perfect from when you arrive to the moment you wave goodbye. Aotearoa has its fair share of hospitality havens, many of them priding themselves on their accessibility, inclusivity, and welcoming atmosphere.

Featuring sumptuous rooms, world-class dining, and fantastic facilities, luxury accommodation offers more than a place to sleep at night. In fact, many resorts and lodges are destinations in themselves, where you can while away the days relaxing, recharging, and indulging in the finer side of travel without ever having to lift a finger.

What sets these properties apart is the attention to detail. Every aspect is carefully chosen to elevate your experience. From fine linens to dream-like beds, stylish furniture to mood lighting, your room will feel like heaven.

But luxury accommodation is more than just rooms. If you can drag yourselves away from your private quarters, you'll encounter facilities that will make you say ooh la la. Spas, pools, five-star restaurants, tennis courts, boating, and more are just some of the experiences that might be included in your stay.

Wherever you decide to holiday, the luxury accommodations in this feature and at the Gaystay website are LGBTQIA+ friendly and add a touch of je ne sais quoi to your romantic rendezvous.

A sanctuary in every sense



Native bush surrounds five-star resort Bay of Many Coves, while its view is framed by the azure sea and verdant hills of the Marlborough Sounds. Nestled into the heart of Queen Charlotte Sound in its own secluded bay, the luxury resort provides every guest with an unforgettable experience.

Whether you are seeking world-class cuisine, breathtaking scenery, adventure, or simply a sense of renewal, the 100-percent New Zealand-owned and operated Bay of Many Coves makes every moment exceptional. You can arrive by boat or by air, making the secluded accommodation feel a world away. The well-appointed and thoughtfully designed suites and apartments are the perfect place to relax and recharge. Private and inclusive of everything you may need during your stay, they're designed to pre-empt your every need.

Stargazing is one of the most popular guest activities. Whether from your own personal balcony or immersed in nature, visitors will be treated to a canvas of stars twinkling in the inky deep. Paddleboards and kayaks allow guests to explore their surroundings, while the Miritu Day Spa, hot tubs, and heated pool promote grounding relaxation. The games and resort library allow guests to unplug and connect with simpler joys, while the excellent Kumatage and Foredeck restaurants and the Quarterdeck Lounge serve up scrumptious treats.

Enjoy a touch of luxury here in Aotearoa at a place that feels a world away.

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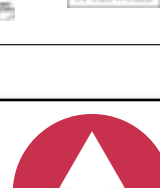
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QUAL MARK
SMALL LUXURY HOTELS

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by Alessia Belsito-Riera

Shared futures



Detail of *Ka Hapai te Rama*. by Tia Ranginui.

Unfolding as a whakapapa – layered and evolving – *Reclaimed Land: Tāngata, Tiriti, Taiao* weaves a portrait of the whenua (land) through images that highlight personal, ancestral, and collective relationships with the environment.

New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pukenga Whakaata exhibition brings together bold new artworks that explore deep and enduring connections between people and the land until the 8th of February, while remaining grounded in Aotearoa under te Tiriti. Just as the tohorā (whale) is connected to the kauri, and water systems are vital to the regeneration of Papatūānuku, our relationships are interconnected and interdependent.

“We want people to think carefully about the land and environment that they themselves have a connection to,” guest curators Susan Ballard and Israel Randell say. “We think that across all these works is a way of relating to the environment that is connected, rather than separate. We want people to think about how by thinking of ourselves as part of the environment, we also learn to look after it.”

At the heart of *Reclaimed Land* are questions like, what do Tiriti futures look like? How do portraits evoke everyday actions, ritual practices, and transformations?

The artworks, which acknowledge the ongoing relationship we have to each other and to the whenua, provide some form of answer as they frame a future through acts of reclaiming and returning. They show that when whenua is kin and care is inherent, environmental futures and whakapapa regenerate.

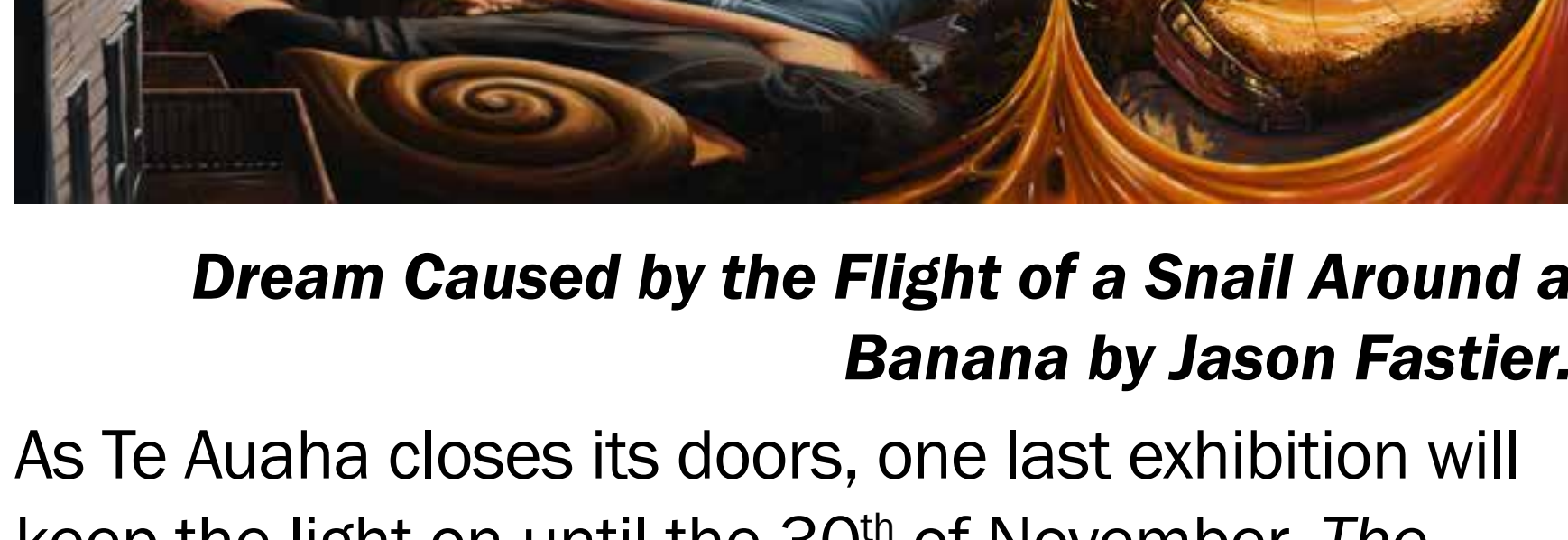
“The artists in *Reclaimed Land* all speak to different relationships with the environment, whether as a form of care and kinship, or as something to protect and nurture. Many of the artworks are about close connections with the land,” the curators continue. “The exhibition includes paintings and photographs, as well as a video game and a sound and video installation. Our goal is to think about the very different ways that the land and environment can be presented. Together they paint a portrait of human relationships with the environment.”

Each artist therefore takes action for nature by telling stories of collective futures. They challenge the idea that a portrait can only be of a human image by celebrating the relationships with the environment that we form through deep passion and recognition of ancestral connections. To tell the human story of the environment, they draw attention to te taiao (the natural world) through the creative work of balance and restoration, defence, protection, and nurture.

By pausing to reflect and restore, reclaim and reveal, *Reclaimed Land* opens a space to imagine a future shared by tāngata, taiao, and Tiriti.

Together, the artworks remind us that to tend to the land is to tend to ourselves.

The quiet, ordinary moments



***Dream Caused by the Flight of a Snail Around a Banana* by Jason Fastier.**

As Te Auaha closes its doors, one last exhibition will keep the light on until the 30th of November. *The Castle in the Sky* is award-winning Wellington-based artist Jason Fastier’s exploration of unexpected moments of beauty found through the lens of a restless creative mind bound to the routine of courier work.

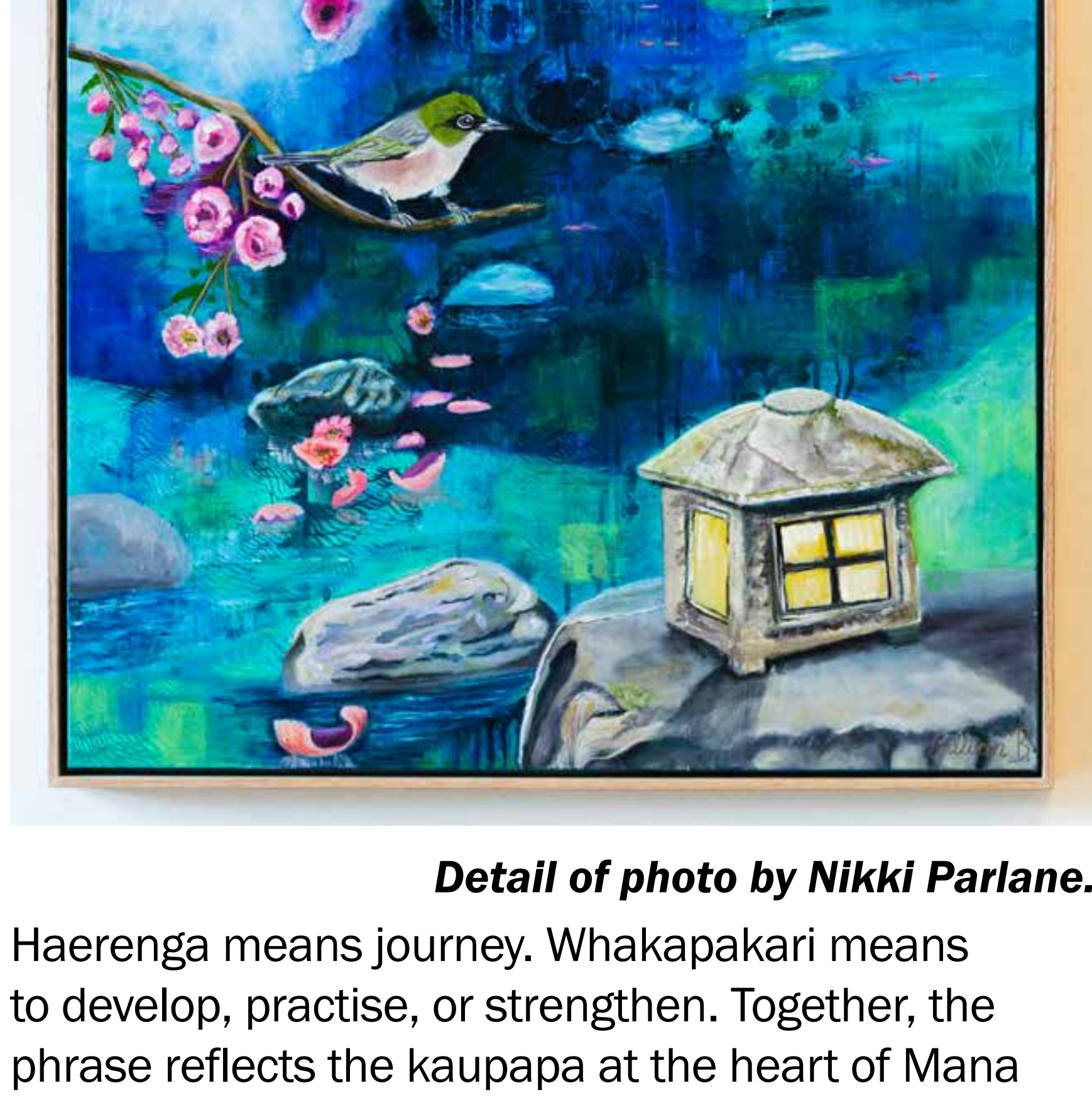
The project, which began as a growing archive of reference photos taken while out on the job, captures how golden-hour light transforms mundane street scenes into moments of inspiration and reflects the tension between creative ambition and the demands of part-time employment. The result is a series of oil paintings curated from a selection of over 350 reference photographs.

“I’ve thought a lot about the message I’m trying to convey over the development of this exhibition,” Fastier says. “There are plenty of heavier tones underpinning the main ideas, which highlights a tension between creativity and work-life felt by myself and many artists. Even so, over time I’ve gained a real appreciation for what my ‘boring’ day job has allowed me to achieve”.

The large-scale oil paintings – made in the only medium that Fastier believes can “take the vivid visions sitting inside my head and bring them into some semblance of reality” – create a crescendo towards the artist’s pièce de resistance: a surrealist mashup of all their dreams, inspirations, and ideas that led to the exhibition’s creation.

“I want my visitors to stop and consider all the overlooked mundane moments in their lives and appreciate how they shape who we are,” Fastier continues. “I believe the highlights of life draw their meaning from these quiet, ordinary moments that surround them.”

Amplifying voices



Detail of photo by Nikki Parlane.

Haerenga means journey. Whakapakari means to develop, practise, or strengthen. Together, the phrase reflects the kaupapa at the heart of Mana Arts Society.

Their exhibition *Haerenga Whakapakari* at Pātaka Art + Museum until the 7th of December reflects this concept by tracing “a creative journey through the landscape – land, sea, people, and the feeling of space that connects them”, community exhibition curator Georgie Keyse says. “It showcases the diverse voices of local artists, each growing in confidence and sharing their talent, knowledge, and vision”.

Through art, Mana Arts Society fosters pride, inclusivity, and connection – strengthening the creative heartbeat of the local community, offering both a friendly and supportive environment where people can work, and informal and structured workshops to help members strengthen their skills and learn from each other.

Showcasing members, *Haerenga Whakapakari* features artwork as diverse as the creatives who make it, with landscapes, portraits, still lifes, abstracts, and more populating the space.

“The mediums and styles presented in the exhibition are varied, including watercolour, oil, pastel, and mixed media, and ranging from realism to abstraction. This variety reflects the diverse interests and skills of Mana Arts Society,” Keyse says. “This exhibition is an opportunity for Mana Arts Society artists to share both their individual work, and the values of Mana Arts Society as a group. Audiences will enjoy the variety of work on display and experience the value of the creative community fostered by Mana Arts Society.”

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Discover New Zealand

People from overseas dream of visiting New Zealand, so before you embark on a trip abroad, why not explore our beautiful backyard this summer? From the top of the north to the bottom of the south, Aotearoa is blessed with vast and varied natural beauty that would take a whole lifetime to explore. Why not start now?

1. **Cromwell Museum**
2. **Rameka Retreat**
3. **Wal's Plant Land**
4. **Tales from Darkest Dunedin**
5. **Peel Forest Homestay**



6. **Berry Barn Bakery & Cafe**
7. **Bluff Maritime Museum**
8. **Central Park Motor Inn**
9. **Brunel Peaks Cafe and Bar**
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Cromwell

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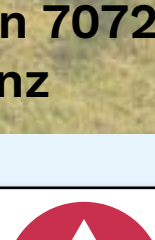
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Retirement



Designed for you – Kapiti



Kapiti Retirement Trust
"a lifestyle to enjoy"



Retirement village and care services for the elderly
"Focussing on our residents needs" Operated by a charitable trust
 Three great options - Sevenoaks Retirement Village
 - Midlands Gardens Retirement Village - Muriwai Court

04 297 0116 | www.retirekapiti.co.nz

Nearly 70 years ago, a group of Kapiti Coast residents came together to create a charitable trust that would give locals the opportunity to retire and receive care options in the community they loved. Today, Kapiti Retirement Trust continues to provide Coasters with a range of options for their retirement.

Kapiti Retirement Trust operates one village across three locations in Paraparaumu. Sevenoaks, Midlands Gardens, and Muriwai Court feature a variety of well-designed houses and apartments set on spacious landscaped grounds. Care services include rest home, dementia, respite, and day options, plus care suites. With lots of activities, great neighbours, onsite security, helpful and compassionate staff, a supportive environment, sunny spacious homes, beautiful grounds, capital gains, and transparent fees, residents love their lives!

Within New Zealand, retirement villages and care homes have become a major business due to the increasing older demographic and a demand for the services offered by these facilities. Where the Kapiti Retirement Trust differs is that it benefits residents rather than shareholders. Funds are reinvested into the trust to provide continuously improved services and standards of living – that way the people investing in the trust are benefiting the most.

Kapiti Retirement Trust focuses on its residents' needs first – after all, they're the ones who call the network of villages home. Find out more about an enjoyable, tailored lifestyle at www.retirekapiti.co.nz

Retirement

All welcome in the Valley!



Wainuiomata Masonic Village

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

Friendly people, beautiful valley. Come join us!

- 80 Easy-care Villas – join our waitlist
- Woolworths & shops 5 min walk
- 25 min drive to Lambton Quay
- Village Hub activities and amenities
- Independent living Village, fixed fees, ages 65+

Book a tour now 04 564 1118

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.

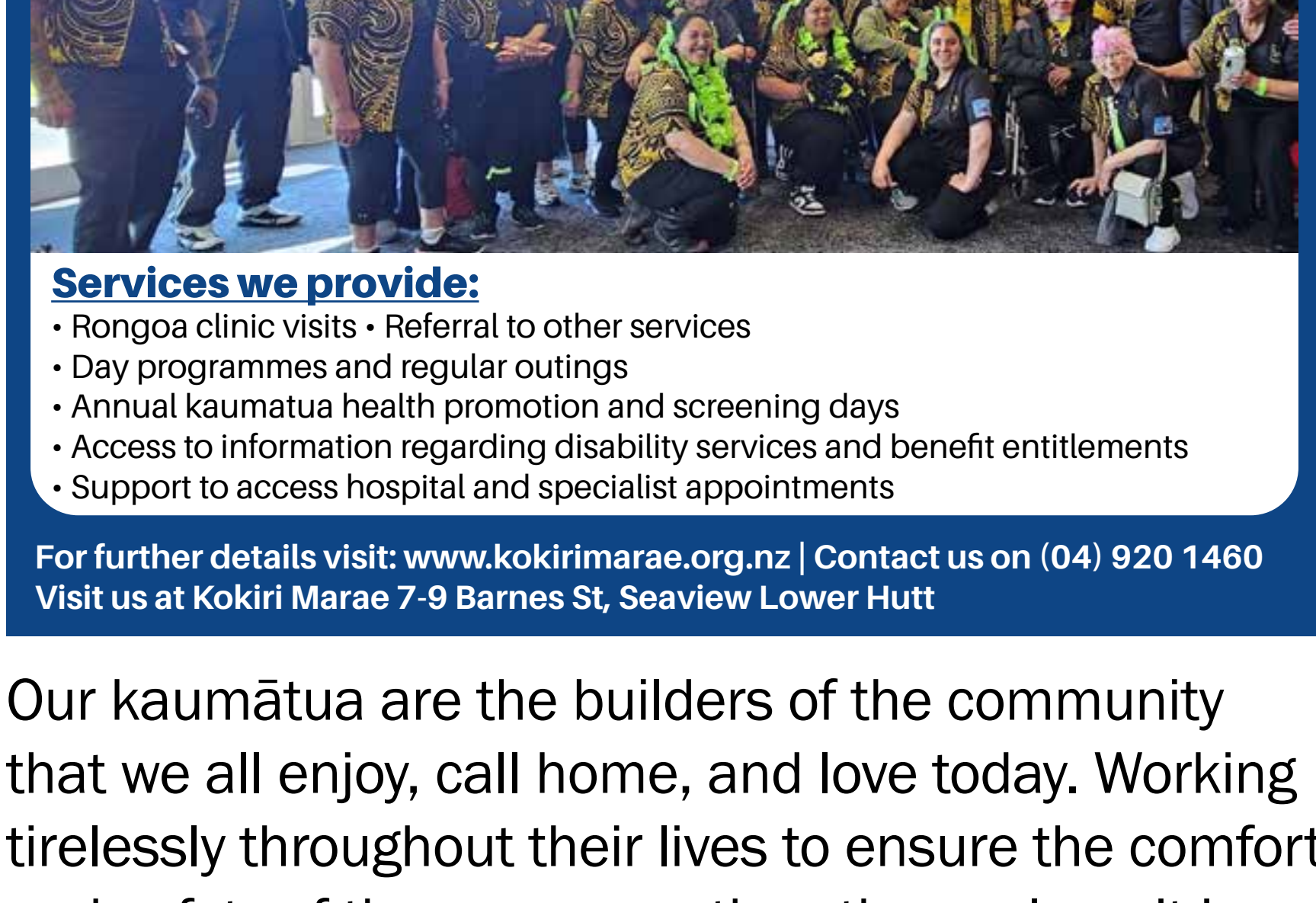
We're a friendly village community, offering many activities as well as resident-run events and the opportunity to host your own celebrations in our Village Hub. Wainuiomata Masonic Village prides itself on being more than a place to live. It's a home – where meaningful connections are made and memories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

Call our friendly village manager Esther to come for a visit and find out more at

www.masonicvillages.co.nz

Caring for kaumātua

– Hutt Valley



Kokiri Marae Health & Social Services

Kaumātua/Pakeke Services

Services we provide:

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- Day programmes and regular outings
- Annual kaumātua health promotion and screening days
- Access to information regarding disability services and benefit entitlements
- Support to access hospital and specialist appointments

For further details visit: www.kokirimarae.org.nz | Contact us on (04) 920 1460
Visit us at Kokiri Marae 7-9 Barnes St, Seaview Lower Hutt

Our kaumātua are the builders of the community that we all enjoy, call home, and love today. Working tirelessly throughout their lives to ensure the comfort and safety of those younger than themselves, it is time that we take care of them when they need us most.

Kōkiri Marae is passionate and dedicated to serving the needs of its community. Structured yet flexible, challenging yet supportive, focused yet holistic, the compassionate and knowledgeable team offer a range of community, social, and hauora services aimed specifically at our kaumātua and pakeke.

Health services encompass specialised and broad programmes, including rongoā clinic visits, annual kaumātua health promotions and screenings, referrals to other services, support during hospital and specialist appointments, and access to information regarding disability and benefit entitlements. Kōkiri Marae even organises day programmes and regular outings!

All these initiatives and services assist kuia and koroua Māori maintain their independence and enjoy a higher quality of life. Isolation is something that affects many members of New Zealand's older community members, which is why Kōkiri Marae make it their mission to provide a range of solutions to meet their needs. By facilitating access to services and information across the region, the team can support the generations of our community that are most at risk and advocate for their independence and wellbeing.

To find out more about how Kōkiri Marae can help you or your kaumātua, visit www.kokiri.org.nz

Choose community –

Ashburton



Rosebank

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Rosebank Lifecare offers a place of tranquillity, security, and care. It encourages residents to find what makes them happy and provides them with the support they need to build the life they want.

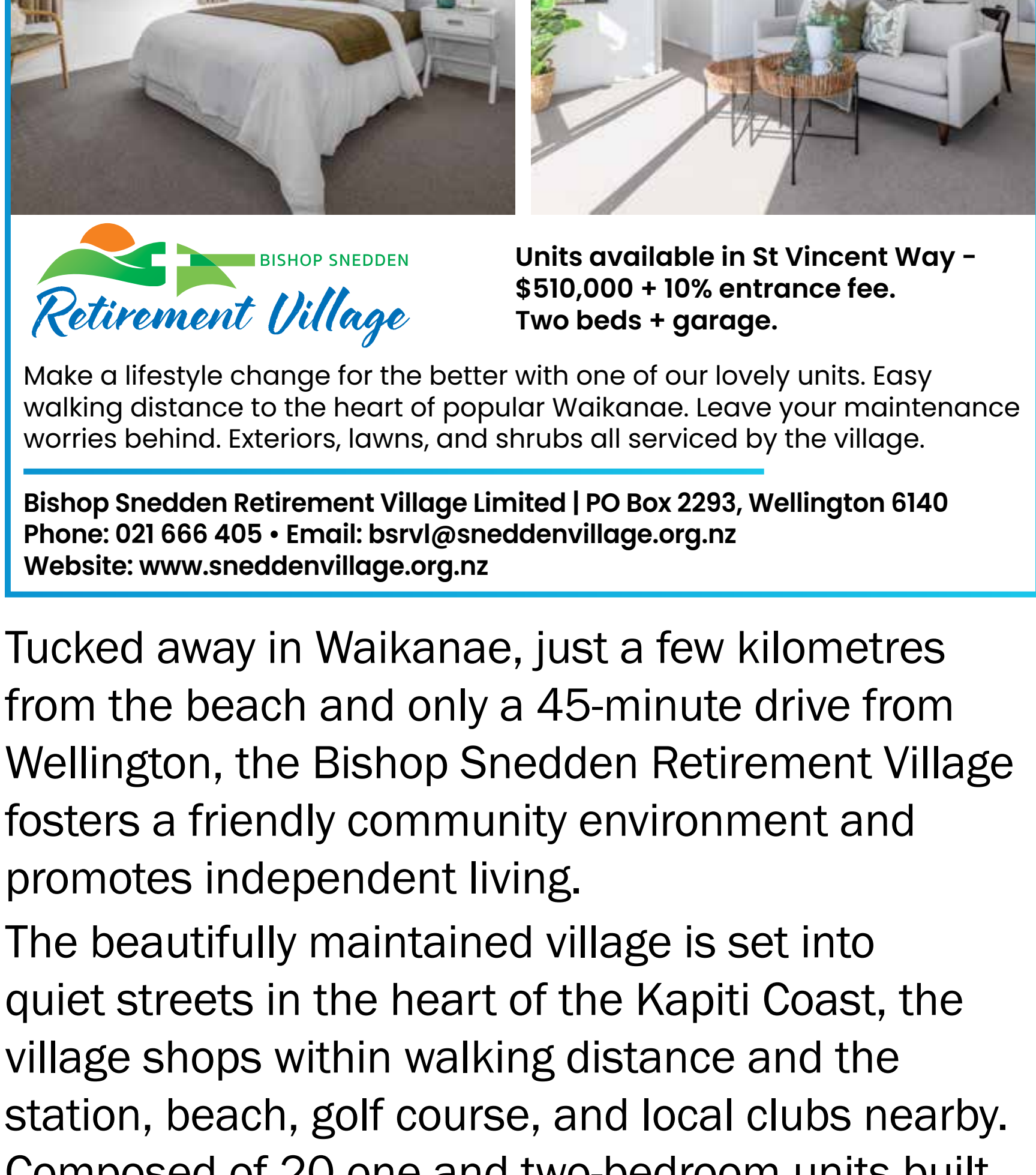
The goal at Rosebank Lifecare is for all residents to retain their independence while living life to the fullest, regardless of their health or condition. Named Aged Advisor People's Choice Awards for Best Small Retirement or Lifestyle Village in 2019, Rosebank ensures everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Rosebank residents enjoy a sense of community, with the freedom to choose their level of involvement in village life. A centrally located hub provides a space for family members to gather, and for residents to meet and enjoy each other's company. With access to a hospital, rest home facility, and more independent arrangements, as well as palliative, rehabilitative, and convalescent services, there are options available to suit all kinds of circumstances.

27 two and three-bedroom villas and 22 serviced apartments are also available. These studios and one-bedroom suites offer extra support without compromising freedom. Here, residents can live privately while receiving the added benefits of daily meals, laundry, house-keeping assistance, and care options. The villas are large, spacious, and the best of both worlds – independence, with companionship and help just seconds away.

If life is what you make it, Rosebank Lifecare could be the best decision you've ever made.

The perfect balance



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Website: www.sneddenvillage.org.nz

Tucked away in Waikanae, just a few kilometres from the beach and only a 45-minute drive from Wellington, the Bishop Snedden Retirement Village fosters a friendly community environment and promotes independent living.

The beautifully maintained village is set into quiet streets in the heart of the Kapiti Coast, the village shops within walking distance and the station, beach, golf course, and local clubs nearby. Composed of 20 one and two-bedroom units built in 1986, 20 two-bedroom units built in 2020, and three units added on Parata Street in 2023, Bishop Snedden Retirement Village is well connected yet safe, offering the perfect balance of freedom and security.

The units and villas are moderately priced and well constructed, each one featuring ample dining space, sunny lounges, lock-up garages or car ports, and private gardens, lawns, and patios. What's more, the exterior will be thoughtfully maintained for you by the Bishop Snedden Retirement Village Trust but still encourages residents to add personal touches to the space. The interior finishes are of a warm, neutral palette, which enables residents to personalise their home as they wish.

The friendly and welcoming community is active and tight-knit, providing wonderful companionship and an added level of peace of mind, with residents experiencing a higher level of comfort and security while maintaining independence.

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- Lyndale Care is a warm, friendly, homely place that allows residents to be independent and safe
- Lyndale Care is a family

For all enquiries please phone 06 378 7059 | 52/95 Cole Street, Masterton

Lyndale Care has a range of care and accommodation options to suit your needs, from independent studio apartments for more able residents to short-term respite care, day care, and specialised, 24-hour care for those with Alzheimer's and other dementia illnesses. There are two separate facilities at the Masterton centre, Lyndale Villa and Lyndale Manor. The former is focused on giving residents the freedom to maintain a quality lifestyle, while the latter is a specialist care facility that provides a protected living environment.

Lyndale Care's warm and welcoming facilities are specifically designed to help those in need of permanent care and those struggling with dementia. The staff aim to help residents make the most of every day.

The team at Lyndale Care bring fun, laughter, and compassion to every day, making you feel right at home. There's always something happening at Lyndale Care, whether your vice is a quiz, games, arts and crafts, concerts, or a drink or two at happy hour. By getting to know each resident, their stories and culture, the Lyndale staff can deliver a personalised care package unique to the individual. Through it all, staff will communicate clearly and genuinely and, most importantly, make you feel heard and appreciated.

Lyndale Care is managed by Hutt Valley local Emma Taylor. She continues to use her expert knowledge and experience to provide an outstanding service for the entire Lyndale family.

Cheerful and supportive – Ōtāhuhu

The Willows Home & Hospital




• Long term hospital level care • Short term respite care • Palliative care

16 Princes St, Otahuhu, Auckland | Call: 09 270 3516
www.thewillowshome.com

Choosing The Willows Home & Hospital means you can still be in the heart of the big city and nearby to family and friends while benefiting from all the perks that come with assisted living.

Tucked away in the neighbourhood of Ōtāhuhu, The Willows is well connected to everything Auckland has to offer. Shops, malls, parks, places of worship, a beautiful library, and various citizen clubs are just a short bus ride or walk away, ensuring you can continue to be social while enjoying extra support at home.

The Willows aims to foster a homely and cheerful environment that focuses on maintaining or restoring maximum independence while delivering quality, holistic care. The compassionate and highly skilled team of nurses and carers take an empathetic and dignified approach, treating residents with respect for their needs and wishes regardless of culture, race, or creed.

The top priority at The Willows Hospital is that residents feel comfortable and at home. The 11 beds each have access to a shared ensuite. Bringing your own furniture is encouraged and even your furry friend can join you during your stay, with all residents encouraged to offer personal input in the home. Several modern and sunny lounges and dining rooms with comfortable, quality furnishings are perfect for socialising and taking part in various activities.

Warm, friendly, and with all the assistance you may need, The Willows is a home away from home.

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 tīeke/saddleback around the city, including 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 creatures were missing for a century, along with tuatara, the prehistoric reptile that has also found sanctuary within the mammalian predator-exclusion fence that encompasses Zealandia.

It all started in the late 1990s when, in a world-leading effort, 13 species of introduced predators – possums, rats, and weasels through to hedgehogs and feral goats – were removed from the valley. When species such as kiwi pukupuku/little spotted kiwi, kākā, and tuatara were reintroduced to Wellington after being absent for so long, people clearly recognised the sanctuary's value for the city and for their own wellbeing.

All this was only possible because of a clear vision, a stubborn determination, and the expertise and sheer hard work of so many people from our origins through to now. We continue to rely on the generosity of our wonderful supporters: our band of well over 500 passionate 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. The sanctuary is now a celebrated and, indeed, award-winning destination, which is recognised for its commitment to regenerating the forest and to caring for the wildlife living both within and, increasingly, outside the mammalian predator-exclusion fence.

We have a 500-year vision, but already after its first quarter of a century Zealandia Te Mārā a Tāne has left a mighty legacy. For ways you can help and to leave your legacy on our journey, please visit www.visitzealandia.com/bequests



**Regeneration
for generations**

Kōwhiri. Photo by TM 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

Retirement

A change of pace – Auckland



Spend your days relaxing rather than stressing and enjoying rather than worrying by joining Acacia Cove, a country-style retirement village that promotes care, community, and connection. Settled into the Wattle Downs Peninsula, a golf and country club to the east and an estuary teeming with wildlife to the west, Acacia Cove is an idyllic place to call home.

Acacia Cove features 217 villas and 15 fully self-contained apartments that offer both independence and access to a vibrant and active community. All architecturally crafted by professional designers, interior decorators, and landscapers, each villa has its own private courtyard, spacious living area, and one to three bedrooms. The two and three-bedroom apartments enjoy a paved courtyard or a spacious deck. What's more, the gardens are fully maintained, even if you choose to add your own personal touches.

The lodge-like community centre is framed by magical sunset views and features plenty of amenities, including a billiard table, gym, spa bath, hairdressing salon, library with computers, nurse's station, and an open fireplace. The purpose-built meeting room is the hub for all kinds of activities – from walking groups to the garden club, there are over 31 weekly activities on the schedule.

On the grounds are also a bowling green, BBQ area, heated indoor pool, and restaurant, which is the perfect place to enjoy the sun and the estuary views in the company of neighbours, friends, and whānau.

Stronger Together



Osteoporosis, a common chronic condition among adults over 50, weakens bones and causes them to become brittle and more susceptible to fractures from minor falls and bumps. It's estimated that 22,300 fragility fractures occur annually in New Zealand, significantly impacting not only those who sustain the fractures and their families, but also the healthcare system.

Despite prevention of fragility fractures delivering wide-ranging economic, health, and personal benefits, neglect is still a key reason why osteoporosis goes undiagnosed and untreated. Best practice prevention can reduce fractures by 30 to 40 percent and falls by up to 30 percent, potentially saving thousands of hospital bed days.

With the issue already widespread and the number of fragility fractures expected to rise 75 percent in the next 10 years, the Osteoporosis New Zealand Charitable Trust (ONZ) unveils Stronger Together, which sets out a national strategy organised around seven objectives. It takes a life-course approach, recognising that bone health is shaped from infancy to old age. Each objective is accompanied by evidence-based actions, providing a roadmap to improve outcomes across generations.

Though significant progress has been made, there is still more to do across government, health services, professional bodies, advocacy groups, and communities. By preventing avoidable harm, relieving pressure on hospitals and the aged care sector, and extending healthy life expectancy, Stronger Together offers a pathway to a stronger, healthier future.



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.

Villas available for \$640,000-\$1,000,000 Price is for an Occupation Rights Agreement secured by a first-ranking mortgage and in favour of the statutory supervisor on behalf of the residents.

• Best Ageing Programme at the 2017 Ageing Asia Eldercare Awards • Finalist in the Facility of the Year Independent Seniors Living Category

If you're aged 60 or over, value your independence but want greater security, come and have a look at the superb properties we have to offer.

Contact admin@acaciacove.co.nz or phone 09 268 8522

Retirement services

Function meets form

Just Blinds

*Custom made
Wellington Blinds*

We have moved to Lower Hutt!

SANTAFÉ
CHANGE THE VIEW
Shutters • Rollers • Blinds • Curtains
Now Wellington agent for Santa Fé Shutters

Exciting new fabrics • Wide range of blinds • Colour consultancy • Installation • Repairs • 3 year guarantee
Showroom: 405 Hutt Road, Alicetown
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4.30pm, Sat 10am-2pm
sales@justblinds.co.nz | Tel **04 472 9920** | www.justblinds.co.nz

**FREE
measure
and quote!**

Blinds help keep your property cool in the summer and warm in the winter, act as insulators, offer privacy, and regulate the amount of light entering into a space. But they don't have to just be practical! Just Blinds has a huge catalogue of products in all kinds of designs and materials, helping you easily elevate your space both functionally and stylistically.

Locally owned and operated in Wellington, Just Blinds sells everything from shutters and roman blinds to New Zealand-made and sustainable options. 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 application. Different blinds perform different functions, which is why every decision should start with this question.

The friendly and highly qualified team can help guide you through the decision-making process by outlining different features and taking into consideration your needs, budget, and circumstances. Request a free, no-obligation measure and quote to get the advice and assistance you need. This way, the team can get an idea of what you're looking for.

Once the measuring is done, the fun part begins.

You can choose colours, designs, and working mechanisms. When you've made your selection, Just Blinds make the process easy with installation services, a three-year guarantee, and ongoing maintenance and repair services.

Get in touch with Just Blinds to elevate your home's functionality and style in time for summer.

A family treasure

Custom Made *Heritage* *Fine Jewellery*
DESIGNS JEWELLERS & WATCHES
Westport

Let's create something beautiful together!
CUSTOM DESIGN • REMODEL • RESTORE • REPAIR

174 Palmerston Street, Westport
Phone 03-789 8630
www.heritagejewellers.co.nz

10% off website purchases
Use discount code: **SAVE10**

Jewellery is often something that is passed down through generations. Whether in the form of engagement rings, special occasion necklaces, or gem-studded brooches, jewellery is a precious gift that holds both value and memories. However, though the metals and stones keep their value, designs can become outdated.

Heritage Jewellers in Westport are passionate about remastering family heirloom pieces. Whether broken or simply no longer in style, they can help repair and rework a meaningful pendant, bracelet, ring, or brooch so that you can wear it for special occasions or even every day. Passing a piece down from your mother or grandfather to a grandchild or child is a beautiful gesture, but also financially wise.

Choosing an experienced and skilled jeweller to trust with your heirloom pieces is paramount. Your family treasure holds emotional and cultural value. Delicately made, each heirloom piece is particular in its construction, so it's important to find a jeweller who can retain the original qualities while repairing and refreshing the piece.

With over 30 years' experience and a passion for their craft, Heritage Jewellers welcome clients from down the road and across the country. They can breathe new life into older pieces or help you find your next favourite piece to start your own tradition with. Browse their collection online or contact Rachelle by phone or email at info@heritagejewellers.co.nz to discuss a custom design or remodel.

Helping your way

New name, same amazing service!

We proudly serve the Wellington areas including the Hutt Valley.
Additionally, we cater to residents from Kapiti Coast up to Otaki.

If you need the help of a reliable and professional care service provider or know someone who does, feel free to call us.

Monday to Friday:
8:00am - 5.00pm
Saturday:
10:00am - 4.00pm

A CALL AWAY FROM QUALITY CARE | Phone: 02108868255
Email: angelshomecarenz@outlook.com | www.angelshomecarenz.com

Now under a new name but still providing the same level of high-quality, personalised care tailored to each client's needs, Angels Homecare NZ is a boutique care service provider based in Paraparaumu Beach catering to elderly individuals and those with disabilities.

Angels Homecare NZ was founded in 2016 by Connie Paul. A doctor in the Philippines wanting to register in New Zealand, she decided to pursue her passion for gerontology at Auckland University. Having worked in the healthcare industry for decades, she decided to start her own home health service company that catered to clients' individual needs.

Unlike commercial agencies, Angels Homecare NZ is committed to matching each client with a suitable caregiver. When a new client comes onboard, Connie will be the first person who comes to their home before they're assigned a regular caregiver. In this way, she can assess their requirements, situation, preferences, and personality so that they will be matched with someone who suits them best.

Angels Homecare NZ's wraparound services span everything from cleaning and cooking to helping with chores and companionship. Whether you need help doing laundry or want support during a doctor's appointment, would like to declutter your home or require assistance getting about, or even if you're in a rest home or hospital and would like one-on-one care and companionship, call on Angels Homecare NZ when you need them most.

BROKEN A BONE SINCE YOU TURNED 50?

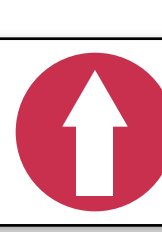
It's time to Know Your Bones™

If you've broken a bone following a simple trip or fall since you turned 50, you're twice as likely to break another bone in the future.
Make your first fracture your last.
Take a proactive approach to maintaining a healthy skeleton.

BONE HEALTH NEW ZEALAND
A strong skeleton for life
Visit bones.org.nz

Take the Know Your Bones Test™
and discuss the results with your healthcare professional.

[Back to contents](#)



Retirement services

Smooth sailing – Wellington


SIEVWRIGHTS LAW
 BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

• Business • Property
 • Trusts and estates
 • Litigation and Disputes

Cooper & Co. (previously of Johnsonville) is now incorporated with Sievwrights Law

Meet the team



John Porter



Beverley Roche



Karen McIlwee

Wills and Enduring Powers of Attorney
 We can assist with any personal legal needs including: • Wills • Codicils
 • Estate planning and succession advice • Enduring powers of attorney
 • Relationship property advice and agreements • Sale and purchase of properties

Level 6, Central House, 26 Brandon Street, Wellington
 Ph: (04) 473-7713 | www.sievwrights.co.nz | Email: karen@sievwrights.co.nz

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.

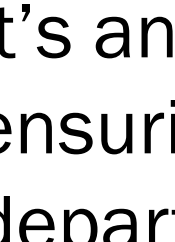
Sievwrights Law can guide you through the complexities of the legal system, providing peace of mind and helping you understand all the technical details so that you feel in control of your interests. Find out more or get in touch at www.sievwrights.co.nz or call us.

An important decision

NOT JUST A CASKET


A reflection of a life well lived. Our range is made for you - solid timber, hand carved designs, woven options, colour choices. Your story deserves to be remembered beautifully.





Scan to view more!

Discover your casket options at www.windsorindustries.co.nz or speak to your local funeral home for more information.



Talking about death can be uncomfortable but it's an important conversation to have. It's about ensuring you are looking your best for your final departure. Then your loved ones can remember you the way you want them to.

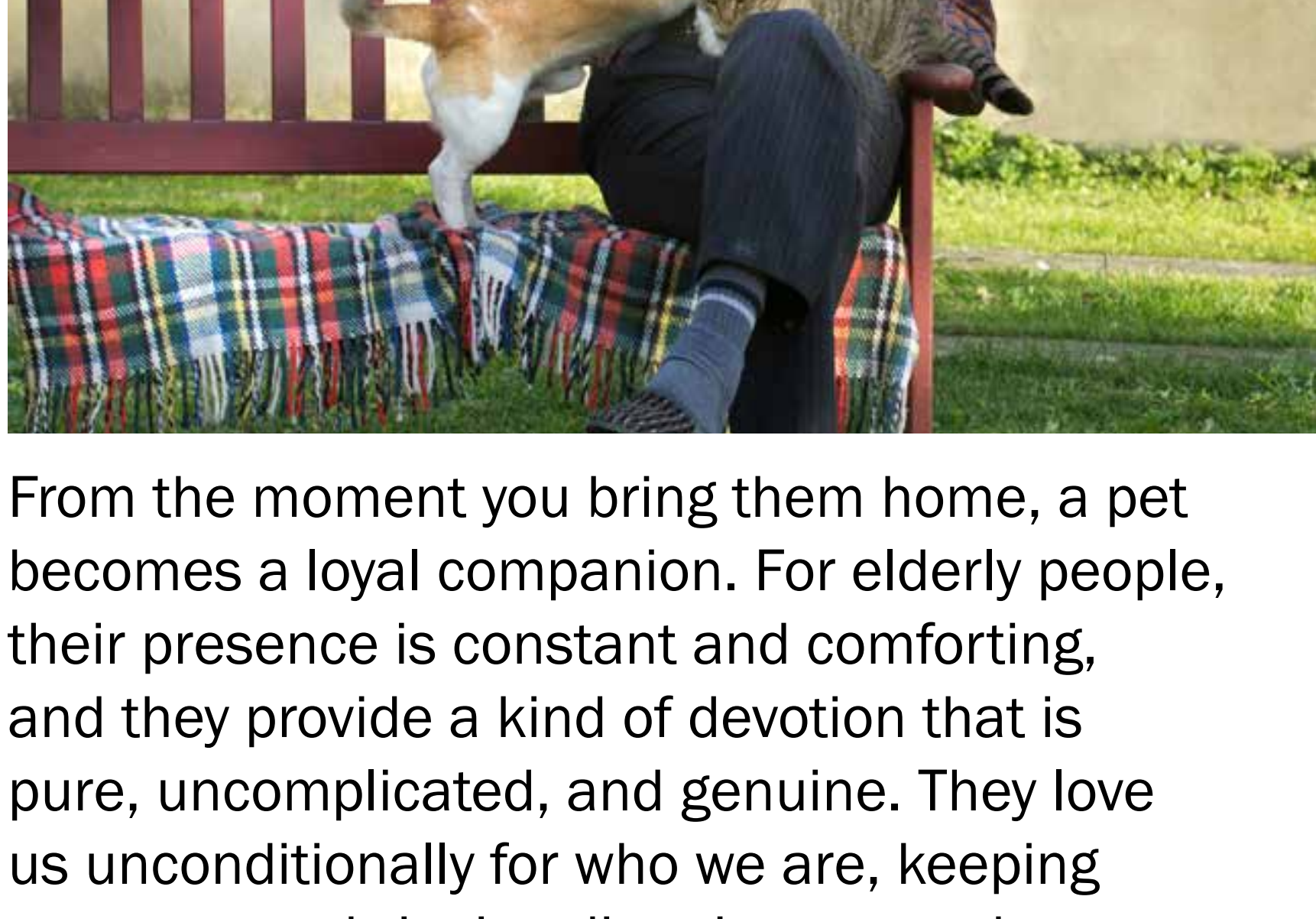
Windsor Industries has had more than 30 years of experience making caskets in New Zealand at their factory in the small provincial town of Pahiatua. The team understand we are all different – that is why they believe in offering a choice.

Their range is personalised to suit you and includes a wide range of colours, hand-carved caskets, solid timber, timber veneers, two-tone caskets, woven caskets, environmentally accredited caskets, and, of course, the traditional caskets like the ones you are all familiar with.

When you are arranging your affairs for your final departure, we encourage you to think about the legacy you are leaving behind. This is your farewell party, a celebration of your life well lived, a gathering of loved ones. Not all funeral homes offer selection, think carefully about who you use to arrange your affairs – do they understand that you need to express yourself your way and be framed in a casket that represents you and your wishes?

It's time to plan, prepare, and feel in control, and we are here to help you begin this journey. This will be the last time you can treat yourself or your loved ones, so be generous.

Making memories



From the moment you bring them home, a pet becomes a loyal companion. For elderly people, their presence is constant and comforting, and they provide a kind of devotion that is pure, uncomplicated, and genuine. They love us unconditionally for who we are, keeping us company, bringing direction to our days, and making us smile. So when it comes to the end of their time with us, the impact can be overwhelming. As a team of animal-lovers, Soul Friends Pet Cremations understand that and are dedicated to providing comfort by creating beautiful memorials.

If your cat, dog, or bird companion needs attendance, rest assured they are treated as part of the Soul Friends family until they can be returned to yours. The Soul Friends team can answer the difficult questions with a transparent explanation of their process, because no area of this work is secret or taboo from their point of view. They also guarantee that the cremains (ashes) you receive back are that of your pet.

Most importantly arranging for your pet's afterlife care need not be difficult. Soul Friends will come to you, visit for a while to share stories, work through your memorialising ideas, and walk the journey with you every step of the way. Grief services are also available to help you before saying goodbye, on the day, and after until the joy of memory returns.


It may be hard now, but Soul Friends wants to help you keep the memories alive forever.

Preserve the precious


MEMORIES OF YOUR BELOVED PET

When your faithful companion's journey comes to an end, honor their unconditional love with a dignified farewell and beautiful keepsakes.

Our compassionate team comes directly to you and walks you through every step, understanding the deep bond you've shared to create a lasting tribute celebrating their life.



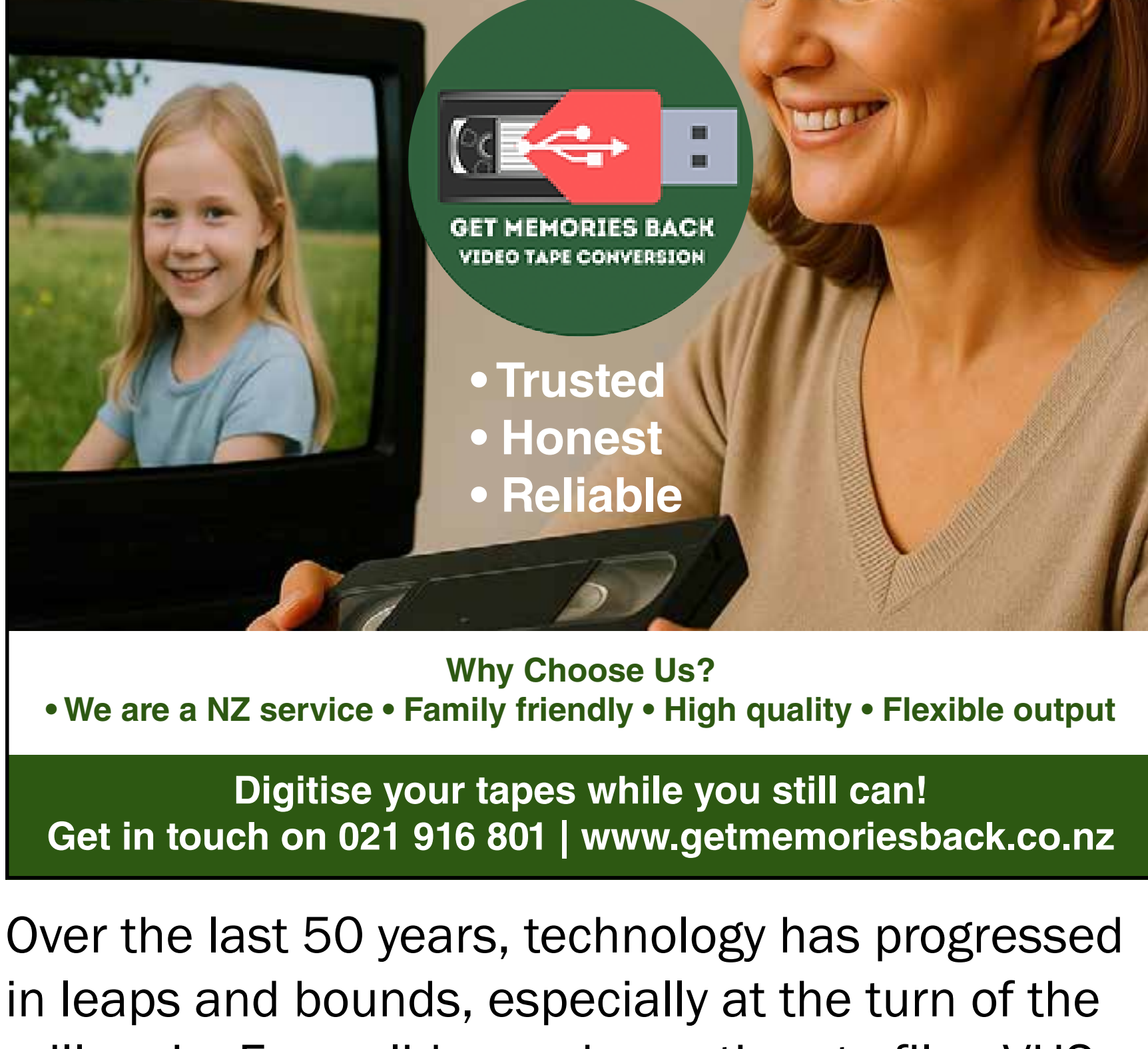
06 354 4086
www.soulfriends.nz



SOUL FRIEND
 PET CREMATIONS

Retirement services

Preserve your memories



- Trusted
- Honest
- Reliable

Why Choose Us?

• We are a NZ service • Family friendly • High quality • Flexible output

Digitise your tapes while you still can!

Get in touch on 021 916 801 | www.getmemoriesback.co.nz

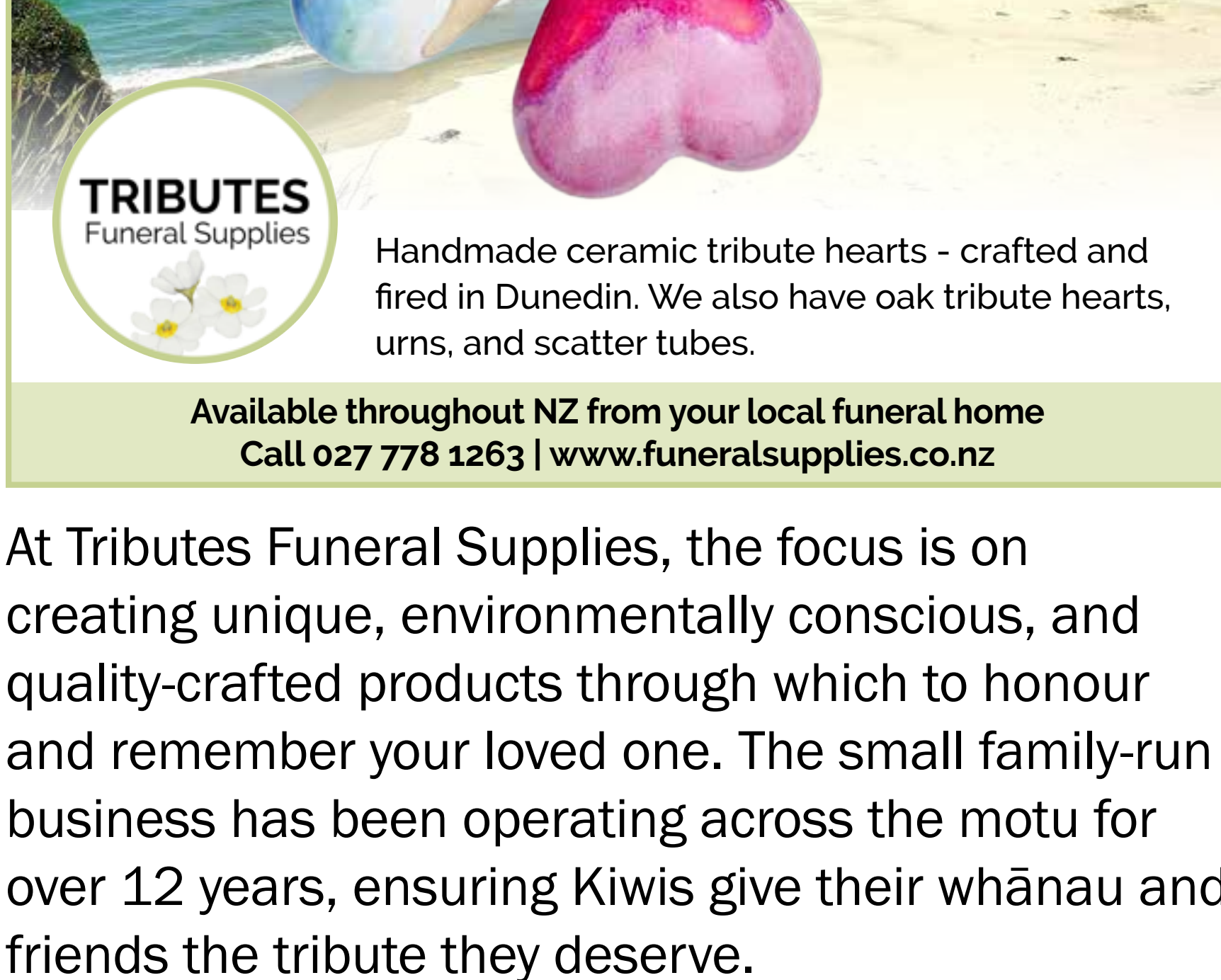
Over the last 50 years, technology has progressed in leaps and bounds, especially at the turn of the millennia. From slides and negatives to film, VHS to CDs, all the way to USBs and clouds today, it's easier than ever to record the precious moments of our lives. But what do you do if you have memories stretched across all these diverse formats and no way to see them?

That's where Get Memories Back comes in. Specialising in bringing your treasured memories to life by digitalising old tapes, photos, film, and recordings, Alastair can transfer everything from precious family videos and childhood photographs to modern formats that are easy to access and safe to store. Not to mention in a format that takes up significantly less room!

It's important to digitise your records as soon as possible, as many of the storage systems formerly used have limited lifespans or must be preserved in particular conditions. VHS tapes last for about 20 to 25 years, while environmental factors such as heat, humidity, and storage conditions can significantly impact the lifespan of cassettes and film. CDs on the other hand can be easily scratched, and their drives are increasingly omitted as technology progresses.

Bringing your most cherished moments into the digital age, Get Memories Back ensures the times that matter the most will live on for generations. Get in touch with Alastair to chat about your records at www.getmemoriesback.co.nz

To have and to hold



Handmade ceramic tribute hearts - crafted and fired in Dunedin. We also have oak tribute hearts, urns, and scatter tubes.

Available throughout NZ from your local funeral home
Call 027 778 1263 | www.funeralsupplies.co.nz

At Tributes Funeral Supplies, the focus is on creating unique, environmentally conscious, and quality-crafted products through which to honour and remember your loved one. The small family-run business has been operating across the motu for over 12 years, ensuring Kiwis give their whānau and friends the tribute they deserve.

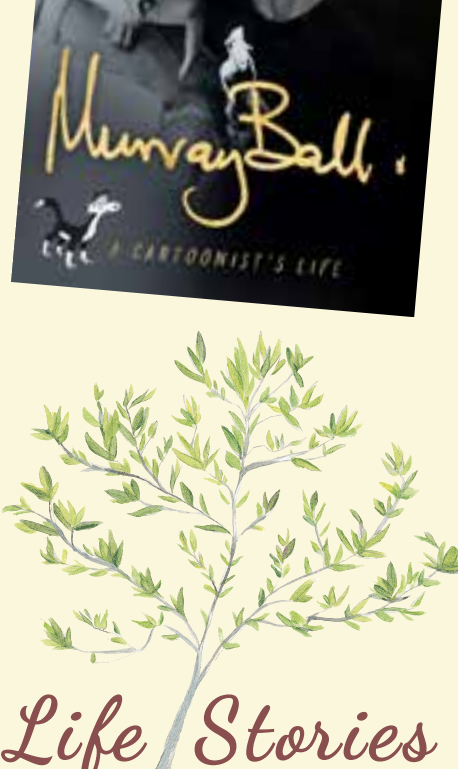
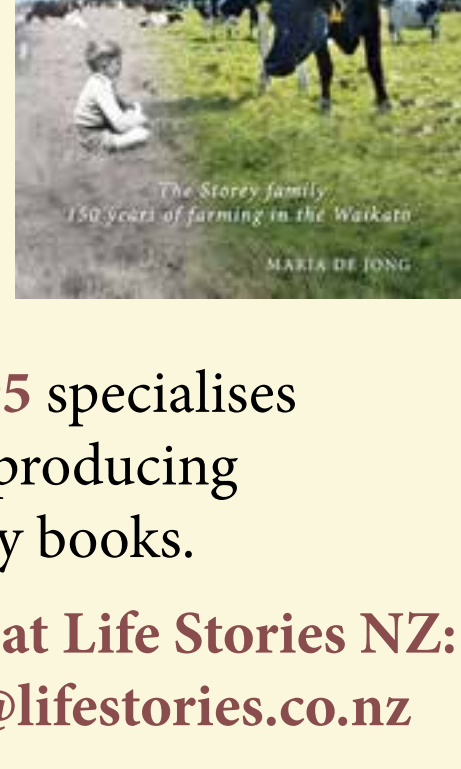
With a huge catalogue of products made both in Aotearoa and by the reputable funeral supplies company Tributes UK, the Kiwi-owned and operated business works with local artists and manufacturers to support New Zealand companies. Their range spans the gamut of keepsakes and tributes. Crafted, fired, and glazed in Dunedin, the ceramic Tribute Hearts are beautiful keepsakes that fit perfectly in the palm of your hand. Available in a range of colour combinations, they are designed to discreetly hold a small amount of ashes and come with a presentation box and wooden stand. The natural oak Tribute Hearts can be engraved and can hold ashes along with two photos and other small mementoes such as rings.

Urn and scatter tubes are also available from Tributes. There are a range of designs, including a beautiful New Zealand bird collection, or loved ones can personalise the urns and tubes themselves with photos and artwork.

The reclaimed wood candles are handcrafted in New Zealand and serve as a wonderful memorial. Tributes also offer a huge selection of willow coffins. Available from funeral homes throughout New Zealand. www.funeralsupplies.co.nz

Tell your story

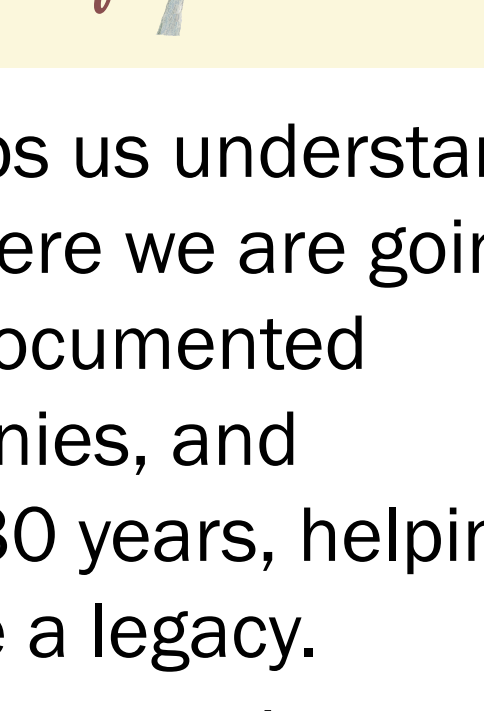
Capture and preserve your life story and family history in a beautiful book. A wealth of stories for future generations to treasure...



Life Stories NZ est. 1995 specialises in editing, writing, and producing professional high-quality books.

Contact Maria de Jong at Life Stories NZ:
0210 247 1147 | maria@lifestories.co.nz

www.lifestories.co.nz



Knowing where we come from helps us understand who we are in the present, and where we are going in the future. Life Stories NZ has documented the histories of individuals, companies, and organisations in New Zealand for 30 years, helping Kiwis preserve the past and create a legacy.

Whether you've started writing your memoir already or you don't know where to begin, the team at Life Stories NZ can help you along the journey.

As you walk down memory lane, interviewers can ask guiding questions, working collaboratively with you through all stages of the creative process.

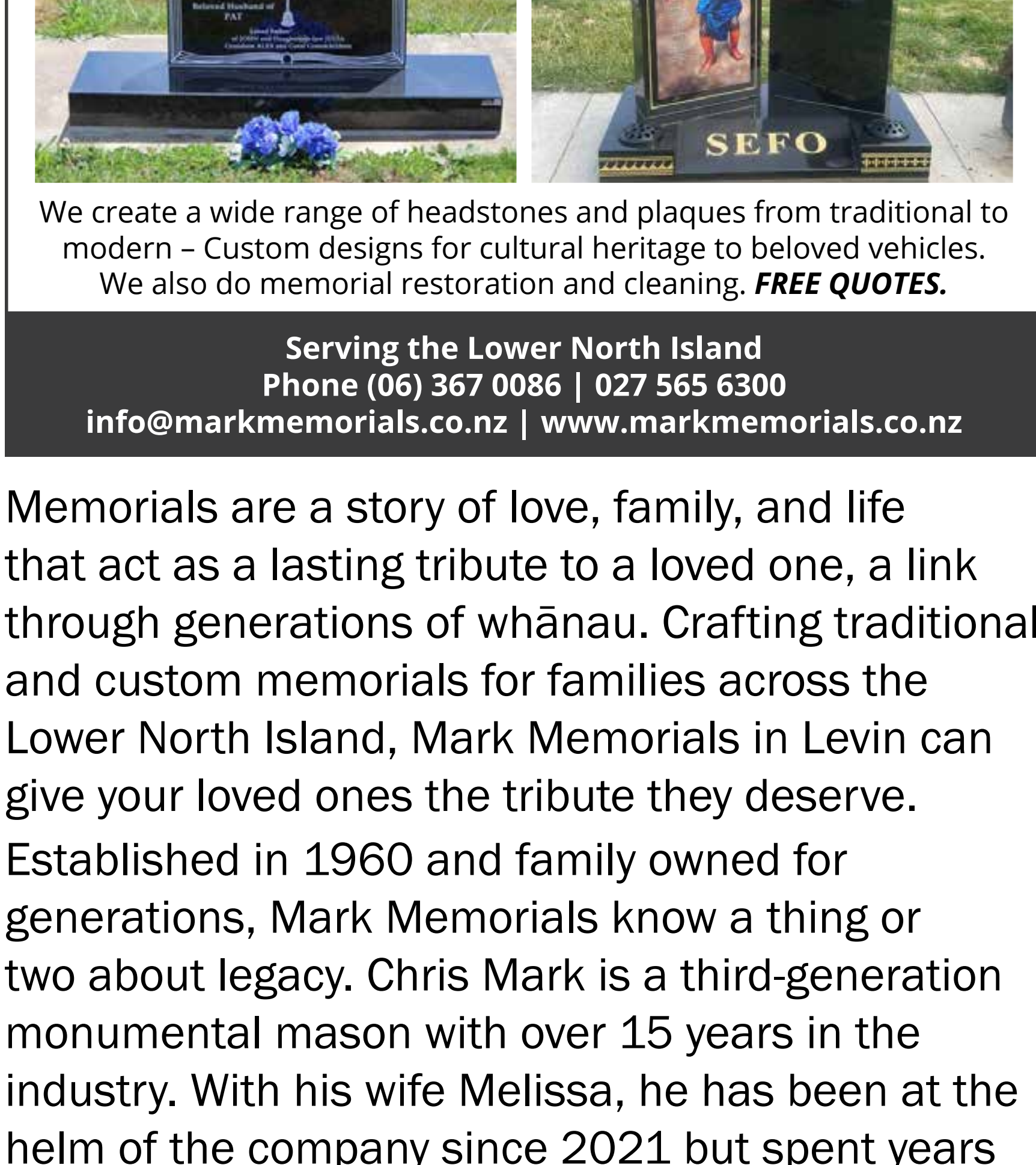
From one-on-one mentoring to editing and even ghost writing, the team can assist you with the process. If you've already put your memories down on paper or you're not sure how to finish your story, they can provide editing services and advice to help make your story more captivating.

If documenting a whole life seems daunting, the Pocket Memoir service focuses on a specific period in your life.

With experts in photo restoration, scanning, and designing family trees, Life Stories NZ can illustrate your book as well. On the other hand, Audio Life Stories will capture your accent, expressions, sense of humour, and more straight from the horse's mouth!

Understanding our history gives us a sense of belonging and connects us to the places, people, and events of our past, present, and future. Visit www.lifestories.co.nz to book a consultation and tell your story.

Crafting a legacy



MARK Memorials
 Headstones - Plaques - Restorations

We create a wide range of headstones and plaques from traditional to modern - Custom designs for cultural heritage to beloved vehicles. We also do memorial restoration and cleaning. **FREE QUOTES.**

Serving the Lower North Island
Phone (06) 367 0086 | 027 565 6300
info@markmemorials.co.nz | www.markmemorials.co.nz

Memorials are a story of love, family, and life that act as a lasting tribute to a loved one, a link through generations of whānau. Crafting traditional and custom memorials for families across the Lower North Island, Mark Memorials in Levin can give your loved ones the tribute they deserve.

Established in 1960 and family owned for generations, Mark Memorials know a thing or two about legacy. Chris Mark is a third-generation monumental mason with over 15 years in the industry. With his wife Melissa, he has been at the helm of the company since 2021 but spent years working alongside his mum and dad before that. He understands the importance of family, which is why he is dedicated to helping you honour yours.

All of the plaques and headstones are created by hand in Levin. Whether you're looking for something traditional or you're after a more custom look, the team can bring your vision to life with care and compassion. They know that choosing a memorial can be an emotional and sensitive process, which is why they take the time to gently guide you through it and make the most fitting tribute.

With Chris being one of the few people in New Zealand trained to complete traditional lead lettering work, Mark Memorials can also help with restoration services, including cleaning and re-lettering, through to full removal and reconstruction of existing memorials. Find out more and get in touch at www.markmemorials.co.nz for a free consultation and to get started on your loved one's tribute.

Retirement services Oceanic opportunity



The best marina in Wellington is located at the north-east end of the harbour...in Seaview.

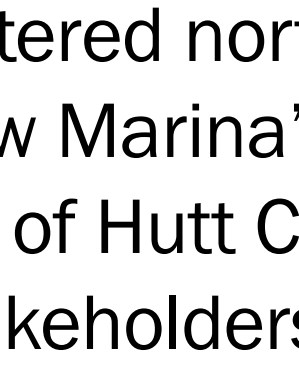
Join us - berths available!

Scan for more info

Contact us to book or enquire:

☎ 04 568 3736 ✉ admin@seaviewmarina.co.nz

www.seaviewmarina.co.nz



Seaview Marina is Wellington's newest and fastest developing marina, situated at the sheltered north-east end of Wellington Harbour. Seaview Marina's goals are aligned with the expectations of Hutt City Council. The health and safety of all stakeholders and the wider community is our primary concern. We focus on environmental and sustainable initiatives. Our aim is to provide you with a facility that is responsive to your needs and offers a comprehensive range of value-for-money services in pleasant surroundings.

Seaview Marina currently provides 372 berths ranging from 10 to 24 metres, with a final stage of in-water development still to be completed. A marine trade and retail hub with a boatyard, travelift, and catamaran haul-outs trailer, plus trailer-boat storage are all onsite.

Seaview Marina CE Tim Lidgard has sailed professionally and worked in marine infrastructure for over 30 years. He knows the value of a marine facility that provides the convenience of having all boaties' needs serviced in one location.

"One of our strategies in the coming years will be to continue our excellent reputation for customer service," Tim says. "We want to focus on providing customer satisfaction for all our marina users. For us, that means listening to feedback, consulting, and communicating with all our stakeholders."

Seaview still plans to develop further in a way that further supports their stakeholders and improves the experience on the waterfront. Visit www.seaviewmarina.co.nz for more details.

Keep cool

Double glazing powered by uPVC joinery
Free measure and quote! 04 974 8930

www.ecowindows.nz | sales@ecowindows.nz | Showroom at 405 Hutt Road, Alicetown

With elderly folks being more susceptible to extreme temperatures, double glazing can help keep homes cool in summer and warm in winter by blocking draughts, controlling condensation, and reducing temperature loss. Plus, insulated, double-glazed uPVC doors and windows like the ones available with Eco Wellington also reduce noise, increase both privacy and security, and are easy to take care of.

For 15 years, Eco Wellington has been keeping Wellington homes temperature regulated. 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.

uPVC is resistant to adverse weather conditions, meaning it won't warp, corrode, rot, rust, or require painting. The low-maintenance frames can be cleaned with soap and water and can't be deformed by moisture or temperature. Combined with double glazing, uPVC frames are durable, ecofriendly, energy efficient, and built to withstand 40 years or more in New Zealand conditions. Through heat waves and unexpected storms, uPVC frames will ensure your home remains cool throughout summer. Get your home fitted in the nick of time with Eco Wellington. Offering a comprehensive installation and maintenance service, the friendly team will ensure you stay comfortable in your home all year round.

Going the extra mile

Tall Poppy
REAL ESTATE

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A distinct blend of professionalism and personal touch defines Anna Geremia-Young's approach to real estate. With Tall Poppy, she helps buyers and sellers across the Hutt Valley embark on a stress-free and successful journey to make their property dreams a reality.

With comprehensive business and marketing skills, a keen sense of the local market, years of experience, a proven portfolio, and an approach that prioritises communication and genuine care, Anna is committed to exceeding her clients' expectations – whether they're buyers or sellers!

"Anna was extremely well prepared from our very first meeting, providing detailed property information and thorough market research that gave us real confidence in the process," seller Rene says, adding that with outstanding energy and professionalism, Anna brought strong buyer interest from the start and a sale from the first open home. "We couldn't have asked for a smoother and more effective sale experience".

Meanwhile, buyer Matthew says Anna was "flexible with open home times and worked really hard to help navigate through the process and really went above and beyond to get the sale over the line".

To achieve the results that gather glowing reviews, Anna takes time to understand her clients' lifestyles and needs. She understands that a house is your biggest asset, but also that it was or will be your home. That's why she goes the extra mile every time.

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SCAN ME!

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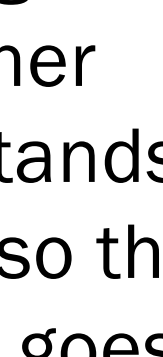
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Countdown to Xmas

Bringing clean water, dignity, and hope to the world's poorest places



Most of us enjoy clean water every day, but that's not the case in many of the world's poorest places. You and I can turn on a tap and have clean, fresh water flow into our homes – a simple act we can enjoy here in New Zealand. Yet nearly two billion people worldwide still lack this basic necessity. Many are forced to drink water contaminated with human waste, exposing them to serious health risks. Every day, dirty water kills more than 1000 children under the age of five. That's one child... every 90 seconds.

With 115 years' experience, CBM (Christian Blind Mission) works alongside people with disabilities in the world's poorest places to fight poverty and exclusion. In regions where CBM works, the struggle for clean water is a matter of life and death. For families battling disabilities and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) like River Blindness and Trachoma, this crisis is even more devastating.

Clean water sources may be miles away or require exhausting walks to reach. Sometimes, it comes from open wells or muddy holes, inaccessible to those in wheelchairs. Every day, parents face unthinkable choices in their fight for their children's health.

In Nigeria, CBM'S Water for Life project is bringing clean water and good sanitation practices to communities to prevent NTDs such as River Blindness from taking hold again. It's not the nasty, biting black flies that cause the damage... it's the parasites they carry – thousands of tiny larvae that slowly and agonisingly steal a person's vision, leaving them permanently blind. Being exposed to NTDs is devastating but CBM is bringing hope. Boreholes funded by generous CBM supporters provide communities access to safe water close to home. No longer do children and adults walk for hours to collect contaminated water while being bitten by black flies.

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This is where caring people like you can make a difference. A gift this Christmas can provide clean Water for Life – and your gift will be doubled through CBM's Christmas Miracle Match Fund!

Please will you consider making a gift today by visiting www.cbmnz.org.nz/water-for-life to donate securely online. Thank you for your kind and caring heart.



Help bring clean Water For Life

to adults and children, like Aziza, at risk of deadly waterborne diseases.

This water crisis is devastating for families who live with the daily threat of disability caused by Neglected Tropical Diseases like River Blindness and Trachoma.

Your generous gift will help ensure clean water sources, along with good sanitation and hygiene practices, are accessible to communities in the world's poorest places.

This Christmas please consider a gift of \$25 to bring clean Water For Life to places like Nigeria, and your gift will be doubled!

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- ☐ 6. Alana Wines
- ☐ 7. New World Churton Park
- ☐ 8. Ammu South Indian Restaurant
- ☐ 9. A Very Merry Christmas Record & Craft Fair
- ☐ 10. Southland Locator Beacons


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Countdown to Xmas

See you at the movies!



Light House Cinemas offer a sophisticated night out at the flicks. With three locations – Cuba, Petone, and Pāuatahanui – a voucher for any of these boutique theatres is the perfect gift for a movie-lover this Christmas. When you purchase a voucher, you can go in the draw to win a private screening for you and up to 30 friends!

As well as showing a great range of movies, Light House has a terrific selection of wines and craft beers to choose from, plus a cabinet full of yummy, fresh food.

There's an excellent lineup of films available this summer. The blockbuster phenomenon returns with *Avatar: Fire and Ash*, a must-see on the big screen in 3D. The stars are out with *Song Sung Blue*, a musical drama about a Neil Diamond tribute band starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson. Awards buzz is heating up for *Hamnet*, a powerful love story starring Paul Mescal and Jessie Buckley as Shakespeare and his wife Agnes. Two documentaries on Kiwi legends are on their way, with *Not Only Fred Dagg* and *Anchor Me: The Don McGlashan Story* exploring the lives of these entertainment industry icons. If you're looking for family fun, *SpongeBob* is back for another adventure in *Search for SquarePants*.

Light House has a range of weekly ticket specials on offer, and any one of their three cinemas is the perfect place for your private function.

Find out more or book your tickets at www.lighthousecinema.co.nz

See you at the movies!



There's never been a better time to explore the vibrant shops, cafés, restaurants, and boutiques of Jackson Street, Petone! With every \$20 purchase you make at our stores, you'll be in the draw to win one of two \$1000 vouchers and 10 \$100 vouchers to spend right here on our iconic street. Whether you're shopping for fashion, food, gifts, or something special just for you, your next buy could make you a winner!

The more you shop, eat, or use our street, the more chances you have to win. So, grab your friends, make a day of it, and enjoy everything our community has to offer.

By taking part, you're not just entering an exciting prize draw – you're also supporting the amazing local businesses that make Jackson Street such a special destination. It's a win-win for everyone! So pop to Petone, shop with a smile, and you might just walk away with a \$1000 reason to celebrate.

To boot, for a little extra Christmas cheer, we're offering the equivalent of free parking on Jackson Street this festive season. When you spend \$30 or more at participating businesses, you'll receive \$3 off your purchase – which is like getting your parking for free!

Treat yourself to delicious food, thoughtful gifts, and holiday magic while supporting our wonderful local businesses. It's our way of saying thank you for shopping local and spreading joy this Christmas!

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10x \$100

DRAW
dates: 26/11/2025 and 22/12/2025

*prizes are in vouchers to spend at Jackson St Businesses. Terms and conditions apply.

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Countdown to Xmas

A family favourite



Santa's Cave is a much-loved Palmerston North institution, a favourite holiday treasure that's been enchanting generations for more than 100 years! For some, it is a magical trip down memory lane. Others find its kitsch-factor totally endearing. There are those who even find it curiously creepy... but all agree, it wouldn't be Christmas in Palmerston North without the cave.

Since 1918, its sparkle and joy has put a smile on the faces of thousands of visitors every year.

Every year, Santa comes to visit the cave at Te Manawa Museum of Art, Science & Heritage. Bring your tamariki to see Santa and make a special wish.

Santa's Cave is open daily during the festive season until the 4th of January 2026 from 10am to 5pm. It is closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day.

Have a very Palmy Christmas!

Donut miss it

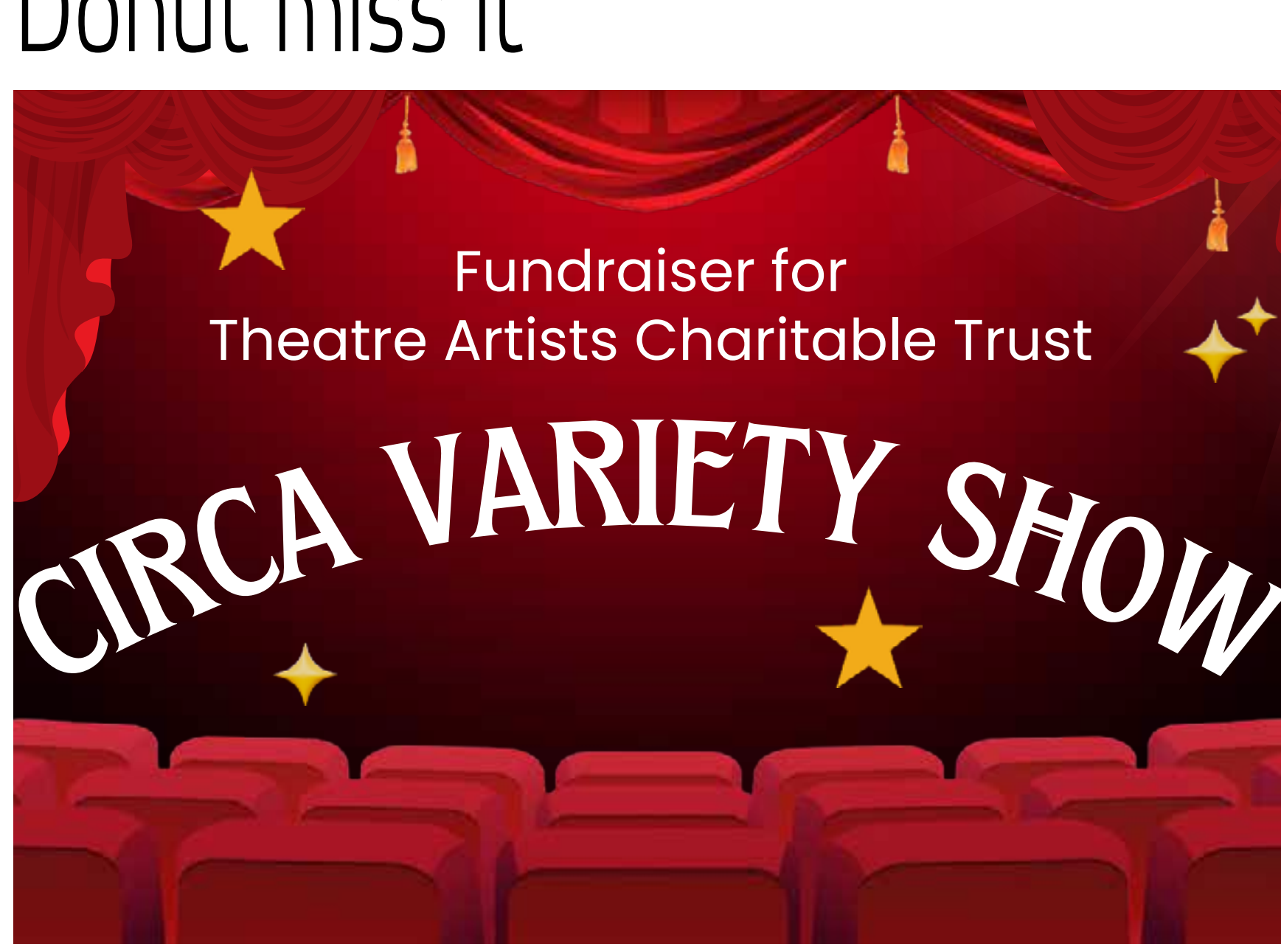


Arthur Przybyszewski is the proprietor of a modest, behind-the-times donut shop in Chicago. He can't find joy in anything these days, not even the donuts he used to take such pride in making by hand. Vandals armed with spray paint, predatory landlords, and that nefarious Starbucks all threaten to unceremoniously snuff out the only thing he's got left.

This is where Arthur (Allan Burne) finds himself as the curtains open on Stagecraft's *Superior Donuts* between the 26th of November and 6th of December at Gryphon Theatre. As an ambitious young man shoulders his way into becoming a Superior Donuts employee, an unlikely friendship – or rivalry – unfolds, inspiring both Arthur and Franco (McKay Findlay) to face their demons.

A sharp-witted, heartfelt comedy written by Pulitzer Prize-winner Tracy Letts and directed by James Kiesel, *Superior Donuts* explores depression, diversity, and bravery in a way that will leave audiences feeling all fluffy and sugary.

Donut miss it

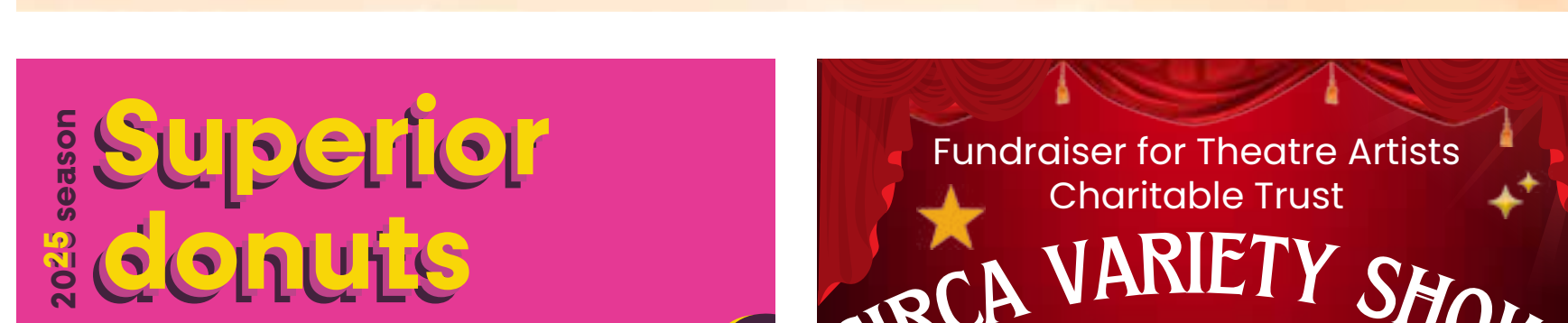


GRAMMY® and Oscar-winning creative Bret McKenzie, acclaimed theatre and film actor Jennifer Ward-Lealand, and distinguished actor and director Michael Hurst, alongside musicians, actors, and performers Jamie McCaskill and Kali Kopae, come together at Circa Theatre on the 30th of November for the most scintillating, sparkling, star-studded variety show of the year.

The *Circa Variety Show* is a special evening presented by the Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT) that helps raise valuable funds for performing artists. Providing financial support to actors, playwrights, directors, and theatremakers across the vast and varied spectrums of roles, TACT offers assistance from the initial stages of play production all the way through to rehearsal.

Circa has been a champion of New Zealand theatre for over 45 years, taking an artist-centric approach to their operation. Their *Circa Variety Show*, which includes drinks and light refreshments, is set to be hugely entertaining and a chance to support creativity in the capital.

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Home, I'm Darling by **Madelaine Empson**



Director Victoria Ross describes British playwright Laura Wade's *Home, I'm Darling* as a thought-provoking piece of theatre that explores feminism and asks the question, have we evolved since the 1950s? Were the good ol' days really that good? Running from the 19th to the 29th of November in the newly renovated Studio 73 on Main Street, this Greytown Little Theatre production has some "wonderfully funny moments and is such an engaging story – and the actors tell it so well", Ross delights.

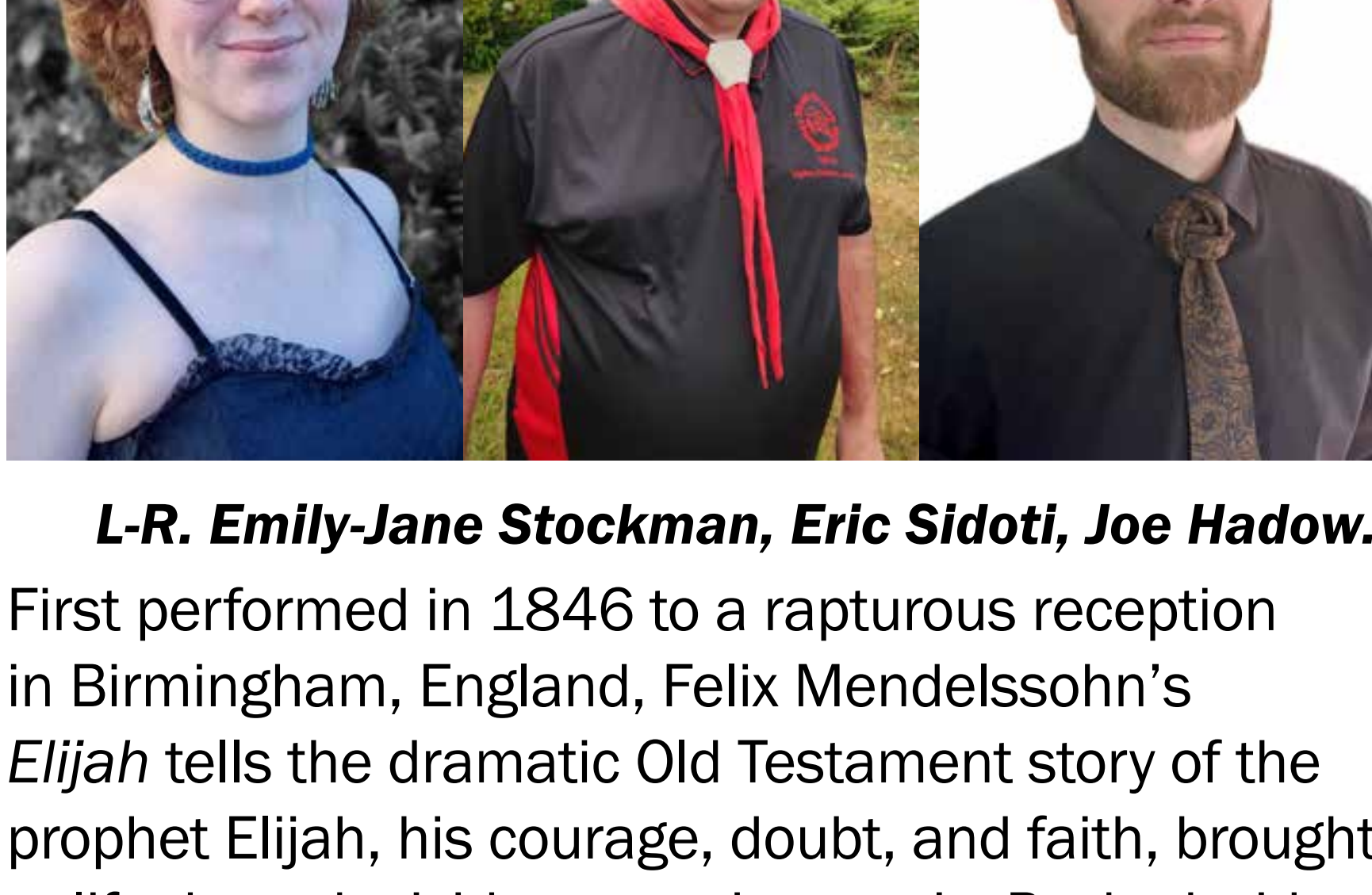
"I really liked the script. It's so well written and it has humour and pathos and some of those beautiful quiet moments, which are such a joy to watch as an audience. Also, I knew I'd be able to cast it, which is really important in community theatre!"

With a 50s set and costume design, this prop-heavy play has been equally tricky and delightful to bring from the page to the stage. The community has been great with all the various bits and pieces they've loaned the company to use, Ross says, and the wonderful cast of six have risen to the challenge of "an awful lot of prop handling – especially Katie [Cooper], who plays the lead role of Judy. She's a legend!"

Greytown Little Theatre chairperson John Gilberthorpe says it's great to be presenting the first show in the upgraded and revamped Studio 73, an amenity designed for the wider community that is proving to be very comfortable for the company.

"Already, as we settle in, we are feeling 'very at home' and I'm sure the production of *Home, I'm Darling* will prove a fitting show for our opening."

Music that moves



L-R. Emily-Jane Stockman, Eric Sidoti, Joe Hadow.

First performed in 1846 to a rapturous reception in Birmingham, England, Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah* tells the dramatic Old Testament story of the prophet Elijah, his courage, doubt, and faith, brought to life through vivid, expressive music. Packed with drama, rich harmonies, and powerful choruses, Elijah's triumphs and struggles are laid out amidst fire raining down from the sky and the still voice emerging from the wilderness.

The great Romantic oratorio remains one of the composer's most celebrated works to this day, the timeless story a favourite amongst choirs and audiences across Aotearoa. Wellington will have the opportunity to enjoy a rare, full-length performance of the work at St Paul's Church in Paraparaumu with Kāpiti Chorale on the 23rd of November.

Conducted by music director Eric Sidoti, Kāpiti Chorale's *Elijah* will feature soloists Emily-Jane Stockman (soprano), Charlotte Secker (alto), Jamie Young (tenor), Joe Hadow (bass), and Natalie Mower (youth soloist) with Jonathan Berkahn.

"*Elijah* is a work that challenges and inspires both singers and listeners," Sidoti says. "It's full of drama and emotion, but also full of moments of stillness and reflection. The story and the music speak directly to the human experience."

The largest and longest-serving mixed-voice choir on the coast has been delighting audiences from near and far for over 40 years, with their upcoming performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* set to light hearts ablaze with music that moves.

Christmas craic



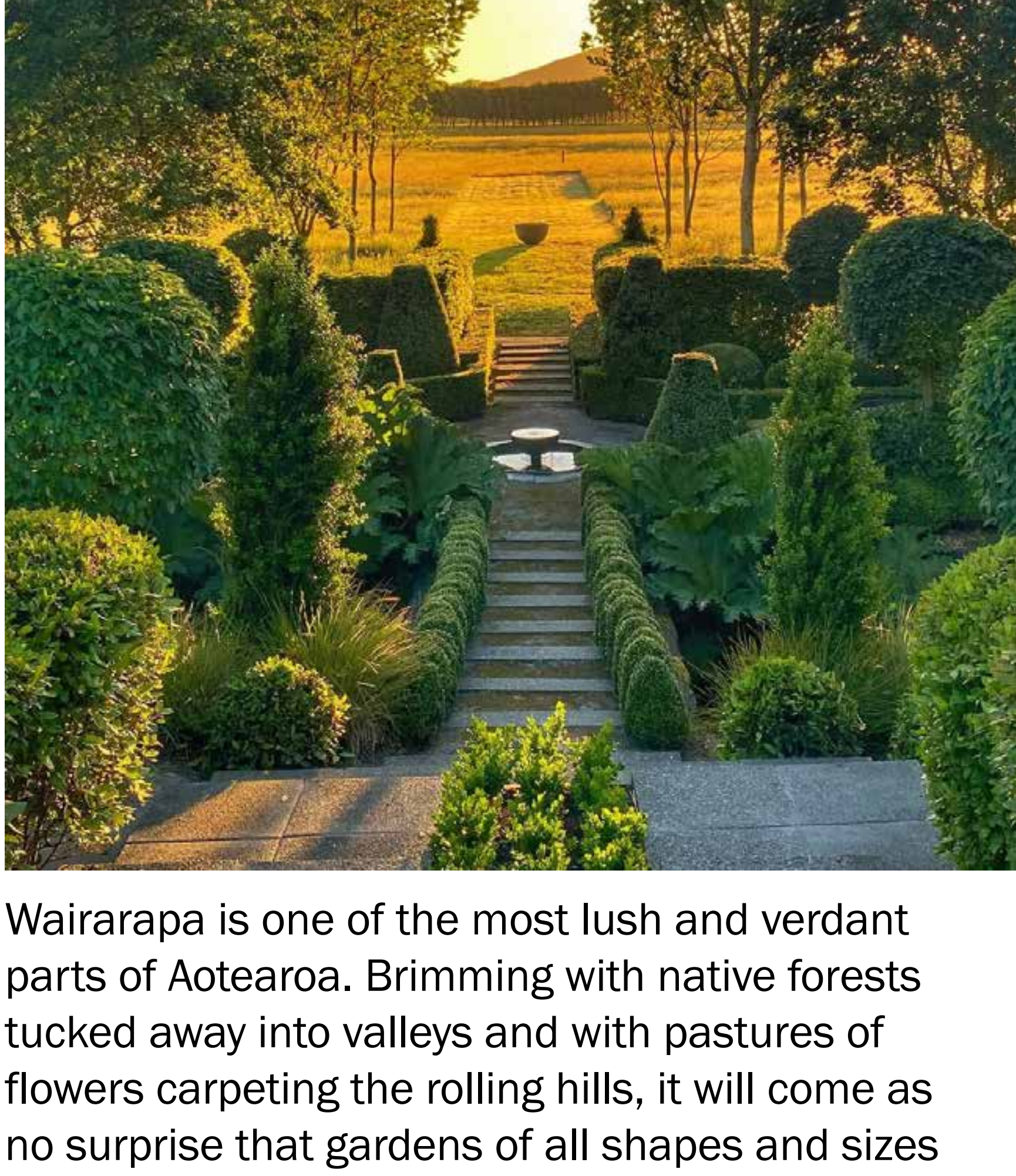
Settle in for a star-studded spectacular this silly season at *Celtic Christmas*. Combining incredible music with jaw-dropping dance talent in an unforgettable night of storytelling and Irish charm, this joyful show celebrates the magic of Irish dancing accompanied by traditional tunes, heartfelt ballads, and fan-favourite carols.

Celtic Christmas comes to Wellington's Opera House on the 21st of November and Wairarapa Events Centre on the 23rd along its nationwide tour. Choreographed and produced by multiple Australian national champion and star of *Gaelforce Dance* and *Rhythms of Ireland* Brent Pace and world champion and *Lord of the Dance* lead soloist Ceili Moore of Australian Irish dancing touring company Pace Live, the show features Auckland champion Irish dancer Keely O'Grady, who was the 2024 New Zealand & International Rose of Tralee, and Christchurch champion Irish dancer Mitchell O'Hara alongside a cast of world-class musicians and Irish dancers.

"We're thrilled to bring the magic of an Irish Christmas to New Zealand audiences, fresh from our Off-Broadway season – it's heartfelt, hilarious, and bursting with energy," Moore says. "We've brought together some of the finest Irish dancers and musicians in the world – world champions and cast from *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance* – and every year, the reaction from audiences blows us away. It's a festive, high-calibre celebration that has earned standing ovations and rave reviews across the globe."

A family show bringing the heart-warming spirit of an Irish Christmas to Aotearoa, *Celtic Christmas* is overflowing with music and dance, energy and heart, laughter and cheer.

Amongst the blooms



Wairarapa is one of the most lush and verdant parts of Aotearoa. Brimming with native forests tucked away into valleys and with pastures of flowers carpeting the rolling hills, it will come as no surprise that gardens of all shapes and sizes are nestled into the fertile landscape. Wairarapa Garden Tour gives locals and visitors alike a peek into the beautiful outdoor spaces of residents while raising vital funds for Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.

This year's two-day self-guided experience will run over the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of November across North Wairarapa, with 15 curated gardens marking 15 years since the tour began. Vast and varied, the spaces are as unique as the green thumbs who care for them, each one offering visitors a glimpse into a magical world.

Pictured here is Stablehouse Garden, owned by Sarah Delmonte and designed by the award-winning Lyn Eglinton. Just a five-minute drive from Masterton, the structured, elegant, and timeless landscape has been cited as a Garden of National Significance with a prestigious five-star rating by the New Zealand Gardens Trust.

Two workshops will delight visitors during the Wairarapa Garden Tour. Writer Lynda Hallinan will share her passion for plants, and a life spent growing and writing about gardens on the 21st, while The Purple Dahlia will host hands-on workshops celebrating seasonal flowers, sustainable floristry, and creative garden-inspired design on the 22nd and 23rd of November.

Immerse yourself in the natural, bountiful beauty New Zealand is famous for at Wairarapa Garden Tour's annual Pūkaha fundraiser.

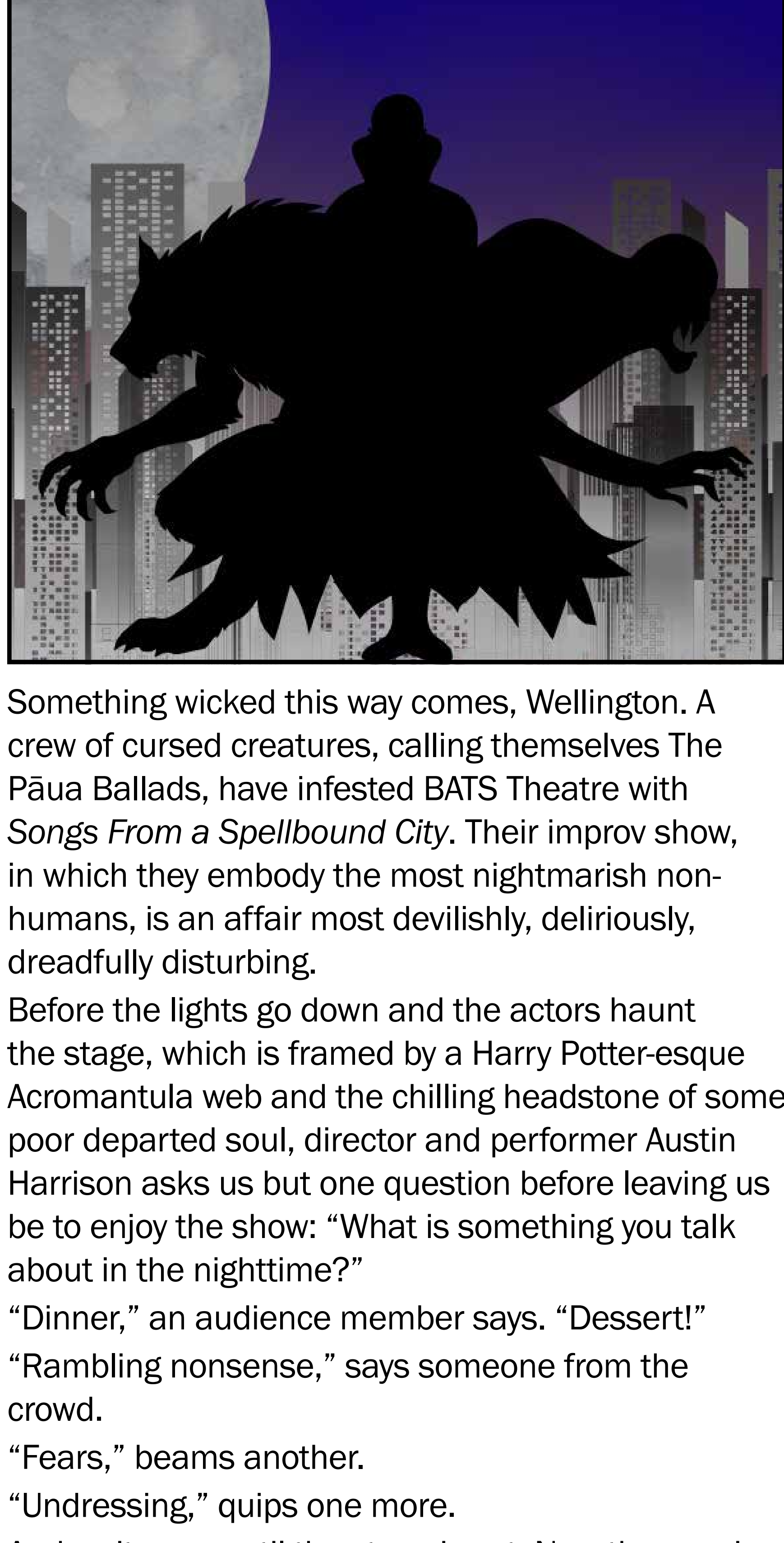
Songs From a Spellbound City

Created by The Pāua Ballads

Directed by Austin Harrison

BATS Theatre, 4th Nov 2025

Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera



Something wicked this way comes, Wellington. A crew of cursed creatures, calling themselves The Pāua Ballads, have infested BATS Theatre with *Songs From a Spellbound City*. Their improv show, in which they embody the most nightmarish non-humans, is an affair most devilishly, deliriously, dreadfully disturbing.

Before the lights go down and the actors haunt the stage, which is framed by a Harry Potter-esque Acromantula web and the chilling headstone of some poor departed soul, director and performer Austin Harrison asks us but one question before leaving us be to enjoy the show: “What is something you talk about in the nighttime?”

“Dinner,” an audience member says. “Dessert!”

“Rambling nonsense,” says someone from the crowd.

“Fears,” beams another.

“Undressing,” quips one more.

And so it goes until the stage is set. Now the evening of improv can begin. The lights (Chloe Marshall) dim before illuminating two zombies at a bus stop discussing local elections – more brains, anyone? Formatted by Brenna Dixon from Naarm/Melbourne as a series of vignettes, *Songs From a Spellbound City* sees Harrison, Malcolm Morrison, Matt Hutton, Bethany Miller, Jem Palmer, and New Zealand’s most famous zombie Ian Harcourt test their acting, singing, and comedy chops while sorcerers of sound, masters of melody Beans Wright (violin) and Lia Kelly (keyboard) expertly accompany their follies and fancies with an ever-changing score made up on the spot.

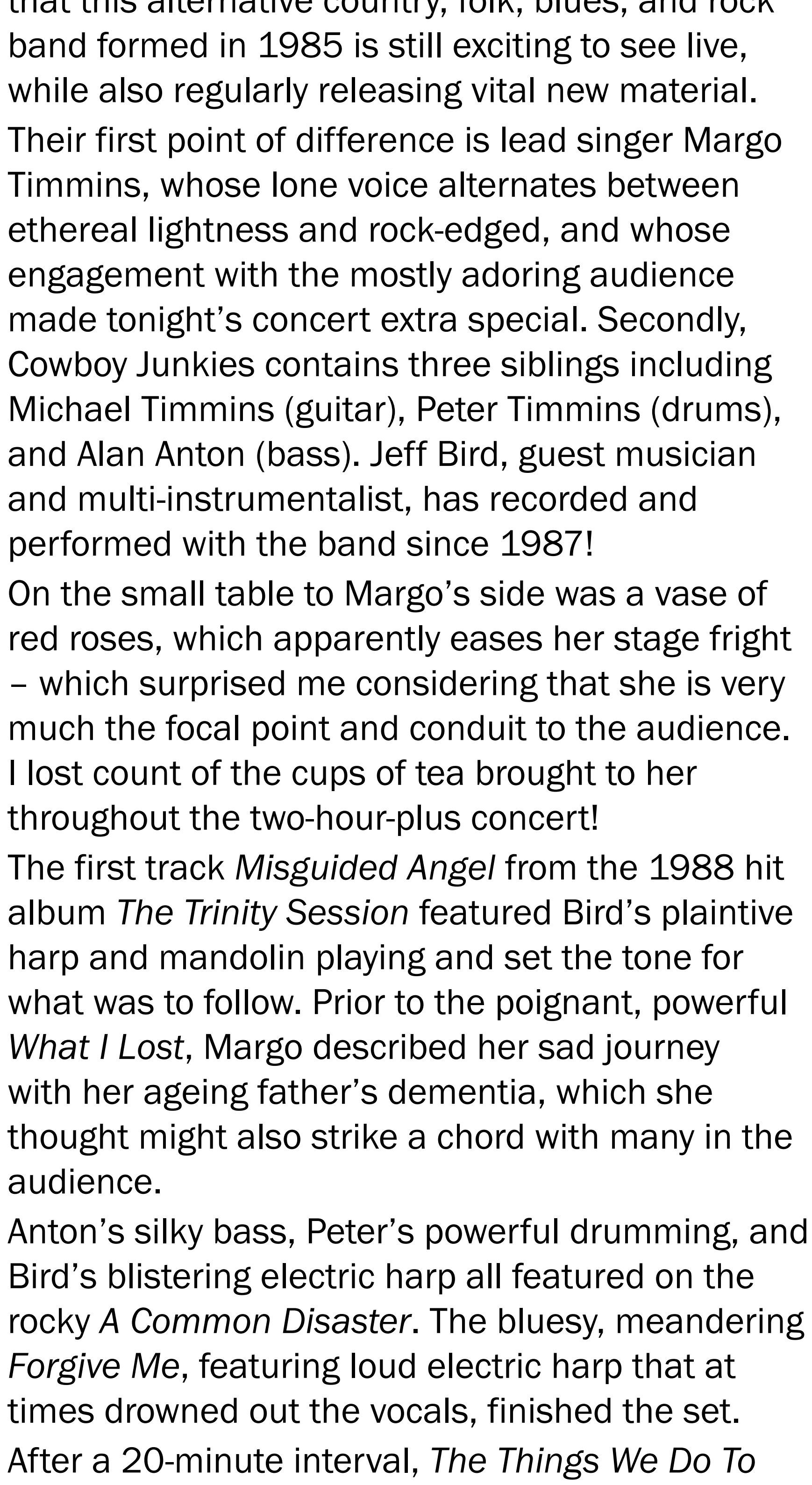
Next up, four goblins face their fears jumping headlong into the bucket fountain as Harcourt very cleverly avoids uttering any profanity in his rhyme. The quartet are followed by all manner of beasties singing about their feelings over 50 minutes. A tooth fairy champions workers’ rights in a rousing chant about desserts. A man is deep fried at McDonald’s to ensure two ghouls are satisfied customers. Two wizards fall in love. Four skeletons exit the closet and uncover new secrets. A were-greyhound and were-chihuahua see the world from new perspectives. A vampire at the laundromat overcomes his bout of modesty.

Wonderfully Wellington and wickedly whimsical, scream the house down at *Songs From a Spellbound City*.

Cowboy Junkies

The Opera House, 6th Nov 2025

Reviewed by Graeme King



Billed as a 40-year celebration, this concert proved that this alternative country, folk, blues, and rock band formed in 1985 is still exciting to see live, while also regularly releasing vital new material. Their first point of difference is lead singer Margo Timmins, whose lone voice alternates between ethereal lightness and rock-edged, and whose engagement with the mostly adoring audience made tonight’s concert extra special. Secondly, Cowboy Junkies contains three siblings including Michael Timmins (guitar), Peter Timmins (drums), and Alan Anton (bass). Jeff Bird, guest musician and multi-instrumentalist, has recorded and performed with the band since 1987!

On the small table to Margo’s side was a vase of red roses, which apparently eases her stage fright – which surprised me considering that she is very much the focal point and conduit to the audience. I lost count of the cups of tea brought to her throughout the two-hour-plus concert!

The first track *Misguided Angel* from the 1988 hit album *The Trinity Session* featured Bird’s plaintive harp and mandolin playing and set the tone for what was to follow. Prior to the poignant, powerful *What I Lost*, Margo described her sad journey with her ageing father’s dementia, which she thought might also strike a chord with many in the audience.

Anton’s silky bass, Peter’s powerful drumming, and Bird’s blistering electric harp all featured on the rocky *A Common Disaster*. The bluesy, meandering *Forgive Me*, featuring loud electric harp that at times drowned out the vocals, finished the set.

After a 20-minute interval, *The Things We Do To Each Other* opened the second half, followed by their grungy version of Lou Reed’s *Sweet Jane*, one of their most popular songs – ironic considering they’ve released 16 studio albums of mainly original music!

For the three-track acoustic set, the bassist and drummer then left the stage. Margo said that “as a Canadian band it is their duty to play a Neil Young song” to much audience laughter, before playing *Powderfinger*.

The full band were back for the bluesy *Shining Moon*, with their interpretation of the Elvis classic *Blue Moon* finishing the set. Encores, Waylon Jennings’ *Dreaming My Dreams With You* and Patsy Cline’s *Walkin’ After Midnight*, finished the night to ecstatic applause.

Legendary status intact.

A chat with Tung...

Achilles ankles

by Madelaine Empson



On a Friday a couple of weeks back, I came back from lunch hobbling. I’d rolled my ankle.

What happened to you that weekend!

Well, Maddi, what an inspiration you were! Literally 24 hours later, I sprained my ankle playing volleyball. I was in such pain, and in that moment, I thought of you [laughs]. What a comedy of errors. Everything I didn’t want to happen, happened to me. I play volleyball every weekend, but that weekend must’ve been a magical one...

My partner had hurt his back just before I rolled my ankle... any similarities there?

Interestingly enough, yes! My partner had hurt his back two days before I hurt my ankle. He had been walking around like a 90-year-old man, and I made fun of him! I was so mean! Then I had to stay home with my leg up for 48 hours, so I think karma is the real B here. I certainly paid for it.

Lucky it’s just us in the office who have injured ourselves recently, right?

Hmm [laughs]. Another colleague has a similar injury to me as well. I think maybe we are just following each other’s example.

Such an unlucky turn of events! Maybe we could all share your moon boot.

Well I returned my crutches as soon as I could, because I never wanted to see them again. But my moon boot – I kept that as a token [laughs].

What has been the most challenging thing about life in a moon boot?

For me, the most challenging thing was after the fact. I’m trying to tell my brain that I still have a normal leg. But when I took off the moon boot, I struggled to walk normally. I’ve never experienced anything like that in my life, and I now realise I’ve been so mean to people out there with injuries, because I couldn’t understand how much it hurt or how they felt. Now I do.

A silver lining, then. What else have you taken away from the experience?

Empathy, for sure, and I’ve also picked up a lot of healing exercises. I feel very privileged to be living in New Zealand and paying tax so that I can get physio help from ACC. I’ll take away those strengthening exercises so that this won’t become my Achilles ankle!

Out the Gate

Written by Helen Pearce-Otene

Directed by Jim Moriarty

Tea Gardens, Massey University, 12th Nov 2025

Reviewed by Stanford Reynolds

Out the Gate is a powerful theatrical exploration of the cycles of violence and incarceration in Aotearoa, expressed in a performance that flows through scenes, song, and dance fluidly and authentically. Audience members are guided to the performance space by ushers, then to their seats by the cast themselves. This immediately sets the tone for *Out the Gate*, where care and aroha are palpable from the first moments, signalling that this is a work grounded in connection and collective experience.

Performed in the round, the piece unfolds as a true ensemble effort. The “promise” of what all tamariki deserve – love, a warm home, and good food – is expressed by the cast overlapping and interweaving their delivery of the script, establishing a rhythm of shared storytelling that continues throughout. Costumes (designed by Cara Louise Waretini) are simple but effective, each performer wearing a green accent which unifies them and allows them to seamlessly move between roles and scenes. Physicality extends the story beyond words as the cast move and react to what is happening on stage, an excellent utilisation of physical theatre at its most grounded: expressive and emotionally direct without indulgence.

Lighting design (Janis Chong Yan Cheng) and sound design (Reon Bell) are standout elements, creating a vivid sense of place. A flood of gentle daylight tones and a soundscape blending soft instrumentals and birdsong give way to sharply focused beams of light and precise sound cues, such as the beep of a pedestrian crossing, supporting but never distracting from the performance. Live guitar music by Rameka Tamaki underscores the play, the volume and emotional cadence always perfectly underpinning the story.

The cast’s beautiful harmonies during transitional waiata are passionate, authentic, and expertly support the narrative arc of the show.

While some character moments, particularly those of the children, veer toward the overly sweet, these choices later reveal their purpose: a contrast between innocence and the unspoken weight of inherited trauma. The ending focuses on celebrating a teacher figure, which feels slightly misplaced as it diverts from the otherwise cohesive exploration of cycles of violence. However, it makes sense as a narrative purpose for the characters to gather and share their stories. The work’s core message is clearly expressed: violence begets violence, and healing begins in collective recognition.

Out the Gate is a transformative and deeply human work. Its invitation to kōrero and share kai afterward extends the experience from theatre into community. For audiences both familiar and unfamiliar with stories of intergenerational struggle, it offers something vital: hope, compassion, and a reminder of theatre’s power to heal.

Tracing worlds



Rhian Sheehan.

Acclaimed Aotearoa composers, musicians, and producers Rhian Sheehan and Arli Liberman have come together to create *Traces*, an instrumental album that blends electronic, ambient, and post-rock soundscapes into what Kiwi filmmaker Sam Kelly calls “an ethereal journey through dark and moody worlds”.

Sheehan is a multi-award-winning artist whose solo albums and soundtracks go two decades back. As a sought-after screen composer, he has scored a diverse range of international projects, from Netflix’s *Cunk on Earth* to planetarium shows and even a state-of-the-art roller coaster. Liberman’s signature guitar-driven atmospheric sound echoes through his songs and scores. On the eve of the release of *Traces*, he had again been named as a finalist for the APRA Best Original Music in a Feature Film Award. Live performances from both are a rare treat, and this Loop tour marks just the second time they’ve played in concert together. To boot, they’ll be joined by two onstage collaborators to help bring *Traces* of the album’s worlds to life: Ed Zuccollo with his signature synth wizardry, and Riki Pirihi, aka Riki Gooch, celebrated for his work with TrinityRoots, Fat Freddy’s Drop, and more. All four will perform *Traces* live in the first half followed by a set that spans each artist’s individual catalogue. All the while, stunning visuals created for the project by Dunedin-based visual artist Sam Caldwell will plate up a richly textural audio and visual feast. Devour the sound journey on Friday the 21st of November at The Great Hall, Massey University.

Swashbuckling shindig



Photo by Jessica Savage.

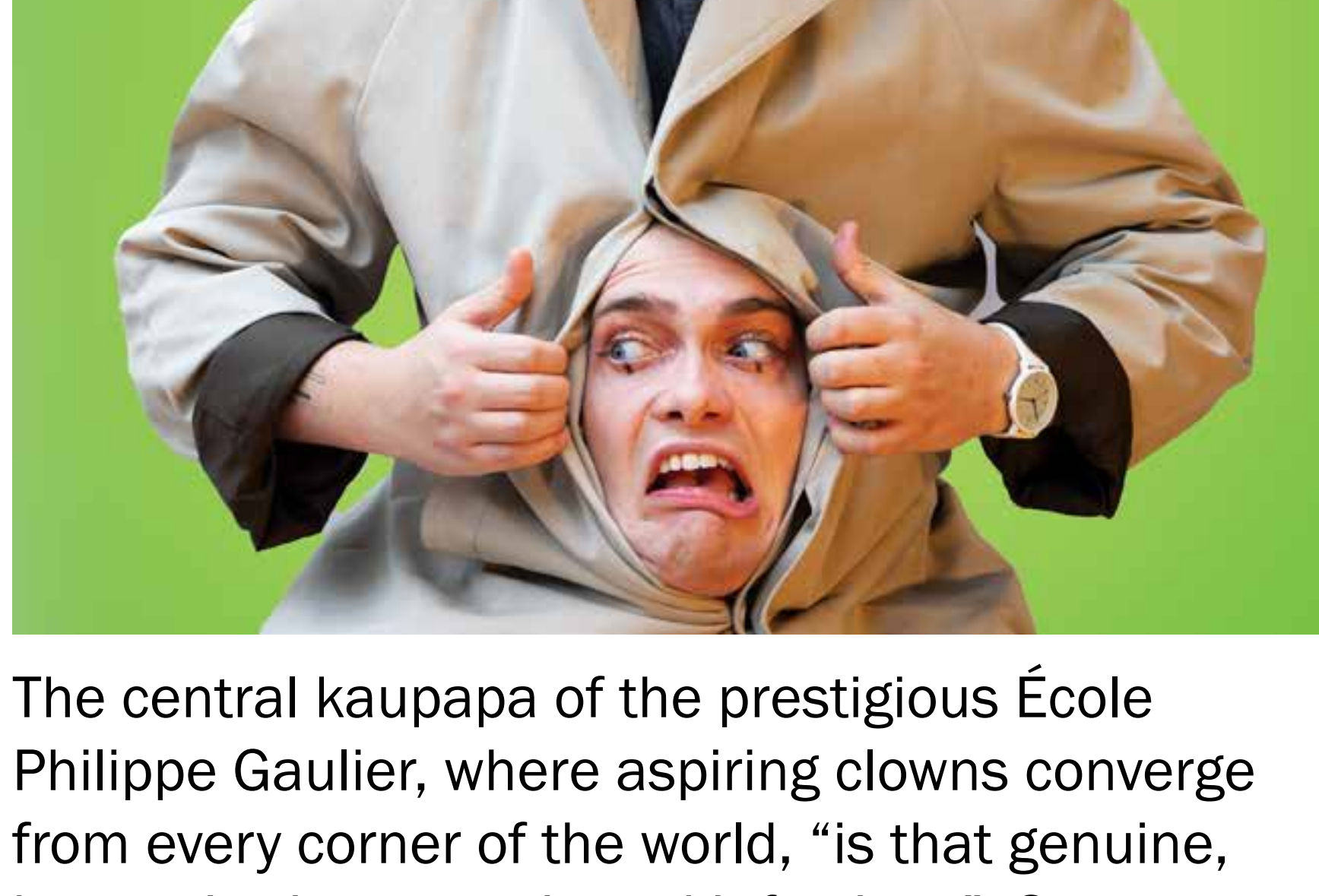
Earlier this year, when *Regional News* reviewer Zac saw *The Man Whose Mother Was A Pirate: The Musical* in its development season, he vowed that he would “fight off crews of pirates to watch it again”. Luckily, he doesn’t have to... and neither do you! Wellington audiences will be able to storm the ship as it docks at The Hannah for its Aotearoa premiere between the 5th and the 14th of December.

Based on the Margaret Mahy classic, this musical adaptation by Nino Raphael breathes new wind and adventure into one of New Zealand’s favourite stories. Following Sam, an ordinary man who works in an ordinary office, *The Man Whose Mother Was A Pirate: The Musical* takes privateers of all ages on a rollicking romp across the waves when his mother, a pirate, drags Sam out to sea to be her first mate! Meeting many naysayers along the way, will Sam enjoy his new extra-ordinary life?

This interactive sing-along musical adaption is filled with songs and sea shanties for the young and young at heart. Directed by the world-renowned stage and opera director Sara Brodie and designed by Scott Maxim, Rebecca Jones, and Oliver Devlin, *The Man Whose Mother Was A Pirate: The Musical* stars Jo Hodgson as Pirate Mum, Finlay Morris as Sam, Tawhi Thomas as Mr. Fat, Avery Ward as Squiffy Pirate, and Hamish Boyle as Maite.

Say hello to the silly season by skipping across the high seas with this swashbuckling shindig.

To be a fool, unashamedly



The central kaupapa of the prestigious École Philippe Gaulier, where aspiring clowns converge from every corner of the world, “is that genuine, honest joy is magnetic and infectious”, Sean Burnett Dugdale-Martin says. “To be nothing but yourself without any doubt or anxiety is how you’ll spread joy. To be a fool, unashamedly”.

A recent graduate and fully fledged clown, the Wellington-based Dugdale-Martin has only recently returned from their stint at École Philippe Gaulier, which they attended alongside Daniel Nodder thanks to funding from Creative New Zealand. The clown course coaches students to understand the ‘poetry of an idiot’, cultivating comedic instinct. Their classmates were a contingent of international clowns, proving that there is a need for foolishness and laughter everywhere.

There is no lack of interest in clowning even here in Aotearoa, with Nodder starring as the crowd favourite Street Sweeper character in the World of WearableArt® 2025 show *RISE* upon returning home.

“It was a huge honour to be performing in such a prestigious production – I used to watch WOW® as a kid,” Nodder says. “It felt like a perfect chance to bring some joy and silliness to the stage, using the stuff we learnt overseas.”

Now, from the 18th to the 22nd of November, the clowning compatriots are back at it again with Ruff As Gutz Spectacles at BATS Theatre with

Crush the Bug, a show they’ve concocted about metamorphosis, confusion, technology, and humans’ great capacity for distractedness.

Welcome to Farrago



400 years after the collapse of capitalism, the townspeople of Farrago are preparing for the annual festival where visitors from tribes across the continent will join to share food, stories, and ideas. Parents and children are reunited; forbidden lovers search for each other; survivors of capitalism’s last stronghold seek refuge.

At *Farrago Bazaar*, Red Scare Theatre Company’s new immersive and ambitious offering, the audience will play characters from the visiting tribes in six intertwining narratives featuring a cast of 20 performers playing the tribespeople of this post-post-apocalyptic world. Taking place at the Innermost Gardens across two sessions on the 22nd of November, the performance marks 12 years of the company and the culmination of artistic director Cassandra Tse’s [pictured] PhD work.

“I wanted to embrace the challenges and excitement of building an entirely new world, and then invite audiences to live in it,” Tse says. “The promise of immersive theatre is that you can step into a different reality and explore a story from the inside. In *Farrago Bazaar*, the audience are characters with their own set of goals and allegiances.”

The live action roleplaying experience will give attendees the option to play a character from the tribes of Tolvil (farmers and craftspeople), Zan (nomadic warriors), or Jayer (militant pacifists), influencing the narrative through scripted storylines or their own ideas. Plus, they’ll be treated to a Farragonian feast!

Step into a world unknown and choose your own tale at *Farrago Bazaar*.

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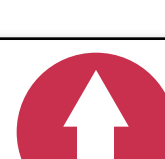
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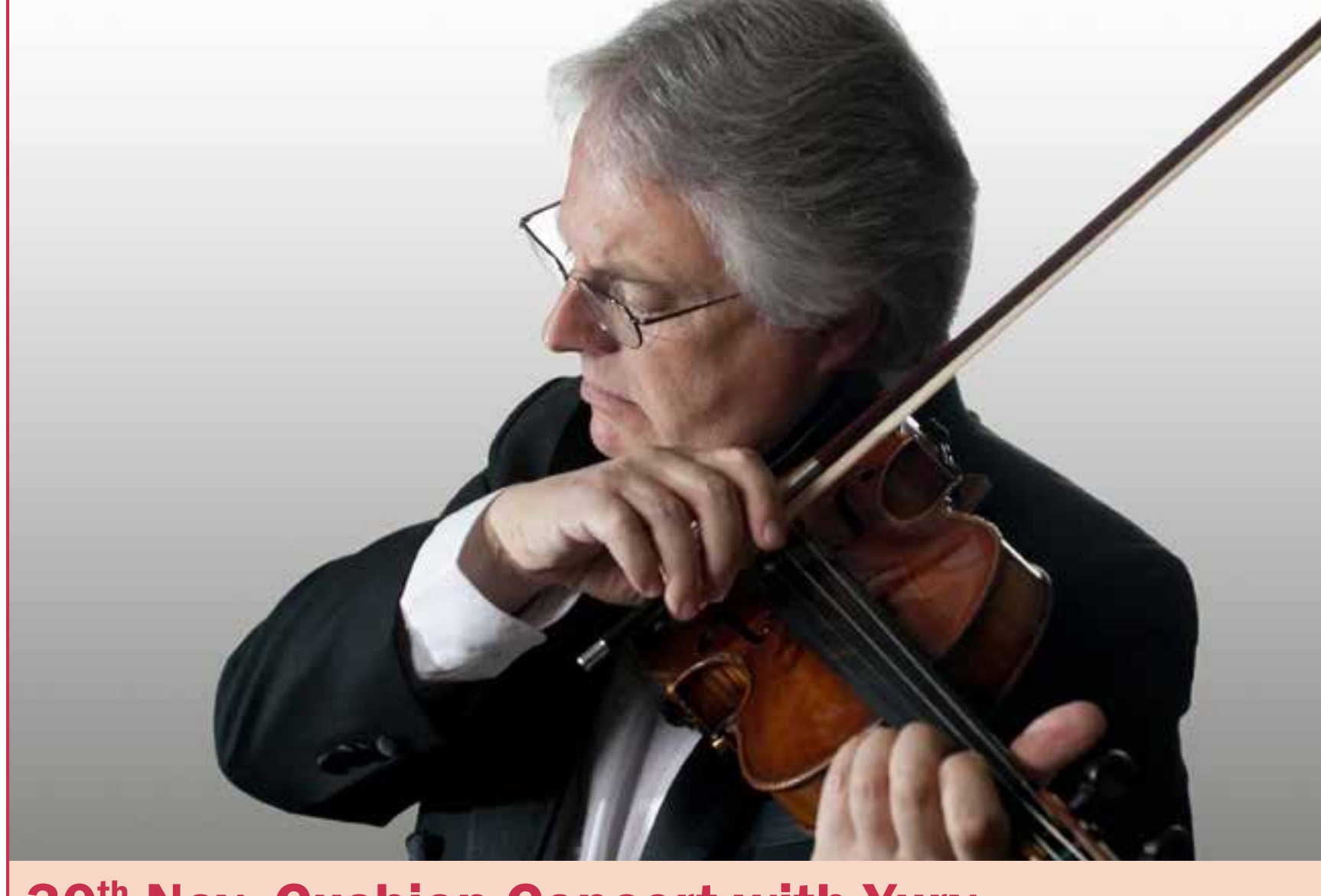


What's on



22nd-23rd Nov. New Zealand Mini Golf Open

2025: Golf Warehouse, Randwick Road, Lower Hutt – 9am. Put your skills to the test as some of New Zealand's best minigolfers converge on Golf Warehouse's 18-hole mini golf course inspired by internationally famous greens. With fierce competition comes fantastic prizes, including a spot at the World Adventure Golf Tour Final in England. **L-R: Matt, John, and Faye Ansley.**



30th Nov. Cushion Concert with Yury

Gezentsvey: Inverloch Art School, Inverloch Place, Te Aro – 5pm. Born in 1952 in Kiev, Ukraine, Yury Gezentsvey was appointed principal first violinist of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra in 1985. Now retired, he will perform Telemann's baroque *Violin Fantasias* for solo violin as part of Inverloch's fundraiser exhibition.



30th Nov. Mehana: Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro

– 7pm. Playing a mix of music from across the Balkans, Mehana present playful melodies from eastern Serbia, heartfelt ballads from Dalmatia, expressive and ornamented tunes from the north, the unexpected eastern flavours of Bosnia, and the vibrant fusion of influences woven into the traditions of North Macedonia and Greece.

Artwork by Reuben Edwards.



Selina Tusitala Marsh. Photo by Mark Beatty.

27th Nov. Laureates Line Up: National Library of

New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, Molesworth Street, Thorndon – 6pm. 11 New Zealand Poets Laureate with Te Herenga Waka Victoria University Press publisher Fergus Barrowman as MC will join forces for the National Library's 60th birthday celebration with poetry readings, plus special readings to honour the late Vincent O'Sullivan and Brian Turner.



22nd Nov. NZ Comedy School Presents: Only The

New Stuff: The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro

– 8pm. Dozens of local and national comedians are tasked with performing one minute of brand-new material – with the 'bell of shame' employed to penalise old bits, bad puns, and going overtime. It's a lightning-fast show hosted by Neil Thornton [pictured] where the best and worst comics suffer for their craft.



21st Nov. 7 Days Live: St James Theatre,

Courtenay Place, Te Aro – 7:30pm. Look at the

week that was through the eyes of Kiwi comics in a live iteration of the iconic TV panel show. Jeremy Corbett, Dai Henwood, Hayley Sproull, Paul Ego, Josh Thomson, Ben Hurley, and Justine Smith will smash all barriers of proper behaviour, with no cameras, censors, editors, or rules to stop them.

What's on

Wairarapa

19th-29th Nov. Greytown Little Theatre Presents:

Home, I'm Darling: *Studio 73, Main Street, Greytown* – various times. This witty, thought-provoking piece of theatre explores obsession and feminism to ask, have we evolved since the 1950s?

22nd Nov. Jason Payn as Elvis: *Club Carterton, Broadway, Carterton* – 7pm. Experience an authentic Elvis show from one of New Zealand's top tribute artists.

22nd-23rd Nov. Pūkaha Wairarapa Garden Tour: *Various locations and times in North Wairarapa.* See the spoils of spring along this self-drive tour of 15 gardens.

4th Dec. TAYLOR: A Tribute to the Eras of Taylor Swift: *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 7pm. Sing and sparkle to more than 20 exquisite renditions of Taylor Swift's biggest hits from every era of her career.

Kapiti

22nd Nov. Raybon Kan: *Kapiti Playhouse, Ruahine Street, Paraparaumu* – 8pm. Award-winning comedian Raybon Kan celebrates his 31st anniversary in stand-up with his greatest hits show *Raybonanza*.

23rd Nov. Kāpiti Chorale Presents: Mendelssohn's Elijah: *St Paul's Anglican Church, Langdale Avenue, Paraparaumu* – 3pm. Mendelssohn's *Elijah* is one of the great Romantic oratorios. Packed with drama, rich harmonies, and powerful choruses, it tells the story of the prophet Elijah and his triumphs, struggles, and moments of quiet doubt.

29th Nov. Extreme Dance Presents: 20 & Lil Groovers Concert: *Southward Theatre, Otaihangā Road, Paraparaumu* – various times. Catch Extreme Dance students in a creative programme of ballet, jazz, hip-hop, tap, contemporary, and lyrical dance and musical theatre.

6th Dec. Kāpiti Food Fair: *Mazengarb Reserve, Scaife Drive, Paraparaumu* – 10am. Good food, music, and times collide at this delectable and indulgent day out.

Events

20th Nov. Climbing Film Tour: *Penthouse Cinema & Café, Ohiro Road, Brooklyn* – 7:15pm. Five remarkable short films showcase different facets of the global climbing community.

28th Nov. Dance Party! Vol. 2: *Island Bay Scout Hall, Dover Street, Berhampore* – 7pm. This all-ages dance party aims to make Wellington's burgeoning music scene more accessible to young people.

30th Nov. Wicked: For Good Movie Night Fundraiser: *Petone Light House Cinema, Beach Street, Lower Hutt* – 4pm. Catch part two of *Wicked* while helping raise funds for Multiples Hutt Valley's efforts to support parents of twins, triplets, and multiples.

Music

21st Nov. Rhian Sheehan & Arli Liberman: *The Great Hall, Buckle Street, Mount Cook* – 7:30pm. Kiwi composers and producers Rhian Sheehan and Arli Liberman will bring their collaborative album *Traces* to life for the first time.

21st Nov. Serenades Across Cultures: *Otaki Waikanae Presbyterian Church, Ngaio Road, Waikanae* – 7:30pm. In an enchanting evening of music, the soulful melodies of French chanson legends blend with the haunting rhythms of Malagasy icons.

22nd Nov. Charlotte Yates and Show Pony: *Vogelmorn Upstairs, Mornington Road, Brooklyn* – 7:30pm. Singer-songwriter Charlotte Yates performs the peaceful and powerful songs from her current release *Winter's Eye* accompanied by her ally in music, Show Pony.

22nd Nov. Hilltop Concerts Presents: Butter Wouldn't Melt: *Hilltop, Upland Road, Kelburn* – 7:30pm. With their album *Where The Roots Grow Deep* at number three on the Aotearoa Album Chart, the Kiwi country, Americana, bluegrass, and folk band presents a concert of poetic lyrics and powerful harmonies.

22nd Nov. High Dependency Unit: *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. In their first Aotearoa show in almost 10 years, the band will fuse and funnel shoegaze and psychedelic noise into hypnotic, sonic power.

22nd Nov. Melondrone: *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 8:30pm. Hailing from Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Melondrone seamlessly blur the lines between grunge and psychedelic rock in their new EP *I Think Therefore I Am Exploited*.

25th Nov. Sharon Van Etten & The Attachment Theory: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. That her band's debut album is her own seventh album is a testament to Sharon Van Etten's willingness to reinvent herself. Catch one of the greatest rockstars live.

26th Nov. Pixies: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – 8pm. One of the biggest bands to come out of the 1990s, Pixies come to Wellington to perform their albums *Bossanova* and *Trompe le Monde*.

28th Nov. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Joyce DiDonato: Summer Nights: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. GRAMMY®-winner Joyce DiDonato comes to Wellington as part of her Aotearoa debut.

28th Nov. Dick Move: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Aotearoa punk band Dick Move celebrate the release of their new album *Dream Believe Achieve*.

29th Nov. Te Pae Kōkako The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio Presents: Una Serenata Italiana: *Public Trust Hall, Lambton Quay, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Recent alumni and pianist Caroline Dowdle delivers a show of Italian Opera favourites directed by the esteemed Elaine Kidd.

30th Nov. Hutt Valley Orchestra: *St James Church, Woburn Road, Lower Hutt* – 3pm. This Christmas concert features music by composers from the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

5th Dec. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Summer Brass: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. Join the NZSO brass and percussion sections in a concert of Christmas cheer.

6th Dec. Lecrae: *The Opera House, Manners Steet, Te Aro* – 7pm. Four-time GRAMMY®-winning artist, author, actor, and activist Lecrae comes to Pōneke as part of the *Reconstruction World Tour*.

Performance

18th-20th Nov. Wellington Footlights Presents: Villainous – A Musical Theatre Cabaret: *Whisky & Wood, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Eight performers take audiences on a journey to explore the stories of the best bad guys musicals have to offer.

18th-22nd Nov. Ruff As Gutz Presents: Crush the Bug: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – various times. A new comedic work created by award-winning theatre makers, clown husbands, and École Philippe Gaulier graduates Sean Burnett Dugdale-Martin and Daniel Nodder, *Crush the Bug* is all about metamorphosis, confusion, tech, and distractedness.

20th Nov-13th Dec. Every Kind of Weather: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. This theatrical double bill sees director Shane Bosher pair up with actor Stephen Lovatt to present two of playwright Bruce Mason's iconic plays: *The End of the Golden Weather* and *Not Christmas, But Guy Fawkes*.

21st-22nd Nov. 3rd Act Presents: So Honest It Aches: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 7pm. *So Honest It Aches* is the culmination of a year-long performance programme where older adults make theatre that seeks to shift the way we look at ageing.

21st; 23rd Dec. A Taste of Ireland Presents: A Celtic Christmas: *The Opera House, Te Aro; Wairarapa Events Centre, Carterton* – 7:30pm; 6pm. Experience the magic as world-class performers blend melodic folk mashups, a capella tap battles, and heartwarming storytelling in an unforgettable holiday spectacular.

22nd Nov. Red Scare Theatre Company Presents: Farrago Bazaar: An Immersive Experience: *Innermost Gardens, Mount Victoria, Wellington* – 2pm, 7pm. 400 years after the collapse of capitalism, the town of Farrago is preparing for its annual festival, where visitors from tribes across the continent will join to share food, stories, and ideas in this interactive experience.

23rd Nov. John Bishop: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Comedy superstar John Bishop returns to the Southern Hemisphere to celebrate 25 years of stand-up.

24th Nov. Eddie Izzard: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Comedian Eddie Izzard reimagines favourite comedy moments from her 35-year career in *The Remix Tour*.

28th Nov. James Nokise: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Irreverent, incorrigible, and just ever so outraged, award-winning comedian James Nokise lets loose.

28th Nov. Red Ribbon Revue: A Cabaret for World AIDS Day: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Wellington's top performers come together for a cabaret featuring comedy, drag, burlesque, music, and more to raise awareness of World AIDS Day and funds for The Burnett Foundation and Body Positive.

29th Nov. Rising Star: A Drag Competition Finale: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm.

After three heats filled with fierce competition, dazzling performances, and unforgettable looks, the finalists are ready to battle it out for the crown and title of Rising Star 2025.

4th Dec. Alien Comedy: *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 8pm. MC Lesa MacLeod-Whiting will host a night of extraordinary laughs at the capital's second-longest-running comedy show.

5th Dec. Friday Laughs with Rhys Mathewson and Brendon Green: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Brendon Green brings a warm and friendly energy to every room he's in. Rhys Mathewson has won almost every comedy award New Zealand has to offer. Buckle up for a helluva laugh!

5th-14th Dec. The Man Whose Mother Was A Pirate: *The Hannah, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – various times. Inspired by Margaret Mahy's much-loved children's tale, this rollicking romp across the high seas is fun for the whole whānau.

Galleries

Until 30th Nov. The Castle in the Sky: *Te Auaha, Dixon Street, Te Aro.* Jason Fastier explores unexpected moments of beauty found through the lens of a restless creative mind bound to the routine of courier work in this last-ever exhibition at Te Auaha.

Until 7th of Dec. Haerenga Whakapakari: *Pātaka Art + Museum, Parumoana Street, Porirua.* This Mana Arts Society exhibition is a creative journey through our landscape – land, sea, people, and the feeling of space that connects them.

20th Nov-8th Feb. Reclaimed Land: Tāngata, Tiriti, Taiao: *New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, Lady Elizabeth Lane, Wellington Waterfront.* This exhibition draws together work by artists who celebrate caring for and being a part of the environment.

Festivals

22nd Nov-13th Dec. Christmas in the Quarters:

Various locations and times in Te Aro. Whānau-friendly events jingle into Wellington to help little and big Kiwis alike celebrate Christmas.

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 25 November.

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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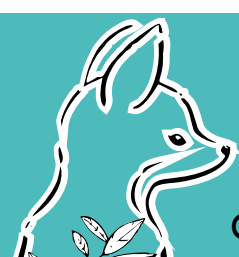
Whew, it's nearly Christmas!

We are doing our final issue for 2025, out on the 2nd of December, before we take a well-deserved break. We also produce our first paper of the year for 2026, out on the 13th of January, this side of Christmas.

Book now to ensure your visibility over the summer.

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Fri, 28 Nov, 6.30pm

Michael Fowler Centre

Auckland

Sat, 29 Nov, 7.30pm

Auckland Town Hall



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