

Regional News

Eyes on Wellington

Issue 242

April 22, 2025



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News

This night is sparkling



If this is a man's world, Taylor Swift is *The Man*. One of the century's most popular artists, the mega superstar is the topic on the tip of everyone's tongue right now and continues to break records left, right, and centre – including performing the highest-grossing music tour in history. As the first to surpass \$1 billion, *The Eras Tour* crashed websites and servers globally as Swifties swarmed to get their hands on the hottest tickets in town. Sadly, even the biggest venues in the world couldn't accommodate all of her dedicated fans, and many missed out on seeing their queen live. If you got to go, people would say you're the lucky ones...

Whether you're a devo Swiftie who missed out or you want to step through a deep portal, time travel back to those *Enchanted* concerts, we've got amazing news for you: the number one Taylor Swift tribute show, *Taylor's Story*, is coming to Wellington on an eight-centre national tour!

Described as being so good that she "is Taylor Swift", Shannon is a seasoned performer, recording artist, and country music singer who transports audiences into the heart of Taylor's world. Channelling the essence of the 14-time GRAMMY® winner, Shannon will perform hit after hit, costume change after costume change as the best thing at this party. With an international band and professional dancers behind her, this stage spectacular will make you lose your voice singing along at The Opera House on the 7th of May. Can you feel this magic in the air? Must be *Taylor's Story*!

Harder, better, faster, stronger



Wellington, you're about to Get Lucky: Discovery Daft Punk Tribute is opening the flood gates on Meow Nui this 2nd of May – will you stay up all night till the sun?

The title of Daft Punk's classic 2001 album *Discovery* is also the name of Australia's masked robot tribute group to the French house and electronic music pioneers. Formed in 2012 and fully kitted out in custom-made retro-futuristic attire, DJs Damian Andres and Matt Campbell are toasting the 25th anniversary of Daft Punk's landmark club smash hit *One More Time*, treating Aotearoa partygoers to a night of *Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger* beats.

Playing hits and deep cuts from the original duo's catalogue, fans can expect to hear tracks spanning every era, including from *Human After All*, the soundtrack of *Tron: Legacy*, *Random Access Memories*, and *Starboy* featuring The Weeknd. Plus, fresh produced remixes and mashups from the Discovery DJs. All performed from behind signature gold and silver robot helmets like those worn by Daft Punk.

Formed in 1993, Daft Punk comprises Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and skyrocketed onto the world stage in the late 1990s with their debut album *Homework*. They assumed their robot personas in 1999, and the rest was history, releasing hit after hit and scooping up GRAMMY® and other high-calibre awards in the process.

Dance to the music of the French funk techno stars *One More Time* with Discovery Daft Punk Tribute.

Cover: RNZB principal Ana Gallardo Lobaina. Photo by Ross Brown.

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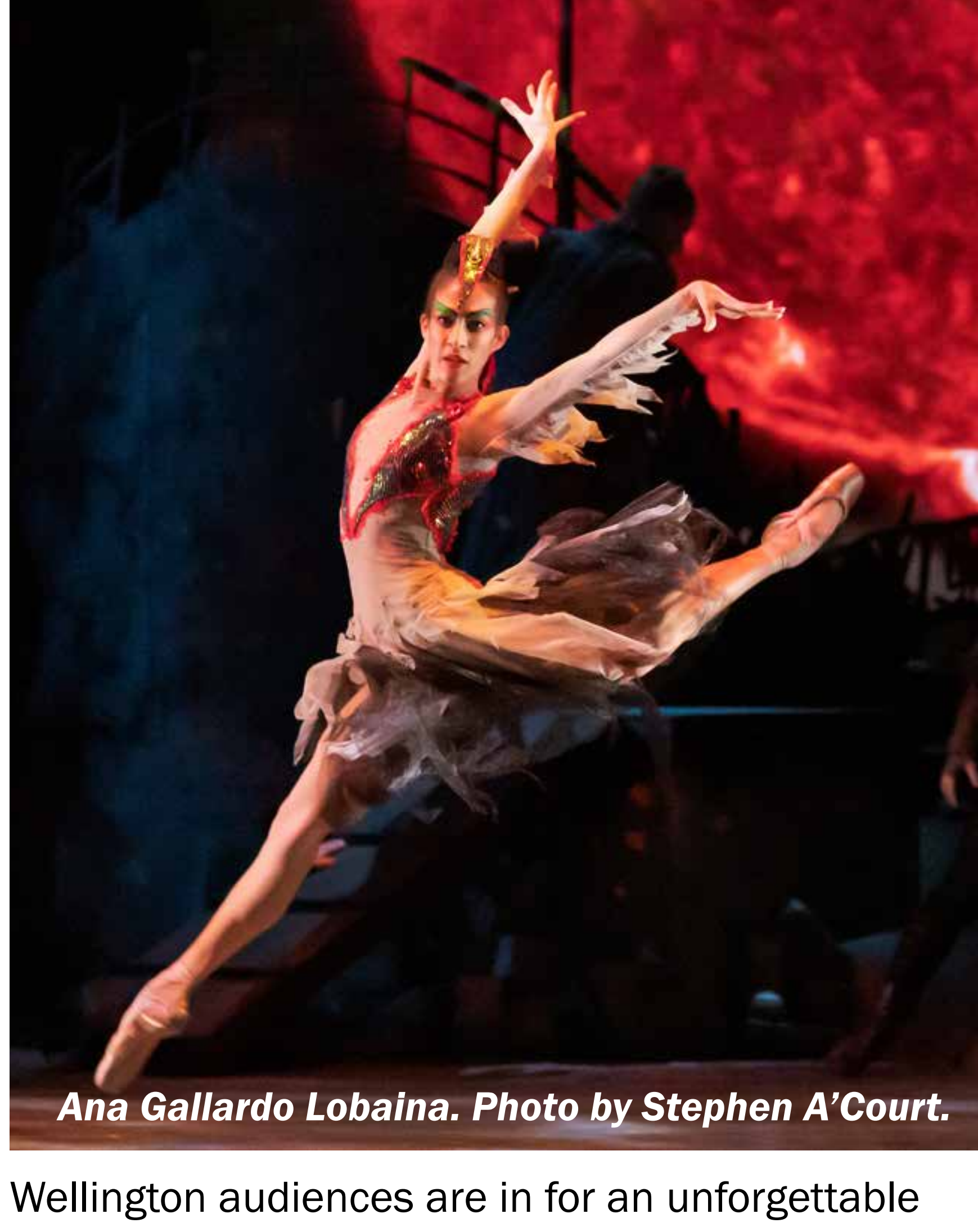
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A must-see ballet event



Ana Gallardo Lobaina. Photo by Stephen A'Court.

Wellington audiences are in for an unforgettable experience as the Royal New Zealand Ballet (RNZB) presents a thrilling double bill – the powerful *The Firebird* and the evocative *My Brilliant Career*, presented in association with AVIS from the 30th of April to the 3rd of May.

Created by two of the ballet world's star choreographers – Loughlan Prior (named one of '25 to Watch' in 2025 in the prestigious US publication *Dance Magazine*) and the award-winning Cathy Marston – this season at Wellington's St James Theatre is not to be missed with two strikingly different yet equally compelling works of dance and storytelling.

The Firebird, a visually spectacular reimagining of the Russian fairytale, takes audiences into a dystopian desert world where water is the most precious resource. Prior's evocative choreography, set against Tracy Grant Lord's breathtaking designs and POW Studios' immersive projections, brings this magical tale to life. The ballet is further elevated by Igor Stravinsky's iconic score, performed live by Orchestra Wellington under the baton of Hamish McKeich.

In contrast, *My Brilliant Career* is an intimate, character-driven ballet based on Miles Franklin's celebrated novel. Choreographed by internationally acclaimed Cathy Marston, it tells the inspiring story of Sybylla Melvyn, a fiercely independent young woman determined to defy expectations.

With its blend of grand spectacle and emotional depth, this double bill is a must-see for dance lovers and newcomers alike. Visit www.rnzb.org.nz to find out more.

Rock on and rock out



Vera Ellen.

Grab your girl gang and get grooving at *Atomic! 2.0*, a gobsmaacking gig celebrating the women of rock. Aotearoa's modern-day icons will rush The Opera House stage on the 8th of May to pay tribute to the pioneers of rock.

High-energy rock, fearless storytelling, and girl power collide at *Atomic! 2.0*, as new life is

breathed into iconic hits from Blondie, Eurythmics, The Pretenders, Patti Smith, Garbage, Alanis

Morissette, Hole, Joan Jett, and more.

Atomic! 2.0 will be powered by women both onstage and behind the scenes. Paying homage to rock's greatest trailblazers on vocals are reigning 2024 Taite Music Prize winner and Best Alternative Artist at the Aotearoa Music Awards Vera Ellen,

the sassy and beguiling frontwoman of Fur Patrol Julia Deans, multi-platinum artist and stellar*

frontwoman Boh Runga, the hugely talented national treasure Dianne Swann, and captivating

noir folk sonic explorer Jazmine Mary (they/them). Making up the all-star band is Ladyhawke's Ilyada

Tunali on keys, Rebel Reid of Valkyrie tearing up tunes on lead guitar, Mareea Paterson bringing the

bass, and Karen Hu battering away on the drums.

As Debbie Harry of Blondie once declared, "the only place left for rock to go is toward more girl

stars. There's nothing left for men to do."

So, get up to get down with *Atomic! 2.0*'s girl group

greats.

SNIPS

Porirua Civic Awards

The Porirua Civic Awards, the city's highest honour, recognise locals who have made a significant contribution to the community by their personal leadership, inspiration, sacrifice, or commitment to a cause. Nominations are open until the 19th of May at porirua.govt.nz/civic-awards

Finalists revealed

Six Wellington artists – Shannon Te Rangihaeata Clamp, Trixie Andrew, Chani Areaiti, Turumeke Harrington, Tina Walker-Ferguson, and Molly Friis – have been selected as finalists for the prestigious 2025 Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award. With a first prize of \$20,000, the winner will be announced at New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata on the 21st of May. The finalists' artworks will then tour Aotearoa over the next two years.

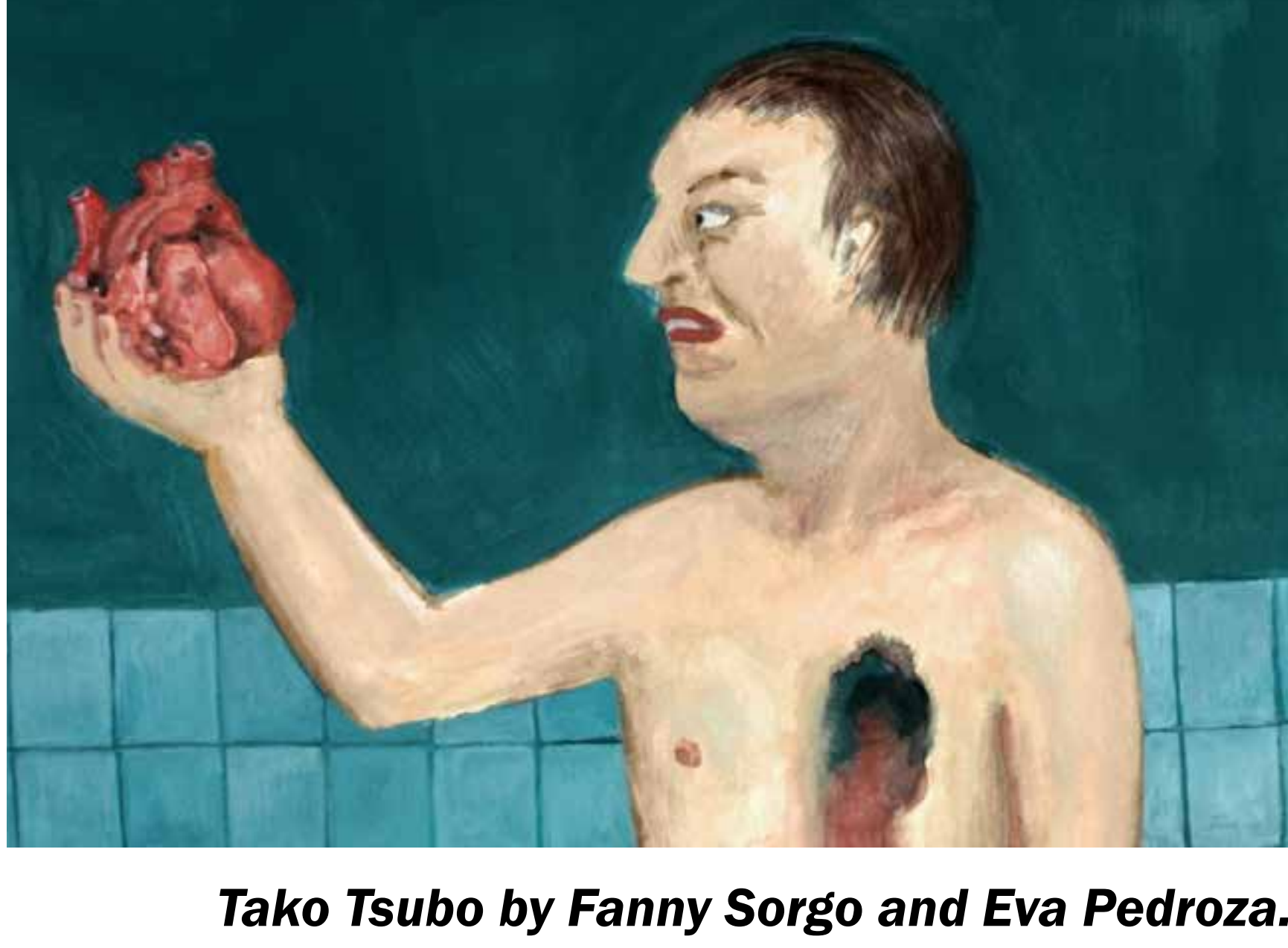
25 percent electric

16 new electric buses will replace 10 older, temporary diesel models and bring the total in the Metlink fleet to 119, making it 25 percent electric. The aim is for all 16 buses to be in service by the end of April.



News

Complex and clever



***Tako Tsubo* by Fanny Sorgo and Eva Pedroza.**

Waltz down to Southern Cross Garden Bar and Restaurant on the 30th of April and grab a stein – German Short Film Night will serve up the whimsy and wonder. Brought to Pōneke by Show Me Shorts in partnership with Goethe-Institut New Zealand, the collection of six short films has been curated in collaboration with Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg to present a 71-minute snapshot of contemporary German cinema.

Wüstentier (Desert Critter) by director Lina Walde is described as a poetic parable about the search for one's identity that follows two animals who stay together despite being different species. Meanwhile, Julia Ocker's *T-Rex* is very bad at playing basketball.

Mr. Ham decides to have his heart removed to be relieved of his complicated feelings in *Tako Tsubo*. A story about dealing with feelings in a meritocracy, this animation is a surreal reflection by Fanny Sorgo and Eva Pedroza. *Masel Tov Cocktail*, a drama directed by Arkadij Khaet and Mickey Paatzsch, follows Russian-Jewish teenager Dima who gets into a school fight before breaking the fourth wall to talk about his views and hypocritically tolerant world.

In *Berlin Metanoia*, an absurd film directed by Erik Schmitt, a bear escapes and a whole city goes mad while Kore decides to face her biggest fear. Sophia Groening's *Muss ja nicht sein, dass es heute ist (It doesn't have to be today)* follows four friends as they compose a text message that will never be sent.

Complex and clever, cute and comedic, explore Germany's contemporary cinema.

Bass booming, bones rattling



In 2007, Pitch Black unveiled their fourth album *Rude Mechanicals*. Alternately danceable and meditative, the refined record successfully combined the standout elements of the duo's previous releases, showcasing the sound and skills they'd sharpened on stages everywhere from Tokyo to Tauranga, Portland to Paris, Leeds to Las Vegas. Pictured here in the *Rude Mechanical* days, Michael Hodgson (Misled Convoy) and Paddy Free are stoked that the album – which heaves with warm basslines and complex rhythms, topped up by haunting melodies and immersive soundscapes – has finally had its day in the vinyl sun, getting the pressing it so richly deserves.

Curated to celebrate the inaugural vinyl release, this globetrotting, dub-drenched duo has introduced *Freqs in Flux*, a captivating collection of *Rude Mechanicals* remixes. Just out this April, the anthology seamlessly bridges the past and present to bewitch both longtime fans and newcomers, with contemporary reinterpretations stacking up against a scintillating selection of previously unreleased versions.

Since setting out in 1996, Pitch Black has always stood out on stage, both aurally and visually. Live, their tracks take on an added dynamism and their performances reveal the dialectic behind the band – Paddy wants to do it *for* the crowd, Michael wants to do it *to* the crowd. Catch that bass-booming, bone-rattling sonic energy at their *Freqs In Flux Aotearoa Tour* at Meow Nui on the 25th of April.



In the light of legends



The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) is thrilled to announce a spectacular concert tour in May that features the legendary conductor, harpsichordist, and organist Masaaki Suzuki [pictured]. In what will be Maestro Suzuki's first time leading a New Zealand orchestra, the extraordinary programme features masterpieces by three other legends: Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven.

A world authority on Bach and renowned for his profound interpretations of Baroque music, the period instrument specialist is equally at home with Bach's successors, Mozart and Beethoven.

"The biggest pleasure in working with symphony orchestras is the opportunity to work on 'new' repertoire compared to Baroque orchestras," Suzuki has said. "I have great joy in performing these compositions. This repertoire requires a dynamic and steady sound, and it is delightful to be able to accomplish this relatively easily in comparison to period instruments."

Legends: Mozart & Beethoven will feature Mozart's groundbreaking Symphony No. 25, composed when he was just 17; Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 *Eroica*, described by musicologist Paul Henry Lang as the greatest single step made by an individual in the history of not just the symphony but music in general; and one of Bach's most famous works: his Orchestral Suite No. 3 and its sublime movement *Air*. Just as *The Guardian* said of Suzuki, *Legends* at Michael Fowler Centre on the 9th of May will be "simply breathtaking".

Dancing DADS *by Madelaine Empson*



The Dancing and Drinking Society – or DADS for short – are New Zealand's premier exponents of authentic 1920s dance jazz. Composed of Blair Latham (clarinet, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone), Mat Enright (trumpet, guitar, vocals), Adrian Jensen (guitar), and Daniel Yeabsley (tuba), the group started when Mat and Adrian "went down the rabbit hole of early swing music and never looked back".

"I went to New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville, and New York and spent time listening to as many bands as I could, bought a washboard from the washboard player from Tuba Skinny and sent it back home," Mat says. "Over the years, we've put a lot of time into trying to recreate an authentic representation of the music, because we love the way it sounds, and it's fun to play."

The name came from a book AJ was reading "about this old dancing and drinking society as a way to get people together", Mat continues, saying they dug and adopted the concept. "It's not a very marketable name and quite wordy, but clearly we didn't get into obscure 100-year-old American music to make money."

What does 100-year-old American music sound like? The Dancing and Drinking Society's repertoire "includes many of the rags, rambles, shuffles, drags, and blues that our great grandparents would have shimmied to in the juke joints, speakeasies, woolsheds, and memorial halls of 1920s NZ", the DADS delight.

Shake, rattle, and roll with a drink in hand at The Undercurrent on the 24th of April.

Let yourself in



Photo by Naomi Davison.

In celebration of 40 years as a solo artist, the inimitable Alison Moyet has released a new album and embarked on a long-awaited world tour, which started in Ireland in February and reaches Wellington at the Michael Fowler Centre for one night only on Saturday the 24th of May.

Lucky concertgoers will get the chance to hear that unmistakable voice – one big enough to fill stadiums and yet intimate enough to make you feel like she's singing just for you – as Moyet unlocks her 10th studio album, produced by Sean McGhee and released in October last year.

Key is a captivating collection of 16 reworked singles, fan favourites, and deep cuts as well as two new songs – *Such Small Ale* and *The Impervious Me* – which combine into one blazing showcase of Moyet's artistic prowess. Classics such as *All Cried Out* are refreshed, remaining close to their originals, while others are cast in a new light. The album has allowed Moyet to revisit some of the songwriting highlights of her career, including *Can't Say It Like I Mean It*, *This House*, and *Is This Love?*, now translated into a sweeping, shimmering ballad.

"I wanted to take the opportunity to look at the trajectory of the past four decades and explore songs that, in their original form, were never fully realised or have had their relevance to me altered by time", Moyet says.

"Key distils 40 years of music making, presenting a cohesive overview of a long and dazzling journey. I hope this collection will be the key to those unopened doors. Let yourself in."

Limitless love *by Madelaine Empson*



Photo by Chris Sisarich.

Reb Fountain's last two records were released in lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic. And so, the genre-defying singer-songwriter exclaims, "releasing *How Love Bends* has felt amazing!"

Unveiled last month on the 7th of March, Fountain says it's "been so great to share our music and get out and talk to folks, visit record stores, and play live to airs".

Feedback for the album – which guides listeners through limitless explorations of love, life, and loss – has been wonderful, with the multi-award-winning artist always heartened to hear from folks who listen to her music.

"I get messages from fans via New York to Netherlands, Southland to Singapore and to be honest these connections mean the most to me. I love talking to gig goers after a show – having a brief but intimate kōrero with people who have been touched by our music makes my night."

No surprises then that Fountain is fizzing for the *How Love Bends Album Release Tour*, which will see her full band pour raw emotion, compelling storytelling, and an intensity that will leave a lasting impact out on The Opera House stage on the 2nd of May.

Showcasing Fountain's ever-expanding artistry in a rich swathe of brazen, unapologetic, complex colours, *How Love Bends* was created with the expanse of such a grand theatre in mind – so audiences are in for a wild ride.

"If you've seen us play before you'll know that we give it all on stage", she delights. "For those who aren't so familiar, The Opera House is the venue to come and experience our live show. We'll be there with you 100 percent and are looking forward to a majestic evening with you all."

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Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!



Calling all dancing queens and super troupers, lights are gonna find you at San Fran on the 10th of May. Mamma Mia! Musical Party is a glittering tribute to the iconic movies *Mamma Mia!* and *Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again* that will have fans dancing and jiving all night long.

As the ultimate singalong spectacular, Mamma Mia! Musical Party will feature all the hits from ABBA and the Mamma Mia movies. Best of Both Worlds DJs will bust out unforgettable bops like *Dancing Queen*, *Chiquitita*, *Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!*, *Voulez-Vous*, *Fernando*, *Waterloo*, *Lay All Your Love On Me*, and more, plus other high-energy musical bangers from *Grease*, *Hamilton*, *High School Musical*, *Wicked*, and the list goes on. Starring Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Julie Walters, and more, the 2008 jukebox musical romantic comedy film *Mamma Mia!* followed the enormously popular Broadway and West End show written by British playwright Catherine Johnson. The story celebrates the songs of ABBA. Its subsequent prequel *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* (2018), follows the escapades of young Donna Sheridan alluded to in the first film and stars Lily James and Cher alongside members of the original 2008 cast. *Mamma Mia!* has become is a cult classic, garnering staggering fame much like ABBA themselves. There will be something in the air that night, the stars will shine so bright at this sparkling singalong spectacle.

A curious Wellington debut



Stagecraft Theatre will bring the drama, mystery, and intrigue of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* to the Gryphon Theatre stage this month, opening their season on the 30th of April with the final curtain on the 10th of May.

Based on the beloved young adult novel of the same name by British writer Mark Haddon, Simon Stephens’ 2013 play tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old boy with autism who finds a dead dog with a fork in it in his neighbour’s yard. What starts as a detective quest soon becomes a journey of self-discovery as Christopher sets out to uncover: who killed the dog?

Co-directors Paul Kay and Joy Hellyer saw the production on the West End in 2016 and have been waiting for the amateur rights to be available for it ever since. The multi-award-winning play, which tied for the record at the time of its premiere for the most Olivier Awards, holds a special significance for Kay.

“Both of my older siblings are autistic and a lot of family life was centred around trying to improve their lives. They were both diagnosed in the 1960s and the knowledge around ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and how to support it was a fraction of what it is now,” he says.

“It is brilliant to have the opportunity to direct a play where the hero character has ASD. We are extremely lucky too that we have an actor with ASD playing Christopher. Their insight and lived experience with autism has added incredible depth and believability to the role.”

Fluorescent frolicking



Get funky, get fresh, and get fluoro for Frisky Funhouse – a fashion-focused fantasy party fluttering into Ivy Bar & Cabaret on the 10th of May.

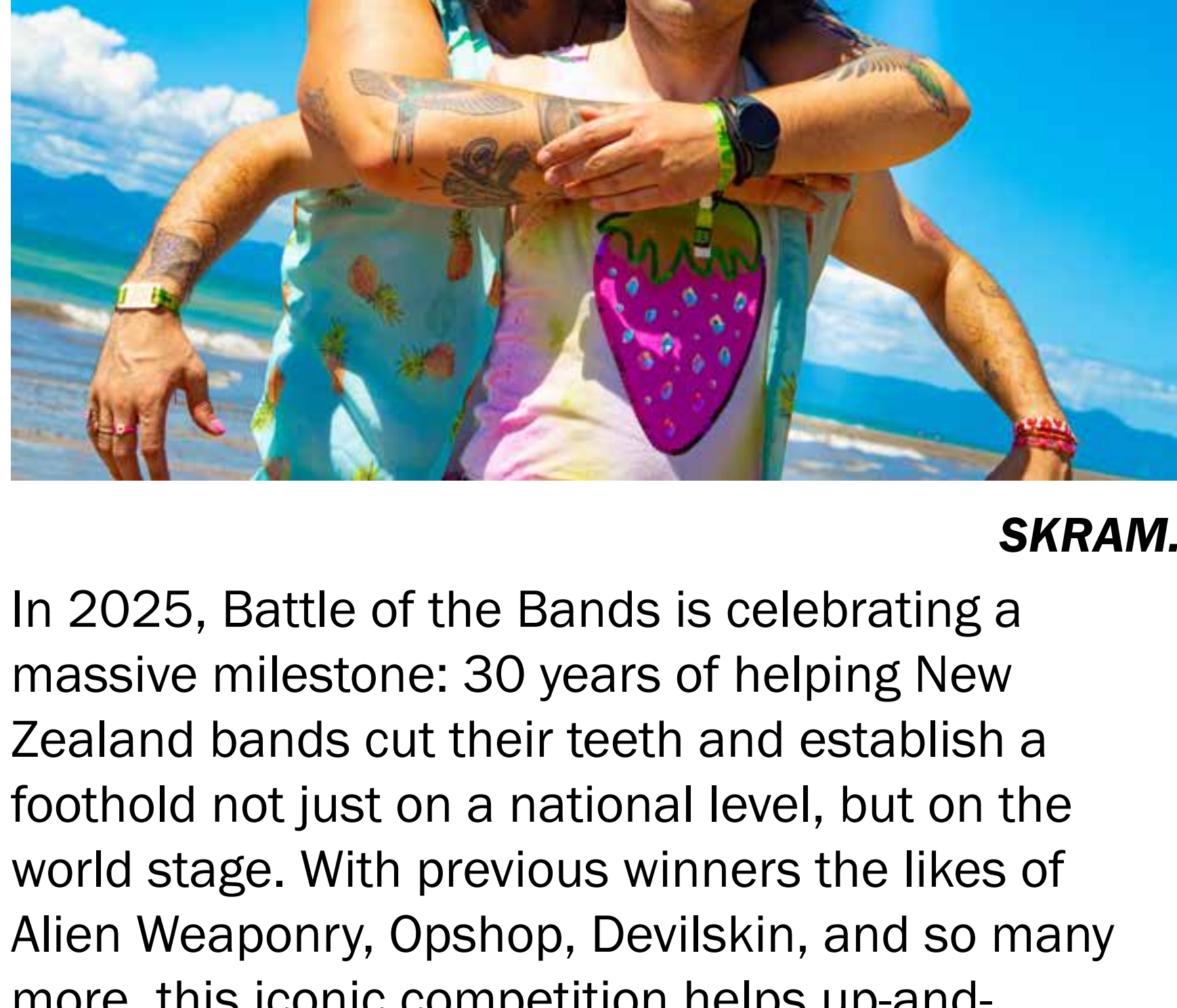
Frisky Funhouse will be a night drenched in neon, where bodies glow under blacklights and the dancefloor is a kaleidoscope of high-energy madness. “This isn’t just a party – it’s a fluorescent fantasy,” organisers and co-owners of Wellington PartyBoys Chris and Caleb beam. “Our passion is to create unique, inclusive, and fun-filled events and experiences for our LGBTQIA+ community and their allies.”

Featuring an electric lineup of sonic explorers that includes Pōneke icon DJ Jimmy Fade, Tāmaki Makaurau DJ James Johnson, and Te Whanganui-a-Tara’s own DJ Jacob Rosen, Frisky Funhouse will deliver a diverse dreamscape of delectable drops to keep partygoers dancing all night long.

As for the theme? If it doesn’t glow, it doesn’t go. If you want some outfit inspiration, Chris and Caleb have provided plenty of ideas. Go full fluoro freak, with UV reactive prints, trippy patterns, and face and body paint. If you choose retro raver, opt for mesh, leg warmers, and bucket hats to give that 90s neon look. Otherwise you can look to the future and dress cyber in a bright bodysuit with LED accessories and reflective gear. Disco dreamers can get kitted out in holographic fits that will shine under the blacklight, while something flirty, fun, and fluorescent will do anyone a treat.

Find your flavour, flaunt your fit, and frolic all night at Frisky Funhouse.

A blaze of glory



SKRAM.

In 2025, Battle of the Bands is celebrating a massive milestone: 30 years of helping New Zealand bands cut their teeth and establish a foothold not just on a national level, but on the world stage. With previous winners the likes of Alien Weaponry, Opshop, Devilskin, and so many more, this iconic competition helps up-and-coming artists to gain valuable experience and win opportunities that can shape and define their career. Over three decades, they’ve dished out prizes of thousands of hours of studio time, cross-continental tours, festival slots, primo music gear, and so much more.

Each year, Battle of the Bands hosts multiple live shows at leading professional live music venues across the motu, with local bands putting on one hell of a show to knock each other out of the competition. And the Wellington semifinals are just around the corner...

Head to Valhalla on Friday the 2nd of May to scream for Intercite, MOTAWREK, Petit Choux, SKRAM, Stretch to Mould, and English Locust. Shredding the stage for the semis on Saturday the 3rd are Agatha Pantha, Antu Marama, Floodgate, Ghost Rider, Kaletta, No Look Drop, and Ultraviolet Scrapheap.

Those who go on to the Wellington regional finals on Saturday the 31st of May will get their shot to go out in a blaze of glory and throw their hat in the ring for a huge prize pool at the national finals at Valhalla on Friday the 27th and Saturday the 28th of June.

Porirua Careers Expo returns



After a successful inaugural event in 2024, the Porirua Careers Expo will again fill Te Rauparaha Arena in May. The free event will run from 9:30am to 4:30pm on Tuesday the 13th and provide young people and job seekers with an opportunity to connect with industry professionals and education providers, network with peers, and kickstart their career journey.

“Last year we had close to 3000 rangatahi from Porirua and the wider region come through the expo,” Porirua Mayor Anita Baker says. “This year is even bigger, with more than 80 stalls providing information about careers in tech, health, construction, trades, and more.”

Attendees can also learn about creating a job-winning CV, get some choice tips for interviews, and learn how to start on the pathway to their dream job.

Students from all of Porirua’s colleges and Tawa College will have the opportunity to visit the expo during the day and students from across the Wellington Region, as well as anyone looking at career opportunities or potential educational pathways, are also welcome.

Attendees will receive an Expo Passport to help guide them to exhibitors who will stamp it. Thanks to Tranquil IT, attendees who have at least six stamps and complete the My Journey section in their passport can go in the draw to win one of eight Prezzy Cards. Other prizes and giveaways will also be available, plus a barbecue with free kai on offer throughout the day.

Find out more at

www.porirua.govt.nz/careers-expo

Manaakitanga in action



When Kirimoana Pook started the Bachelor of Nursing Māori, she was 38 years old with three young children. She always wanted to become a nurse, but felt nervous about returning to study after leaving school at 16. Despite her reservations, she was determined to pursue her passion and build a future for herself and her whānau.

“I was worried about the financial strain, but I had incredible whānau support, and they backed me 100 percent throughout my journey,” she says.

Now, seven years after graduating, Kirimoana is busy working with tamariki as a Māori specialty clinical nurse at the Whānau Care Services at Wellington Hospital. Her role is vast, assessing and advocating for patients and their whānau while guiding them through the complexities of the healthcare system.

The Bachelor of Nursing Māori is a kaupapa Māori nursing programme that explores te ao Māori (Māori worldview), te ao tapuhi (nursing), and the art of weaving these two worlds together. Kirimoana credits the strong sense of community, along with the support from her classmates and tutors, as essential in helping her navigate the course.

“We became a family, more than just friends. The manaakitanga approach stuck with me and is important to me, and it’s been incredibly valuable throughout my career”, Kirimoana says.

“The programme has played a key role in shaping me into the nurse I am today. Now, I’m comfortable being a voice for tamariki in the health system.”

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SCAN & GO!

Featherston Booktown

A world of words and wonder



Writers and wordsmiths, presenters and provocateurs from across the motu and the globe will touch down in Featherston between the 9th and the 11th of May for Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival.

“This year’s 10th Karukatea Festival will be one to remember as it features our first ever international writers Lars Mytting, John Connell, and romesh dissanayake, along with what booklovers have come to expect: bold and innovative programming across 44 events”, Featherston Booktown chair Peter Biggs says, before adding that the 2025 festivities include booksellers, panel conversations about “nation-shaping topics”, book craft sessions, the “not-to-be-missed gala”, and 87 of New Zealand’s top presenters, writers, and provocateurs, plus “warm hospitality and manaakitanga” to boot.

“What we’ve achieved in these past 10 years showcases how a small town can foster meaningful cultural engagement and make a significant impact on the national and international stage while growing great communities in Featherston Paetūmōkai and the wider region.”

Opening the festival on Friday is the beloved Fish ‘n’ Chip Supper featuring kapa haka performances by Featherston’s tamariki and guest speaker Matt Brown of *She is Not Your Rehab*.

Favourites like the Bookten Gala Night and Mrs Blackwell’s Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea return on Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th respectively. 2025’s tea party – themed Cooking with Passion – features Sam Low and Vanya Insull, while the gala promises extra special anniversary touches, including readings from Featherston Booktown’s outstanding alumni from the last decade.

In his first visit to New Zealand, Norwegian author Lars Mytting (*Norwegian Wood*) will impart his wisdom about wood in conversation with renowned broadcaster John Campbell on the 10th of May. Author, tikanga expert, and lawyer Te Raumawhitu Kupenga leads a panel discussion with legal experts on how the justice system can incorporate tikanga Māori on the 10th. The Pluck Of The Irish on the 10th discusses Irish literature and features author John Connell, award-winning writer and broadcaster Noelle McCarthy, and acclaimed author Dame Fiona Kidman. Also on the 10th, romesh dissanayake will discuss the rise of Sri Lankan writing in Aotearoa with Saraid de Silva, Brannavan Gnanalingam, and Dinithi Bowatte.

This year’s lineup also includes fun for tamariki, including rambunctious and rhyming story time with Sally Sutton, a performance from author Donovan Bixley with the Wairarapa Youth Orchestra, Anika Moa recounting her charming tale *The Witch of Maketu and The Bleating Lambs*, an imaginary bush adventure with Gillian Candler, and more.

Wāhine, men’s mental health, politics, decolonisation, rural lifestyles, and fun workshops are just the tip of the iceberg at Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival.

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Fighting the good fight



The instantly recognisable, infinitely quotable Paddy Gower has spent a decade telling New Zealanders' stories as one of our foremost news journalists.

From political editor to documentary maker, radio broadcaster to television presenter, he's nothing short of a broadcasting legend.

I had the pleasure of catching up with Gower ahead of his first ever appearance at Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival.

With Phil Quin asking the questions, the *This is the F#\$%ing News* author will join Matt Heath, Wayne Langford, and John Connell for a candid conversation about masculinity and society, health and wealth, life and death, and everything in between in Yeah, It's All Good: Men Keeping Themselves Well on Sunday the 11th of May at 1:30pm at Kiwi Hall.

What first piqued your interest in journalism?

I first got interested in journalism, believe it or not, in the 1990s when I was a little boy. I was interested in who was going to be in the All Blacks team on the 1989 tour of Wales and Ireland. They'd name a team for the weekend games and for the weekday games and I just really wanted to see the paper in the morning, the *Taranaki Daily News*, to see the team all written down. This was in the old, old, old olden days when that was how news got to us. That started a love of newspapers, and then it went from there. I went to university and got a degree, and I didn't know what to get a job in, and then I studied journalism, then I got a job in journalism, and I'm still here today, 25 years on. And still reading the newspaper!

Everything's changed so much in that time.

Everything has changed a huge amount. When I started, I went to a course to learn how to use Google. We had a day off journalism to go and learn how to use Google. They were showing us how to like, type in and hit return and stuff. So heaps has changed, but I still subscribe and get *The Post* on Saturdays, I still like reading the paper. And even though there was a media Armageddon last year and I lost my job and there's been all of this change, it hasn't really changed that much. It's really still about talking to people, getting stories, giving them to someone else. So despite all of that, including actually it destroying my job, I'm still pretty happy [laughs].

What would you describe as the most important work of your career?

Working in Parliament was really important, I did that for 10 years. That's the same amount of time that someone gets for murder in Paremoro, you know, it's a life sentence. And it felt like that at times in there. There were probably more psychopaths and sociopaths there than there are in Paremoro, but my time there was important because that's holding the powerful to account on behalf of other Kiwis. I've done three leaders debates before the elections – our leaders on show for big audiences. I've done a lot of investigative journalism, exposing things and fighting for people. But to be honest, at the moment, I'm trying something called positive news for Stuff, and this latest round of my work is really important too, because it's about positivity, which is kind of a new thing in journalism. It's also about holding the line when the industry is being destroyed around me, or feels like it is. That's important as well, that I'm seen to be out there and fighting the good fight, literally. Long story short, everything's important [laughs].

On the note of positive news, that's what we do – we're designed to elevate and celebrate movers and shakers and their art.

I love it!

Thank you! But it must be so different for you now, talking to someone for a positive news story as opposed to trying to get the scoop, right?

Yeah! The whole positive thing has been really positive for me. I know for a fact that when I used to ring up organisations or email them, it would send shivers down the spine of the whole place. You know, 'Paddy Gower is onto this!' A panic light would go up in whatever government department or place it was, that Paddy was hunting them down. You'd ring places up and there'd be this sort of silence on the end of the line. That's all gone now. With being positive, people want to get in there, and they know there's not going to be any trick questions. You're not trying to drag them somewhere they don't want to go. There's no surprises. And you'll know this as well – I think there's an endless amount of stuff that needs to be elevated out there. We've been very quick to tear things down in the media, but slow to elevate them. It's just an awesome thing to be able to talk to someone about something positive and then shake hands at the end and say, 'See you later', and everyone gets on well.

What's one of the most surprising stories you have?

The weirdest thing is that I have been into Donald Trump's toilet at the Mar-a-Lago Club, his house in Florida. He has a ballroom at this estate called the White & Gold Ballroom, and the toilet was white and gold as well. That's something surprising, isn't it? Or maybe not for Donald Trump. But, yeah, I've used his white-and-gold toilet, more than once!

Wow! Let's jump into Featherston Booktown. What are you most excited about when it comes to the festival?

I've heard it's the best book festival in Aotearoa, and Featherston absolutely rules, the Wairarapa absolutely rules. I'm going to be on stage with the legend Matt Heath, potentially the funniest man alive. Wayne Langford, absolute legend of a farmer. And then an amazing Irish agricultural writer [John Connell] who's come out from Ireland. I'm super excited and can't wait.

Why was it important to you to join the discussion on men's mental health?

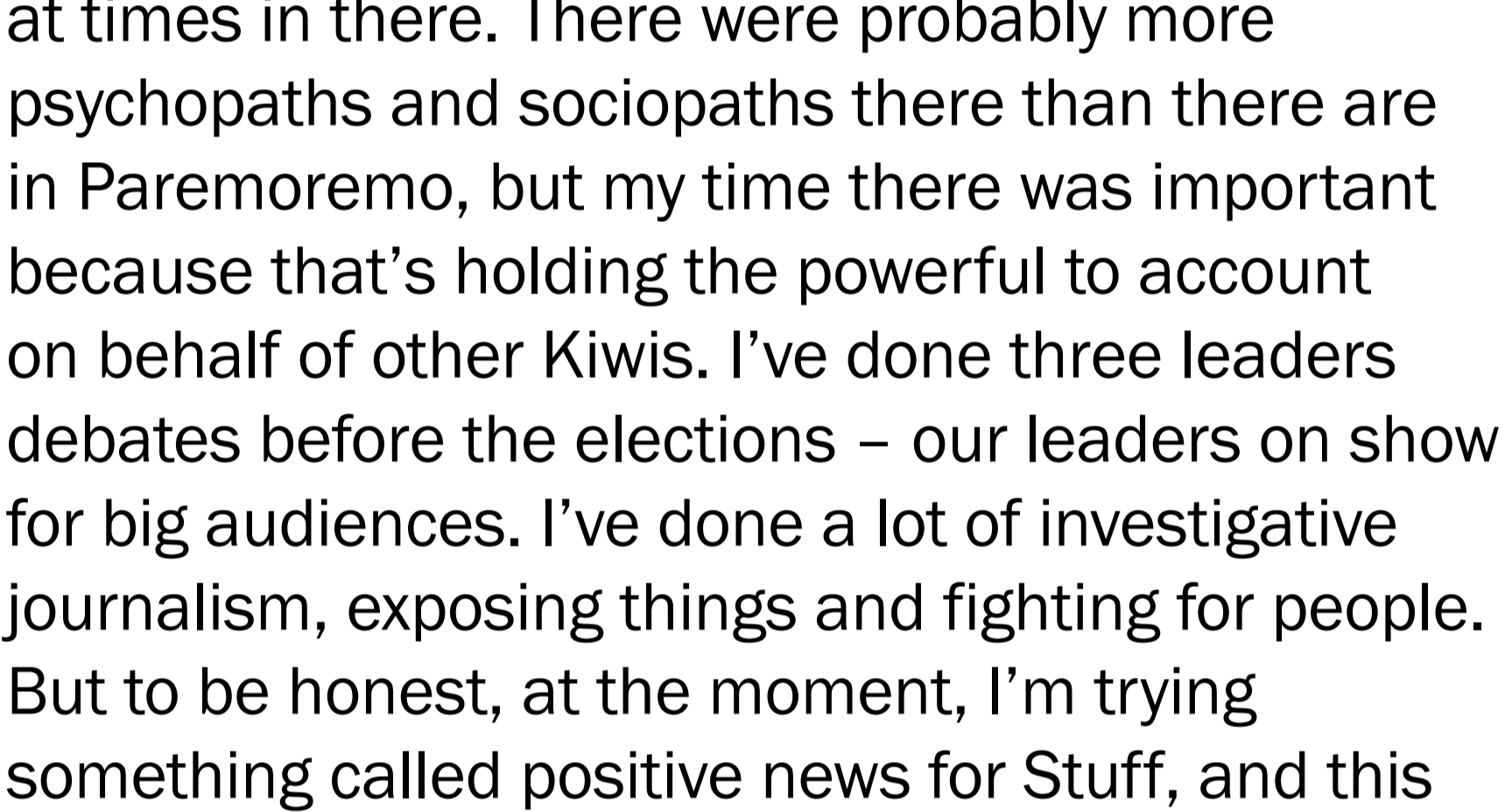
Men's health, and men's mental health is so important, and we know that guys don't want to talk about it. The title of this particular session sounds a bit like we're asking people to come along to the GP, or come along and have a prostate examination or something like that [laughs]. We're not doing that. If you do want to do that, please do! But this is going to be more like a good, fun, friendly yak. I've had a lot of mental health problems, and I'm open about them. I've had anxiety, a breakdown from stress, burnout, addiction, I was an alcoholic, and I'm comfortable about talking about all that in a funny way. People can just come along and take some of the lessons that I've learned while we're just having some banter on stage. I mean, how good!

Is there a book or piece of literature that has had the biggest impact on you?

Yeah, and it's a good book – *The 1987 Rugby Almanack of New Zealand* from the year that New Zealand won the Rugby World Cup for the first time. I'm not sure if it's literary... Hopefully no one from Featherston Booktown in the literary society reads this and revokes my literary status [laughs].

I have to ask, do people still come up to you on the street and go, 'This is the f**king news'?

F**k yes, every f**king day. The only way I won't hear it is if I don't go out in public. If I go out in public, someone will say, 'This is the f**king news'. And you'll have to bleep this one too, and I absolutely f**king love it.



Kiwi creativity



At the heart of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts' vision is the aim to promote creation, understanding, and enjoyment of the visual arts. First established in 1882 by several leading Wellington artists, the NZAFA is the longest-serving national arts institution in the country, and it continues to support New Zealand artists from throughout the motu.

Its most recent endeavour is the Academy Prize for Visual Art, a new competition open to everyone living in Aotearoa. The NZAFA has stepped in to fill the gap left this year by the cancellation of the Parkin Drawing Prize and is inviting entries of contemporary graphic artworks to be exhibited at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre from the 7th to the 24th of August.

As well as almost guaranteed exhibition, every entry will be in the running for the grand prize of \$25,000 and five merit prizes of \$1000 that will be announced at the opening ceremony on the 7th of August.

The NZAFA has also invited Vincents Art Workshop to share the exhibition space to celebrate their 40th anniversary. A home of Kiwi creativity for 143 years, the Academy of Fine Arts is showing renewed vigour to champion contemporary artists and art, as it is also supporting the Stuff Art Aotearoa Gold Award by buying the winners in each of the four regional contests.

Find out more about the organisation and the 2025 Academy Prize for Visual Art at www.nzafa.com

Soaring soon



Alex Medland.

Not only has 24-year-old Alex Medland (Kai Tahu) swooped up Playmarket's Adam NZ Play Award for her work *We're Gonna Kill Billy*, but she also became the youngest recipient to ever receive the accolade.

Currently based in Edinburgh, the young actor and playwright explores generational frustration, environmental destruction, privilege, and moral ambiguity in *We're Gonna Kill Billy*, but not without a touch of humour. The unnerving and brilliant commentary on climate activism and inaction takes place in a messy bedroom on Dominion Road. Anushka, Manuka, Bindi, and Max have just kidnapped the grandson of New Zealand's richest man to protest a marina he's building in the Hauraki Gulf. As they await instructions from the online climate awareness group The Shepherds, the police arrive, and Manuka's mum is bound to return any minute. Was the plan doomed from the beginning? Commended for putting complex, generously written teenage characters centre stage, *We're Gonna Kill Billy* also won Medland the Best Play by a Māori Playwright and Best Play by a Woman Playwright. Tui Matelau's *Wet* took home the prize for Best Play by a Pasifika Playwright, while the McNaughton South Island Play Award went to Andrew Todd and Cathasaigh Ó Fiannachta for *The Consummate Professional*.

The Adam NZ Play Award recognises and celebrates the best in unproduced writing for the theatre.

Watch these creative works soar to a stage near you soon.

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All entries meeting the terms and conditions will be exhibited at Tākina from 7 August to 24 August 2025.

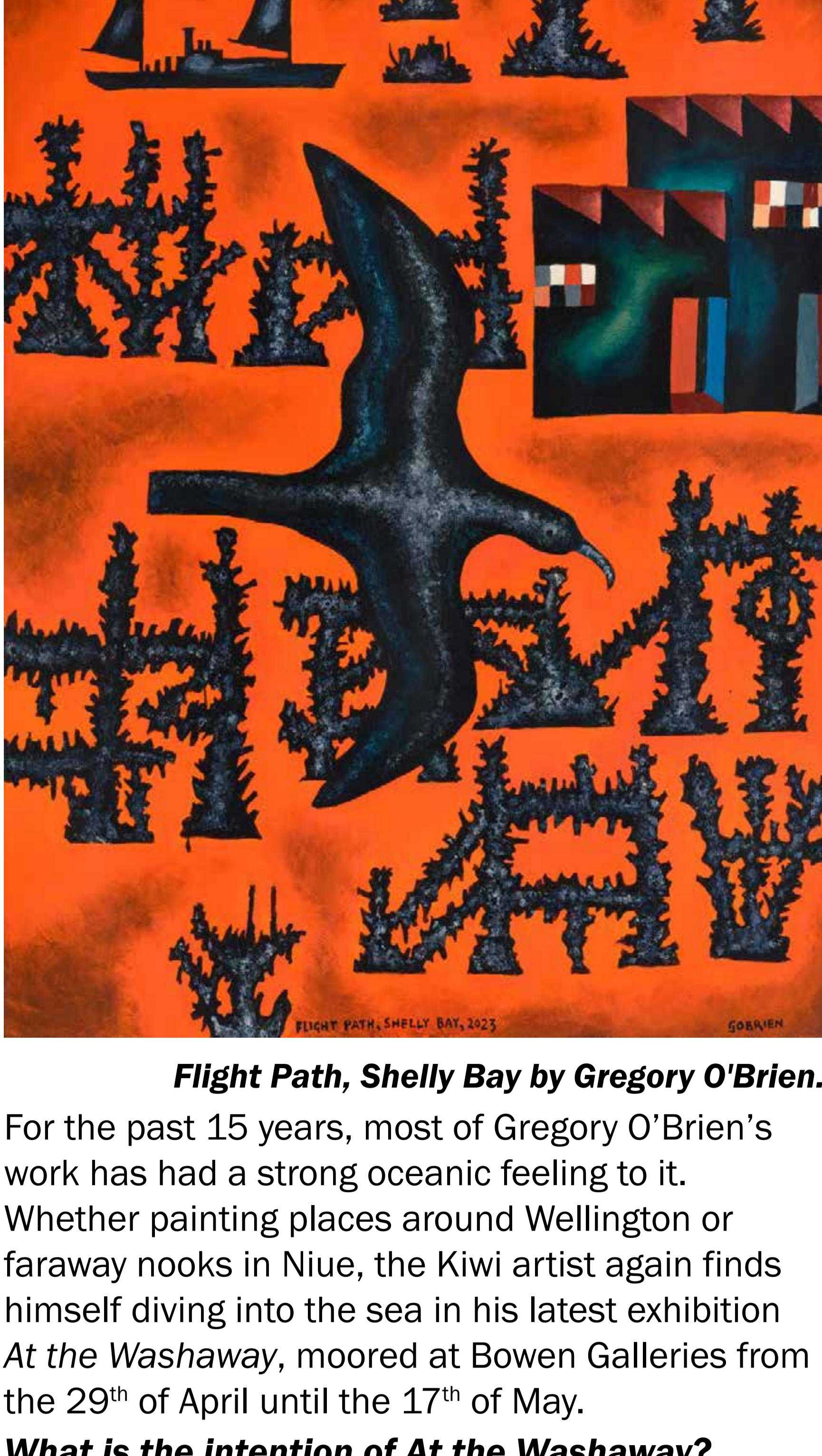
Entries close 5pm Monday 9 June 2025

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by Alessia Belsito-Riera

Come running sea

**Flight Path, Shelly Bay by Gregory O'Brien.**

For the past 15 years, most of Gregory O'Brien's work has had a strong oceanic feeling to it.

Whether painting places around Wellington or faraway nooks in Niue, the Kiwi artist again finds himself diving into the sea in his latest exhibition

At the Washaway, moored at Bowen Galleries from the 29th of April until the 17th of May.

What is the intention of *At the Washaway*?

The paintings focus on two very different coastal locations: Wellington Harbour (beside which I live) and the Pacific island of Niue, which I visited in

2015 and 2022.

The Wellington paintings incorporate the Days Bay Wharf and the now demolished warehouses and jetties at Shelly Bay. The Niue paintings include elements from Alofi and Avatele.

The Washaway is the name of a beachfront bar that used to function just above the high-tide mark at Avatele. It was famous for having an honesty-based bar system. Basically, you wrote what you were drinking in an exercise book, and at the end of the day or evening, you would ask around and find who, among those in the bar, you should pay the money to. It seemed a very virtuous, honest, open-hearted place, but also high-spirited and (I imagine) from time to time given over to the occasional excess.

I hope the paintings capture both a state of mind and a sense of the physical locations themselves. These waterside locations have always been an inspiration for me as a writer and a painter...

One gets a sense of arrival and departure, the beginning of life and its end. The freighters and other vessels hint at journeys/voyages, and also the exchange of goods.

The exhibition also includes a number of etchings made in collaboration with the Niue-based artist John Pule. Two of these etchings are meditations on the sinking of the *Manawanui* off the coast of Samoa late last year. They capture something of the strangeness (and a sense of dread) associated with the current predicament in which nature is rendered vulnerable.

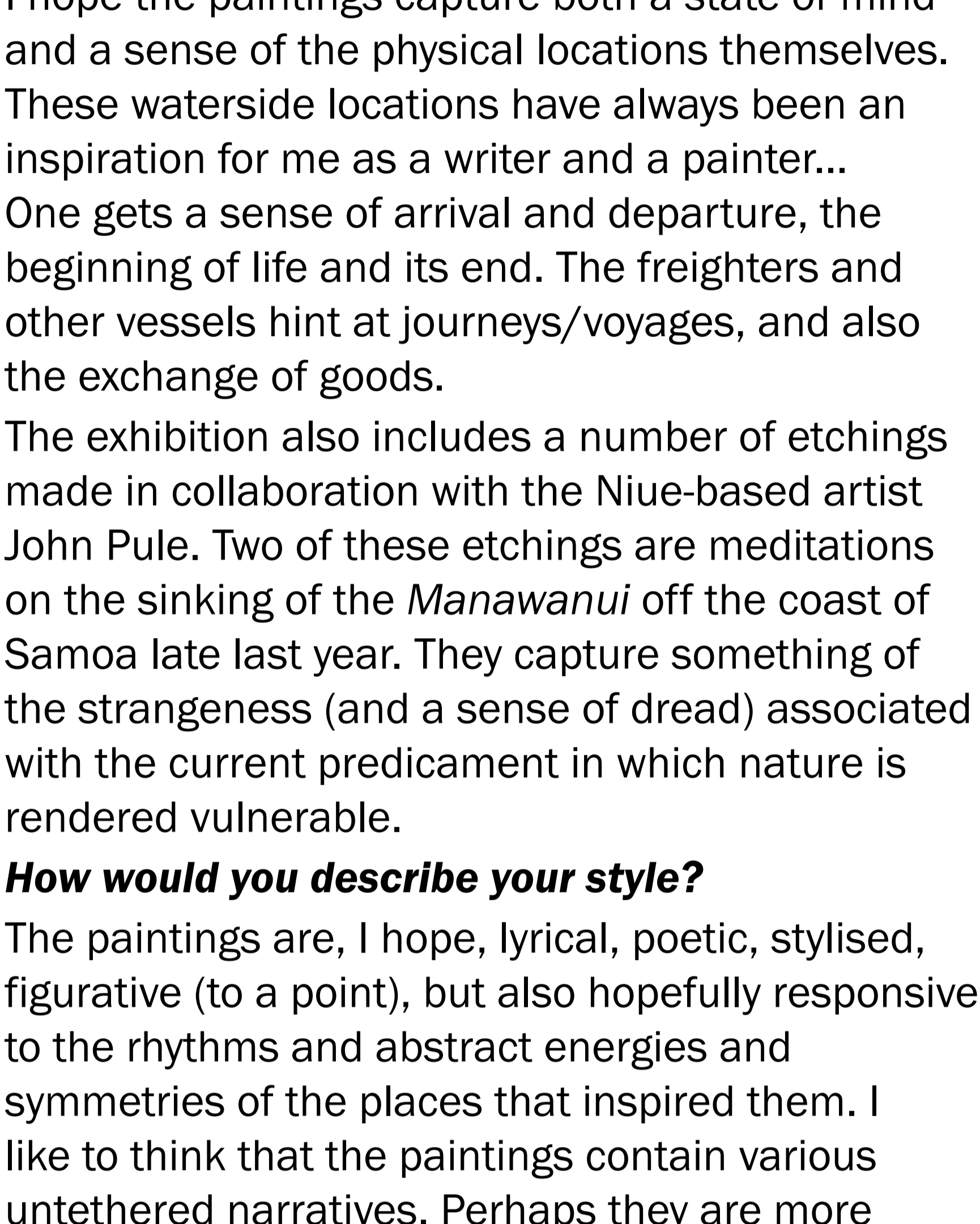
How would you describe your style?

The paintings are, I hope, lyrical, poetic, stylised, figurative (to a point), but also hopefully responsive to the rhythms and abstract energies and symmetries of the places that inspired them. I like to think that the paintings contain various untethered narratives. Perhaps they are more like poems than stories. The meaning tends to be elusive and something that emerges slowly and changes with time. Like good poetry.

What do you hope visitors take away from the exhibition?

I hope people get a sense of the imaginative potential of our Pacific environment, as well as a sense of its beauty and power – and also its vulnerability. The paintings explore the interface between humanity and the wider oceanic realm. As humans, we need to be more holistic and selfless in our thinking. I am still learning how to embrace with my whole being this Pacific realm we live in.

Refracted expression

**Out Of Blue Comes Green by Stephen Burke.**

Using either painted plywood panels or acrylic, Queenstown-based interior designer and artist Stephen Burke intertwines light, colour, and form to create mesmerising visuals. He does this by employing the use of mirrors to reflect each work's surroundings and refract light. With his exhibition

The Unfolded Series, at Thistle Hall from the 29th of April to the 3rd of May, he hopes to immerse viewers in a dynamic landscape and encourage them to explore geometry and symmetry, colour and form.

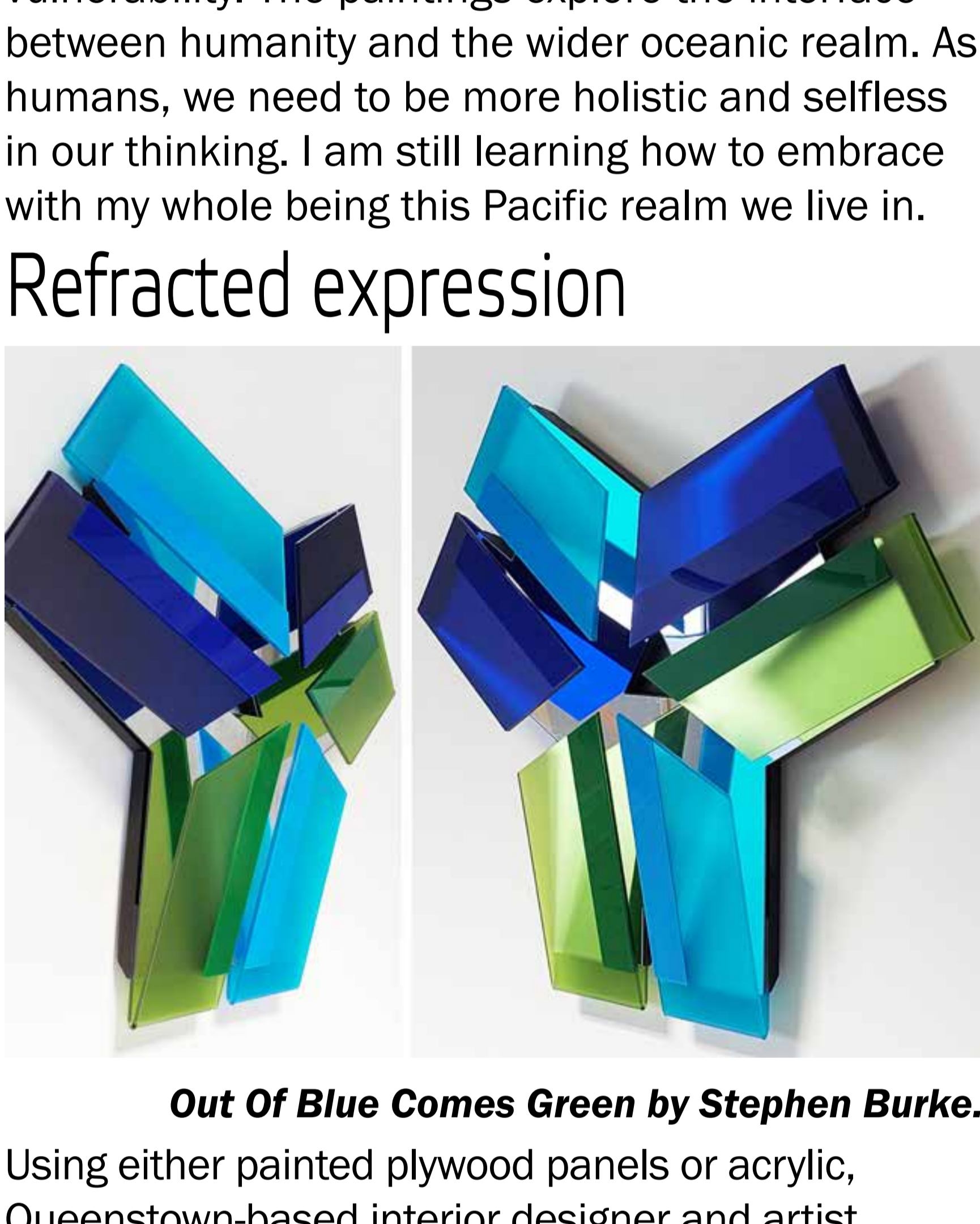
In his creative process, the award-winning designer begins with free-form sketches and hand drawings, progressing to CAD and technical joinery drawings before culminating in cardboard scale models.

The plywood sculptures are adorned with layers of reflective acrylic mirrors to draw viewers into infinite depths, while the hand-painted panels ignite endless possibilities of design and colour. Navigating the complexities of acrylic fabrication, Burke works with the material to push the boundaries of creativity while adhering to the constraints of the product and available colours.

"I am inspired by my extensive travels through Egypt, the Mediterranean, and the period I lived in Europe, the vibrant colours and intricate shapes I encountered, most particularly the visionary works of Gaudí in Barcelona," Burke says. "I like taking elements of nature, the outline of a flower for example and recreating it in a more constrained and constructed format, almost architectural in its execution, where nature meets design in a controlled, deliberate expression."

With *The Unfolded Series*, he hopes to spark an appreciation for "the dynamic interaction between light, colour, shape, and reflections".

Life spent in colour

**Max Patté.**

Born in Britain, Max Patté migrated to Aotearoa to work for Wētā Workshop. Remaining here for a decade before relocating to the island of Mallorca in Spain, Patté's initial fame was found in Wellington thanks to *Solace in the Wind*, the life-sized steel sculpture on the waterfront affectionately known as 'naked man', as well as a series of large, circular lightworks and the awe-inspiring *Infinity Works*.

This autumn, Patté returns to his former stomping grounds of Pōneke with an exhibition of new works inspired by springtime on Mallorca.

"*Colours of Home* draws inspiration from my new home," Patté says. "Specifically the fields of almond blossom and associated colours of spring. The body of work is various, including new paintings, sculpture, and infinity works. In a way it's chronological, it represents a journey and tells a story. The single source of inspiration is a collection of spring cuttings taken while out walking with my family along the lanes that head out to the nearby winery in our hometown in Mallorca."

The exhibition at Webb's Wellington Gallery until the 10th of May continues the artist's exploration of light, space, and colour.

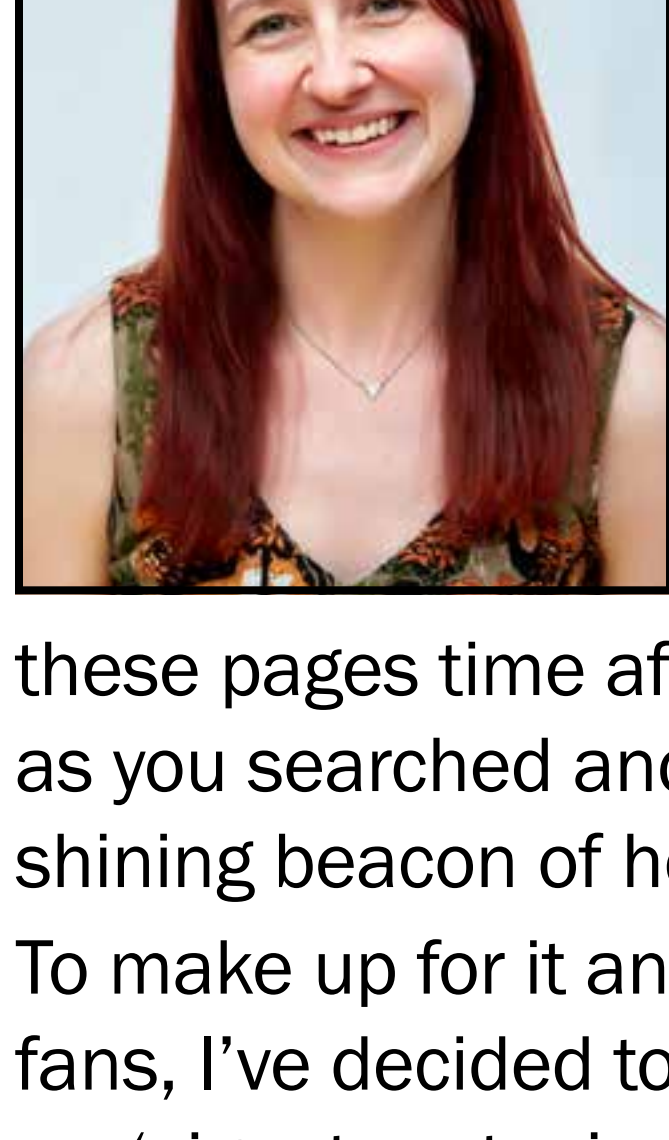
"Whilst the concept or inspiration for a series of work generally comes from the natural world and my place in it, the development of those ideas and real pleasure comes from time in the studio", Patté continues. "Recognisably, my work, although all of the processes, themes, and ideas have been pushed and expanded, is a constant process of play and experimentation. It's a reflection of my day-to-day. Hopefully some of this playfulness, some of the joy I find through the making of art and a life spent in colour comes through in the work".

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A word from Maddi...

Cattus interruptus

by **Madelaine Empson**



I'm aware that many of you will be in immense pain from having missed my column lately. Never fear: we've had to drop it twice in a row during the madness of press day, but I'm back. I can only imagine the heartbreak you must've felt as you flipped through

these pages time after time (both two times), frantic as you searched and yearned for my smiling face, a shining beacon of hope in these dark times.

To make up for it and placate my million-billion fans, I've decided to come back in hot with one of my 'signature topics', if you will. While I often joke that my column is a public journal largely about Taylor Swift and/or my cat, a quick look through my archived files shows that the best jokes are rooted in truth. For this edition, I give you: *Cattus Interruptus*.

I've recently been able to interview some truly exceptional people, which has put me in a near-constant state of squirmy, wormy nerves. Pro-tip: anxiety and excitement trigger the same physiological response, so you can trick yourself into thinking you're not a fritzed-out bundle of nerves at all. In fact, you can't wait to smash out that important task, work presentation, first date, difficult conversation, petty crime, public speech, et al!

This is exactly what I was doing when I was setting up for my Zoom call with Joseph Williams, the lead singer of Toto, a few weeks ago: bellowing along to *Africa*, convincing myself I was absolutely really totally chill, left eye twitching and all. When it came time to jump on the line, technical difficulties meant I was about 44 seconds late, which made me absolutely really totally even more chill! Love that for me. Thankfully, within a couple of minutes of talking to Joe, my racing heart had started to settle. And then, who should walk in but my little cat Luna?

Like many cats, Luna absolutely *loves* to put her butt hole front and centre of any camera. During lockdown, she became famous for joining my Zoom fitness classes, and – I kid you not – her favourite workout to interrupt was one that specifically targets the glutes called Booty.

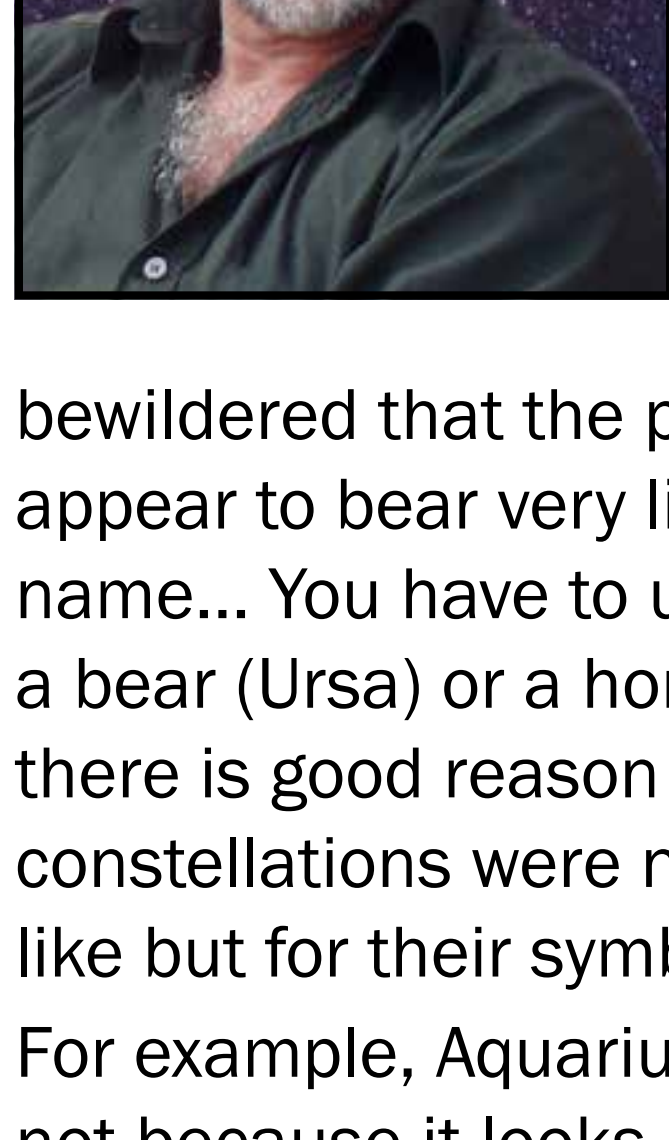
So, in Luna trots, jumps straight on my lap, makes direct eye contact with me, and starts angling her bottom towards the screen. I can tell she's going in for the kill, so I squash her down in a panic and alert Joe.

A long, surprised pause before Joe's eyes light up. "My cat's here, too!" he grins, unblurring his background. And there she is, sitting right in the thick of the action: a little tuxedo cat named JoJo.

Cosmic conversations

Signs in the sky

by **Richard Hall, astronomical communicator**



For tens of thousands of years, our ancestors have used the stars to foretell future events.

When people come out to view the stars at Stonehenge Aotearoa, we identify important constellations in the sky. A constellation is a group of stars forming a pattern in the sky. At first, people are often

bewildered that the patterns of most constellations appear to bear very little resemblance to their name... You have to use a lot of imagination to see a bear (Ursa) or a horse (Pegasus) in the sky. Now, there is good reason for this. In the ancient world, constellations were named not for what they looked like but for their symbolism.

For example, Aquarius (the water carrier) is so called not because it looks like a man pouring water out of an urn, but because when these stars first arose in the dawn sky 5000 years ago, they heralded the onset of the rainy season. Leo (the lion) is so called because when these stars rose in the dawn 5000 years ago, it was along the Nile Valley near the hottest time of the year. At that time, the lions would come in from the wilderness and prey upon the domestic flocks. The rising of the stars was a warning... the lions are coming.

This all works because as we orbit around the Sun, we experience the same seasons in the same part of the Earth's orbit. Consequently, every seasonal event has its own pageant of stars rising just before dawn. For example, if you were to go out and time exactly when a certain star rose or set, and then time it again from the same spot the following day, you would discover that it would rise or set four minutes earlier than it did the night before. This is due to the motion of the Earth around the Sun.

Now, our ancestors didn't know anything about the Earth orbiting around the Sun. But what they did know was when this or that star rose, it signalled an important event.

Five bite-sized delights by **Tanya Piejus**



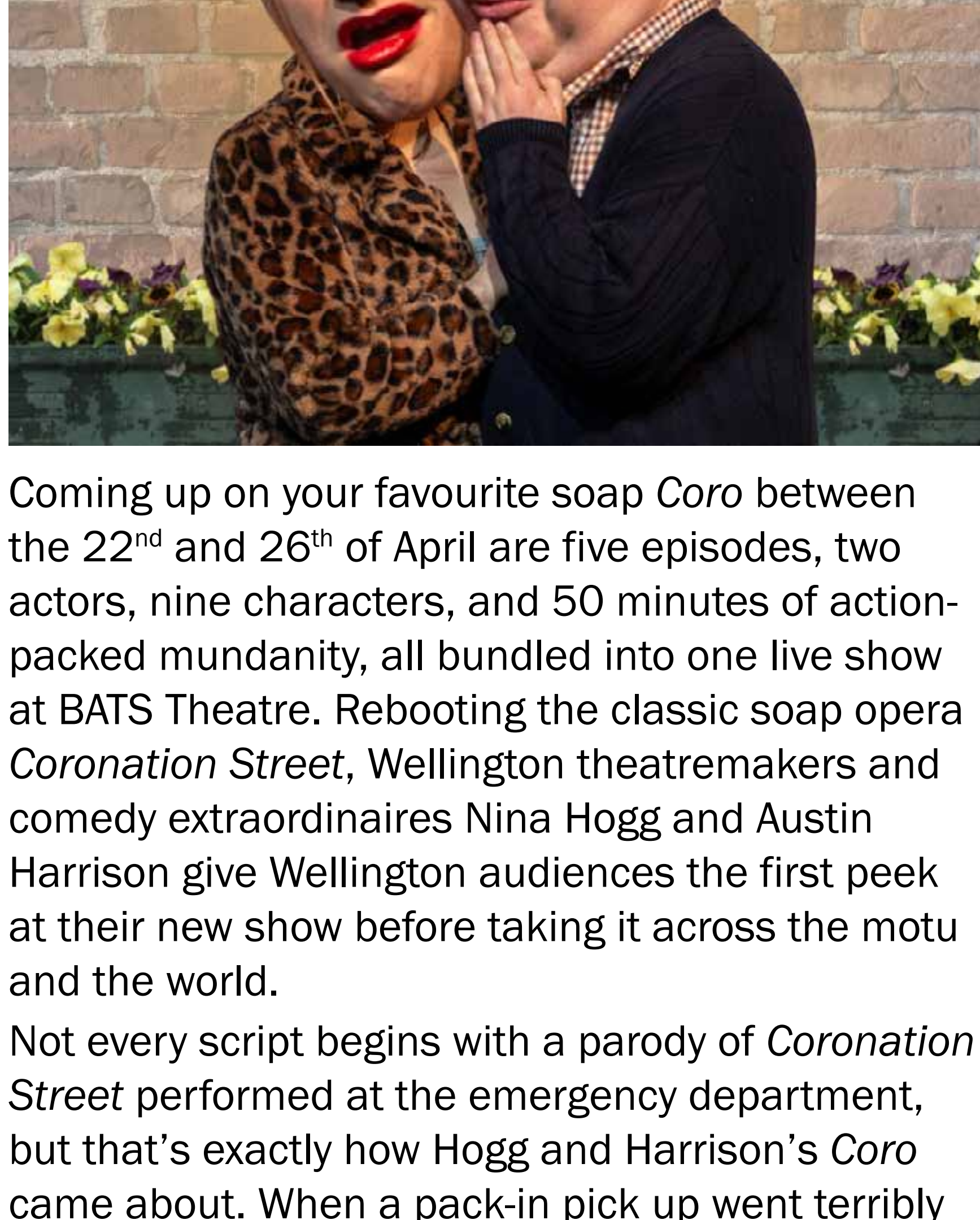
KAT Theatre is the only community theatre group that regularly puts on a season of short plays. As well as providing a diverse and interesting theatre experience for audiences, it's a chance for new directors to flex their muscles and take charge of a production without the pressure of a full-length script.

Five directors, three of them first-timers in the director's chair, are helming a season of one-act pieces collectively called *Expectations* that plays at Cochran Hall in Khandallah from the 2nd to the 4th of May. Each script is unique, but the common thread is that all the key characters are negotiating the expectations of others while trying to achieve their own.

One of the new directors is Liz Ebrey, who has chosen a play called *Fourteen* by American playwright Alice Gerstenberg. "It's a farce set in 1920s New York", Ebrey says. "I picked it because I like the fast pace and comic timing, and it's got a couple of good, strong female characters."

With the plot revolving around a cursed society dinner party intended for 14 people, the staging has been the biggest challenge for Ebrey. "Most things are in sets of 12, it turns out! The amount of stuff you need to think about as a director means you need a lot of patience and to figure things out as you go. Thankfully I have a cast that are very open to helping me do that. I just have to remember that it'll all come right in the end."

Charmingly chaotic



Coming up on your favourite soap *Coro* between the 22nd and 26th of April are five episodes, two actors, nine characters, and 50 minutes of action-packed mundanity, all bundled into one live show at BATS Theatre. Rebooting the classic soap opera *Coronation Street*, Wellington theatremakers and comedy extraordinaires Nina Hogg and Austin Harrison give Wellington audiences the first peek at their new show before taking it across the motu and the world.

Not every script begins with a parody of *Coronation Street* performed at the emergency department, but that's exactly how Hogg and Harrison's *Coro* came about. When a pack-in pick up went terribly wrong, and a bed leg to the face resulted in a longer stay at the hospital than intended, the duo found themselves stumbling into a comedy gold mine.

"There's something so recognisable about the characters and the tropes, that making a parody was just so fun and easy," beams co-writer and performer Hogg, adding that despite *Coro* being a riff of the beloved soap opera, the 50-minute show has something for *Coronation Street* fans, foes, and fresh meat alike.

With wigs, bald caps, and cheetah-print fur coats aplenty, the two actors will satirise the show's favourite characters while frenzying the fun by playing all nine of them, "sometimes all at once", Harrison reveals gleefully.

Charmingly chaotic and careening into the capital, catch *Coro* coming up next.



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Sustainable gardening

Palmers Garden News

Give something that grows

by Trista



If you're looking for a thoughtful, lasting gift this Mother's Day, why not choose something a little greener – practical gifts that bring joy well beyond one day.

From easy-to-grow herbs to

fruit trees and vegetable seedlings, we have plenty of ideas to help Mum get stuck into the garden. Whether she's got a windowsill or a whole garden plot, there's something here for every space and skill level. Growing your own food is a great way to reduce waste and enjoy fresher, healthier produce right at home. We stock a wide range of composts, pollinator-friendly plants, and eco-conscious tools so you can shop with the environment in mind. It's not about grand gestures. Sometimes, the best gifts are the simple ones – daffodil bulbs, a new set of garden gloves, or the promise of time spent together outside.

Autumn is also a fantastic time to plant as the soil is still warm and with more rain on the way, new plants have a good chance to establish a strong root system before winter. There's a variety of perennials for instant colour and winter veggies like kale and broccoli that are all ideal for planting now. Don't forget bulbs for spring blooms: tulips, hyacinths, and freesias can all be planted in autumn.

Pop in and browse our Mother's Day range – we're happy to help you find something she'll really use and enjoy. We also have an indoor giftware range and gift vouchers are a great alternative if you're not sure what Mum wants!

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A nifty invention



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Where town meets country

An eco future



If you're searching for a simple yet sustainable way to process your black water, Simple Waste Water Solutions (SWWS) has been in the industry of providing wastewater treatment

products to Kiwi homes for over a decade.

The Short Drop is a composting toilet that's portable, easy to install, and not harmful to the environment. As it doesn't require flushing or a pump, it is ideal for remote areas and water shortage situations. The deluxe version features a built-in water collection tank to supply a hand basin with water via a foot pump. SWWS also supplies full household black and greywater systems conditional on local council requirements.

Eco friendly, cost effective, and non odorous, SWWS' Short Drop is perfect for anywhere.

Specially designed



After building his own off-grid home, Allan had crafted all kinds of useful products that he wanted to share with other Kiwis. At Allan's Lifestyle Products, you can shop his inventions for your own garden or lifestyle block. Today, the company has been passed down to Allan's friend and neighbour Wilz, who has been helping out with fencing solutions and developing new products for years.

Whether you're after tree and veggie fencing to help your plants grow and stay protected, or you're in the market for chicken and rabbit fencing to keep livestock and pests out of the garden, the specialised products are durable, easy to install, and designed with specific requirements in mind. Get in touch with Wilz at www.lifestyleproducts.net.nz

A simple solution



It's common practice to forget about your septic system until suddenly you have nasty odours, leach line blockages, untreated liquid rising to the surface, or gurgling toilets. By the time things go wrong, your septic system is already a serious health and safety risk. Treatment at this stage is time-consuming and costly.

You could either wait a month until the problem resolves itself and avoid using your septic tank altogether (impractical), or excavate your entire system and relocate it – an expensive and bothersome process.

What you could do, however, is avoid all of these problems altogether by pouring one litre of Septi-Cure down the toilet bowl every six months.

Septi-Cure is designed to keep your system running at top efficiency by reducing solids and scums and clearing slimes and blockages. It is a concentrated mixture of specially selected, naturally occurring, harmless microorganisms, which multiply by feeding on waste material.

When introduced to your septic tank, they go to work straight away, digesting waste and allowing your system to operate at maximum efficiency.

As these microorganisms progress down to your irrigation field, they feed on the slimes that prevent seepage and evaporation.

Thus you have reduced the risks of contaminating the environment, as well as infection to your family.



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septi-cure

Solve Your Septic Tank Problems

Septic tanks and multi-stage septic systems are delicately balanced environments. It does not take much to upset them. Common practice is to ignore the septic system until problems occur. Good practice is to always keep your septic system well maintained.

What is Septi-Cure™?

Septi-Cure™ is a concentrated mixture of selected naturally occurring micro-organisms. These harmless tiny organisms live and multiply by feeding on waste material. When introduced to your septic tank system, they go to work straight away digesting waste material, reducing solids and scum, allowing your septic system to start operating to its maximum efficiency.

A satisfied customer in Hamilton has been using Septi-Cure™ for over five years.

He says this allows them to have an odour free septic tank with low maintenance costs. He also says that his service person is amazed at how well Septi-Cure™ works, keeping their tank in very good condition.

**Results may vary*

Septi-Cure™ is:

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Where town meets country

Treasure trove



Just because a building is being demolished doesn't mean that everything about it isn't valuable. Have you ever wondered what happens to all the materials, fixtures, abandoned household objects, and other valuable items when a house gets demolished? Well, Quality Demolition sends all the extra bits and bobs to Bentley's Bargains, their salvage business located in Masterton.

Bentley's Bargains is chocka with anything and everything you could think of. From window frames, timber, building materials, and scrap metal to furniture, tools, paint, kitchen items, fixtures, appliances, antiques, and more, you could find whatever you're looking for within the four walls of their warehouse or outside in the lot. With friendly and helpful staff on hand, Bentley's Bargains is like a treasure trove.

Whether you're looking for something in particular or you're simply browsing, need a generic replacement for your well-loved tool or a specific item to complete a particular project, Bentley's Bargains is open six days a week. If you can't find what you're looking for, the team will be happy to keep their eyes peeled and pop in touch when they locate it. Otherwise, the knowledgeable crew can recommend alternative options or suggest other solutions using what's in stock.

Bentley's Bargains is the ultimate in recycling items and materials that would otherwise end up in landfills. At the Masterton store, they'll live anew with someone who needs them. Pop by to see what's in stock and get the best deals.

Lifestyle and rural solutions



Whether it's time for routine maintenance or you've experienced a mechanical breakdown, get in touch with Lamberts Engineering, who can bring their mobile workshop to you.

With the mobile engineering workshop, Lamberts' engineer, hydraulic and diesel mechanic, and auto electrician can adapt to your schedule, performing maintenance during downtime and fixes immediately so you can get back to business right away. This solution saves you money, but more importantly, it saves you time. John, the owner, has the experience and skills to fix almost anything. If he can't, he'll take the issue back to the Masterton base to get sorted before bringing it back to you. He's passionate about what he does, seeing difficult jobs as a welcome challenge and familiar fixes as a piece of cake.

Locally owned and operated, Lamberts Engineering is ingrained in the Wairarapa community. Regardless of what engineering services you require, John has the knowledge and practical skills to get you up and running again in no time. One of his many specialties is domestic engineering – from gates to fences, welding to hydraulics, and everything in between. He's also well versed in fixing agriculture machinery and equipment, logging gear, and trailers, trucks, floats, vehicles, and more.

There isn't much the Lamberts Engineering team can't do. Give John a bell next time you're in need.

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Where town meets country

Uniquely experienced



Hayden Spierling has been working with Tomlinson and Carruthers since 2001 and in 2019 he became a director and part owner. He is an integral part of the team, has a can-do attitude, and a keen problem-solving ability, perfect for achieving the client's and the company's aspirations.

Tomlinson and Carruthers are a full-service surveying, project, and resource management firm established in 1948 and based in Masterton. Their experienced staff are dedicated to providing a high level of service and live in the communities they help develop. Their reputation is staked on the quality and variety of work they do as well as their loyalty to their clients.

The experienced team at Tomlinson and Carruthers undertake a wide variety of surveying work in both rural and urban areas. Their registered surveyors perform work such as the definition and relocation of boundaries, the removal of title limitations, cadastral matters, unit title surveys, and more. They can also conduct topographical and legalisation surveys.

If you're looking to subdivide, Tomlinson and Carruthers are experienced in land development, and as a first step they'll determine whether the revenue gained from the sale of the developed land will exceed the cost of development. The team of surveyors can work with you throughout your project, from initial concept to final touches.

Every project is unique but so are Tomlinson and Carruthers.

Established excellence



Established over 50 years ago, Griffiths Drilling has a reputation for excellence founded on hard work, dedication, and passion. Today, the Kiwi owned and operated drilling company is known for providing the highest-quality service, taking a client-focused approach, and exceeding expectations.

Going strong for a decade, the Greytown office services clients across Wairarapa. One of their most requested services is drilling bores for anyone needing a consistent water supply, including farmers, subdivisions, commercial businesses, councils, and rural residents.

Alongside drilling bores across the region, Griffiths also services, inspects, and repairs them. With hole camera inspections, the team can check an existing bore to ensure the water is clean and uncontaminated by silt or other materials, as well as perform a pump test. By regularly maintaining the bore, your pumps and pipes will last longer, ensuring you'll never be without water. From design to delivery, testing to treatment, and everything in between, the friendly and skilled team are committed to providing you with access to clean water on your property.

Griffiths Drilling also offers a comprehensive range of drilling services backed by a wealth of knowledge, technical expertise, and vast practical experience that comes from operating for over five decades within the New Zealand drilling industry. With comprehensive knowledge of local Wairarapa aquifers, geological history, topography, recharge areas, and water use, Griffiths Drilling can get the job done right.

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Where town meets country

Adaptable and dependable



Marshall Heaters design and build water heaters in New Zealand, for New Zealand. With over 50 years of experience in the industry and an unparalleled reputation for excellence, the Kiwi-owned and operated company is committed to providing Kiwis throughout NZ with warm homes and slashed power bills thanks to their innovative water heaters.

Marshall Heaters are solely dedicated to designing and manufacturing custom-made, efficient, non-electric hot water heaters that can heat not only water, but the whole house. Ranging in size from 273 to 1025-litres, their water heater solutions are reliable, convenient, and energy-efficient, plus they are individually designed for specific applications and requirements – whether that be residential or commercial properties, new or renovated builds, on or off-grid homes, and marae.

Ideal in particular for people who are not connected to the national grid, all Marshall Heaters customers enjoy freedom and flexibility thanks to reduced power bills. Why? Because their designs burn multifuel, wood, coal, or diesel, and are even compatible with solar and photovoltaic panels.

Consider connecting underfloor heating or radiators to your Marshall heater for an affordable central heating solution for your home or workplace. As a more efficient means to heat your space, you'll save money and stay warm and cosy all year long.

Wherever and however you live, Marshall Heaters can adapt to suit your lifestyle.

The best for the best



One of the reasons New Zealand wool is such high quality is because Kiwi sheep are paddock-grazed with the flock, where they belong. Kells Wool, a dynamic and progressive wool brokerage and manufacturing division, is passionate about supporting Kiwi woolgrowers to promote NZ wool as some of the finest in the world.

The independent, New Zealand owned and operated company promotes 100-percent natural, renewable, and biodegradable fibre that will be transformed into high-quality, long-lasting products such as garments, mattresses, and upholstery.

Kells Wool also has their own line of premium boutique garments and accessories made from the finest NZ wool. The Woolly T range in particular began with the intention of creating a shirt that was warm and thick, built to last, and made from high-quality fibre. With a focus on the feel and fit, the Woolly T is made in Aotearoa from ethically sourced merino wool.

“Selecting a premium fabric thickness and adding length to the body has created the most comfortable, durable garment,” director Richard Kells says. “The double green stitch feature on the sleeve is to celebrate what a planet-friendly choice the Woolly T is.”

Born from nature and crafted to withstand more wear and fewer washes, the Woolly T is fit for all seasons. Kells Wool also crafts singlets, long-sleeves, blankets, ponchos, hats, scarves, socks, men's underwear, and more in an array of colours and designs. Find out more and browse the shop at www.kellswool.co.nz

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Where town meets country

Professional and prompt



From farm buildings and frames to septic tanks and containers, Brad Langford can lift just about anything with his 10-wheel hiab truck. The owner and driver at Lift Tech can pick up, deliver, install, and lift loads, whether you're in the wop-wops of Wairarapa or the suburbs of Greater Wellington.

Brad is a highly trained driver, licensed and qualified to manoeuvre the truck into tight and difficult access points in order to deliver or remove whatever you need. With a lifting capacity of 13,400 kilograms at four metres, 3100kg at 16 metres, and 1180kg with the fly jib at 25 metres, he can reach all those tricky spaces with precision.

Brad also delivers water across Wairarapa with his company Valley Water. The Ministry of Health-certified water carrier is dedicated to providing fresh, clean drinking water for any and all domestic and rural needs. If you need your house tank or farm tanks filled, a swimming pool topped up, or a portable water supply for an event or project, he can help. With the 14,000-litre capacity per delivery, Valley Water is fast, efficient, and reliable.

Whether it's for Lift Tech or Valley Water, Brad is dedicated to going above and beyond for his clients in order to get the job done effectively and efficiently, within budget and on time. Professional and prompt, get in touch or find out more at www.lifttechtransport.co.nz or www.valleywaterdelivery.co.nz

Anything you need



From site offices and dangerous goods storage to pop-up bars, flower shops, produce stores, and everything in between, the shipping container is becoming a more common sight in our daily lives.

Thanks to a plethora of modification and size options, buying or hiring containers to suit your specific needs has never been easier than with ContainerCo.

They have 10, 20, and 40-foot containers available for anything you require. Whether you're interested in a short-term lease for a work site or festival, for example, or a long-term solution for your restaurant, office, property, or anything in between, ContainerCo has an extensive catalogue to choose from.

Modifications allow containers to be used in a variety of ways. Thanks to the range of alteration options and types available, you can have a shipping container adjusted to suit any storage or accommodation requirement. ContainerCo structures are strong, well built, closed off from wind and water, and with optional lockboxes that offer all the security you could ever need.

ContainerCo has a huge variety of specialised and general-purpose solutions. Perhaps you need portable chilled or frozen storage. For that, they have refrigerated containers for sale or hire in all of the standard sizes. Maybe you have oversized or wide goods that need transporting. In that case, you can choose from open-top or side-opening containers.

Think outside the box with an effective and affordable ContainerCo solution.



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Where town meets country

Good for wool but what about wood?



An announcement by the New Zealand Government directing public agencies to consider using wool fibres over synthetic options is a sensible decision, but it is disappointing when wood fibres – which possess the same innovative, sustainable, and health benefits as wool – have been overlooked.

“The wood products that we are talking about are not only renewable but have economic and environmental advantages when it comes to carbon storage and supporting our rural communities,” Mark Ross, chief executive of the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association, says. “With New Zealand’s sustainable forestry model, using locally grown wood products incentivises our circular bioeconomy, boosts New Zealand’s domestic wood processing industry, and supports our drive to meet our climate change targets”.

“Forecasting by Deloitte indicates that changing our market share to wood products by 25 percent would result in the removal of an additional 920,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the environment each year. Greater use of timber in domestic building and construction is critical to rebuilding New Zealand’s economy and providing regional jobs in a highly productive sector”.

As an example, engineered wood products such as cross laminated timber and glulam offer multiple benefits to New Zealand, including reduced construction time, a lower carbon footprint, and excellent thermal performance compared to traditional building materials like concrete or steel. Mass timber has gained recognition for its versatility and globally is increasingly being adopted in residential and commercial construction projects.

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We want to fence our properties.
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Plantation forests are essential for combating climate change and for providing the ultimate renewable resource for a low carbon future.

The Southern North Island Wood Council provides a collective voice for the forestry sector in Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatu, Wairarapa, Tararua and Wellington. Members have a common interest in ensuring the long-term success of the sector. Membership is open to any company or individual with an interest in the local wood industry. Erica Kinder, SNI Wood Council CEO, can be contacted for more information.

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Where town meets country

Specially designed



Founded over 20 years ago, Wilco Engineering can proudly say that their products make life easier on the farm. The New Zealand owned and operated company known for the quality and longevity of their stock was established in 2003 with the intention of creating a product that would prevent feed from going to waste. The solution was the first ever Wilco feeder, featuring a roof to protect feed from the elements.

The mobile hay or meal feeder is made from a robust, galvanised frame with a removable bin. Whether you have a dairy unit, lifestyle block, alpacas, goats, sheep, or horses, the feeders come in hanging, skid, or wheeled options and can be manufactured in all sizes to accommodate anywhere from one to four bales of feed or meal.

The perfect balance between practical and functional, it saves farmers both time and money.

Wilco Engineering also produces custom trailers for everyday and specialised uses. Made from steel with highly robust frames and galvanised to ensure strength and dependability, each trailer is built to withstand hard work.

Created by Kiwi farmers for Kiwi farmers, their feeders, custom trailers, karts, rollies, dividers, and bins are designed to last a lifetime. From the very beginning, every Wilco product has been carefully and intentionally designed with farmers in mind, taking into account all the necessary details, plus all the extra aspects that make the job easier. Find out more at www.wilcoengineering.co.nz

Improve quality



Did you know that ultrasound technology can be used as a tool to determine the retail meat value of living animals? By scanning livestock, real data is gathered to analyse its genetics. This method is called the Falkirk Index and enables large numbers of animals to be processed quickly, efficiently, and cost-effectively.

When the Falkirk Index was developed in the late 1980s in New Zealand by Ian Walsh, it revolutionised the meat industry. Suddenly, both producers and purchasers were able to determine the quality of an animal's genetics while it was still alive. The holistic approach to animal selection merges technology with stock judgment and appraisal skills to empower producers to farm the most optimal animal that naturally generates product to exact market specifications.

Aside from determining an animal's meat value, the Falkirk Index helps producers achieve new levels of performance and profitability from their herds by determining the best stock in terms of genetics. Once the best are selected from the herd, they can be used for breeding, which in turn will increase the value of a producer's stock further down the line.

Walsh has been involved in farming his entire life and has been a dedicated career producer and breeder for over 60 years. The self-taught innovator is available across Wairarapa and beyond for scanning livestock of all kinds, helping you add value to your farming operation. Get in touch at www.falkirkgenetics.co.nz

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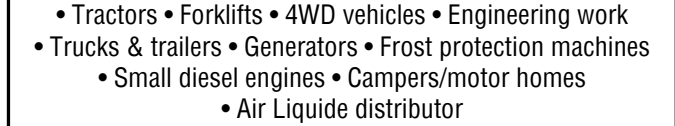
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Pedalling paradise



Tasman's Great Taste Trail.

The South Island is a paradise for cyclists. Travellers come from the farthest reaches of the globe to bike our tracks and trails, and for some, it's the trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate that we get to experience these opportunities in our backyard, so make the most of our beautiful Aotearoa cycle lanes this autumn and head south for an epic adventure.

Otago is home to five of New Zealand's Ngā Haerenga Great Rides. The purpose-built trails span an inter-connected network of over 500 kilometres, traversing landscapes from Queenstown through Central Otago to Dunedin. Catering to bikers of all levels and abilities, the well-maintained paths and support services, including bike hire, accommodation, and shuttles, are punctuated by breathtaking views and perfect for everyone, whether you're a leisure cyclist seeking a scenic escape or a seasoned explorer.

The top of the South Island offers equally beautiful and plentiful cycle routes. Here, you can venture into Abel Tasman National Park, biking through bush, across beaches, and beyond, or you can opt for the Tasman's Great Taste Trail Great Ride to indulge in gastronomic excursions along the way. That's just the tip of the top, with plenty more tracks and trails to discover.

Explore the mountains and lakes at your own pace, venture into the wilderness and forge your own path, or go big with a multi-day journey along New Zealand's Great Rides with your friends or whānau. Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed an epic two-wheeled adventure.

Invest in Earth



Back in 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, making it clear that the health of our planet was an agenda worth paying attention to and forcing the issue onto the global stage. Every year since, Earth Day is celebrated on the 22nd of April.

By 1990, Earth Day was celebrated in over 140 countries. Now it's more than 190. With the health of our planet deteriorating year by year, Earth Day becomes increasingly important. From plastic pollution and biodiversity collapse to CO₂ emissions and the climate crisis, the Earth needs us.

2025 marks the 55th Earth Day, with this year's theme – Our Power, Our Planet – inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030.

Helping the planet can sometimes seem like a lost cause, and creating change can appear daunting, but there are plenty of ways you can make a difference. Reduce, reuse, recycle is a tried-and-true way to help the Earth. Pick up rubbish if you see it on the beach, the street, or anywhere else. Try to shop second-hand where possible. Decrease your carbon footprint and ride the bus or a bike. Purchase food from sustainable sources and shop local. Plant bee-friendly flowers to encourage pollination. Even sharing the cause on social media helps!

Pledge an Earth Action or attend a local event or climate march this Earth Day. All it takes is a bit of investment in our planet to make a difference.

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Nature's gift



The te reo Māori concept of hauora describes a holistic approach to wellbeing that encompasses emotional, physical, social, and spiritual health and promotes fostering a connection with the natural world. Keeping these principles front of mind, Hauora® crafts authentic, high-quality, UMF™-certified honey and wellness products that embody the purity and power of New Zealand's native landscapes.

The passionate and sustainability-focused team consider honey to be nature's gift. Renowned both nationally and globally, their range celebrates the natural antioxidative, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and immune-boosting properties of propolis and honey.

Utilising modern and sustainable beekeeping methods, the 100 percent New Zealand owned and operated Hauora cultivates a range of gourmet honeys from across Aotearoa, including clover, blue borage, rewarewa, and the renowned mānuka. Their catalogue also includes oral sprays, lozenges, supplement caps, colostrum milk chews, and more. The extensive collection of gourmet honey reflects our country's diverse native flora and inbuilt health-promoting qualities.

Sourced primarily from Hawke's Bay and the South Island, Hauora's gold-standard mānuka honey underscores the team's commitment to creating products of the highest quality. The epitome of New Zealand's national treasure, Hauora's pure honey can be found in stores across the motu and online at www.hauorahoney.co.nz

By a woman scientist, for women



Dr Iona Weir is an award-winning cell biologist with over 35 years of experience in the field both in New Zealand and abroad. She is a pioneer in cell biology and is a part of the small minority of women scientists with globally patented research.

With a PhD from the cancer research labs of University of Auckland, she worked for some of the biggest companies in the business before starting her own groundbreaking company Weir_Science through which she developed the globally patented Atopis® and Myregyna®. Her extensive background in programmed plant cell death (apoptosis) and immunology pathways led her to develop her unique botanical ferment Myrecil®, which uses the body's in-built cellular defence and renewal systems to target cellular skin aging and reset the skin so it can rebalance and restore itself.

Atopis products make skin vibrant, healthy, and glowing, providing solutions for concerns such as rosacea, acne, skin ageing, hyperpigmentation, and eczema.

"I founded Atopis because while most skincare products are created for women, there's so little genuine skincare science created by women," Dr Weir says.

Myregyna is a skin-based, non-hormonal product developed to help women through menopause and beyond. The double-action hydrating cream and dietary supplement is a system designed to support urinary tract health, natural lubrication, genital skin health, and healthy sensation and function during intercourse. Opt for a product created by women, for women.

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Empowering women

Something special



Foxtail Events began as a small, heartfelt venture with a simple dream: to bring people together through unforgettable experiences, big or small, in every style imaginable. Working across the Wellington Region to bring locals and visitors engaging events, the business has grown considerably over the years, becoming one of the key event organisers in Wellington.

Crafting everything from community markets to private celebrations, festivals to activations, Foxtail Events focuses primarily on community engagement and making each event unique. Recently, the passionate and dedicated team have assisted Wellington City Council in bringing play and recreation events to whānau and tamariki, collaborated with Brewtown, organised the 2025 Wellington Lantern Festival in Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā, and partnered with Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University to run the newest Food Truck Friday event on the campus.

“We have lots of other exciting events planned and in the pipeline for Wellington City coming up,” Sharon Powick, the brilliant mind behind Foxtail Events, says. “I am very passionate about bringing life back to our city and creating activations that everyone can participate in and enjoy.”

Foxtail Events also works with organisations and councils outside of Wellington City, including Lower Hutt

and Horowhenua with plans to expand into Kapiti next. Find out more and keep an eye on upcoming events at www.foxtailevents.co.nz

Indigenous Aotearoa



Nothing says Aotearoa quite like a taonga that celebrates the Indigenous language and heritage of our beautiful misty whenua. Based in Tāmaki Makaurau, Rerehua Boutique is a powerhouse, sister-owned business with the vision of creating quality and timeless designs that are stylish and simply beautiful.

Rerehua Boutique taonga can be worn for any occasion, whether it be special moments, everyday style, or in professional settings. From jewellery to clothing, accessories to handbags, watches to hats, each product is inspired by our whenua. Proudly repping what makes Aotearoa unique, they provide connection to cultural heritage, Indigenous identity, and the natural landscape.

“We hope that when you wear our taonga you feel confident, empowered, and proud to whakanui (uplift) and represent the Indigenous reo and heritage of Aotearoa”, the creative and entrepreneurial minds behind the brand say.

What started as a lockdown venture in 2021 quickly became an e-commerce business with stockists across Aotearoa and Australia. Today, Rerehua Boutique offers shipping to over 80 countries and recently won the Pakihi Toi Ora (Creative Arts & Design) category at the 2024 MWDI Māori Businesswomen’s Awards. Despite the company’s incredible growth, their kaupapa remains true to their original intention: celebrate and represent the Indigenous reo and heritage of Aotearoa. Each Rerehua Boutique creation is a true national taonga.



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NZ International Comedy Festival

Dinner is served



Giggle and guffaw, cackle and chortle, howl and ha-ha until the cows come home at the 2025 Best Foods Comedy Gala. Serving as a curtain raiser for the Wellington segment of the New Zealand International Comedy Festival with Best Foods Mayo on the 3rd of May at The Opera House, the gala is an excellent taster of what's to come.

Serving up local and international acts as the evening's MC is comedy powerhouse Hayley Sproull [pictured]. You'll recognise her as the host of TVNZ's *Have You Been Paying Attention?* and *The Great Kiwi Bake Off*, and as a co-host of ZM's Fletch, Vaughan & Hayley, among heaps of other televised and live gigs.

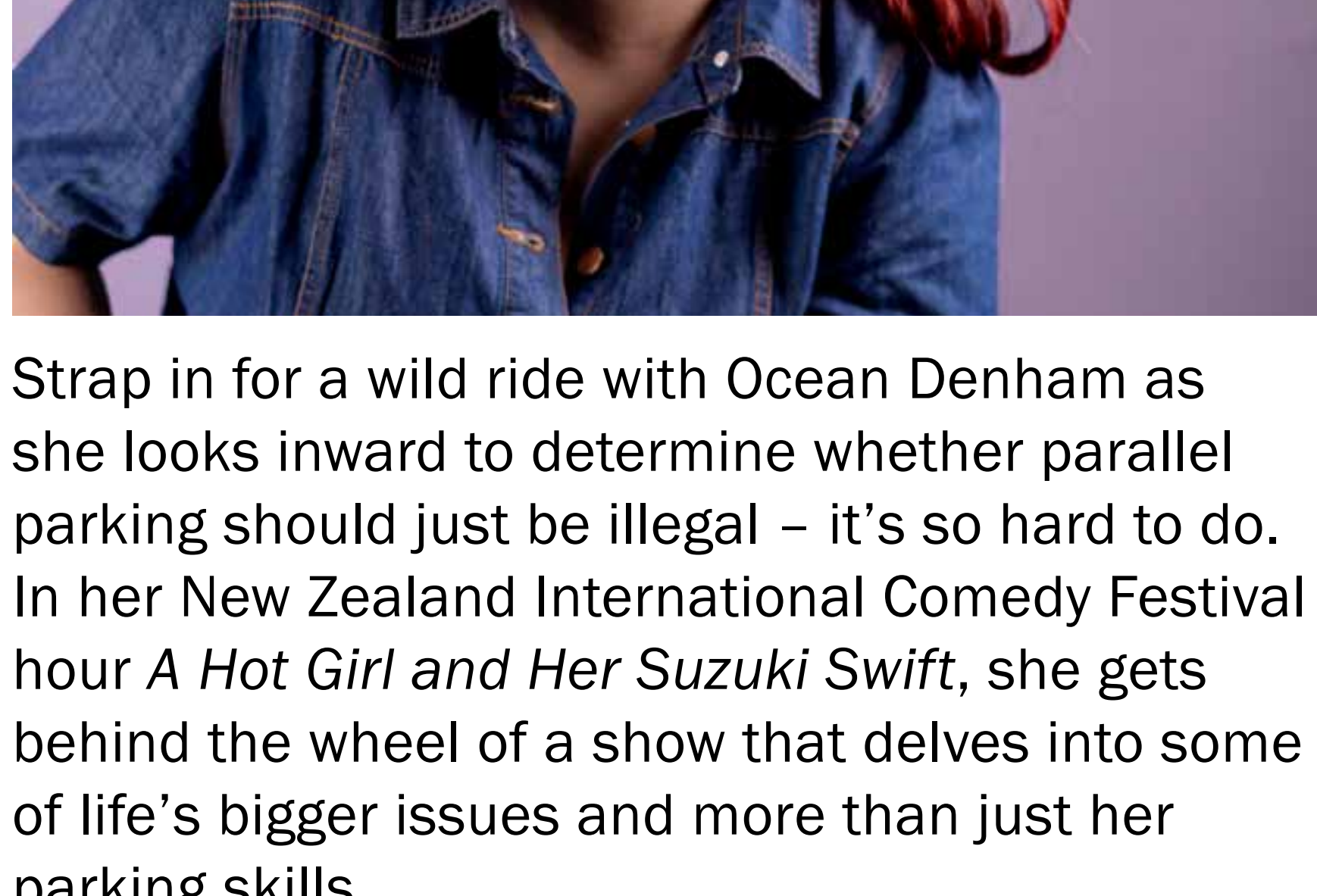
Comedians will circulate like canapés over the course of the evening. In fact, the gala's smorgasbord programme will plate up a full 15-course meal of piping-hot comedy capers from *The Office Australia* star Felicity Ward, international sensation Tape Face, Kiwi icon Eli Matthewson, Heath Franklin's beloved Chopper, rising star He Huang, local heavyweight Josh Thomson, 2023 Billy T Award winner Abby Howells, local star Joe Daymond, award-winning UK comedian Mark Simmons, 2023 *Celebrity Treasure Island* winner James Mustapic, Barnie Duncan from the 2024 Fred Award-winning show *Different Party*, and Melbourne Comedy Fest's RAW National Grand Final winner Henry Yan.

Coming in piping hot just for the capital's gala are Johanna Cosgrove, Kajun Brooking, and Alayne Dick.

Dig into the Best Foods Comedy Gala.

Kick it into overdrive

by Alessia Belsito-Riera



Strap in for a wild ride with Ocean Denham as she looks inward to determine whether parallel parking should just be illegal – it's so hard to do. In her New Zealand International Comedy Festival hour *A Hot Girl and Her Suzuki Swift*, she gets behind the wheel of a show that delves into some of life's bigger issues and more than just her parking skills.

Excited to perform to Welly audiences whether they drive a Toyota Corolla or a Mazda Demio, Denham says that *A Hot Girl and Her Suzuki Swift* isn't about the car you drive, it's a mindset.

"When I do comedy, my only job is that someone truly enjoys themselves," she says. "I think comedy is such a stripped-back artform. It's just me and my mic – if you bomb on stage, it's all you but if you kill a set, honestly, it's such a good feeling. I want my audience to feel validated in being their most authentic self, like, you have a haemorrhoid? Same sis, what cream you use? We don't yuck any yums on my watch."

With a conversational style, Denham compares her comedy to getting a bevvy with a friend. "It's hot tea but it's always said with love. It's a very no-hold-back approach but I think my comedy is very charming".

Pulling into Te Auaha from the 21st to the 24th of May, buckle up for *A Hot Girl and Her Suzuki Swift*.

A touch of spectacle



Mamaeroa 'Mo' Munn (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi) was once called unhinged by a reviewer and now she's made it her whole personality! You can expect her upcoming New Zealand International Comedy Festival show *Is it off?* to be exactly that.

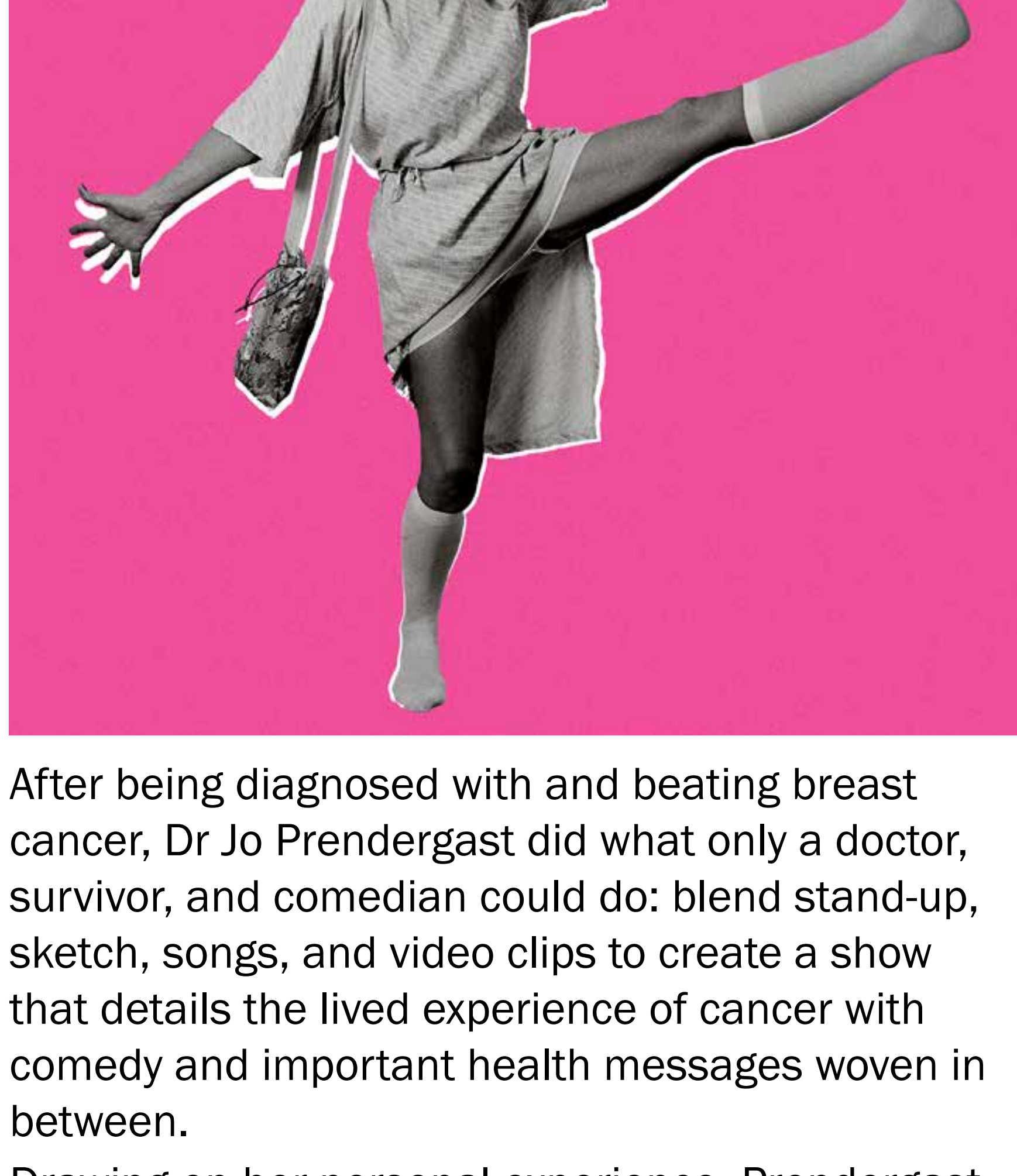
"*Is it off?* will squish standup, experimental, and improvised comedy together for a rapid-fire whiplash of a show," Munn beams. "Think one-woman comedy buffet – packed with chaotic jokes, outlandish stories, and a touch of spectacle."

As an oversharer with a splash of OCD, Munn will draw on autobiographical stories to shock and delight (mostly shock, she says) in her upcoming hour of power. She will also explore her experiences of living with OCD and tackle heavier topics such as what she calls "being the Toyota Corolla of women".

"*Is it off?* is a chance for me to take my years of comedy performances and leave it all on the stage," Munn continues. "It will keep audiences on their toes, delivering a comedy experience more hectic than a high school rave."

Scoring Best Newcomer at the 2023 Wellington Comedy Awards and with years of training in Wellington, London, and Chicago under her belt, Munn has produced shows and performed with improv troupes for years. She is now fresh from debuting her first solo play at the New Zealand Fringe Festival and can't wait to go buck wild at Te Auaha from the 7th to the 10th of May for her debut solo comedy show.

Cartwheels and curveballs



After being diagnosed with and beating breast cancer, Dr Jo Prendergast did what only a doctor, survivor, and comedian could do: blend stand-up, sketch, songs, and video clips to create a show that details the lived experience of cancer with comedy and important health messages woven in between.

Drawing on her personal experience, Prendergast delves into themes of body neutrality, menopause, healthcare inequality, and the emotional toll of illness to deliver a show that will leave audiences laughing, reflecting, and inspired to remain resilient through the tough moments in life.

"As a psychiatrist and a breast cancer survivor, I am very aware of how important it is to not only survive cancer but to survive well," Prendergast says. "I am using my platform to raise awareness and help those going through a similar cancer experience. *Cancer and Cartwheels* shines the spotlight on what it is actually like to have breast cancer – something that has touched most people's lives – whether it's your mother, sister, friend, or you!"

A portion of the show's sales will be going to Cancer Society NZ, with further donation options available directly through ticketing.

Cartwheels and Cancer is booked in for an appointment at Te Auaha on the 10th of May to show Welly audiences the importance of still having a laugh, even when life throws you curveballs.

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General

Celebrate May Day by NZCTU



Every year on May Day (May the 1st) workers and their unions around the world celebrate the union movement, our history, and our purpose – to build workers’ power and solidarity.

Without the unions and collective action, we wouldn’t have weekends, paid leave, the minimum wage, or health and safety protections.

Strong unions mean great workplaces, thriving communities, and a healthy society that works for the many, not just the few. But over the past 18 months, workers have been enduring ongoing attacks from the New Zealand Government, which is intent on stripping us of our rights and undermining the role of unions.

This year we are continuing the proud traditions of the union movement by coming together to fight back for workers’ rights, pay equity, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

In Wellington we are looking forward to a day of good food, great music, and inspiring kōrero at Queens Wharf as we stand with communities right across the country.

It’s only through our collective solidarity that we can stand up and challenge the will of the rich and powerful. Together we can ensure a strong workers’ voice in our democracy – in the corridors of power and in the workplace.

Through standing together and mobilising, we can demonstrate our power and ensure that we continue to make positive progress to ensure future generations are better off than us.

Go pink



Thousands of Kiwis across the motu are painting the country pink this May by hosting a Pink Ribbon Breakfast to raise funds for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. With one in nine women being diagnosed with the disease in their lifetimes and roughly 650 Aotearoa wāhine passing from it every year, almost everyone has been touched by breast cancer.

“By hosting a Pink Ribbon Breakfast, you’re helping to bring us closer towards a future where no one has to die from breast cancer,” Breast Cancer Foundation NZ’s chief executive Ah-Leen Rayner [pictured] says. “As a charity that doesn’t receive any government funding, we desperately need your help to keep our life-saving programmes in research, education, and patient support running.”

TV personality, author and documentary producer Jude Dobson is inviting all Wellingtonians to host a Pink Ribbon Breakfast. The former registered nurse has been a Breast Cancer Foundation NZ ambassador for well over a decade, supporting their quest to “make sure no woman loses their life to breast cancer”.

Last year the foundation counted more than 590 get-togethers across Greater Wellington alone and are hoping to beat that record this year. Pink Ribbon Breakfast Day is the 22nd of May, but events can be held any time in May or June. Once registered, people will be sent a free host kit with ideas and resources.

Support the 375 Wellington women diagnosed every year and make a difference with a Pink Ribbon Breakfast.

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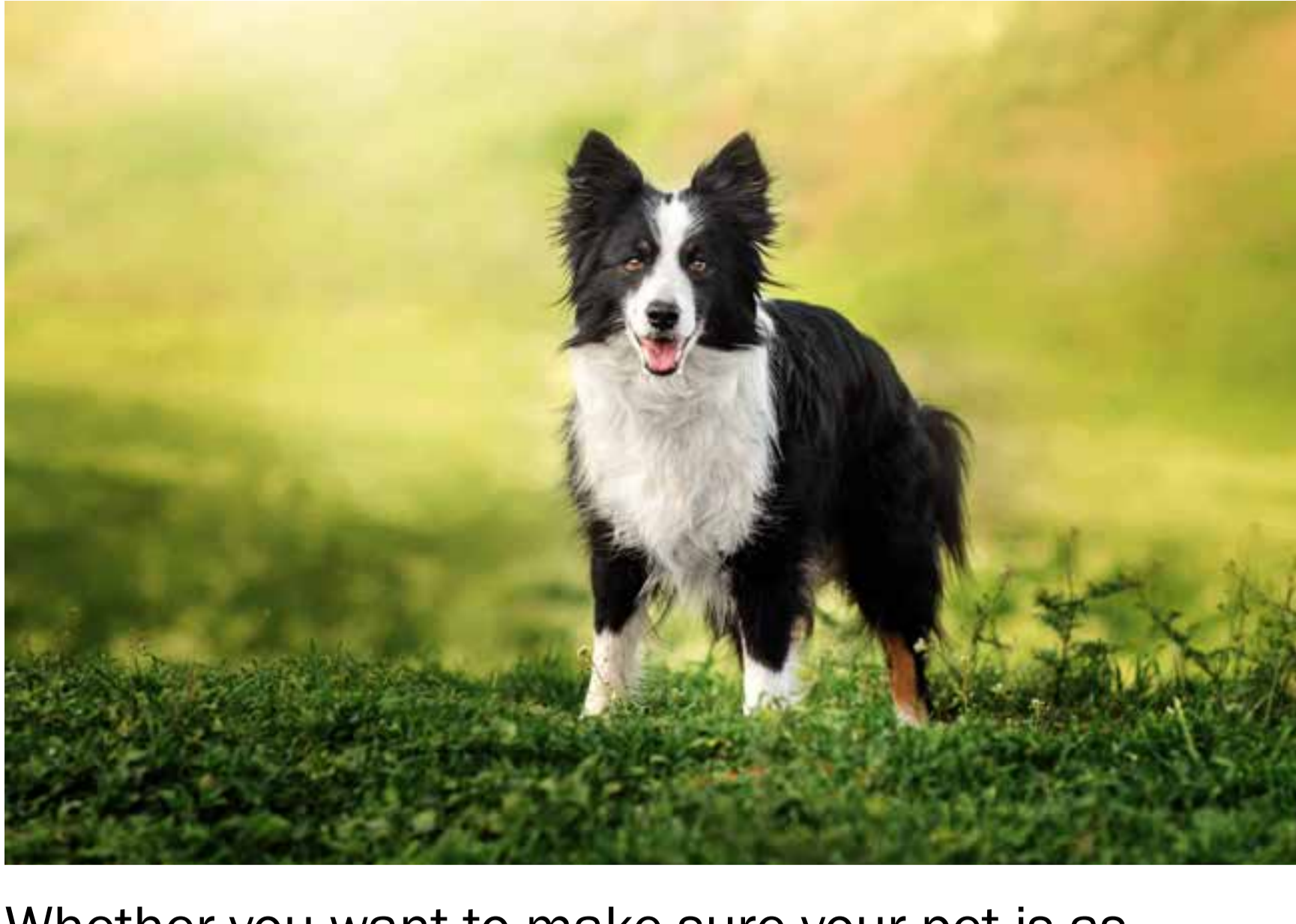
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A mecca for makers



New Zealand's UNESCO City of Design has artists filling every nook and cranny of its beautifully preserved Art Deco centre. Dotted in between cool cafés, exceptional eateries, classy cocktail bars, and hip hangout spots are countless designers, makers, creatives, and art students working at their craft. The city has studios and galleries galore – from flax weaving to glasswork, costume making to film studios, jewellery to fine arts, and so much more. But art isn't the only thing that is made in Whanganui. Surrounded by vast tracts of fertile land, veggies, fruit, livestock, and animal products also originate from this region. You can find this fresh produce across the motu, but it's also used in the delicious farm-to-table restaurants and cafés in Whanganui itself. From freshly baked bread to handmade cocktails, breakfast nooks to ethnic eateries, many of the local establishments source their ingredients right from their hometown.

There is also plenty of industry in Whanganui, with engineers, scientists, researchers, tradespeople, farmers, students, and more working away on projects both for their city and beyond. These makers create all kinds of Whanganui-made products that are marketed across NZ and the world.

With the Saturday morning River Traders Market to boot, where locals sell delicious food, handmade products, arts and crafts, and more, Whanganui is a veritable makers' mecca. A place for innovation and creativity, keep an eye out for what will come next from Whanganui.

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Whanganui lifestyle

Art by the River



A new gallery has opened its doors in Whanganui! Art by the River, the proud sister gallery of Art by the Sea in Auckland, features over 100 works by more than 40 local, nationally renowned, and internationally acclaimed artists.

Situated in the historic Druids building in the central, bustling hub of Whanganui, Art by the River celebrates creativity in all its multifaceted forms, with pieces spanning the gamut of visual art. Together with works by outstanding regional and New Zealand artists, Art by the River has a catalogue of collectable works by some of the most well-known names in international art, including Damien Hirst, Joan Miró, Rene Magritte, Henri Matisse, Andy Warhol, Salvador Dalí, Tracey Emin, Keith Haring, and many more.

Art by the River also showcases revolving exhibitions from Kiwi artists, with the current offering featuring new works by Tallulah Nunez. *Lust, Love & Loss* will run until the 4th of May and focuses particularly on plants in a landscape.

“*Lust, Love & Loss* is a series of 11 plant portraits that depict romantic emotional moments in an individual’s life,” Nunez says, adding that her work is constantly evolving and that she often finds inspiration by going back over her repertoire. Works such as *The Flirt and the Slap* are rendered in Nunez’s unique style developed over lockdown.

The gallery also hosts artist talks and workshops throughout the year. Find out more about what’s happening and what’s on the walls at Art by the River by visiting www.artbytheriver.co.nz

An unbeatable lifestyle



Rotokawau Virginia Lake.

Nestled at the mouth of her namesake’s river, verdant forests cloaked around her shoulders, and a string of beaches draped around her neck, Whanganui offers an unbeatable lifestyle. The city has become increasingly popular for Kiwis across the motu thanks to lower house prices, beautiful properties and sections, easily accessible stores and services, plenty of options for healthcare and education providers, and all kinds of eateries and social clubs. Art abounds, nature is never far, and the happening social calendar keeps everyone busy. With all this in mind, it comes as no surprise that young professionals and creatives, retirees and families are finding this vibrant, eclectic, quirky, and centrally located city increasingly appealing.

If you’re looking to buy, there are plenty of real estate agents with local knowledge that can help you find the historic home, modern flat, beachside property, or lifestyle block of your dreams.

Relocating is easy too – there are several services that can deliver and help you unpack your new life.

If you’ve stumbled on the perfect parcel of land where you know you’ll want to stay forever, consider building a home. There are plenty of professionals around to manage your build from the ground up, so you can live where you love. Heritage homesteads abound. If you found the perfect character cottage, get in touch with nearby tradespeople to help you revamp, refresh, and restore it to its former glory.

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Kitchen Chaos

Written by David Ladderman and Lizzie Tollemache

Directed by Rachel Lenart

Circa Theatre, 14th Apr 2025

Reviewed by Tania Du Toit



David Ladderman. Photo by Alexander Hallag.

We love chaos, mess, magic, and a good belly laugh! *Kitchen Chaos* ticks all the boxes and so much more.

In *Kitchen Chaos*, Spray (Lizzie Tollemache), Wipe (Darlene Mohekey), and the whole audience are invited to a surprise birthday party. Everyone is so excited and we all help prepare for the surprise. Wipe is so goofy, with a weakness for chippies and cake, and often comes up with brilliant ideas that Spray goes along with. While goofing around, there is an accident and the duo needs to fix the situation pronto. They enlist the help of the audience, a very helpful cookbook named Edmonds (voiced by original production director Greg Cooper), and some magic!

The colourful set and props (production design by Rollicking Entertainment) enhance the magical experience. The magic itself is mind-blowing – just some of the reactions I overhear are “wow,” “that’s unbelievable,” and “how did they do that?” The sound effects and lights are on cue and create hilarious scenes.

The playful and mischievous vibe is so contagious that Mister Six could not stop laughing, dancing, and just wanted to join in the fun. The magic intrigued him so much that when we got to meet Spray and Wipe after the show, he *had* to know how they did it. He also showed them his dancing skills and we all danced together in the foyer. They were happy to indulge their newfound fans with photo opportunities and high fives!

He was still dancing as we left, and we were having a good giggle when we discussed the show afterwards. His favourite parts were the magic, Spray and Wipe being stuck together when they high fived, and the sneaker juice! Guess what, though? *Kitchen Chaos* had me laughing even harder than my son at some stages. Bringing out the excited kid in all of us, we had the best fun and laughs at this must-see show.

Badjelly the Witch

Adapted by Alanna O’Sullivan from the book by Spike Milligan

Directed by Ditas Yap and Adam Koveskali

Tararua Tramping Club, 14th Apr 2025

Reviewed by Tania Du Toit



If a goofy, funny, heartfelt, heroic adventure is what your little one enjoys, then KidzStuff Theatre for Children’s *Badjelly the Witch* is the show to check out these school holidays!

Meet the lovely brother-and-sister duo of Rose (Adriana Calabrese) and Tim (Haydn Carter) as they look for their beloved cow Lucy (Calabrese and Carter), who was stolen by Badjelly (wonderfully portrayed by creative director Amalia Calder) and her giant Dulboot (Dryw McArthur).

Joining in on their adventure, the set and props (creatively designed by Andrew and Laura Loach) transport you between the different locations of the story and introduce you to all the cute characters that help Rose and Tim find their beloved cow. Alongside these friends that we meet along the way, the enthusiastic audience ventures through forests and mountains to bring Lucy home. Technical manager Deb McGuire creates magic by changing the vibrant lighting, music (Geoff Davidson, with lyrics by John Cairney), and sound effects on cue with the scenes. And from a little person’s perspective, when the theatre illuminates red, we all know what that means!

The costumes and puppets are colourful and bring the characters to life with talented voice acting from Calder and McArthur. Davidson’s music brings the show together so well and Cairney’s fun lyrics have everyone dancing and chiming in. The audience is on edge to see what happens next, and the cast improvises beautifully to interact with us during the show, which keeps us all on our toes – and not just the kids amongst us!

Of course, after every show, I always love to ask Mister Six what his favourite part was. “My favourite was the cricket, the witch, and the giant!” Full of surprises, *Badjelly the Witch* has the audience pitching in with the rescue, belly laughing all the way.

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An Evening Without Kate Bush

Written by Sarah-Louise Young

Directed by Russell Lucas

Hannah Playhouse, 13th Apr 2025

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Photo by Steve Ullathorne.

Are you one of the Fish People? Even if you're not and have no idea what that means, there's still much to enjoy in this Kate Bush tribute show cum comedy cabaret. If you *are* one of the Fish People (i.e. Bush's die-hard fans), you'll be hoarse by the end, so frequent are the opportunities to sing along with Sarah-Louise Young's impressive vocals in *An Evening Without Kate Bush*.

Bush's fans are nothing if not supportive and the spirit of collective celebration is strongly encouraged through Young's frequent audience engagement. Don't sit in the first couple of rows if you're shy about being lured to the stage. One brave couple slow danced to *Don't Give Up* while Young sang Bush's part beautifully.

While not trying to do a straight impression of one of pop's quirkiest divas, Young pulls off a spirited and highly entertaining homage. Her powerful voice doesn't quite have Bush's freakishly huge range, but who other than Kent's favourite daughter could sing the opening notes of *Wuthering Heights*? Young, to her credit, doesn't try. Her renditions of Bush's biggest hits and some lesser-known B sides are stunning and her ability to pull off Bush's signature dance moves is astonishing and hilarious by turns. The comedy highlight is a rendition of *Babooshka* in Russian, including its correct pronunciation of BAH-booshka.

Stage manager Will Spartalís becomes an unintended star when Young's head mic battery fails not once but twice. Young's stellar ability to improvise song lyrics about buying more double As at the supermarket makes this technical glitch even funnier.

With just a red leotard plus various add-on costume pieces and wigs, a few props, and some fantastically creative lighting effects (all by Young), the performer's segues between songs are a joy to watch and keep the show flowing.

If you want to howl with the *Hounds of Love*, go *Running Up That Hill* with the other Fish People, or snigger knowingly at the *Stranger Things* reference, you can't go wrong with *An Evening Without Kate Bush*.

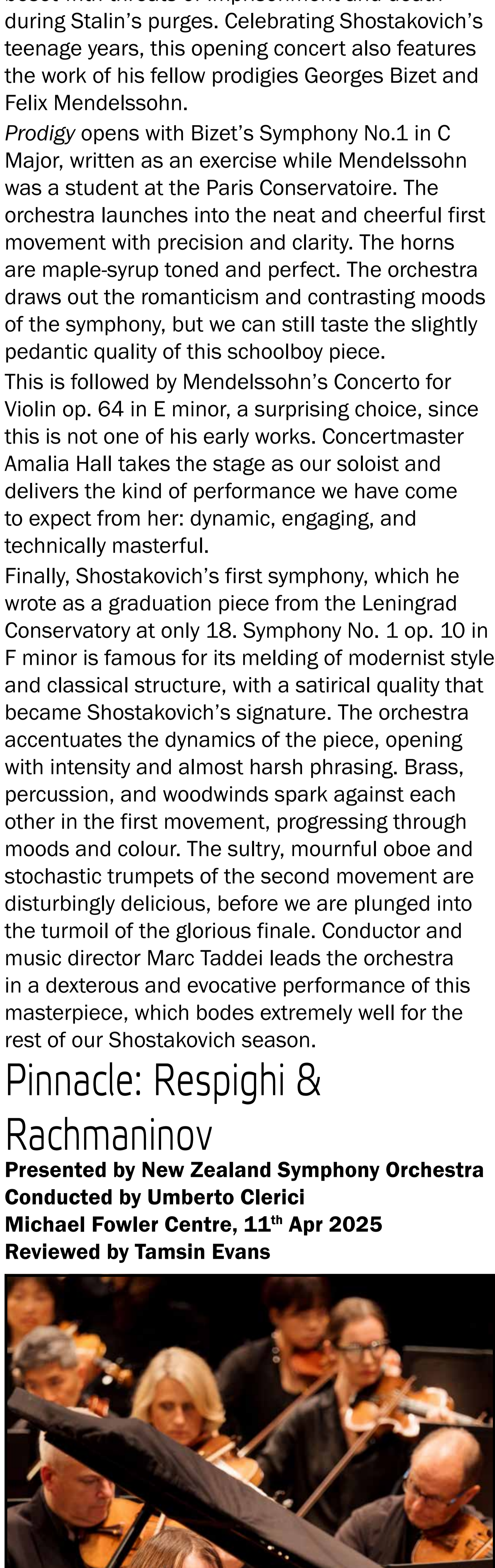
Prodigy

Presented by Orchestra Wellington

Conducted by Marc Taddei

Michael Fowler Centre, 12th Apr

Reviewed by Ruth Corkill



Amalia Hall.

2025 marks 50 years since the death of Soviet composer and pianist Dmitri Shostakovich, considered by many to be the most significant composer of the 20th century. Orchestra Wellington is marking the occasion with an entire season – *The Dictator's Shadow* – dedicated to his life, from his early success as an internationally celebrated teenage prodigy to his censured adult career beset with threats of imprisonment and death during Stalin's purges. Celebrating Shostakovich's teenage years, this opening concert also features the work of his fellow prodigies Georges Bizet and Felix Mendelssohn.

Prodigy opens with Bizet's Symphony No.1 in C Major, written as an exercise while Mendelssohn was a student at the Paris Conservatoire. The orchestra launches into the neat and cheerful first movement with precision and clarity. The horns are maple-syrup toned and perfect. The orchestra draws out the romanticism and contrasting moods of the symphony, but we can still taste the slightly pedantic quality of this schoolboy piece.

This is followed by Mendelssohn's Concerto for Violin op. 64 in E minor, a surprising choice, since this is not one of his early works. Concertmaster Amalia Hall takes the stage as our soloist and delivers the kind of performance we have come to expect from her: dynamic, engaging, and technically masterful.

Finally, Shostakovich's first symphony, which he wrote as a graduation piece from the Leningrad Conservatory at only 18. Symphony No. 1 op. 10 in F minor is famous for its melding of modernist style and classical structure, with a satirical quality that became Shostakovich's signature. The orchestra accentuates the dynamics of the piece, opening with intensity and almost harsh phrasing. Brass, percussion, and woodwinds spark against each other in the first movement, progressing through moods and colour. The sultry, mournful oboe and stochastic trumpets of the second movement are disturbingly delicious, before we are plunged into the turmoil of the glorious finale. Conductor and music director Marc Taddei leads the orchestra in a dexterous and evocative performance of this masterpiece, which bodes extremely well for the rest of our Shostakovich season.

Pinnacle: Respighi &

Rachmaninov

Presented by New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Umberto Clerici

Michael Fowler Centre, 11th Apr 2025

Reviewed by Tamsin Evans



Daniil Trifonov and the NZSO. Photo by Jacob Pietras.

In a programme of two parts, we were transported from the delights of a Roman holiday to an epic, Romantic masterpiece of Russian longing, magnificently played by Russian virtuoso pianist Daniil Trifonov.

A perfectly crisp start, followed by the smoothest woodwind and then rich, deep, balanced strings built excitedly to the party that is Berlioz's *Roman Carnival*. Conductor Umberto Clerici, animated and energetic, perhaps caught up in the mood, brought the orchestra to the final flourish, a piece of precision percussion on two tambourines.

Respighi's *Fountains of Rome* was a slightly more sedate but still majestic tour around the city. From the early morning start, past majestic sights, Clerici skilfully led the audience and orchestra on a joyous and delightful excursion.

The Times described Trifonov as "the most astounding pianist of our age" and after hearing him play Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, an almost full house of more than 2000 people wholeheartedly agreed.

A lyrical start, briefly overwhelmed by the lower strings, picked up as the complexity this concerto is famous for grew into something intense, rich, and gorgeous. Trifonov brought a tangible sensitivity to the movement and flow. He took full control in the ferocious, intricate passages and incredible cadenza.

The second movement started with strong, quiet intensity before the piano came rumbling in, then the melody came forward, clear but still intense and especially light over the lower register. The confluence of strings and piano in the third movement created a huge sense of freedom and richness.

There is more to this concerto than a showpiece of a pianist's technique. At times it almost seemed as if Trifonov was listening to his piano breathe, reflecting on the relationship between them. This piece demands the right musical interpretation and balance between the piano and the orchestra. The NZSO, Clerici, and Trifonov absolutely nailed it on the night.

Supping with the Devil

Written by Jan Bolwell

Directed by Annie Ruth

BATS Theatre, 8th Apr 2025

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus

Photo by Moments of Light Photography.

Leni Riefenstahl was Hitler's beautiful and brilliant filmmaker, creating the Third Reich propaganda-fest *Triumph of the Will* for him. She also documented the 1936 Berlin Olympics, her last film to achieve a theatrical release in the wake of her post-war fall from grace in Europe and Hollywood. Throughout her life, she clung to the belief that she was innocent and knew nothing about the Nazi atrocities and that she, like millions of others, had fallen under the spell of a charismatic dictator.

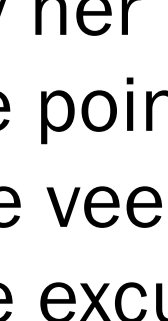
Jan Bolwell's new one-woman play delves into Riefenstahl's mindset with a first-person commentary on her rise and fall and fervent self-defence of her role in the Holocaust. She was a strong and self-possessed young woman who, through her drive and lack of qualms about manipulating men through sex, rose to artistic heights in dance, theatre, and film before meeting Hitler and reading *Mein Kampf*.

Helen Todd's production design is simple yet beautiful. A long oblong of white light defines the area in which Bolwell moves. On the back wall is a projected sequence of black and white photos in front of which are two tall, clear Perspex panels that divert slanted images onto the stage floor. This is a brilliant creative touch that lends a wonderfully cinematic quality to the whole. Bolwell's simple black dress adds to the monochrome effect. Music composed by Jan Bolton and sound effects (Neal Barber) provide a soundscape that effectively supports the narrative.

Bolwell owns the stage, resisting the urge to descend into hyperbole and passion to deliver Riefenstahl's deeply vain view of herself. By the end, my friend and I agreed we didn't buy her version of the truth, which was clearly the point.

As Bolwell states in the programme, we're veering again towards fascist autocracies and the excuse of being blinded by charisma is one that's far too easy to hide behind. *Supping with the Devil* makes the past real and relevant through one woman's self-delusion.

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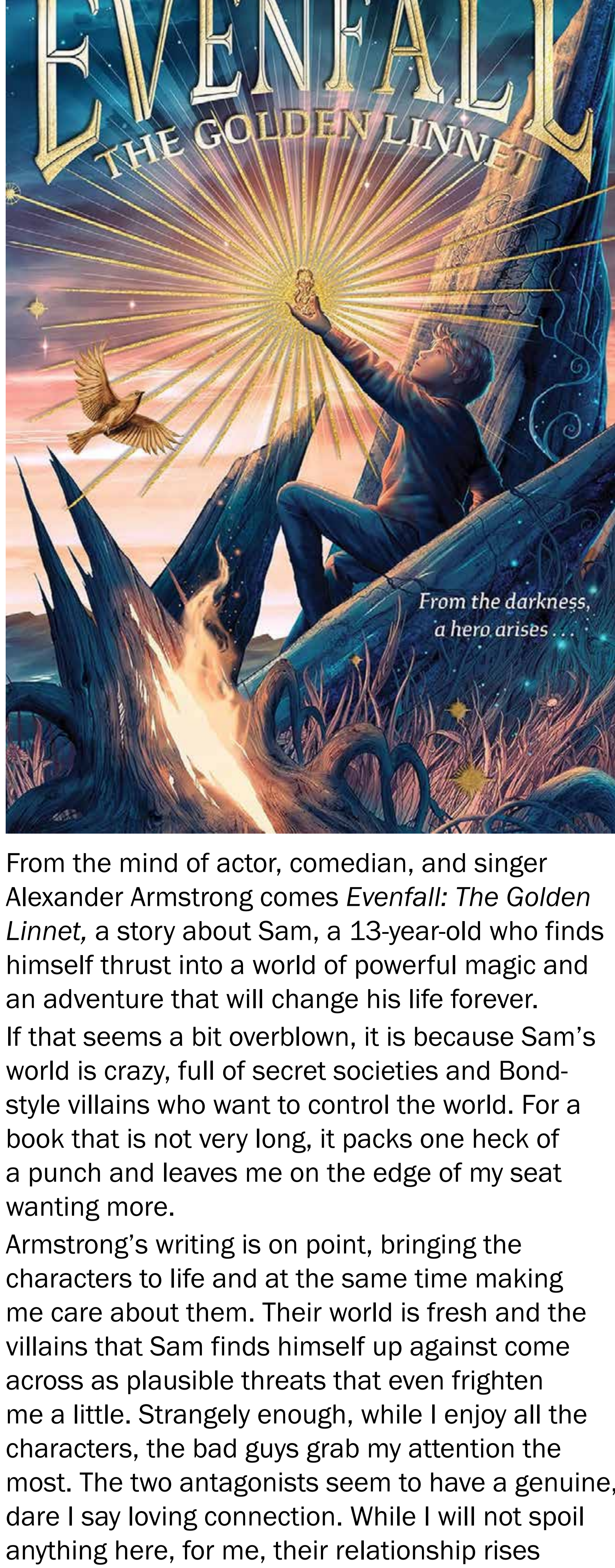
Book reviews

Evenfall: The Golden Linnet

Written by Alexander Armstrong

Farshore

Reviewed by Kerry Lee



From the mind of actor, comedian, and singer Alexander Armstrong comes *Evenfall: The Golden Linnet*, a story about Sam, a 13-year-old who finds himself thrust into a world of powerful magic and an adventure that will change his life forever.

If that seems a bit overblown, it is because Sam's world is crazy, full of secret societies and Bond-style villains who want to control the world. For a book that is not very long, it packs one heck of a punch and leaves me on the edge of my seat wanting more.

Armstrong's writing is on point, bringing the characters to life and at the same time making me care about them. Their world is fresh and the villains that Sam finds himself up against come across as plausible threats that even frighten me a little. Strangely enough, while I enjoy all the characters, the bad guys grab my attention the most. The two antagonists seem to have a genuine, dare I say loving connection. While I will not spoil anything here, for me, their relationship rises above the stereotypical ones I've come to expect. It's refreshing, unexpected, and fun.

Unlike so many other reads that take an age to get to their juicier plot points, it is not long before Sam is on the run and discovering powers he never knew he had. *Evenfall: The Golden Linnet* is a thrilling adventure, and the buildup to the final confrontation is well worth the time I invested in the book.

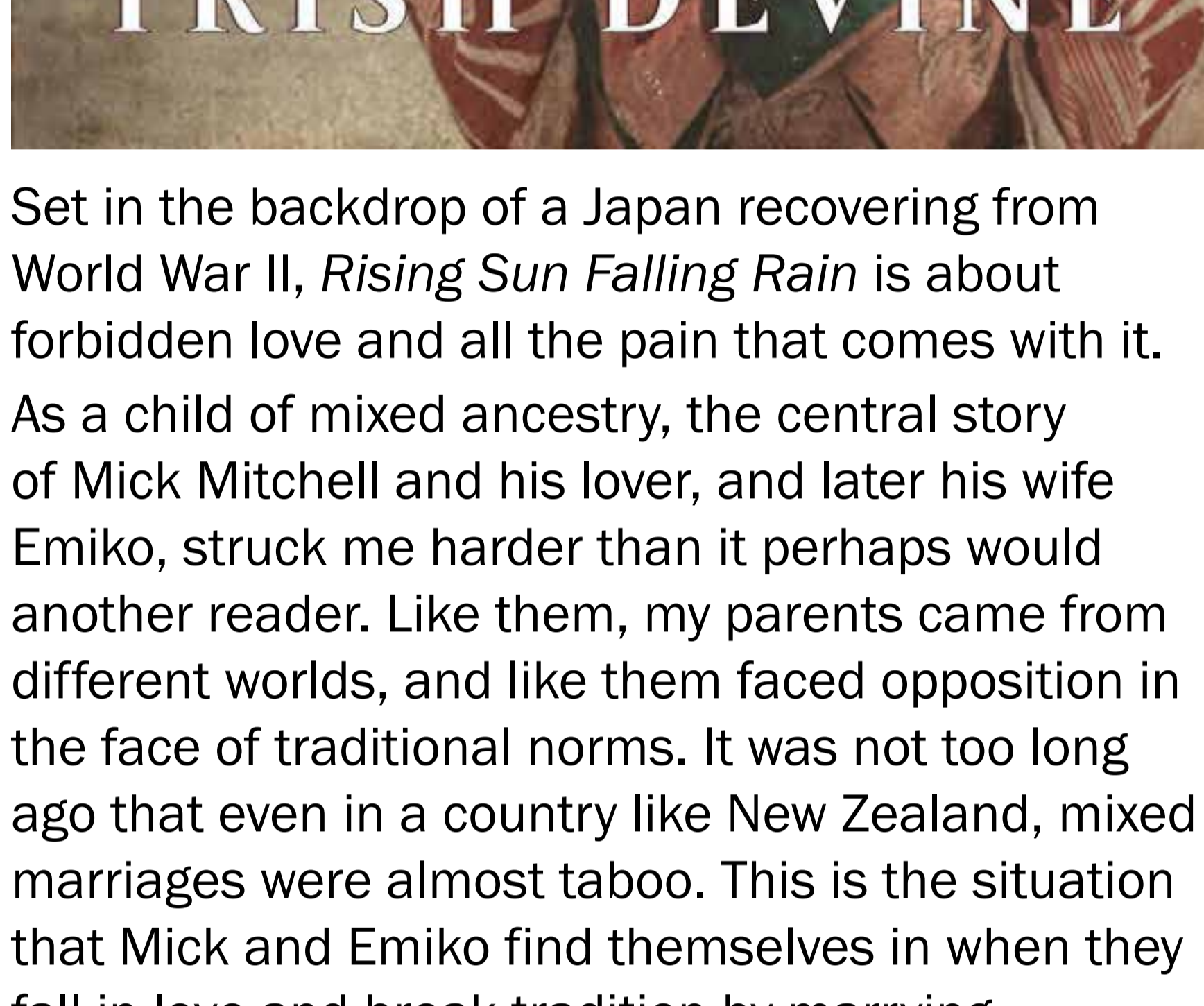
Don't be put off or fooled by the fact that the novel is aimed at young adults aged from nine to 12: the writing is clever, intelligent, and I suspect will engage audiences of all ages. The bottom line is if you see this and want to enjoy a brand-new adventure, pick it up. For me, *Evenfall: The Golden Linnet* is the highlight so far of 2025 and I can't wait for more (if more's coming).

Rising Sun Falling Rain

Written by Trish Devine

Olympia Publishers

Reviewed by Kerry Lee



Set in the backdrop of a Japan recovering from World War II, *Rising Sun Falling Rain* is about forbidden love and all the pain that comes with it.

As a child of mixed ancestry, the central story of Mick Mitchell and his lover, and later his wife Emiko, struck me harder than it perhaps would another reader. Like them, my parents came from different worlds, and like them faced opposition in the face of traditional norms. It was not too long ago that even in a country like New Zealand, mixed marriages were almost taboo. This is the situation that Mick and Emiko find themselves in when they fall in love and break tradition by marrying.

Trish Devine's writing is amazing. She captures the atmosphere of post-war Japan perfectly. *Rising Sun Falling Rain* never shies away from the harsh realities of war and its devastating effects on the average person. Some of it just rips your heart out, and the fact it's based on real-world suffering adds to the book's atmosphere.

Devine provokes heartfelt empathy for the characters and their circumstances. The two main characters feel alive and I loved watching their story unfold. My favourite aspect of the book was Emiko's arc as she goes from a wide-eyed innocent who had always been sheltered by her father and other guardians to someone who becomes more self-aware. Mick's journey was equally as satisfying: from small-town farm boy to suddenly being thrust into a world where the customs and adherence to age-old traditions must've boggled his mind.

If you love drama then you will love *Rising Sun Falling Rain*. While it deals with some weighty issues regarding love, acceptance, and pain, there are moments of genuine joy that made me smile – Mick's fish-out-of-water approach and moments of Kiwi ingenuity often got a knowing chuckle out of me.

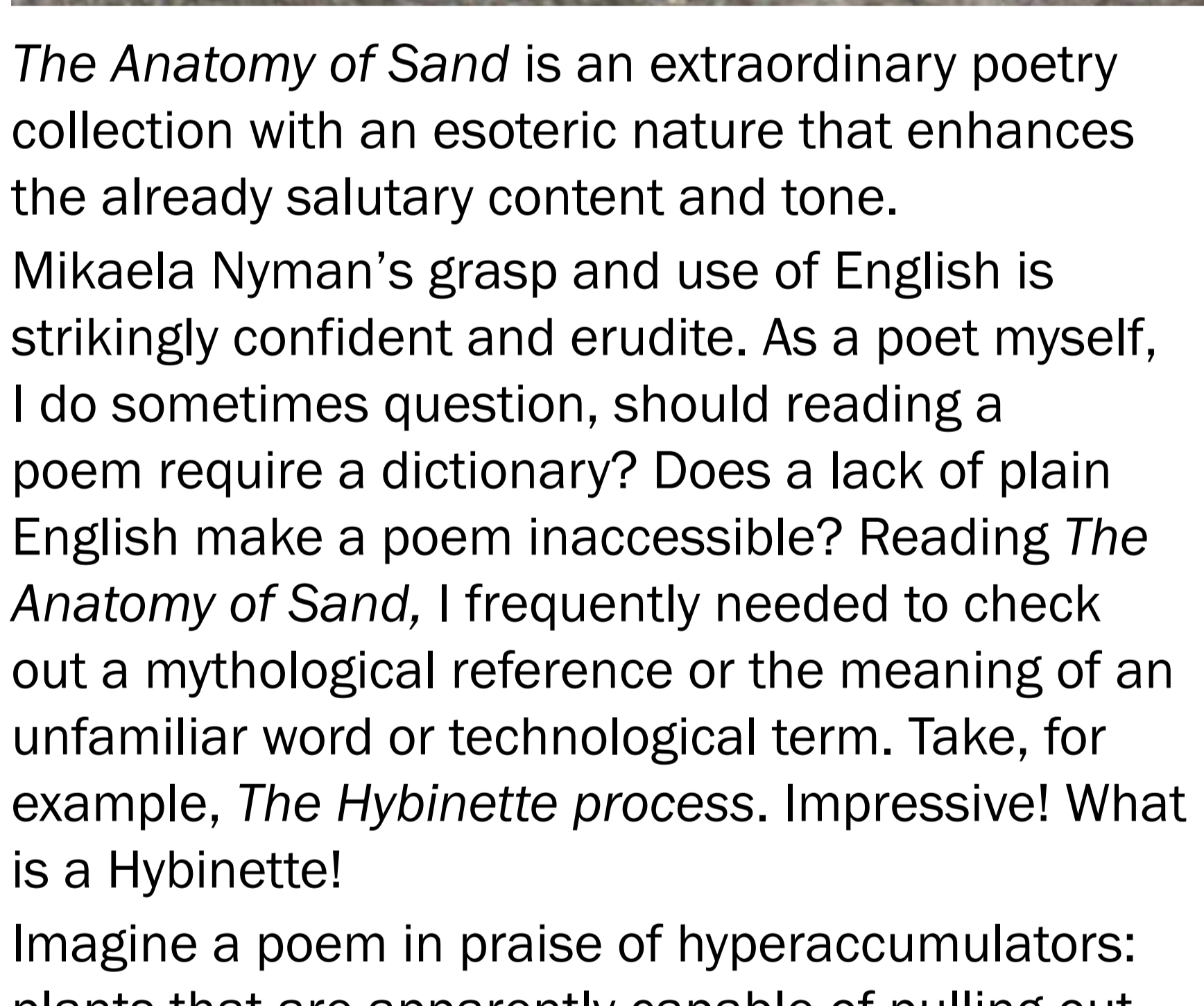
This was a lovely read. If you like a good tearjerker with solid characters, then *Rising Sun Falling Rain* will be the book you are looking for.

The Anatomy of Sand

Written by Mikaela Nyman

Te Herenga Waka University Press

Reviewed by Margaret Austin



The Anatomy of Sand is an extraordinary poetry collection with an esoteric nature that enhances the already salutary content and tone.

Mikaela Nyman's grasp and use of English is strikingly confident and erudite. As a poet myself, I do sometimes question, should reading a poem require a dictionary? Does a lack of plain English make a poem inaccessible? Reading *The Anatomy of Sand*, I frequently needed to check out a mythological reference or the meaning of an unfamiliar word or technological term. Take, for example, *The Hybinette process*. Impressive! What is a Hybinette!

Imagine a poem in praise of hyperaccumulators: plants that are apparently capable of pulling out high concentrations of certain metals! Ah, but the notes help: we learn that this poem contains found descriptive language about Nyman's great grandfather, an inventor of – wait for it – extractive metallurgy. "He was a Victor and a Noak, a Noah of the Nordics. Metal was his ark." "Yet did he ever pause to consider?" asks his great granddaughter. The final lines set the theme of further poems and let us know our poet has her own ark.

I loved "*Whakapapa in a whalebone church*" – recognised all four whale types! It's a heartfelt tribute to both the writer's Nordic roots and her current dwelling place of Taranaki.

Black swan diaries is easier on the intellect with its notes of familiarity – if an unwelcome one. Recalling the days of COVID and lockdowns, here are some truly memorable poetic vignettes: "Teddy bears pop up in cars and windows", "sourdough refuses to rise", "people of Chinese origin are being snubbed" and "we know how to craft a mask from the armpit of an old T-shirt".

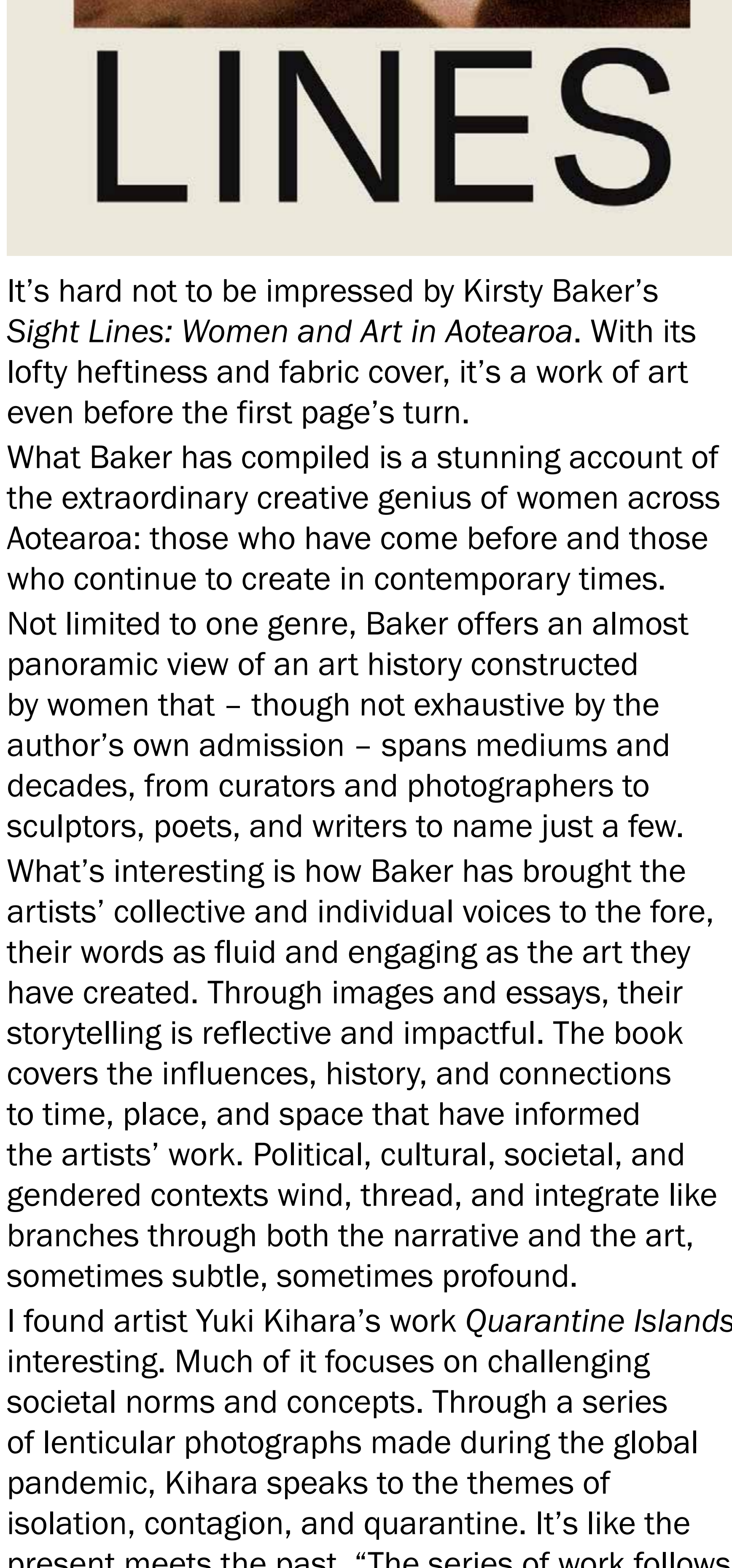
Examining as it does our relationship with nature and the environment, involving both laments and suggestions, *The Anatomy of Sand* is unquestionably a book for our times.

Sight Lines: Women and Art in Aotearoa

Written by Kirsty Baker

Auckland University Press

Reviewed by Jo Lucre



It's hard not to be impressed by Kirsty Baker's *Sight Lines: Women and Art in Aotearoa*. With its lofty heftiness and fabric cover, it's a work of art even before the first page's turn.

What Baker has compiled is a stunning account of the extraordinary creative genius of women across Aotearoa: those who have come before and those who continue to create in contemporary times. Not limited to one genre, Baker offers an almost panoramic view of an art history constructed by women that – though not exhaustive by the author's own admission – spans mediums and decades, from curators and photographers to sculptors, poets, and writers to name just a few. What's interesting is how Baker has brought the artists' collective and individual voices to the fore, their words as fluid and engaging as the art they have created. Through images and essays, their storytelling is reflective and impactful. The book covers the influences, history, and connections to time, place, and space that have informed the artists' work. Political, cultural, societal, and gendered contexts wind, thread, and integrate like branches through both the narrative and the art, sometimes subtle, sometimes profound.

I found artist Yuki Kihara's work *Quarantine Islands* interesting. Much of it focuses on challenging societal norms and concepts. Through a series of lenticular photographs made during the global pandemic, Kihara speaks to the themes of isolation, contagion, and quarantine. It's like the present meets the past. "The series of work follows a long history of human confinement across the land and ocean that she pictures", Baker writes. This collective and collaborative account from Baker and contributing writers is nuanced, interesting, and bold, told through the eyes of women. I thoroughly enjoyed this striking collection and I'm sure it will resonate with many art enthusiasts.

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Concert for kids



Located just outside Antananarivo in Madagascar, Mamitiana Orphanage provides sanctuary to more than 50 children in need.

The orphanage is entirely self-sustained, growing its own rice, maintaining a small chicken farm, and cultivating a vegetable garden. Earlier this year, thanks to New Zealand donors, the Mamitiana team were able to install solar panels, ensuring they were no longer dependent on unreliable electricity. They are still in need of resources to complete the construction of a training centre where the children can be provided with the educational tools they need to survive and thrive. In an effort to raise funds for this project, singer Lala Simpson [pictured], pianist Dayle Anderson, and accordion player Jonathan Berkahn present *Serenades Across Cultures* at St Peter's on Willis on the 3rd of May. The unforgettable concert will feature the timeless melodies of French chanson legends like Édith Piaf and Jacques Brel, alongside the soulful rhythms of Malagasy icons the likes of Bessa and Fanja Andriamanantena.

“The night promises a heartfelt journey through songs of love, loss, and longing, capturing the essence of passion and romance,” Simpson says. “By attending our concert, you’ll be helping to provide the resources needed to complete the construction of the training centre. Your ticket purchase will directly contribute to providing these children with the educational tools they need to build a brighter future.”

Coming up for air



Photo by Byron Spencer.

Following the end of a decade-long relationship and a jet-ski accident requiring surgery and two months of recovery, The Jungle Giants frontman Sam Hales finally feels like he’s come up for air thanks to the chart-topping band’s first release in over a year, *Hold My Hand*.

Searching for something that felt real in a period of numbness, *Hold My Hand* punctuates an old chapter of Hales’ life.

“These are all beautiful, beautiful, positive memories that changed me for the better,” The Jungle Giants singer says. “It was just really hard to figure out a way to write about it and figure out a way to define how I felt.”

Bolstered by a live orchestra and layers upon layers of strings, the instrumentation of the song emotes in a way that words can’t as it spills forth a collage of sounds. The conversation-like, hypnotic repetition of the title throughout the track feels like a release of Hales’ pain.

The single stands as the first taste of the number one ARIA Chart-topping outfit’s forthcoming fifth studio album, with Hales’ describing it as the key unlocking the new record. “All the songs I wrote before weren’t feeling real enough. Once I landed on *Hold My Hand*, a lot of things fell into place for me. I had this real emotional reaction to it.”

Plunge into Meow Nui on the 3rd of May to dive deep into a well of emotion with The Jungle Giants and PARK RD.

A difficult choice



Manon Blackman and Tane Rolfe.

Wellington and Kapiti return to the silver screen with the release of a new Kiwi drama on the 1st of May. *The People We Love* is a clever and heartwarming exploration of the complexities of relationships within a Kiwi family.

When Maddie’s (Manon Blackman of *800 Words*) first collection of short stories is rejected by her publisher, she runs home to her family’s beach house to regroup. Upon arrival, Maddie can’t resist getting involved in her parents’ lives as she discovers her mother (Alison Bruce of *One Lane Bridge*) is leaving her father (Neill Rea of *The Brokenwood Mysteries*) for another woman. Meanwhile, her boyfriend and her best friend are contemplating an affair and the guy who betrayed her trust in high school (Tane Rolfe) seems intent on weaselling his way back into her life. Inspired by the drama happening around her and to her, she begins writing anew, but when her work is discovered and those around her feel betrayed, she faces a difficult choice: her writing or the people she loves?

Written and directed by acclaimed local filmmaker Mike Smith (*Outrageous Fortune*, *The Brokenwood Mysteries*), who is known for his versatile and unique storytelling style, *The People We Love* is a tender and intricate story of whānau. Catch it in cinemas across the region this May.

Coming out swinging



Bigger, badder, bolder, and better than its landmark debut, New Zealand’s only rock ‘n’ wrestling craft beer festival Porirua Rocks returns to Te Rauparaha Arena with six epic Kiwi rock bands, electrifying pro-wrestling matches, over 20 food vendors, flash tattoos, and 10 of Aotearoa’s finest craft breweries for an adrenaline-fuelled day of music, entertainment, and flavours on the 3rd of May.

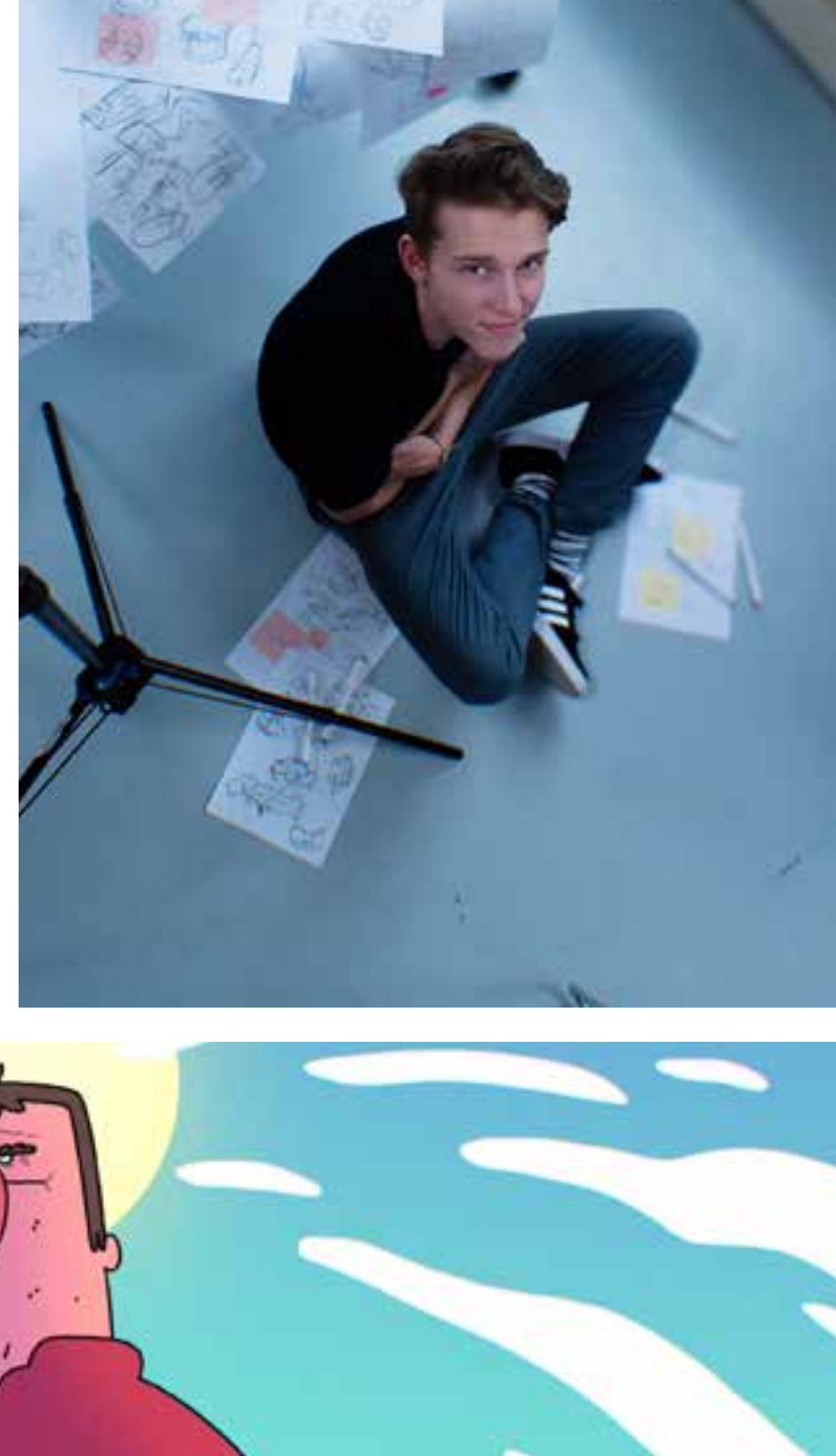
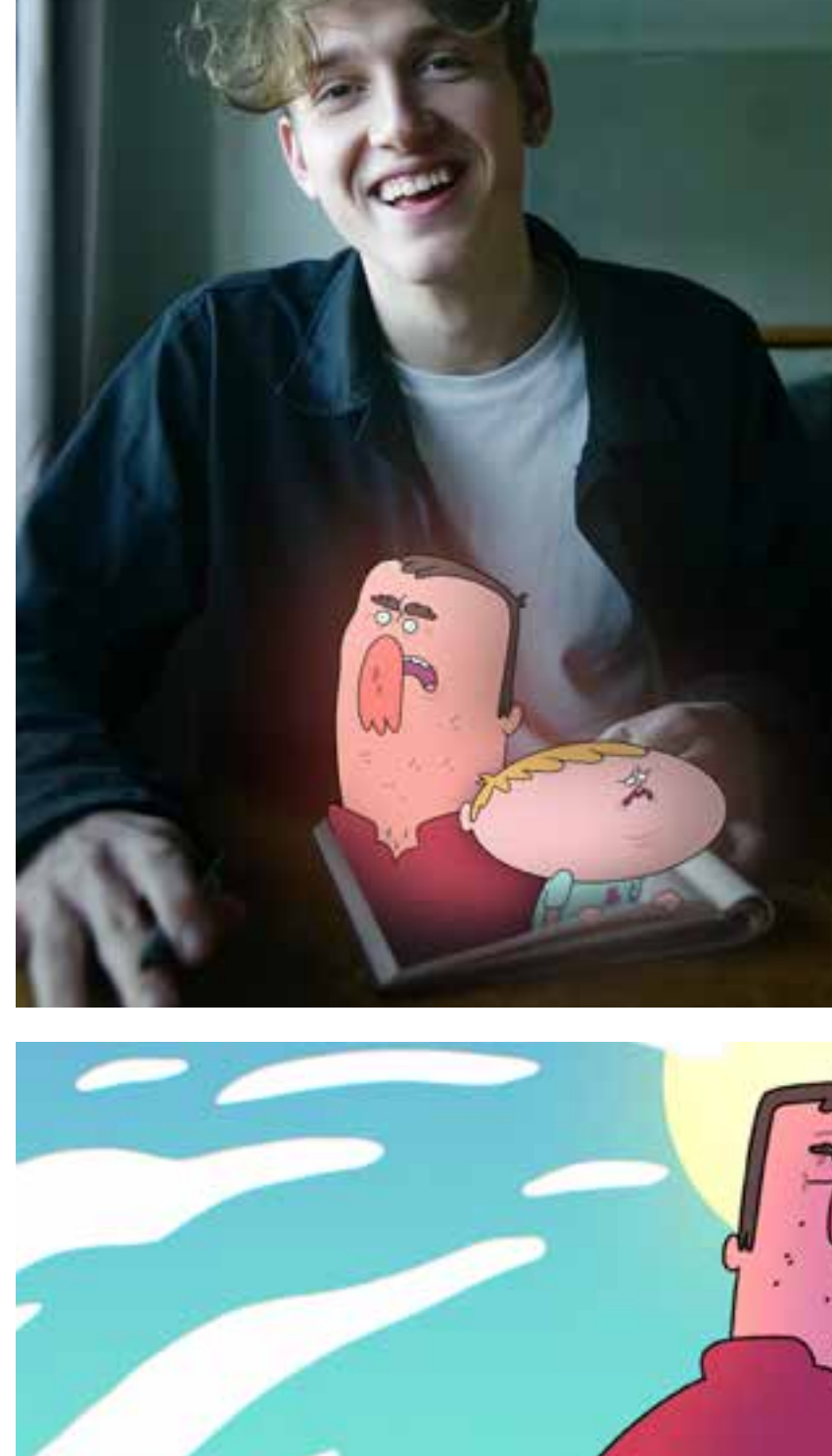
First up is Porirua Rocks’ wrestling lineup of champions and challengers. Two matches, one rumble, and one tournament make up the thrilling programme, with appearances from the 2024 King of Porirua ‘The Big Man’ Jamie Tagataese, Danny Octane, Dusty Bridges, Cam Kaiba, Connor King, Cool Guy Sky, Michael Richards, ‘Hooligan’ Marcus Kool, Azza, and Jake Shehaan. Who will be crowned king at this year’s Porirua Rocks?

What’s a festival without some music? From progressive metal masterminds to stoner rock warriors, each band has been carefully selected to deliver a high-energy, high-octane sonic assault like no other. Rock out to an earth-shaking lineup that brings together Clæmus, Sidewinder, BAD SCHEMATICS, East York, Volts, and Coridian. Pair your entertainment with bevvies from Kiwi crafters Abandoned Brewery, Mean Doses, Panhead Custom Ales, Imagination Gin, Choice Bros., Double Vision Brewing, Duncan’s Brewing Co., Boneface Brewing Co, Roots Brewing Co., North End Brewery, and The Beer Engine. With BBQ, ethnic, and traditional Kiwi fare on offer, you’ll be sipping and stuffing yourself all day. Porirua Rocks 2025 packs a punch.

Wellington Silver Screeners:

Charlie Faulks

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



From deep in the trenches animating his new YouTube show *Bloke of the Apocalypse*, which received a grant for almost \$500,000 from NZ On Air, 20-year-old Wellington-based animator Charlie Faulks takes a break from the grind to visit me in the *Regional News* office.

“Face-to-face connection is so much more valuable than glitchy Zoom faces,” he beams.

Fresh out of uni, he shares what he’s learned, his story, and his inspirations.

What do you love about drawing?

Being able to immediately conceptualise ideas. Studying at Massey, I was alongside a lot of filmmakers and to make a film you need a crew, you need a set, and all these different things need to line up to create something visual. But with drawing it’s very immediate. I really like that; it’s very inspiring to be able to bring stuff to life in an instant.

How would you describe your style?

There are a few different styles I like to work in, but the one I like most is a little bit off-putting. There’s just something weird about it. It captures some sort of ugliness of the human face. I’m really interested in how different styles convey different feelings, and how they hold the subject matter or whatever they’re representing.

Have you always enjoyed storytelling with drawing?

When I was young, I just liked drawing, I didn’t really care about the storyline. But as I’ve gotten older, I’ve been inspired by different things. I wanted it to be deeper, and I wanted there to be meaning. It’s been a gradual realisation of wanting to marry drawing with something else, something with a bit more of a bite.

How did you go from drawing as a kid to where you are now?

Just by continuing to do it and maintaining the inspiration, because that’s the hardest thing: the practice and getting the 10,000 hours in.

I grew up in Gisborne and then I came to Wellington to study animation. Wellington seemed like the biggest place in the world. That shook things up and I started being inspired by the people here. Being able to attend events and meet people locally was so important. At the moment, I’m trying to involve myself in the community here.

I started freelancing online during lockdown when I was 16 or 17. It’s the sort of thing you have to build up, so it started off very small, and each job was so exciting. It gave me all the connections I needed. I worked through my degree and also maintained a freelance job doing random character designs and building out that network with people all over the world. Creative degrees give you so much free will, which made it easy to focus on things like trying to level up outside of the classroom. In animation and film there is so much free time; students need to utilise that. Jumping on that opportunity really helped me.

Tell me about your current project, *Bloke of the Apocalypse*.

It’s set in rural New Zealand and follows a father and son who have a very tumultuous relationship, during a zombie apocalypse. It’s based on my dad and my little brother, who’s nine, so it’s really helpful to have those detailed archetypes I can steal from. It’s six, six-minute episodes releasing in October. We’ve got funding from NZ On Air so we can make the whole first season. It’s in the same vein of *Adult Swim*, but very Kiwi. We’ve tried to really retain the stereotype of a rural farmer who’s very stoic and doesn’t talk much. Opposing that is his son, who is more like me, who didn’t really fit into that lifestyle. It’s very personal, more so than I like to admit maybe. We’re making sure we can package it for an international audience as well. We had a meeting the other day about subtitling *Bloke* because it’s so entrenched in a thick Kiwi accent that it might be problematic for people overseas to get over that hurdle. I think we’re very mystical to the rest of the world. There’s a novelty with New Zealand, and especially the parts that aren’t seen as much, which are these extremely rural towns up and down the country. I love it, it’s fun, and I hope people enjoy it.

How did you get the project off the ground?

Using the time off from uni and making it myself with my mate Jack Marlin, who voices Bloke. After about nine months, I had the first three episodes done and released online. I was able to submit it to Floating Rock’s Pitchfest and although it wasn’t accepted, I met producers Ben Powdrell and Francesca Carney. They liked the idea and introduced me to the funding round that NZ On Air was offering. We spent months building up this huge pitch deck and they bridged the gap from the show to the industry – all the bits that creatives don’t think about very much. It was perfect because I could just focus on the creative aspects of the show. After a few months we got shortlisted and then a few months after that it got announced! It was cool. It’s been a big learning experience.

What point are you at in the project?

We have six weeks of animation per episode. We’re just starting our third episode, and it’s going very smoothly. The first episode was a big learning curve. It’s nice that the producers are onto it, and we’ve got this big schedule – so we’re not just running around headless. There’s no hierarchy, everyone’s got a say in everything. You don’t want to be tunnel visioned on the same thing for weeks on end. We’re trying to keep things unconventional.

How do you find working in Wellington’s industry?

It’s so close knit and everyone knows each other, but it’s not exclusive either. It’s very welcoming and charming. It’s been great to meet everyone, and our office is on Massey campus, so we’re mates with all the people around us. It’s cool to see all the smaller things cooking up here. I love it. Wellington is such a dynamic city.

Do you have any other projects on the back burner?

Yes, because I’m already getting nervous for when *Bloke* will wrap up! I really like writing; I wrote a feature film last year that’s not something I can make, because I don’t have the hardware and I don’t know how to make a film... but it’s so satisfying to hold the wad of paper. I just finished writing a short live-action film that I want to film this year for the sole reason of gaining experience in filmmaking. I’m developing a few things at the moment just because it’s fun, and I can, and it expands my portfolio.

What advice would you give someone trying to get into animation?

Make stuff, fully finish it, post it, and show it. Don’t talk about projects before you finish them. I used to do this as well, but it just made me sick to my stomach when I would talk about it and then it would fail, or I’d get sick of it. So, don’t speak on things until they’re done!

What's on



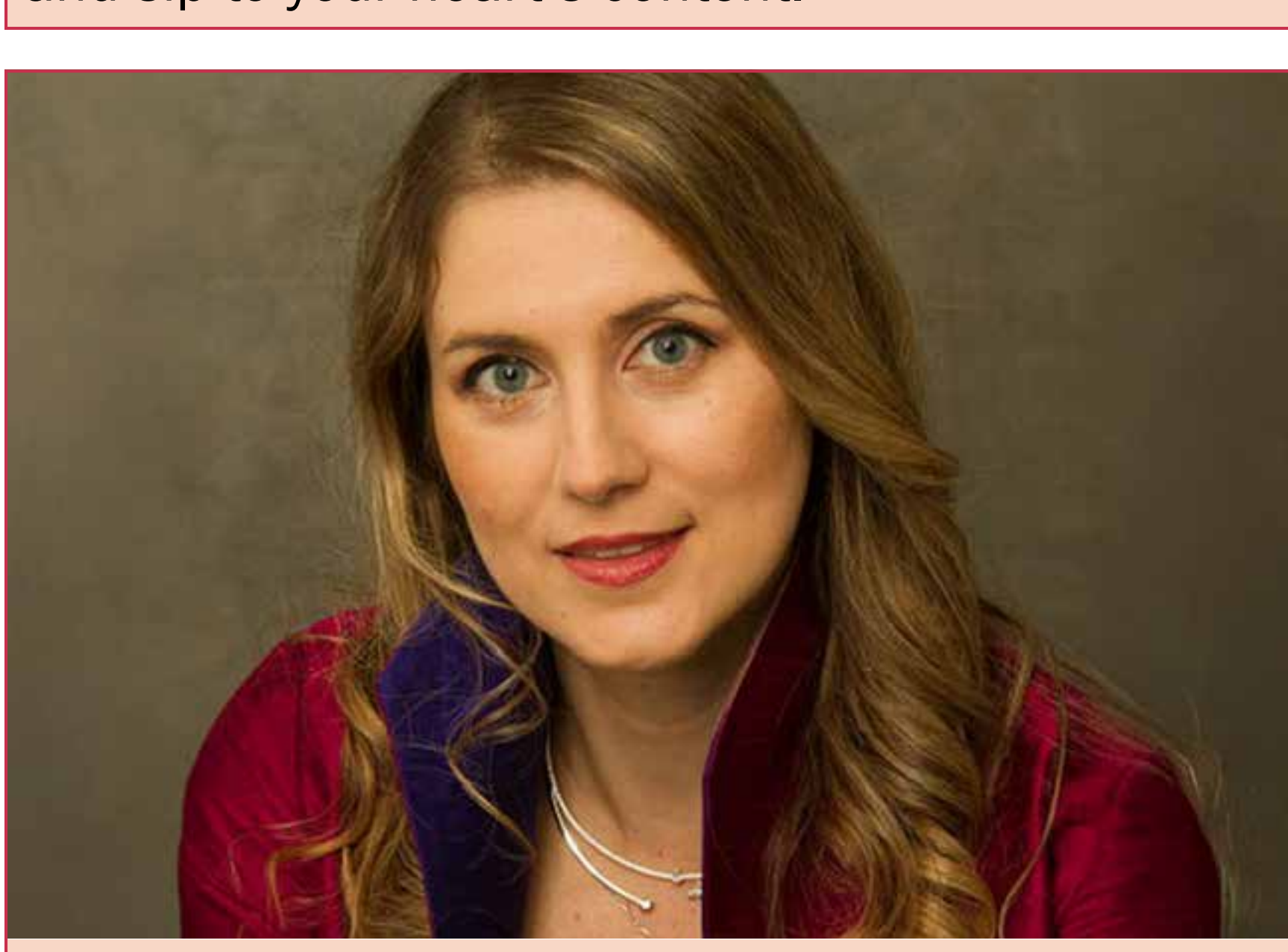
27th Apr. New Zealand Card Collectors Show:

Wellington Indian Association Hall, Kemp Street, Kilbirnie – 10am. The fourth annual Card Collectors Show will be the largest in New Zealand history with 60 vendors and nearly 160 tables. Whether you're in the market for a shiny new Pokémon card or you want to get a vintage find evaluated, come down to have a browse.



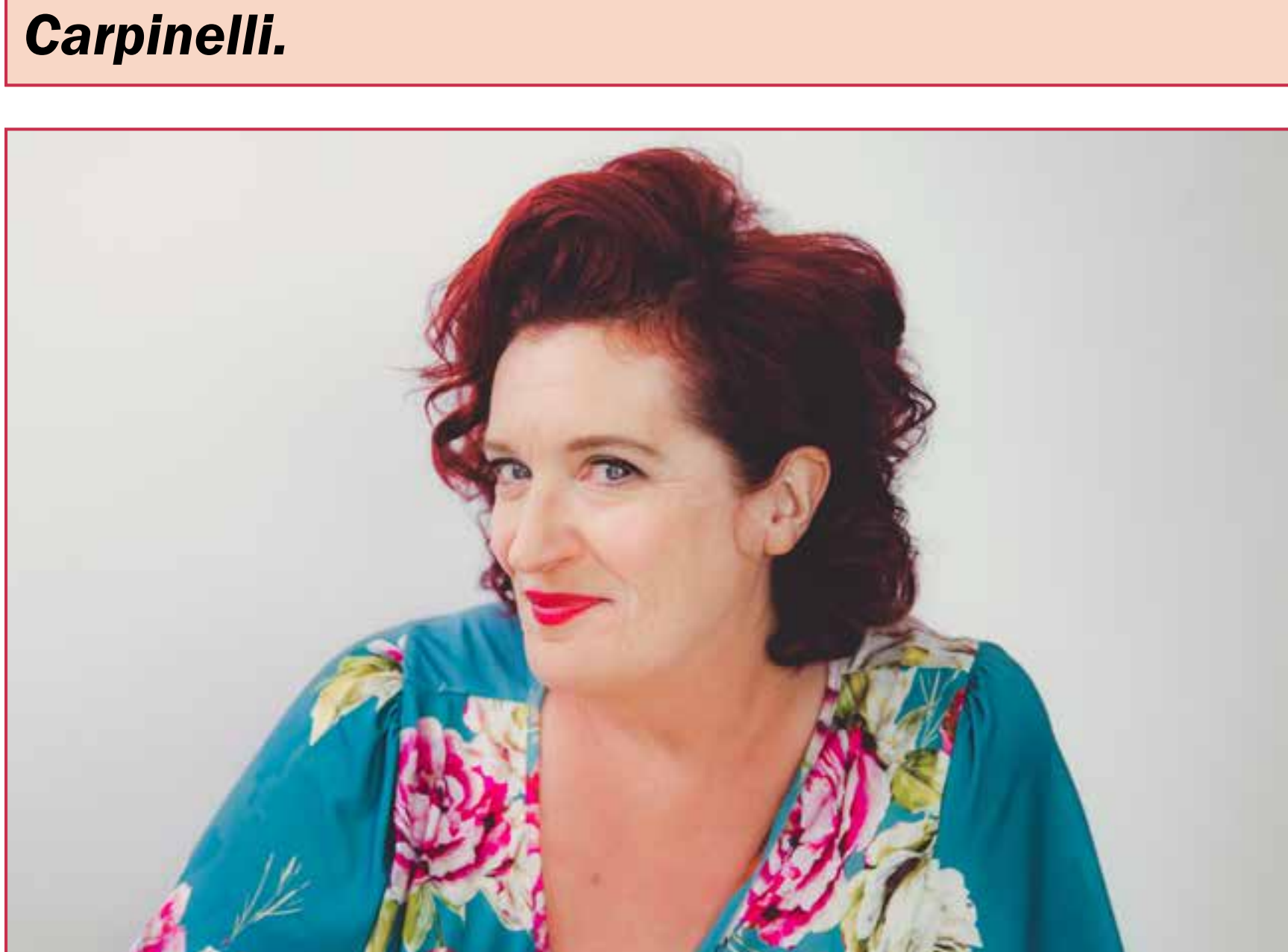
10th May. Urban Wine Walk:

Various locations in Wellington – 12pm. Celebrate grape harvest season by embarking on an Urban Wine Walk in Wellington. Venues across Pōneke will transform into cellar doors this autumn along the self-guided wine trail. Choose your own adventure, support Kiwi wineries and locally produced vino, and sip to your heart's content.



27th Apr. Waikanae Music Society Presents: A

Touch of Italy: *Waikanae Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa Street, Waikanae – 2:30pm.* Auckland-based soprano Lilia Carpinelli and pianist Matteo Napoli will voyage through the centuries from Baroque to Romantic opera, interspersed with piano solos and featuring arias from the likes of Rossini, Bellini, Puccini, and Verdi. **Lilia Carpinelli.**



25th-26th Apr. Weekend Laughs with Neil Thornton

and Justine Smith: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro – 8pm.* Comedy icon Justine Smith will host two comedy showcases. Starring headliner Neil Thornton alongside Tim Provis and Miranda Cosgrove, Friday adds Joana Joy and Joe Paul to the mix while Saturday sees Tim Stannard, Ivan Fadjukoff, and Daniel Boerman on the roster. **Justine Smith. Photo by Kate Little Photography.**



27th Apr. Kapiti Brass Plays the Klassics:

Our Lady of Kapiti Church, Milne Drive, Paraparaumu – 3pm. Kapiti Brass plays a selection of modern and classical works adapted for brass band as the first of its 2025 three-concert season. From Tchaikovsky and Khachaturian to Glenn Miller and more, past and present tunes from some of the world's most beloved composers converge in one fantastic concert.



3rd May. Hellavision Television Presents: Track

Attack: *Newtown Community Centre, Rintoul Street, Newtown – 8pm.* Directed by YONK and composed of original community-sourced experimental animation from the Hellavision Television Network, this two-hour musical experience is a love-letter to the days when television played your favourite music videos.

Still from Smooth Raccoon.

What's on Wairarapa

Until 26th Apr. Greytown Gin Hootenanny: *Various locations and times in Greytown.* Polish your monocles, dust off your finest attire, and ready your refined palates – it's time for Greytown's most jubilant juniper jaunt!

9th-11th May. Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival: *Various locations and times in Featherston.* Meet your favourite authors and discover new ones while indulging in book-themed talks, events, and workshops.

Kapiti

27th Apr. Dutch Week Orange Bike Ride: *Otaihanga Domain, Otaihanga Road, Paraparaumu* – 10am. Dress up in a fun orange costume and pedal along the beautiful river in honour of Dutch Week.

27th Apr. Ōtaki Kids Market: *Ōtaki Market, Main Highway, Ōtaki* – 10am. Rangatahi and tamariki between five and 19 showcase their creativity by running their own craft stalls.

1st May. Dan Boerman Folds A Fitted Sheet On His Own: *The Bond Store, Birmingham Street, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. This high-energy chaotic hour developed from cutting his teeth on the Scottish and UK circuit is Dan's refreshing love letter to our better halves or situationships.

6th-9th May. Kāpiti College Presents: The Addams Family: A New Musical: *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – 7pm. Enter the quirky and darkly humorous world of the Addams Family.

Events

30th Apr. German Short Film Night: *Southern Cross Garden Bar and Restaurant, Abel Smith Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Whimsy and wonder prevail in this collection of six German short films.

3rd-4th May. Bookfest: *Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt* – 9am. Books, magazines, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs, CDs, vinyl, and more collide at this charity sale.

10th May. Urban Wine Walk: *Various locations in Wellington* – 12pm. Venues across Pōneke transform into cellar doors for this self-guided wine trail through the capital.

10th May. Mamma Mia! The Musical Party: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. Calling all dancing queens and super troupers: a singalong spectacular featuring the songs of ABBA plus other musical favourites is jiving into Wellington.

10th May. Frisky Funhouse: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. Go neon for the most fabulous fluorescent party.

Music

24th Apr. Dancing and Drinking Society: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. The Dancing and Drinking Society (or DADS for short) is New Zealand's premier exponent of authentic 1920s dance jazz.

25th Apr. Pitch Black: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Pitch Black come to Wellington to celebrate the vinyl release of their fourth album *Rude Mechanicals*, plus the new collection of remixes *Freqs in Flux*.

27th Apr. NZ String Quartet: *St Andrew's on The Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 3pm. Peter Clark, Anna Van der Zee, Gillian Ansell, and Callum Hall come together for a concert featuring music by John Psathas, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Edvard Grieg.

2nd May. Jazz Orchestra Composer Series Presents: The Mantle Septet: *Bedlam and Squalor, Garrett Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Theo Thompson's Mantle Septet comprises a jazz trio and a string quartet.

2nd May. Discovery Presents: Daft Punk Tribute: 25 years of One More Time: *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Discovery is Australia's tribute to the music and image of French electro house legends Daft Punk, complete with gold and silver helmets.

2nd May. Reb Fountain: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Known for her blend of folk, art pop, and rock, Fountain presents her new album *How Love Bends*.

2nd; 3rd May. NZTrio Presents: Magnifique: *St Andrew's on The Terrace, Te Aro; Featherston Anzac Hall, Featherston* – 7:30pm; 5pm. Amalia Hall, Somi Kim, and Matthias Balzat come together to perform Franz Schubert, Peteris Vasks, Linda Dallimore, and Camille Saint-Saëns.

2nd-3rd May. Battle of the Bands 2025 National Championship Semifinals: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Catch Wellington's up-and-coming bands jostling for a place in the final.

3rd May. Sweet As! Western Swing & Blues Troubadours: *Abandoned Taproom Petone, Fitzherbert Street, Petone* – 7:30pm. Vocalist, guitarist, songwriter, and bandleader Don Burnham has sung his way across six musical decades. He's teaming up with Nick Granville and Wellington bass ace Graham Parker for an epic concert.

3rd May. Serenades Across Cultures: *St Peter's on Willis, Willis Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Lala Simpson, Dayle Anderson, and Jonathan Berkahn present an enchanting programme of soulful melodies to raise funds for Mamitiana Orphanage in Madagascar.

3rd May. 80s Super Band Love Shack: *Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Logan Street, Upper Hutt* – 8:30pm. Jump into the ultimate 80s party – your favourite songs played by some of New Zealand's finest musicians.

4th May. Hutt Valley Orchestra Presents: Old World, New World: *St James Church, Woburn Road, Lower Hutt* – 3pm. The first concert of the year features composers from Europe and New Zealand.

8th May. Search for Yeti: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Catch the *Dark So Soon Aotearoa Album Tour* from the Wellington-based indie rockers.

8th May. Atomic! 2.0: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Kiwi icons Julia Deans, Boh Runga, Dianne Swann, Vera Ellen, and Jazmine Mary join forces to perform hits from trailblazing women of the music industry.

9th May. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Legends: Mozart & Beethoven: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. Conductor, harpsichordist, organist, and legend Masaaki Suzuki leads the NZSO for the first time as they deliver a programme featuring Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven.

24th May. Alison Moyet: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. The powerful pop singer with a soulful and bluesy voice celebrates her 40-year career with a concert for the ages.

Performance

Until 25th Apr. KidzStuff Theatre Presents: Badjelly The Witch: *Tararua Tramping Club, Moncrieff Street, Mount Victoria* – 10am; 11:30am. In this wonderful, chaotic tale of silliness and fun, quirky characters and sticky situations abound.

Until 26th Apr. Rollicking Entertainment Presents: Kitchen Chaos: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – 11am; 1:30pm. Sensible Spray and excitable Wipe are messy magicians, and they've been invited to a surprise party. But after a terrible cake-squishing accident, magic is let loose in the kitchen.

22nd; 24th-25th; 27th Apr. The Pantaloons Presents: Treasure Island: *Southward Theatre, Paraparaumu; Little Theatre, Lower Hutt; Carterton events Centre, Carterton* – various times. Join Daisy Hawkins aboard the good ship Hispaniola for a swashbuckling tale of high drama, low cunning, villainous skulduggery, and mayhem.

22nd-26th Apr. Coro: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 7pm. In this parody of *Coronation Street*, two actors perform all the characters. Get hyped for five episodes of action-packed mundanity.

24th Apr. String Bean Puppets Presents: The Penguin and the Sea Monster: *Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary, Waiapu Road, Karori* – 11:30am. A starry-eyed little blue penguin seeks help from the night sky when his friend is captured by a sea monster.

26th Apr. Laser Kiwi Presents: Everybody Knows – Work in Progress: *Hannah Playhouse, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – 7pm. New Zealand's favourite and only surreal sketch circus trio is back with a new show... kind of. They reckon it's about 57 percent developed.

27th April. NZ Comedy School Presents: Best in Class: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Some of the NZ Comedy School's best graduates present s rollicking alumni showcase alongside award winning comedian Sowmya Hiremath as the evening's MC.

30th Apr-3rd May. Royal New Zealand Ballet Presents: The Firebird with My Brilliant Career: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – various times. *The Firebird* by Loughlan Prior takes place in a desert world where water is infinitely precious. *My Brilliant Friend* is a one-act ballet based on the 1979 film starring Judy Davis and Sam Neill.

30th Apr-10th May. Stagecraft Presents: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time: *Gryphon Theatre, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro* – various times. When Christopher begins a quest to find who killed the dog in his neighbour's yard, he also embarks on a journey of self-discovery.

1st May. Alien Comedy: *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 8pm. Join the cult following of Wellington's second-longest-running comedy show.

6th; 7th; 8th May. Taylor's Story: *Southward Theatre, Paraparaumu; The Opera House, Te Aro; Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park, Solway* – 7pm. Shannon as Taylor Swift will take fans as close to the real deal as possible and dull the pain Swifties felt after missing out on the *Eras Tour*.

Sports

26th Apr. Valiant Pro Wrestling Presents: Live At The 162: *The 162, Gracefield Road, Lower Hutt* – 5:30pm. Championship matches, fierce rivalries, and hard-hitting action is guaranteed at this epic wrestling event.

2nd May. Isuzu UTE A-League – Wellington Phoenix vs Perth Glory: *Sky Stadium, Waterloo Quay, Wellington Waterfront* – 6:30pm. The Wellington men's football team face off against Perth Glory in an epic match.

Galleries

Until 10th May. Colours of Home: *Webb's Wellington Gallery, Marion Street, Te Aro.* Celebrated artist Max Pattié – known for his statue *Solace in the Wind* on Wellington's Waterfront – is inspired by his new home in Mallorca in springtime.

Until 22nd Jun. Arca Arcade “Round One”: *Pātaka Art + Museum, Parumoana Street, Porirua.* Arca Arcade is a convergence of the nostalgic technology of playable arcade games and contemporary artistic sensibilities with Māori influences.

28th Apr-4th May. The Unfolded Series: *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro.* Stephen Burke's solo exhibition showcases sculptures that intertwine light, colour, and form.

29th Apr-17th May. At the Washaway: *Bowen Galleries, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro.* This solo exhibition from Gregory O'Brien explores oceanic themes in Wellington and Niue.

Festivals

2nd-25th May. New Zealand International Comedy Festival w. Best Foods Mayo: *Various locations and times in Greater Wellington.* Explore all kinds of comedic offerings from humorous humans from across the motu and the globe at this annual funny festival.

3rd May. Porirua Rocks: *Te Rauparaha Arena, Parumoana Street, Porirua* – 2pm. After an epic inaugural event in 2024, this craft beer, wrestling, food, and music spectacular will rock Te Rauparaha Arena.

39 What's on

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 29 April.

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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Voices in the Mist Neil Coleman

Imagine two groups of friends and family linked through two time periods, one in the 1870s Thames, New Zealand, and the other in post COVID Thames. What links them in this rainbow themed story? A clash of beliefs, culture, humour, tragedy, and mystery. The supernatural reaches across time to guide and protect the characters.

neilcolemanauthor@gmail.com



Back to contents



My favourite places

People from overseas dream of visiting New Zealand, so before you embark on a trip abroad, why not explore our beautiful backyard? 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. The best time to start is now!

1. Summit Shuttles

2. Waipu Museum

3. ORA Gallery

4. Cromwell Museum

5. MOOMAA Café and Design Store

6. Asure Scenic Motor Lodge

7. Woodland Glen Lodge

8. Old MacDonald's Holiday Park

9. Mararoa Cottage

10. Fyffe House

11. Hawkdun Lodge

12. Abel Tasman Sea Shuttle

SUMMIT Shuttles

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