

Regional News

Issue 277

September 22, 2026



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News

Impossible to ignore

by **Madelaine Empson**



Maven Theatre Company is bringing Lee Hall's adaptation of *Mother Courage and Her Children* to Te Raukura ki Kāpiti from the 2nd to the 10th of October. Bertolt Brecht's iconic anti-war play explores the price of survival in times of conflict, following the determined Mother Courage (Lindsey Rusling) through war as she does whatever she can to keep her family alive.

Mother Courage and her Children may be filled with moments of heartbreaking humanity, but it is far from a sombre night at the theatre. Simmering with humour, music, and theatrical energy, it is as entertaining as it is thought-provoking. Ultimately, the 1939 play is unsettlingly topical today.

"The core critiques of the destructive nature of war and the systems that sustain it still feel relevant", director Sera Devcich says.

Brecht (*The Threepenny Opera*) was a German theatre practitioner, playwright, and poet who refined, popularised, and defined verfremdungseffekt (the alienation effect). Brechtian techniques break the fourth wall to remind audiences they are watching a play and thereby attempt to prevent them from emotionally investing in it. The result, Brecht theorised, is that they are more receptive to the political messages therein.

Sera says Hall's adaptation leans into the script's satire and strips away academic stiffness. The company has given it a heavy-handed dose of verfremdungseffekt, but hopefully in a way that is digestible for a modern audience.

"Theatre should be for everybody, and *Mother Courage* is no exception, so I'm making it for everybody."

Unlike Brecht, whose goal was for audiences to respond exactly as intended, Sera isn't interested in trying to control or predict how people might feel about *Mother Courage and Her Children*.

"I just try to make sure the show is as good as possible with the resources I have, that the story is told, and that they feel welcomed into the space. There's no right or wrong way for them to feel or respond after that."

Spontaneous stage magic



Anything could happen at the 2026 NZ Improv Festival (NZIF), where every show is created live in front of the audience and the only guarantee is that it'll never happen again.

Now in its 18th year, NZIF brings together the sharpest theatrical minds from across Aotearoa and beyond to deliver everything from PowerPoint presentations to plays performed entirely in Spanish, ghastly ghouls to omnipotent, omnipresent orbs, and so much more. Across more than a week of workshops and shows, these gifted improvisers will ask such questions as 'do you like sock puppets?' and '¿Cuándo fue la última vez que hiciste algo por primera vez?' in a programme that really shows "just how broad improvised performance can be", NZIF creative director Austin Harrison says.

"There's huge comedy, beautiful storytelling, music, theatre, and some wonderfully weird experiments. You can see performers from Aotearoa alongside international artists, and every show offers a completely different take on what can happen when you throw away the script."

Without that safety net, "Every night at NZIF is a world premiere."

"The audience gives us the spark, and the performers have to build something from it in real time", Harrison continues. "You're not watching a performance that was perfected in a rehearsal room – you're watching a group of people take a creative risk together. That's pretty special."

A highlight this year will be *Kōrero Paki*, which brings improvised storytelling to Hutt Valley for the first time as part of NZIF's ongoing commitment to grow the artform and connect with audiences beyond its traditional Wellington home.

"Taking *Kōrero Paki* into the Hutt is a really exciting first step. It gives us a chance to introduce improv to people who might not otherwise come across it, while also celebrating the incredible Māori and Pasifika voices within our improvising community."

NZIF runs at BATS Theatre, the beating heart of our creative capital, from the 2nd to the 10th of October. Visit my.improvfest.nz/shows for the full programme and watch the brilliance unfold.

Cover: *Ole Carmen*, 1970s. PAColl-9445-05. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

Regional News is written by journalists, designed by creative professionals, and not produced by AI.

All editorial pages are headed only in red, other colours are advertising features.

The views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect those of *Regional News*.

Available from stands at:

New World supermarkets

Published by:

Empson Publishing Ltd

PO Box 15163,

Miramar 6243.

Sales Manager:

Frances King

Ph: 04 384 5179

frances@regionalnews.kiwi

Sales Executive:

Sarah Collins

Ph: 04 801 1111

sarah@regionalnews.kiwi

Sales Executive:

Andy Nguyen

Ph: 04 801 1113

andy@regionalnews.kiwi

Editorial Email:

news@regionalnews.kiwi

Editor:

Madelaine Empson

madelaine@regionalnews.kiwi

Journalist:

Isabella Smith

isabella@regionalnews.kiwi

Design & Layout:

Todd Hatten

Adam Toh

RegionalNewsNZ

www.regionalnews.kiwi

ISSN: 2382-2384



An extraordinary woman



**Carmen performing at Kings Cross, 2000.
Photo courtesy of Carmen Tione Rupe Estate,
Robin Waerea, and Jurgen Hoffman.**

Everyone will be familiar with the drag queen silhouette on the traffic lights found on Cuba Street, but how much do you know about her?

Opening on the 3rd of October, Wellington Museum’s new exhibition *Arohanui, Carmen xx* celebrates the trailblazing, larger-than-life transwoman, entertainer, business owner, and activist Carmen Tione Rupe (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Hāua, Ngāti Heke-a-Wai). A Queen from the King Country, she arrived in Pōneke in 1967 dreaming of a big life on the silver screen filled with glamour and possibility. What she left behind is a huge legacy that is still felt today.

Arohanui, Carmen xx invites visitors to discover Carmen’s tamarikitanga (childhood) in Taumarunui, her journey into the thrilling and often cruel world of Sydney’s Kings Cross red light district, a brush with the military, her encounters with the law, her mayoral campaign promoting the decriminalisation of prostitution, abortion, and homosexuality, and the many twists and turns that shaped the wahine toa Wellington would come to know as Carmen.

Dr Jamie Metzger (Ngāi Tahu), senior curator Taonga Māori at Wheako Pōneke Experience Wellington, co-curated the exhibition alongside communities curator Leilani A Sio.

“Carmen never believed in keeping all her kūmara in one kete. She amassed a small empire of 12 businesses across Wellington, always with one eye on the next opportunity,” Metzger says. “From coffee lounges, nightclubs, tearooms, second-hand curios shops to brothels, all were far more than commercial enterprises. Each space was created with intention, always fabulous and exotic, where people could find solace and belonging.”

The exhibition features glamorous gowns, photos, a remarkable archive of personal items, and a Carmen-inspired coffee lounge where you can pick up a phone to hear her voice. Together, they tell the long-awaited story of dreams realised and a life that was lived for all to see.

“Carmen lived her life by the ways of our tūpuna and was always proud to be Māori. She was everything so that others could be anything,” Metzger says. “One of her most enduring legacies is aroha, her care and compassion for others, her Māori heart.”

Rub-a-dub-dub...



**Illustration by Kimberly Andrews from
The Big Book of Kiwi Nursery Rhymes.**

*Three birds in a tub
And who do you think they be?
The tauhou, the tūi, the korimako,
Preening their wings, all three!*

Bestselling, award-winning author and illustrator Kimberly Andrews has a brand-new book out! Gorgeously illustrated with all your favourite native birds and animals like the takahē, kākāpō, and kororā, *The Big Book of Kiwi Nursery Rhymes* puts an Aotearoa twist on such childhood classics as *Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush*, *There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe*, *Rock-a-bye Baby*, and so many more.

Designed for youngsters to clap and chant, play and sing along with, *The Big Book of Kiwi Nursery Rhymes* features a whopping 55 native species – and not just the famous ones, either! Kimberly wanted to use the knowledge she’s gained as lead designer at Tumbleweed Tees, a conservation-focused t-shirt company, to highlight our lesser-known creatures. The ngāokeoke/peripatus, for example, is a velvet worm with stumpy legs who’s barely changed in 500 million years!

Kimberly has made sure to plant each species – almost all of which are referred to by their reo Māori names – in their natural environment and incorporate elements of their natural behaviour. When it came to adapting the poems for an Aotearoa audience, she would read classic nursery rhymes out loud, hearing the rhythm to determine which species would fit where, then build the rest of the poem around that. The illustrations came next. Due to the size of the book, she went straight to rough paintings in colour rather than her usual rounds of sketching first.

The result is a big, bold, beautiful collection of nursery rhymes sure to delight not only the child, but the parent reading it aloud time and time again. With two daughters, Kimberly knows what it’s like!

Head along to Unity Books on the 4th of October from 3pm to 5pm to meet Kimberly at the kid-friendly launch of *The Big Book of Kiwi Nursery Rhymes*.

SNIPS

The Court

Wellington City Council has approved resource consent for the major development of the former Reading Cinemas site on Courtenay Place. The precinct, now known as The Court, will have premium cinemas, leisure, retail, and hospitality offerings, as well as a new, highly visible entrance on Wakefield Street. With seismic strengthening underway, work can now proceed on the building’s major exterior upgrades.

Entries closing

Entries for the 2026 2degrees Wellington Regional Business Excellence Awards close soon on the 25th of September. The awards are open to any business in the Wellington Region and free to enter at www.hvchamber.org.nz

Three-week rebuild

A major rebuild of State Highway 2 between Brooklyn Road and Howard Street in Carterton has begun and features a 24/7 northbound detour that adds about two minutes under normal traffic conditions. The work is expected to take up to three weeks to complete, weather permitting.

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Beyond life and death



Madeleine Pierard.

Sir Donald Runnicles, one of the world’s leading conductors and Richard Strauss interpreters, will join the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) and award-winning Kiwi soprano Madeleine Pierard for the luxurious *Four Last Songs* at Michael Fowler Centre on the 2nd of October.

Bringing together three extraordinary works, the programme opens with Strauss’ dazzling *Rosenkavalier Suite* and concludes with Johannes Brahms’ masterful Symphony No. 3. Pierard is thrilled to be performing the concert’s centrepiece and namesake, Strauss’ profound, deeply personal *Four Last Songs*, which contemplate love, memory, and mortality with glowing orchestral colours and a sense of serene farewell.

“Strauss’ *Vier letzte Lieder* [*Four Last Songs*] hold such a special and revered place for so many people who know and love them – my own father has even asked to have them at his funeral”, the silver-voiced soprano says. “They seem to hold so much of life within them, even as they contemplate its end.

There is a profound sense of farewell, but I find the journey through these songs to be one of release and transfiguration rather than simply of death.”

“The relationship between the voice and orchestra is a real conversation, and one that changes me every time.”

Sir Runnicles calls Strauss a visionary – not just as a composer, but for the way he stamped his conducting experience into his music. His 2023 NZSO debut was hailed as a performance that moved the earth.

Unwrapping Porirua



Gear Homestead Venue and Bar: The Jelly Tipple.

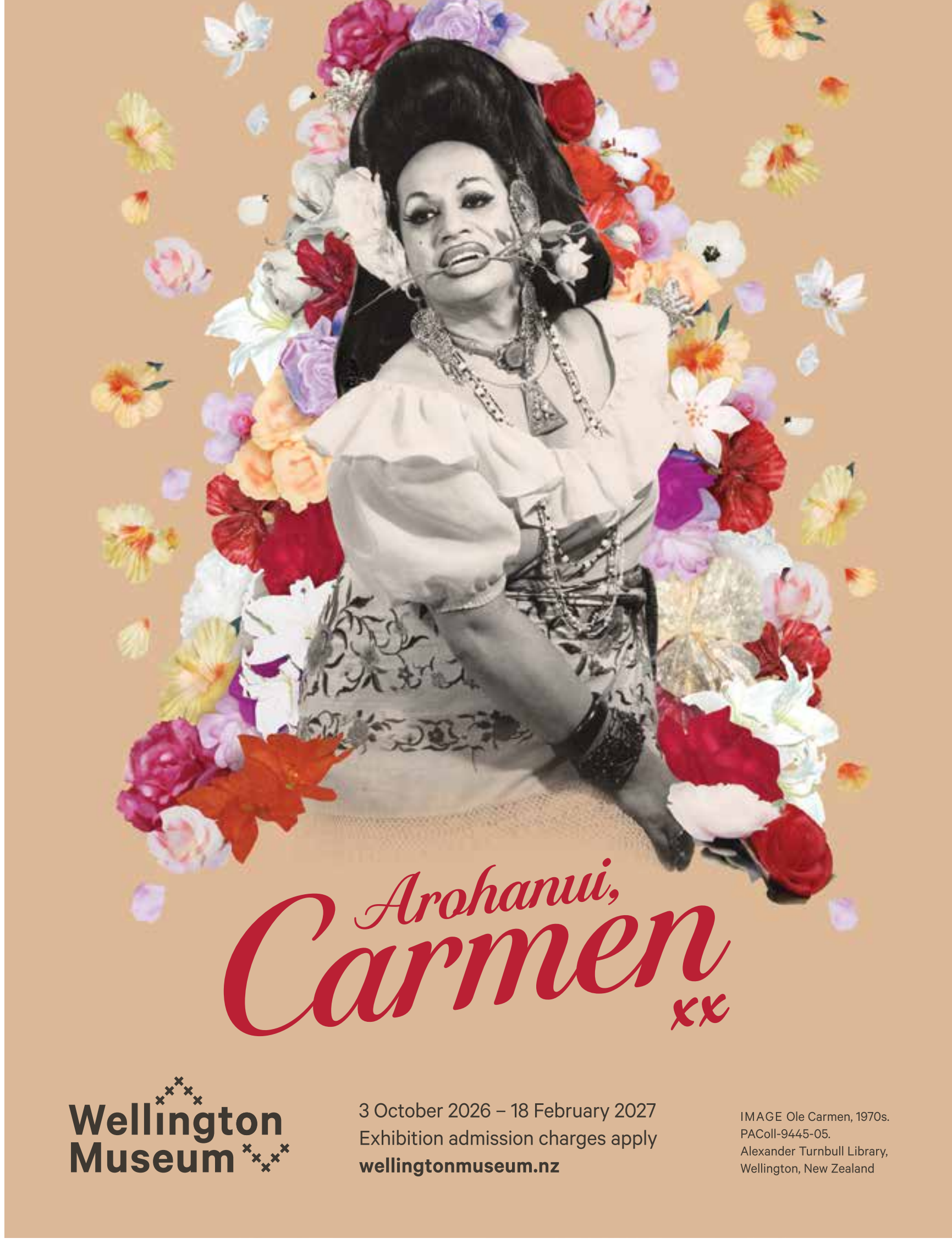
ChoctoberFest, the most delicious festival of the year, returns from the 1st to the 31st of October 2026! With 29 Porirua bars and eateries serving 24 unique drinks and 20 decadent baked goodies packed full of Whittaker’s chocolate, even the biggest chocoholics will be satisfied!

Now in its fifth year, the festival sees businesses competing to produce the best chocolate drinks and baked goods, all containing Whittaker’s goodness. Customers rate their favourites and the winning creations are crowned in early November. There will be something for everyone – hot and cold drinks, imaginative baked creations, vegan options, gluten-free choices, and even cocktails.

And, you can also win this ChoctoberFest! The amazing prizes up for grabs include a Whittaker’s Factory Tour, invitations for a VIP Whittaker’s Experience at Pātaka, vouchers for participating cafés, and 100 scrumptious Whittaker’s Peanut Slabs.

While you’re in Porirua tasting up a storm, be sure to allow time to check out some other local gems. Highlights include Pātaka Art + Museum, currently hosting the free *Unwrapped* exhibition to celebrate the 130th anniversary of world-famous local chocolate maker Whittaker’s. Visitors can shop for unique art at Pātaka’s Toi Store, or head across to Kai Tahi on the harbour’s edge, and browse Pacific-inspired homewares at the Blue Bell Club. Wrap up your visit with a scenic stroll along the Writers Walk, featuring five unique sculptures.

Plan your trip today and find out more about ChoctoberFest at PoriruaNZ.com



Arohanui, Carmen xx

Wellington Museum

3 October 2026 – 18 February 2027
Exhibition admission charges apply
wellingtonmuseum.nz

IMAGE Ole Carmen, 1970s.
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The icing on the cake

by **Madelaine Empson**



New Zealand-born, LA-based musician Greg Johnson, known for songs like *Liberty, Isabelle*, and *Swagger*, turned 60 this year and has a new album to show for it. He describes *Some Night Somewhere*, out on the 5th of October, as a collection of vignettes – some real, some not.

“The sound is a full sonic palette, 100 percent real instruments (real synthesisers!) played and sung by carefully modified humans, all friends and familiars from my live and studio work. It has loads of trumpet and even a saxophone solo by the amazing Sylvain Carton. I designed this collection for vinyl with two distinct sides. Pairs well with dark red stone fruit and hints of tobacco snorted off an old leather glove.”

The career-spanning *Greg Johnson* – 60 tour reaches Old St Paul’s on the 30th of October.

Happy birthday, Greg! What did you get up to?

A bunch of friends and I went to the best Spanish tapas restaurant in Santa Monica. I got played by the wine waiter brilliantly with pitches like, ‘This wine comes from a tiny vineyard in the mountains that doesn’t make enough to sell outside of Spain except for these few bottles, would you like one of them?’ Yes! Of course! My friends generously covered the bill which was... substantial.

If you could go back in time, what would you tell past Greg at 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50?

10: Enjoy the careless freedom, it’s only going to diminish from here on in.

20: Leave for the UK or US now while you’re still young enough to have a real shot at the big time!

30: Work harder, party less.

40: Enjoy that lustrous hairdo while it lasts.

50: You might as well relax and enjoy, it’s too late for ambitions now.

How does 60 feel?

I think I took my own advice and I’ve reached acceptance. I’m very lucky, one of the most privileged and free humans to ever live I guess, to be born in NZ and have great family and friends. I believe no one will ever again have the kind of freedom our Generation X had to be able to disappear, to think and speak freely. And for all the disappointments of my music career, there have been some great moments too – many, many stories, and I’ve done it the way I wanted, never followed fashion or advice from others about my artistic path.

Anything you’d like to say to your Welly fans ahead of the concert?

I’ve always had a special relationship with Wellington since way back in the Student Orientation and Bar Bodega days. So many great times in the city! I think there’s a certain cerebral quality to the music listeners in Wellington and they seem to appreciate the music I play. I’m re-inventing a few of the oldies for this tour and the band has never sounded better. Old St Paul’s is really the icing on the cake as a venue too... Can’t wait!

An orchestra full of friends



David Johnson.

There’s a new chamber orchestra in town! Camerata Nova is an eclectic mix of enthusiastic and dedicated New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO), Orchestra Wellington, and other freelance musicians who have put together a gorgeous programme of music for their first concert.

On Friday the 9th of October at St Peter’s on Willis, Camerata Nova will deliver a short, sweet, and surprising mix of popular and unfamiliar works by Joseph Haydn – Symphony No. 20 in C major and Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major – and Frederick Delius’ *Two Aquarelles*.

David Johnson, NZSO associate principal trumpet and soloist for the evening, is “very excited to get the chance to perform what is not only the most well-known concerto for the trumpet, but a true cornerstone of the brass repertoire!”

“The piece was a huge innovation for its time with the introduction of the keyed trumpet”, David says of Haydn’s 1796 Trumpet Concerto. “Before 1792, the trumpet was essentially just a long bit of pipe with very limited notes. However, this new instrument was capable of complex chromatic melodies, completely changing the game! Even the opening three-note ascending scale, impossible on the trumpet before then, would have sent shockwaves through the audience!”

“It is also the most widely used concerto for trumpet auditions, recitals, and competitions, so it is a great breath of fresh air to get a chance to play with a full orchestra full of friends”, David delights.

NZSO first violinist and Camerata Nova music director Anne Loeser says the concert promises to send you on your way humming.

“Hearing a live performance in the intimate setting of St Peter’s has the power to transport and transform you.”

Hydration station by **Madelaine Empson**



When Wet Denim – christened for the moment the band’s friend and former flatmate Katie came home and proclaimed ‘wet denim!’ after getting caught in a downpour that soaked through her favourite pair of jeans – was in a small town on tour in the South Island, they stopped in at an op shop.

“Outside this shop was a dog bowl emblazoned with ‘Water For Dogs’”, Wellington rockers Nick Goodwin, Luca Crampton, and brothers Jack and Joe Ledword say. “Collectively we thought it was a cool name for something, we just didn’t know what yet. We kept the name in our back pocket, saving it for the right batch of songs, which then revealed themselves as this EP.”

Water For Dogs is officially out in the world now, but when I spoke with Wet Denim, it was one week before the release date of the 17th of September.

“We are excited to say the least. This project has been in the works for the better part of two years and it’s an amazing feeling to have the final product so close to being out in the world!”

Hydrating Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland with *Water For Dogs* this spring, Wet Denim will play San Fran on Saturday the 26th of September.

“Our hometown celebration at San Fran will be a special night for sure. It’s one of the Wellington venues where we cut our teeth as a band, so it feels good to bring it back there for this occasion that means a lot to us!”

Pushing their sound in a refreshed rock direction while retaining the pulsating energy that defines their live shows, the EP is Wet Denim’s most ambitious and expansive yet. Come sate your thirst!

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Hold on to your huts!



A group of teachers and a reluctant daughter set off for a weekend of bushwalking in the mountains. What could possibly go wrong? Torrential rain and a washed-out bridge that traps all the women together in a hut for three days, for a start!

The stage is set for laughter, tension, and unexpected revelations in Stagecraft Theatre’s production of Roger Hall’s *Social Climbers*, tramping into Gryphon Theatre on the 23rd of September and camping there till the 3rd of October.

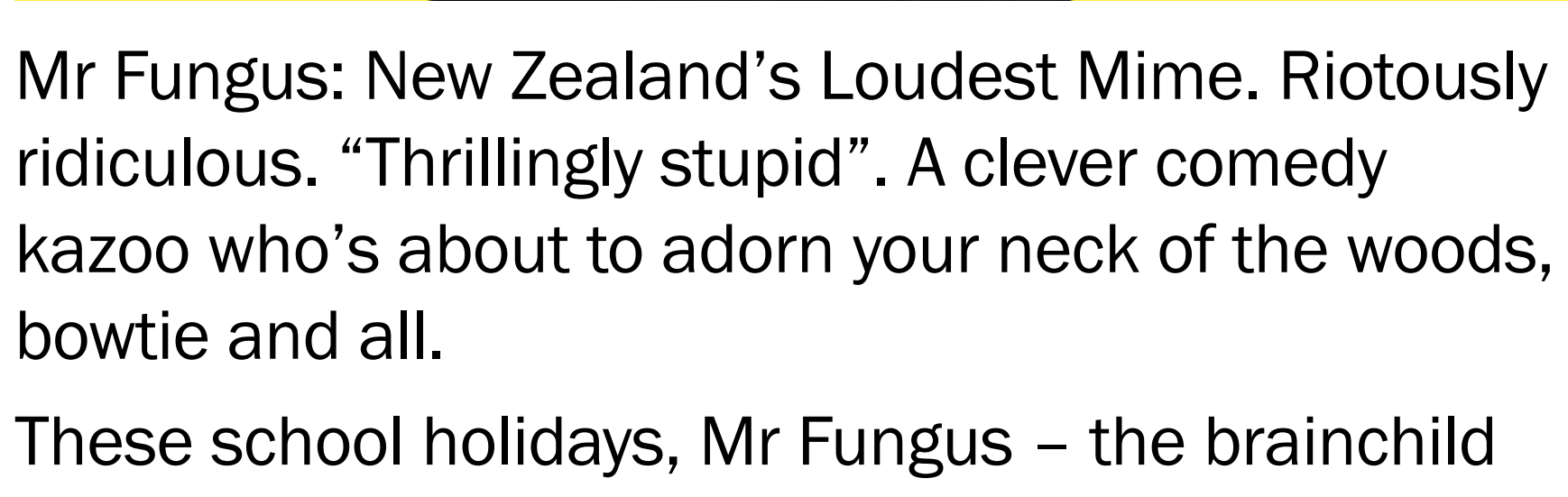
Marking Trudy Dalziel’s directorial debut, *Social Climbers* sparkles with Hall’s trademark wit and warmth. It holds a special place in her heart as her mum, Helen White, played the lovable, no-nonsense Kath back in the 90s.

There’s also a strong family connection for Gillian Boyes, who tackles the role of the flamboyant drama teacher Maxine. “My dad saw it in Christchurch and still remembers the line ‘Is this it?’ He says it’s stuck with him as one of the best and most memorable opening lines for a character ever. That’s my character, Dad. Hope I do it proud!”

Jess Brownell, who plays the caring school counsellor Annie, says the characters are real and relatable. “The show is all about their relationships, which I feel is a beautiful thing.”

Gather the girls for a giggle in this insightful comedy that celebrates the bond between women, the wonders of the New Zealand bush, and 50 years of playwrighting from a national treasure, all in one (baby’s) breath!

Superbly silly



Mr Fungus: New Zealand’s Loudest Mime. Riotously ridiculous. “Thrillingly stupid”. A clever comedy kazoo who’s about to adorn your neck of the woods, bowtie and all.

These school holidays, Mr Fungus – the brainchild of Fergus Aitken – will visit Te Raukura Ki Kāpiti, Coastlands Theatre for a supremely silly show directed by Amalia Calder. On Tuesday the 6th of October at 11am, he’ll juggle and tumble, mime a-magically, pat a bat and swing a cat or two to a snappy soundtrack the whole whānau will love.

As Mr Fungus, Fergus has played to packed theatres and festival venues in over a dozen countries across Europe, the UK, and Australasia. A guest juggler for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and visual comedy award winner at the Straattheater Festival Rotterdam in The Netherlands, he’s performed with legends like The Topp Twins, Chris Knox, Che Fu, Kiri Te Kanawa, and The Wiggles... to name just a few.

As Fergus, Fergus is a leading teacher of physical theatre and mime currently tutoring movement for the Whitireia stage and screen course based at Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School. He is an actor, MC, stand-up comedian, clown, juggler, and character performer who brings fun-guys like Mr Fungus to life.

“I was privileged to play in a wide variety of venues around NZ on my national tour in April”, Fergus delights. “This made me feel so grateful for our awesome Te Raukura ki Kāpiti: Performing Arts Centre. This is my first time performing in the epic Coastlands Theatre... Hope to see you there.”

The first cut is the deepest



Step right up for a heated night watching 10 battle-ready comedians as they go head-to-head over 10 rounds to find out who is Wellington’s Roast Battle champion.

The first of its kind, the late-night carnage will unfold at The Fringe Bar on Thursday the 8th of October. Audiences can expect hard-hitting jokes, deep cuts, and a whole lotta laughs.

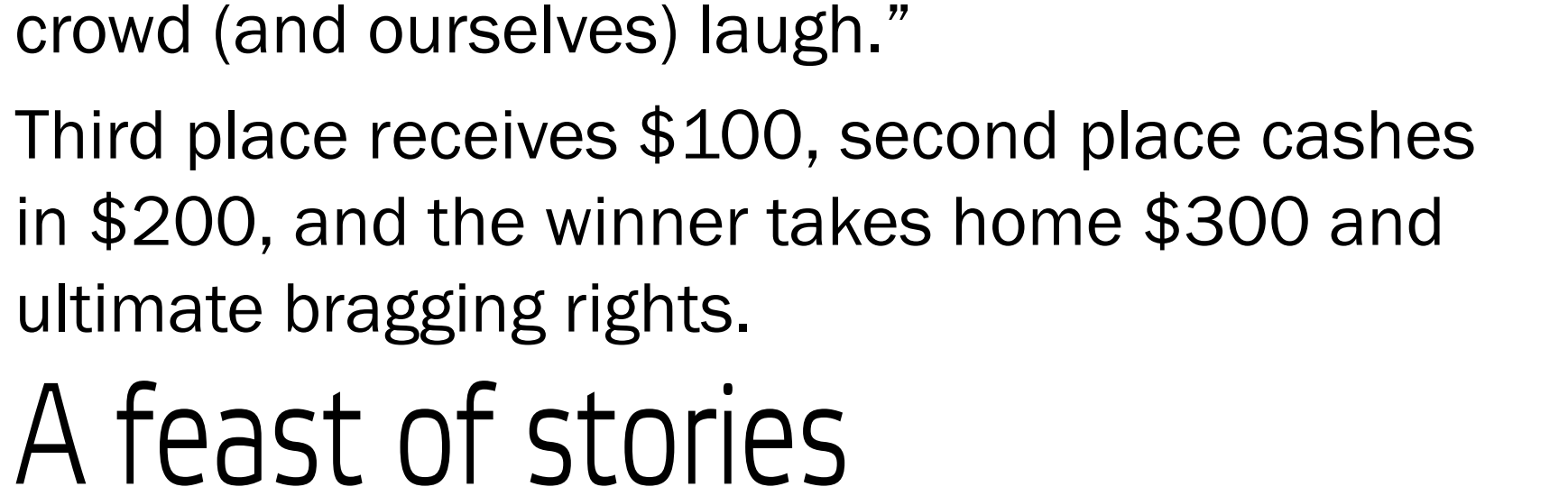
Show producer and host, The Man Simply Known as Bob [pictured], will be mediating an epic lineup of new and more experienced comedians: Severin Gourley, with his quirky observations and cleverly crafted punchlines; Pōneke comedy scene regular Brenda Hamblyn; the deliverer of mildly offensive yarns Matt McNelis; playwright, comedian, and theatre reviewer Elliott Lam; Raw Comedy Quest 2025 semi-finalist Leo Holbrook; comedy newcomer Stuart McEwen; filmmaker Theo Sutorius; local comedy legend Marcus Tidwell; and Mave, known for her solo comedy show *The Vulvodynia Diaries* and duo sketch comedy show *Bits and Pieces*.

The comedians will have eight minutes per round to impress the judges and make it burn. Judges decide who moves on to the next round based on originality, writing, delivery, and, of course, audience response.

Bob says, “I can’t wait to hear the laughter from the audience. Because at the end of the day, we will be telling jokes and roasting each other to make the crowd (and ourselves) laugh.”

Third place receives \$100, second place cashes in \$200, and the winner takes home \$300 and ultimate bragging rights.

A feast of stories



Nafanua Purcell Kersel. Photo by Ebony Lamb.

After a brief hiatus, one of Pōneke’s most exciting festivals is returning with a feast of bold stories and ideas. Verb Readers & Writers Festival will run across multiple venues in Pōneke from the 23rd to the 27th of September with a lineup of literary powerhouses and exciting new voices.

26 events featuring over 50 artists will see audiences swept up in unforgettable conversations, performances, and ideas as they celebrate all things books and our exceptional literary community.

Festivalgoers can listen to Australian author Michelle de Kretser discuss her award-winning book *Theory & Practice* with Kate Duignan, experience a conversation between Irish poet and essayist Doireann Ní Ghríofa and writer and broadcaster Noelle McCarthy, and hear from beloved authors Witi Ihimaera Smiler, Elizabeth Knox, and Tusiata Avia.

Shihad frontman Jon Toogood will share stories from his memoir with Nick Bollinger; renowned former Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright will discuss her remarkable life with Anna Fifield; and investigative journalist, lawyer, and author of *The Valley* Asher Emanuel will join Māori affairs reporter Aaron Smale to discuss the art of capturing true stories with Māni Dunlop.

The bill features debates, late-night poetry sessions, stand-up comedy, writing workshops, events for tamariki, readings from debut writers, and other literary activities.

Experience the power of lit as it goes deep, gets playful, and offers up hope at the Verb Readers & Writers Festival.

Sacred or sacrilegious?



Musical director Isaac Stone. Photo by Roc Torio.

“Have I just written sacred music, or rather, sacrilegious music?” asked Gioachino Rossini after composing *Petite messe solennelle* (Little Solemn Mass) in 1863.

This is not usually what a composer thinks after writing a Latin mass, but Rossini is no ordinary composer, and his little solemn mass is no ordinary piece of music.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara’s beloved choral choir Supertonic are celebrating spring with a performance of Rossini’s masterpiece on the 10th of October at the Alan Gibbs Centre in Wellington College.

Having written his last opera 30 years prior, Rossini described *Petite messe solennelle* as “the last of my péchés de vieillesse [sins of old age]” and humbly considered his work to be made of “Not much technique, a little bit of heart, that’s all”.

But the five-part mass is a dramatic, wildly ambitious work bursting with rich and unexpected harmonies. It careens between reverent and comic, drenched in emotion one moment and gleefully superficial the next.

Supertonic was formed in 2014 and has since performed concerts covering the entire musical spectrum, striving to push the boundaries of what choral music can be.

They are delighted to bring *Petite messe solennelle* to life, led by musical director Isaac Stone, who describes it as his “favourite piece ever”. To set the scene and help the audience dig into the brilliance and contradiction of the performance, Stone will deliver an introductory talk before the choir takes the stage.

Bath of strings



Sophia Acheson.



Ian Greenberg.

Roots is the third instalment of a chamber music series that began earlier this year. On at the serene Erskine Chapel in Island Bay on the 24th of September, audiences will be immersed in a resonant bath of strings music.

In this one-hour concert, four members of New Zealand Symphony Orchestra’s string section – Julia Broom and Simeon Broom (violin), Sophia Acheson (viola), and Ian Greenberg (cello) – will perform Gabriella Smith’s *Carrot Revolution*, alongside Beethoven’s spirited String Quartet op 18 No.1 and Benjamin Britten’s playful *Simple Symphony*.

Smith’s fascinating composition is inspired by Paul Cézanne’s quote, “The day will come when a single, freshly observed carrot will start a revolution”.

It was commissioned in 2015 by the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia for the exhibition *The Order of Things*, where she was invited to respond to the unique ways art collector Charles Barnes arranged his acquired paintings along with metal objects, furniture, and pottery, “juxtaposing them in ways that bring out their similarities and differences in shape, colour, and texture”, Smith says.

She “draws on an eclectic range of sounds, from the intricate energy of contemporary classical music to the rhythmic drive of rock and the infectious patterns of folk and fiddle music,” Broom adds.

The ensemble is excited to take audiences on a journey, “with a mixture of music they perhaps haven’t heard before alongside some favourites of the cheer music repertoire”, organiser Beatrix Pickett closes.



News

A word from Maddi...

The enduring ephemeral

by **Madelaine Empson**



In my *Chat with Tung* this issue, we talked about our Thailand trip and the shifting nature of memory: how moments can come into sharp relief or fade into the haze of time. You're either looking back through a magnifying glass or with something scratchy in your eye that distorts everything

but the peripheral details. How do you know in the present whether something is going to stay with you in the future? Occasionally, I get a tingly, fluttery feeling when I'm experiencing something that might stick, but I'm more often surprised by what comes back to me in the wee hours. In trying to pick it, I've realised there's a strong reason one thing might go and another might stay.

Almost to the second, I can still recall reading Stephen King's *Pet Sematary* during a thunderstorm in Thailand. I can taste the whisky burning the back of my throat, feel the grain of the paper between my thumb and forefinger, sense the sticky air clinging to my skin like a sheet snapping with static straight out the dryer.

Recently, Dan put a very silly and cute beanie on my head when I was cold. I can close my eyes and still trace the crinkles in the corners of his when he smiled as he did that.

These two memories are equally vivid and have something in common: there's a photo of me reading that book on the balcony, grin planted, and I see that beanie every day. Looking at either instantly presses play on an HD movie in my mind's eye.

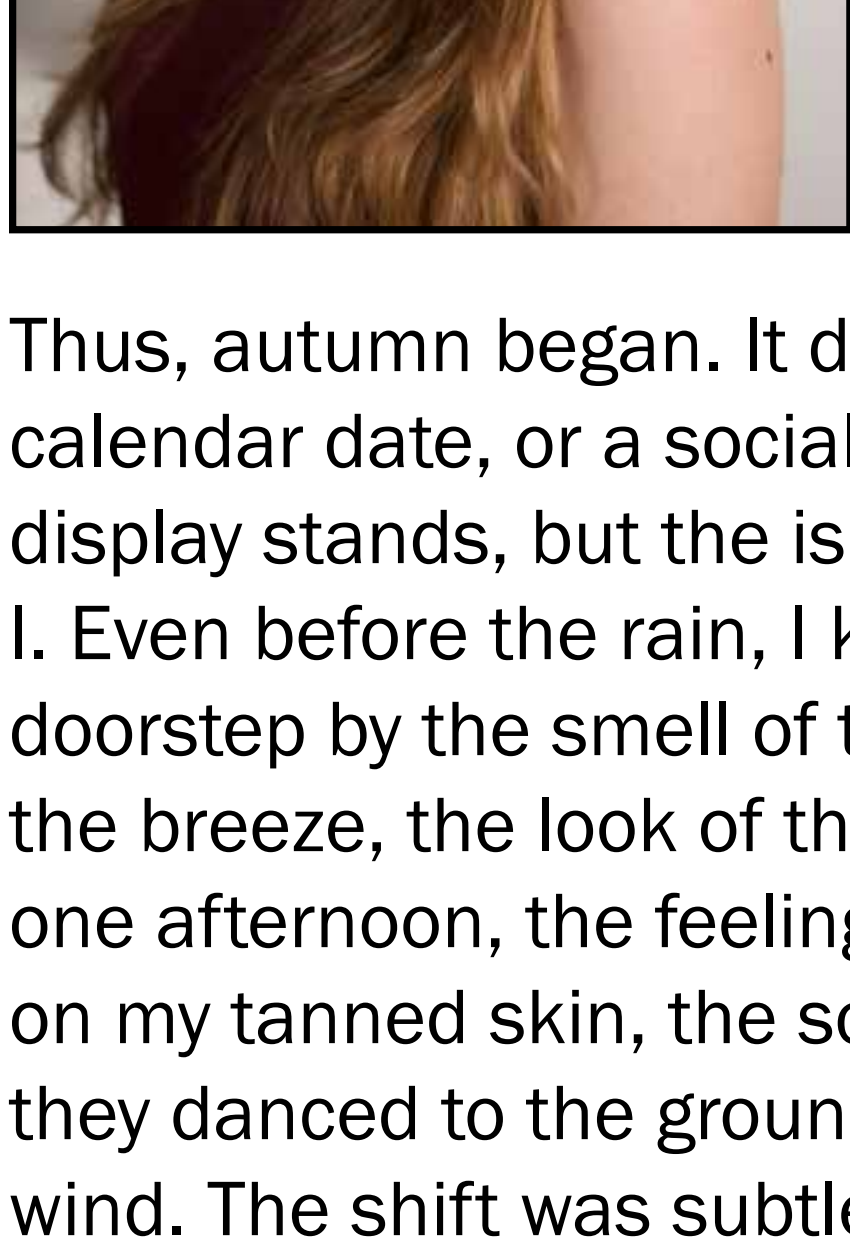
It got me thinking about how much we're losing in the digital age. Social media has made it easier than ever to communicate with each other, but often at the expense of meeting in person. We stream music rather than buying CDs, watch reels of concerts instead of going. Anyone can take a photo, but when we do, it disappears into a puff of Cloud.

There is something so precious in the tangible. Something about standing in a crowd of people screaming your favourite song. Something about reading a newspaper, the grain of this paper between your thumb and forefinger. Something about holding a photo that captures the ephemeral.

A Kiwi abroad

Body clock

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



On the 6th of September it rained on Catalina Island. As Hurricane Marie embarked on her westward voyage out to sea, she wept over California, quenching our parched earth with fresh water for the first time in over three months – how foreign that must sound to a Kiwi!

Thus, autumn began. It didn't coincide with a calendar date, or a social media trend, or store display stands, but the island knew – and so did I. Even before the rain, I knew fall was on our doorstep by the smell of the eucalyptus blowing on the breeze, the look of the shadows falling earlier one afternoon, the feeling of the sun much kinder on my tanned skin, the sound of the leaves as they danced to the ground in their tango with the wind. The shift was subtle, almost imperceptible, but unmistakable. Everyone knew – the birds and the bees, the waves and the trees. Deep down, our collective instincts felt it.

They say that we don't have seasons in Southern California, and yet almost imperceptibly, every fibre of my being sensed the arrival of fall. For the last eight years in New Zealand, I lived with the seasons in reverse against my own circadian rhythm. Without fail, as Halloween arrived amid blooming flowers and baby sheep, or Easter hand in hand with falling leaves, and, of course, Christmas clad in sunnies and dips in the sea, something in the pit of my stomach would stir and groan, whispering 'not yet'. I'd push the voice down and enjoy a summer in the sun and the lashing rain mid-June, but I firmly believe that no matter how long I called Aotearoa home, the seasonal shifts and accompanying holiday markers would never quite feel right.

For the first time in almost a decade, my body clock is ticking in tune with the seasons. I miss New Zealand – especially the ever-shifting clouds and bush-clad hills – but it seems as though when it comes to nature versus nurture, my body's natural instincts remain firmly rooted in the soil, sand, and sea of my ancestral Catalina Island.

Twist the night away



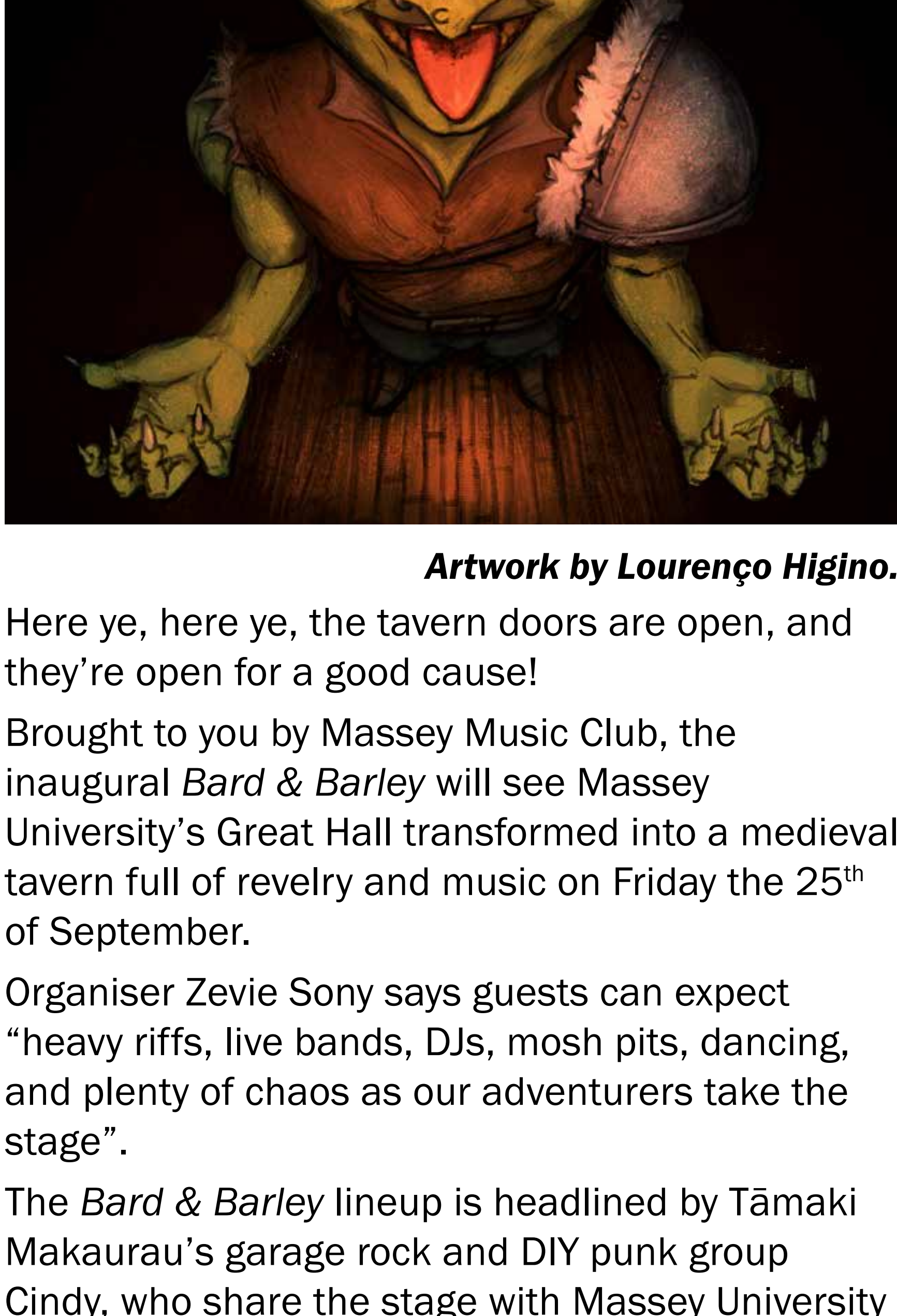
The Retro Pack have been active around Pōneke since playwright and vocalist April Phillips assembled a crack team of jazz musicians for the Circa season of her award-winning Sinatra-based show *Blue Eyes* in 2004. Since then, they've delivered shows themed around Nat King Cole, Broadway, the Gershwin brothers, and the *Great Gatsby* era at festivals all around Aotearoa. Recently, they broadened their umbrella to include country music and the 1950s.

The Retro Pack are taking over the recently refurbished Art Deco Civic Theatre in Ōtaki on Monday the 28th of September, bringing swing and rock 'n' roll from the likes of Chuck Berry, Peggy Lee, Elvis Presley, and Bobby Darin to the stage that'll have the audience up and twisting.

April will be joined on stage by guitarist Andrew London, sharing vocal duties with her and saxophonist James Tait-Jamieson, who has seen action with both the Rodger Fox Big Band and Andrew's Hot Club Sandwich trio. Andrew's partner Kirsten London plays bass and contributes vocals, with drummer Ryan Watson rounding out the rhythm section.

The Londons are based in Ōtaki and run Notable Tours, a provider of multi-day entertainment excursions throughout Aotearoa for groups of up to 40 people. The show forms part of their five-day Notable Tour in Ōtaki. Head along for a night of rhythm, blues, rock 'n' roll, and swing. Who knows, there may even be an *Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini*.

Medieval mayhem



Artwork by Lourenço Higinio.

Here ye, here ye, the tavern doors are open, and they're open for a good cause!

Brought to you by Massey Music Club, the inaugural *Bard & Barley* will see Massey University's Great Hall transformed into a medieval tavern full of revelry and music on Friday the 25th of September.

Organiser Zevie Sony says guests can expect "heavy riffs, live bands, DJs, mosh pits, dancing, and plenty of chaos as our adventurers take the stage".

The *Bard & Barley* lineup is headlined by Tāmaki Makaurau's garage rock and DIY punk group Cindy, who share the stage with Massey University students and Music Club members among other local Pōneke musicians. Ranging from indie, alt-rock, hardcore, and metalcore, Mothburn, maddeypuppets, Lucid, and MASS-HAMMER will bless your ears before RH and Mr Playups close the night with a b2b DJ set.

67 percent of all funds will be donated to Compassion Soup Kitchen, which has provided nutritious and hearty breakfasts and dinners to Wellington's most vulnerable communities for 125 years. Each year they serve over 90,000 meals, with a large part of the food rescued and the rest given by local donors.

Bard & Barley is a chance to support local community while celebrating the incredible talent within and beyond Massey University. Dress in your best tunic, cloak, or suit of armour and get ready to feast the senses in a night of medieval mayhem.

Packed with heavy sounds and big energy, let the bardic chaos commence!

Familial faultlines



Writer, photographer, and filmmaker Gayna Vetter's just-launched debut novel *Residual Images* is set in the 1980s and follows 27-year-old photographer Etzel Baumann, a woman more comfortable in the darkroom than amongst her kin, living in self-imposed exile in Hornby, Canterbury. With the potential loss of her second parent, she returns to the American Midwest. There she finds a rusty trunk containing old photographs of her family:

generations of Eastern European immigrants. With each new image, faultlines in the family narrative reveal themselves.

I caught up with Gayna to discuss the new book and the many forking paths she encountered to arrive at what author Lawrence Patchett describes as a vital, vivid, and unusual “exploration of family and identity, revealing a lot about the warping power of secrets, poor communication, and damaged love”.

Photography is a great tool to access memory. How does that play out in *Residual Images*?

I found some photographs when I was home after both my parents died; this trunk just showed up in the middle of the room with all these wonderful pictures in it. I didn't know these people, but when I looked at them, I recognised features. I saw where we came from, places like Czechoslovakia and Bessarabia – which is now Moldova – and Ukraine. There were some of my great, great, great, great-somethings threshing in Ukraine. And I thought, ‘How can that be?’

I studied photography as a bachelor's degree. ‘Images speak a thousand words’ – there's a truth to that. I have always found pictures fascinating. Henri Cartier-Bresson's ‘decisive moment’ always bothered me. He said when you snap a picture, the picture has one place it's supposed to be. You snap the perfect moment. I disagreed with that because I thought there's so much going on beyond the frame.

Initially, I wanted to write about photography. You know, film photography and what it's like being in the darkroom. But when I started writing it down, it was too academic. I'd been working in the university for a long time. But you can do so much with photography. You stew things up and make something that's not totally realistic. It's marvellous. I thought, when I start to write more, let's do that.

How did the story shift?

The story's been in my head for a long, long time. I've been talking about it for almost as long as I've been here.

When I signed up to a Whitireia creative writing course in 2014, I had a concept of three sisters in a family born 20 years apart. That's true in my life. I have a sister 10 years older and a sister 20 years older within a family of eight. We were born between 1936 and 1956. You think of that difference in times: same house, same parents, same community, same school, same everything. We're quite different, but we're also quite alike. So, I put those two things together, the photographs and the sisters.

It was initially going to be more like creative non-fiction. I had always wanted all of us to write about our lives growing up in that house. I decided I'd write mine.

I wrote a first draft, and it was a terrible first, but I got some ideas. Then I did an advanced and a graduate diploma. In the second year, I had Mandy Hager. She has a way of motivating everybody and giving everyone her heart. She really saw what I was trying to do and that spurred me on. By 2016, I had a completely different story. Etzel, my character, had come to life. It changed into fiction because she took over. She woke me up one night and said, ‘You don't get me, do you?’

I decided to really emphasise the fictional part of the story and concentrate on her. The pictures were good. But I wasn't bringing it together. I moved into my office and basically lived it. I slept on mats on the floor. When I'd wake up in the night, I could write things down and I wasn't disturbing anyone.

I made the magic by Etz being able to see the before and after of a decisive moment. She's breaking the frames and seeing what happened. I concentrated myself on the photographs first, and then I worked the frame story around it – the present-day story – and brought history into a linear narrative. That's when I started looking into abuse, and how a person would behave, and the story changed. It changed from me trying too much with the photography to accepting those stories and making them behave like a film for Etz to witness her life, and to change her in some way – you know, the arc of a character.

Could you speak about exile and movement?

I moved here from the States 40 years ago, and that was a move of choice. Whereas Etz is forced out. She doesn't have a choice. When I was writing the book, a lot of people said I had to have a happy ending. But I think if it's a happy ending, it's not the end. Some of the hardest things in life are some of the best things in life.

I love that the lines cross. I like the fact that we came from Europe. My great-grandfather moved from the centre of Germany to Bessarabia when Catherine the Great opened up land in Russia. Then the same family came to the United States. Some in my family then moved away. I'm the one who's probably moved the farthest in a generation. There's a fear of leaving America for some of them.

But I got itchy feet. When I came to NZ, I sold up everything and packed my bags. I wondered if my ancestors who did all that moving, like that great-grandfather, if they were like that. Because he then moved from North Dakota to California. Etz too, she chooses exile. She wonders whether she's one of those people who just has to wander.

How did you go about the research?

There was enough written on the back of the photos. One cousin of mine did quite a thick book. He talked to my father and his brothers and sisters and they told stories. They were first-generation Americans who grew up homesteading, speaking German, and having to ride horses to school.

I did look into abuse in the Midwest. In the German Russian area where we settled, people are very staunch, stoic, and hardworking. They had a rough life and they were stern. It's snowy. Then in the summertime, it's really hot.

We had a way of being that today would be called neglect or abuse. But when I looked into it, I found Etz was going to be alright. But she needed to understand that the treatment her family gave her was abusive, because she thinks it's normal.

Lynn Jenner described there being a slightly scary form of wit throughout the book.

I think I write naturally in a sort of Anne Tyler-ish way. Her writing is very Midwestern. It's just a normal way of talking for us. ‘This is the way that life is, and this is ‘ha ha’ how it is.’ I'm not really sure which part Lynn is talking about, maybe when Etz says things like, ‘Everybody knows that you don't look into a barrel of a gun when you're cleaning it.’

The humour was important to show that Etz is alright, as long as she still has her humour. And I believe that.

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Western swing, Kiwi bent



Take the *Last Bus to Brockville* and Skin & Bone will meet you at the station! This five-piece acoustic swing band from Ōtepoti, Dunedin are about to pull up in town with their debut album in tow.

Skin & Bone formed recently as the product of some longstanding friendships between its members: Mike Moroney (guitar, vocals), John Dodd (bass, vocals), Anna Bowen (fiddle, mandolin, vocals), Steve ‘Huddy’ Hudson (drums, vocals), and Emily Sterk (clarinet). Mike and John had performed together for over 30 years in the iconic folk band The Chaps, which Anna joined in its latter days. Anna had already been working with Mike for many years in Catgut and Steel. When the duo started to move towards swing, they pulled John back into the fold. John brought Huddy, his favourite drummer from his rock ‘n’ roll band the Whirling Eddys, with him.

The now foursome discovered Emily hiding out in the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra and, with the addition of another solo instrument, Skin & Bone was born. Huddy has an innate grasp of feel, Mike’s got that solid guitar chunk, John walks those bass lines, and Anna is a gifted fiddler. Now with clarinet in the mix, the sound is unmistakable. When Anna moves to the mandolin, the rhythm drives harder still.

Catch their infectious energy and impressive musical pedigree at Wairarapa Events Centre in Carterton on the 30th of September, followed by a toe-tapper at the Abandoned Taproom in Petone for a Wellington Bluegrass Society concert on the 3rd of October.

Once Upon a Tease



Once upon a time, in a land far, far, away, there lived all sorts of weird and wonderful people and creatures with some unusual quirks reserved only for those in the know. IYKYK!

Join The Storyteller: Constance Craving as she opens her big, bad book of fairytales and spins yarns like Thumbelina in *Caburlesque: Once Upon a Tease – A Burlesque Fairytale*. At The Fringe Bar on the 3rd of October, you’ll find out what Jack *really* discovers at the top of the beanstalk and why Prince Charming isn’t so upset about Cinders leaving after all. Will Puss in Boots clean up okay? Why is the Big Bad Wolf in virtually every story? It’s *exhausting*! Certain truths will be revealed as outdated stories are rewritten by burlesque, cabaret, pole, and draglesque performers right before your very eyes.

Starring Anglebert Humpermink as Prince Charming, Lady Sane as The Big Bad Wolf, Vicky Velour as Puss in Boots, Weeds & Bellini as The Stepsisters, Anubis Alkali as The Dragon [pictured], and Amber de Luze as The Pied Piper, this edition of *Caburlesque* ventures outside its usual box.

“We wanted to try something different with this show”, producer Debbie Eve says, spilling the magic beans. “We have added a stage into the space and a separate platform for our wonderful MC Storyteller to sit.”

Bibbidi-bobbidi-boo, Aotearoa’s longest-running regular burlesque cabaret just went god(mother) tier. Pop on your best ballgown: your chariot awaits!

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Spring into Kāpiti

Who knows?



Paraparaumu Beach.

Life on the Kāpiti Coast, with the sleepy island out west and the stretch of mountains to the east, can feel like you're tucked into your own personal paradise. With a climate entirely its own and sweeping views from the South Island all the way up to Mount Taranaki and Mount Ruapehu on a good day, the spacious towns lining the coast are some of the loveliest in the country.

With winter already a bit balmy than neighbouring Wellington, it only gets better in spring. The famously fertile soils are laden with flowers and produce, and Kāpiti's trails and parks burst with colour and wildlife. In spring, the beach is packed and locals take their coffee out into the sunshine to enjoy.

With new life injected onto the streets and into nature, why not peruse what's on offer in Kāpiti and check out the busy events calendar? Who knows, you might end up sticking around.

Choose carefully



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Travelust NZ by Vanessa Kirkman



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Kids rock!



Gather round kids! *Sonic Boom* is coming to town to deliver its high-energy rock concert for tots and tweens – though mum and dad can't help but bop along too.

The Power-House Monroes is one of Aotearoa's favourite party bands. The Monroe family bring big personality, serious talent, bold costumes, and exciting crowd interaction to every concert.

Happening at The Hunter Lounge on the 3rd of October, *Sonic Boom* is set to be jam-packed with epic sing-alongs, bursts of colour, and flashy guitar solos.

Expect covers from some of your favourite artists, including K-Pop Demon Hunters, Bruno Mars, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Chappell Roan, Shakira, and Queen, all performed by some of Aotearoa's most experienced musicians: firecracker frontwoman Nikki Monroe and the Power-House Monroes band. Bringing world-class musicianship and rockstar energy to every show, the band has decades of combined experience performing across Aotearoa and around the world.

The concert also stars 10-year-old drumming sensation Indy Monroe. Fresh from performances at Ōmokoroa Christmas Carols in the Park, Balloons Over Waikato, and the Americarna festival, he brings epic young-star energy to the stage.

Sonic Boom is the ultimate family night out. It brings the excitement of a real music concert to young audiences, with a run time of 75 minutes. If you've got little ones who love to sing, dance, and play air guitar, come along to *Sonic Boom* and give them their first unforgettable concert experience.

Start your engines



The Constructors Car Club are revving to go for the Home Built Car Show, taking place at Brewtown in Upper Hutt on Sunday the 4th of October between 10am and 3pm.

Drive on over for a chance to see a huge range of rare and unique home-built cars, kit cars, replicas, and one-of-a-kind creations. You'll be able to get up close, take some photos, and meet the incredible people who built them, who are always keen to chat about their makes.

Each car is fuelled by a heavy dose of Kiwi ingenuity. You can expect vintage models, sleek sports cars, and shapes you'd never imagine seeing on the road.

The Home Built Car Show is not only perfect for petrol heads, speed demons, and people who enjoy tinkering around in the garage, it's great fun for the whole whānau. The kids will love seeing these epic creations, while the modifiers and car enthusiasts will love the chance to talk shop.

The Constructors Car Club first started getting together in 1988. What started as a team of six quickly grew to over 30 after their first meeting. Nearly 40 years on, the Constructors Car Club keep a busy calendar with regular club events, including garage tours, club drives, driver training days on a racetrack, and a monthly meeting. They're always open to new members and looking forward to sharing the creativity and engineering that goes into their projects.

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Tastes of Thailand

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Mu Ko Chang National Park.

There is something for every traveller when visiting Thailand: amazing temples, vibrant cities, secluded islands, spectacular food, unspoiled nature, reef-edged beaches, wildlife sanctuaries, and some of the friendliest people on the planet.

With the country's tourist-friendly policy, there is a vast network of infrastructure and hotels that makes soaking up the culture and getting around the sites a breeze. There are loads of domestic flights every day and a railway network that connects all of Thailand's 77 unique provinces. The best time to visit Thailand is coming up! Between November and April, it is cool, dry, and most comfortable for sightseeing.

Visit the bustling capital Bangkok and experience world-famous street food and incredible night life, or travel to the mountain city Chiang Mai, famous for its ornate temples, night markets, and exquisite food. Island hop the Phi Phi Islands and snorkel in turquoise waters before lying on white-sand beaches. Go north for lush mountains full of forests and waterfalls. Head to the Kanchanaburi province, the third largest in Thailand, where WWII historic sites and museums recall the tragic events that took place in the region. Visit the city Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to ancient temple ruins. Park up in Phuket at a beachside resort and relax with traditional Thai massage.

Whether you're after adventure or relaxation, ancient ruins or tropical islands, Thailand is one of the most special corners of the world.



Facts

Official name: Kingdom of Thailand

Population: 71,561,663 (as of Wednesday 16th September 2026, Worldometer)

Capital: Bangkok – the world's longest city name with 168 letters: Krungthepmahanakhon Amonrattanakosin Mahintharayutthaya Mahadilokphop Noppharatchathaniburirom Udomratchaniwetmahasathan Amonphimanawatansathit Sakkathattiyawitsanukamprasit

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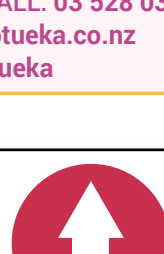
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Go East: Discover Thailand's Hidden Gems



Salak Khok Bay.



Ko Mak.



Ao Suan Yai, Ko Mak.



Ko Kood.



Rang Island.

Thailand is famous around the world for its spectacular beaches and tropical islands. For many international travellers, the names Phuket, Krabi and Ko Samui immediately come to mind. Yet with more than 3,150 kilometres of coastline and hundreds of islands, Thailand has far more seaside treasures waiting to be discovered.

On the country’s eastern coast, in Trat province, lies the Ko Chang archipelago - home to three distinctive islands: Ko Chang, Ko Kood and Ko Mak. Together, they offer a different kind of island experience: more tranquil, more natural and deeply connected to local communities.

Ko Chang, Thailand’s second-largest island, is the perfect place to combine beach time with nature. More than 70 per cent of the island remains covered by lush tropical rainforest, with waterfalls, mountains, beaches and opportunities for hiking, diving and exploring nearby islands.

Further south lies Ko Kood, Thailand’s easternmost island and one of its most unspoiled tropical escapes. Its soft sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters and relaxed atmosphere make it ideal for travellers seeking tranquillity away from mass tourism.

Then there is Ko Mak, the smallest of the three, but perhaps the most forward-thinking. The island community has embraced low-carbon and environmentally responsible tourism, working to protect its natural beauty and preserve the island as a tourism heritage for future generations.

The best time to explore the islands is generally November to April, when the seas are calmer and conditions are ideal for island-hopping, swimming and enjoying the beaches. However, there is another side to the islands worth discovering: the rainy season brings the tropical landscapes to life, with waterfalls at their most spectacular as rainwater fills the streams and cascades through the rainforest.

Getting there from Bangkok is easy. Travellers can take a short connecting flight to Trat or enjoy an approximately four-hour drive east through fishing communities, fruit orchards and coastal landscapes before reaching the ferry piers.

It is time to explore beyond your usual beaches and islands. For your next trip to Thailand, let your curiosity take you east - to Ko Chang, Ko Kood and Ko Mak, three island gems waiting to be discovered.



Khlong Chao Beach, Ko Kood.



Ko Mak.

When sparks catch



What happens when women take on the big, swaggering, stadium-sized rock anthems that were never written with them in mind? You get Girls Rock the Boys: four powerhouse wāhine with a kickass live band who celebrate the bangers you love to belt out in the car.

Think Foreigner, Journey, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Whitesnake: anthems from giants that are big enough and wild enough to belong to anyone brave enough to claim them.

Girls Rock The Boys kicked off in 2024 as a one-off performance at Cuba Dupa. “We loved it so much we decided to make it a real project rather than a one-off experiment”, frontwoman and founder Julie Lamb says. “Somewhere between a riff stuck in my head, the fun of giving audiences different voices to enjoy, and the humour of women stepping into very male lyrics, the spark caught.”

Julie is joined by award-winning vocalist Ashley Hale-Durham, alt-folk and country songwriter Jude Madill, and musical theatre extraordinaire Georgie Sullivan. They’re backed by an epic lineup of musicians: Duncan Haynes (keys), Matt Fitzpatrick (bass), Aslan Rowlands (guitar), and Andrew Richardson (drums).

Performing at St Peter’s Village Hall in Paekākāriki on Friday the 2nd of October, expect a wall of harmony, a stack of iconic riffs, and women absolutely tearing into the songs you grew up with. “It is nostalgic, loud, and unexpectedly funny; especially when those very male lyrics hit a little differently coming from us.”

Sharpen your fangs



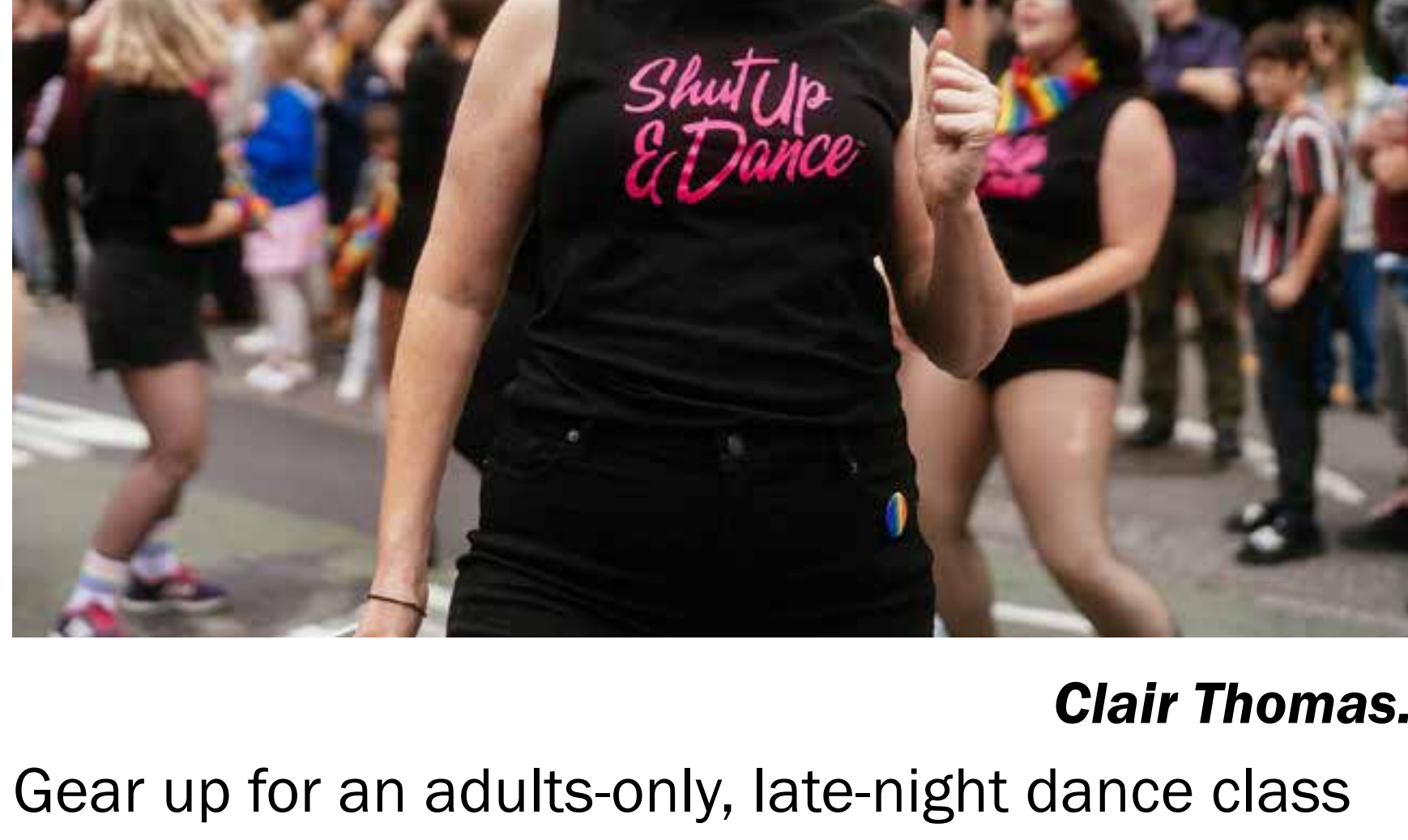
For one night only on Friday the 25th of September, Vampire Disko is calling all of Pōneke’s vampires, goths, and nocturnal misfits to gather together on the dancefloor of Valhalla – the city’s darkest lair – for a night of goth, post-punk, EDM, dark synthpop, industrial, and darkwave dance music.

Dress for the eternal night in outfits inspired by cult classic vampire films such as *Interview with a Vampire*, *Queen of the Damned*, *The Lost Boys*, *The Hunger*, and *Nosferatu*. Soundtracking the night is DJ Matai, Nightmare, and a few other special guests. They’ll be spinning the likes of 80s goth legends Bauhaus, Sisters of Mercy, and Siouxsie and the Banshees; darkwave heavyweights The Cure, Echo and the Bunnymen, and New Order; and cutting-edge music from more recent artists who lean toward the darkside: think She Past Away, Boy Harsher, Kontravoid, and Nox Novacula.

Organiser Nikki Nevver also runs Pōneke’s The Dark Eighties events. “I saw an interesting post about a sapphic vampire night taking place in the USA”, she says. “As I also put on The Dark Eighties, I was excited to combine people who are into dark gothy dance music and post-punk with people who are into dressing up like vampires! I love old photos of Peter Murphy from Bauhaus or Dave Vanian from The Damned dressed up in Halloween-style vampire costumes.”

Sharpen your fangs. Dress to kill. And don’t worry, Vampire Disko will have you in bed before sunlight hits!

Dance for a cause



Clair Thomas.

Gear up for an adults-only, late-night dance class replete with loud music and glow sticks, all for an epic cause!

To raise funds for Little Shadow, a service connecting those experiencing perinatal distress to low-cost counselling and group support, Shut Up & Dance co-founder Clair Thomas is running two dance classes at The Pow Wow Room in Dakota Bar on Sunday the 27th of September.

For Clair, the event is personal. “When you become a parent, your whole world and identity shifts. I was suddenly isolated at home doing a job I didn’t feel equipped for. I felt like a failure.”

The event is an opportunity to “dance beside each other and be each other’s hope”.

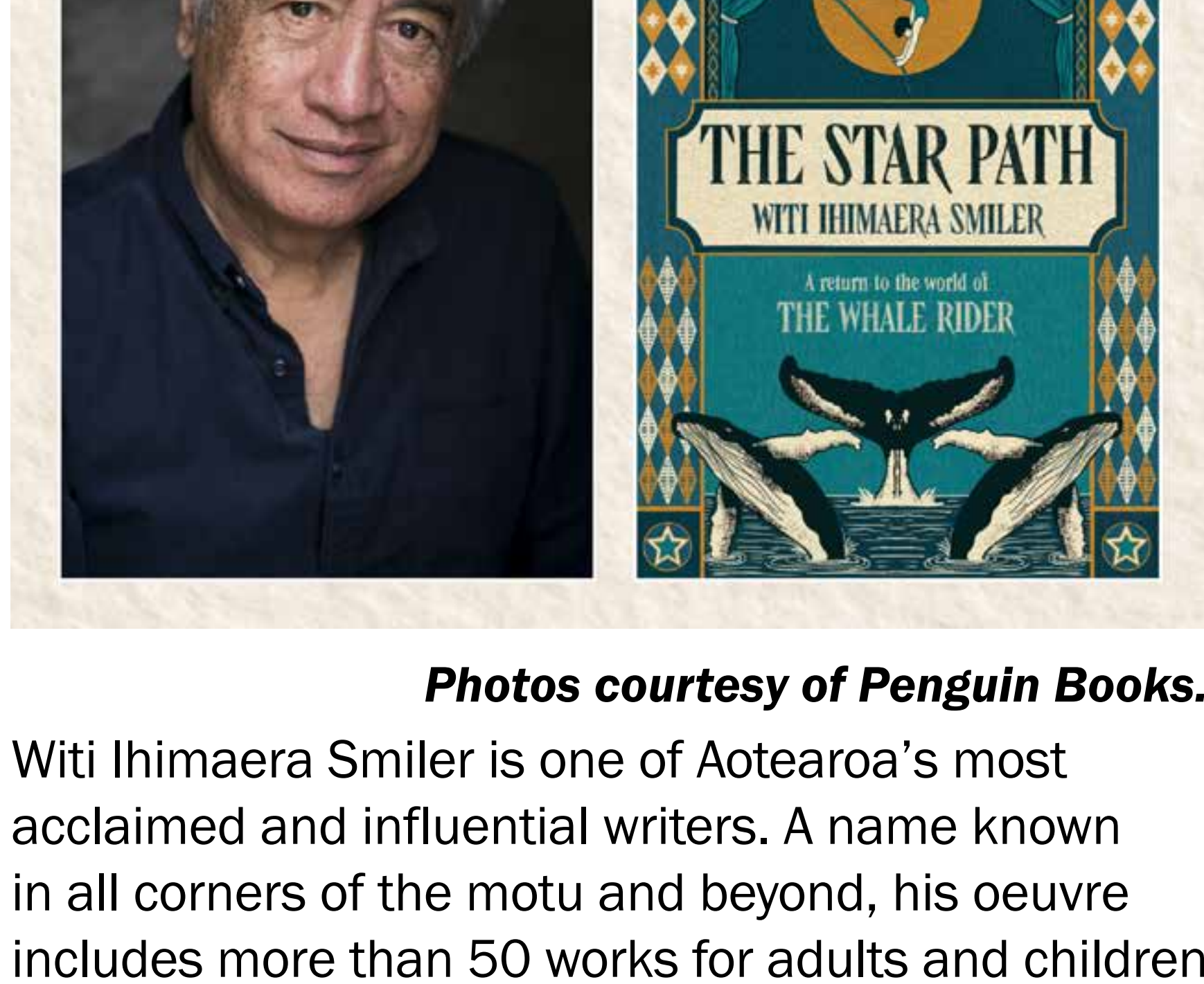
Teaming up with Pōneke graphic designer JennSational, supporters can also purchase limited-edition tees that nod to the realities of parenting.

Perinatal stress affects one in five birthing parents and one in 10 partners. “Yet cost, time, and shame remain three of the biggest reasons people don’t reach out for support,” executive director of Little Shadow Stefanie Dixon says.

“Fundraisers like this don’t just keep our doors open – they ensure that when a parent reaches breaking point, cost isn’t the barrier stopping them from getting help.”

Shut Up & Dance runs mirror-free classes with no technical direction and no experience required. Mental health isn’t a side project for the business; it’s most of the reason the classes exist in the form they do.

The star and The Star Path



Photos courtesy of Penguin Books.

Witi Ihimaera Smiler is one of Aotearoa’s most acclaimed and influential writers. A name known in all corners of the motu and beyond, his oeuvre includes more than 50 works for adults and children that place Māori life, history, and imagination at the heart. Since the publication of his first book in 1972, a collection of short stories titled *Pounamu*, *Pounamu*, he has achieved innumerable honours and acclaim whilst helping to blaze the trail for generations of Māori and Indigenous writers to come.

One of Ihimaera’s most renowned novels, the worldwide bestseller *The Whale Rider* (1987), was adapted into the 2002 smash-hit film of the same name, earning Keisha Castle-Hughes an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress at just 13 for her role as Pakea (Kahu in the book). Kahu feels destined to become the leader of her iwi, but her grandfather Koro, blinded by tradition, refuses to accept that a girl could take over for him as chief. But Kahu has a sacred gift. She can speak to whales...

Nearly 40 years on, Ihimaera makes *A Return to the Realm of The Whale Rider* in his new book *The Star Path*. Where myth and reality, past and present collide, this breathtaking novel follows a young whale and a 16-year-old boy on a search for the pathways that will guide them home.

On Saturday the 3rd of October on the ground floor of Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library, Ihimaera will launch *The Star Path: A Return to the Realm of The Whale Rider*. Unsurprisingly, this free event is expected to be popular, so please arrive before 1pm to secure your place.



International Day of Older Persons



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- Testimonial from Steven Yin



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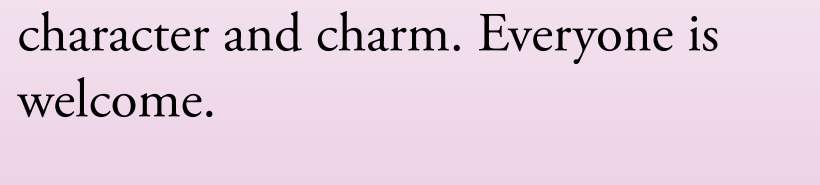
With UNICEF, writing your Will is always free and will rewrite the future for generations to come. Visit unicef.org.nz/bequest to claim your free Will.

International Day of Older Persons



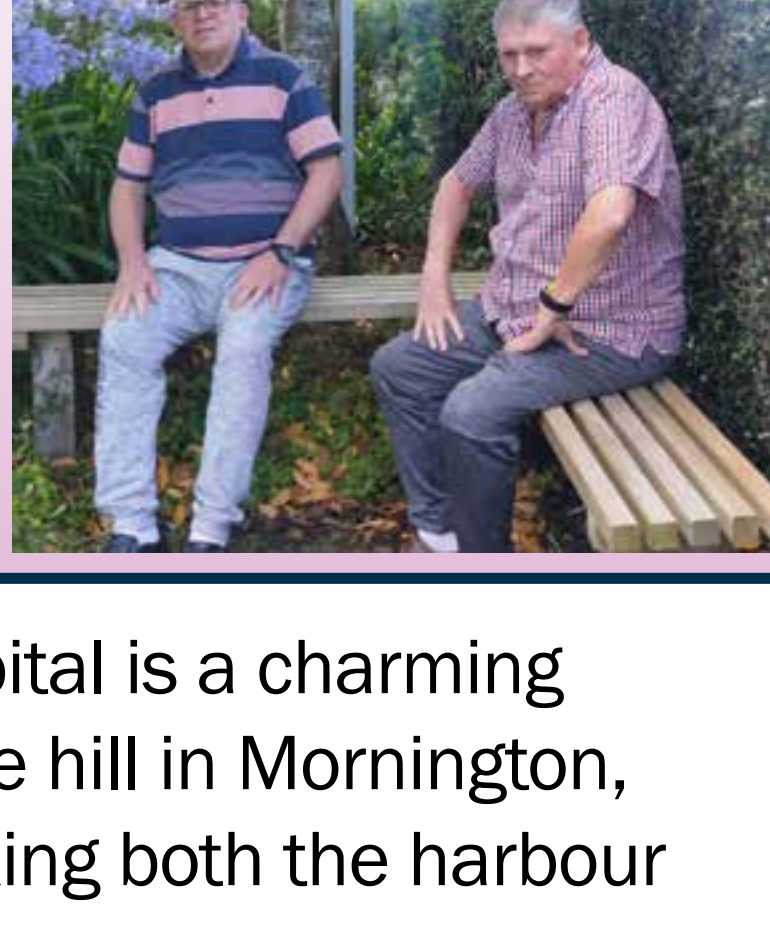
www.phantomeldercare.co.nz

Everyone is welcome



Highview is an elegant older house beautifully maintained with lots of character and charm. Everyone is welcome.

384 High Street, Central Dunedin
Phone 03 471 0488
manager@highviewresthome.co.nz
www.phantomeldercare.co.nz



Highview Rest Home & Hospital is a charming character home found on the hill in Mornington, Dunedin with views overlooking both the harbour and peninsula. At Highview they offer rest home and hospital care, including end-of-life palliative care.

With a registered nurse available 24/7 and a hospital onsite, loved ones can feel assured that the right kind of help is readily available. Highview focuses on promoting wellbeing, with plenty of activities, exercise classes, live entertainment, and van outings that keep residents feeling engaged.

The staff at Highview Rest Home & Hospital meet their residents where they're at, promoting independence while also offering a helping hand wherever needed. The busy activities programme and shared living spaces mean residents enjoy busy social lives and lots of laughs over meals cooked by the in-house chef.

Highview welcomes everyone into their home: they are proudly LGBTQIA+ friendly, speak nine languages between the staff, offer kaupapa Māori services, cater to cultural and religious needs, and offer rooms suitable for couples.

Open-door policy



Ashlea Grove
Rest Home

Are you looking for a safe and caring Rest Home or Dementia facility in Otago? Come see our boutique home with kiwi values and join our family today.

Phone (03) 417 7988 | 41 Centennial Avenue, Milton
manager@ashleagrove.co.nz | www.phantomeldercare.co.nz

Ashlea Grove Rest Home, located in Milton, offers a 20-bed secure dementia unit alongside its 20-bed rest home. The recently refurbished rest home has new furniture, drapes, carpet, and wallpaper that have amplified the safe, warm, friendly, and country-style atmosphere.

The experienced staff work hard to help residents maintain as much independence as possible, while the dementia care unit provides whānau assurance that their loved one is safe and receiving round-the-clock care.

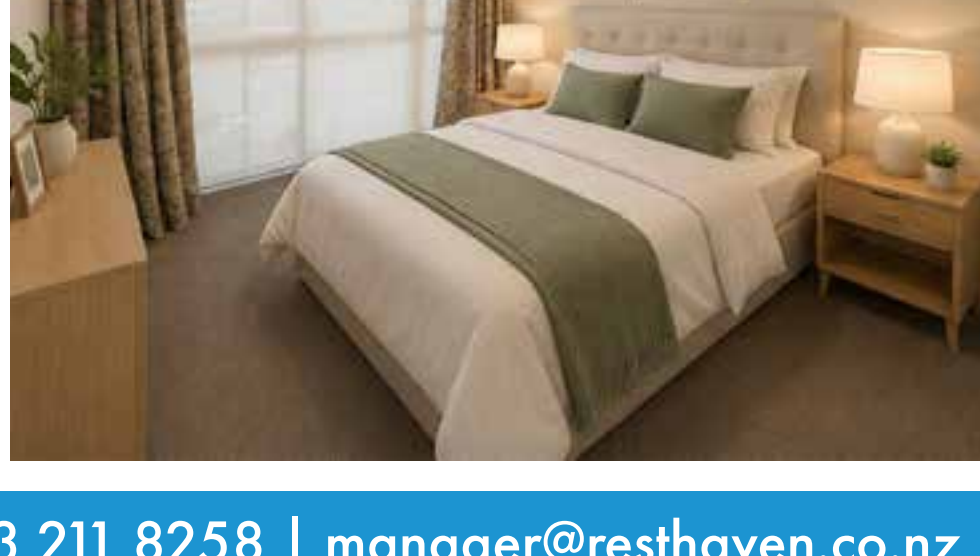
Operating under an open-door policy, Ashlea Grove is a family-run rest home that encourages families to visit and form part of the community. There is a variety of activities available to residents, including indoor bowls, outings, live entertainment, arts and crafts, and board games. Ashlea Grove pays particular attention to special events, including Christmas and birthdays, receiving positive comments from residents and those who visit.

Ashlea Grove Rest Home welcomes short-term and respite stays, offering end-of-life and palliative care to ensure that residents and their families are supported and comfortable.

Live everyday life



Enjoy our spacious, parklike grounds. Conveniently located within distance to Gore's main shopping centre. 21 units - there are currently units for sale.



208 Main Street, Gore | 03 211 8258 | manager@resthaven.co.nz

Located in the heart of Gore, Resthaven Care Home & Village offers rest home and hospital level care as well as a small onsite village complex.

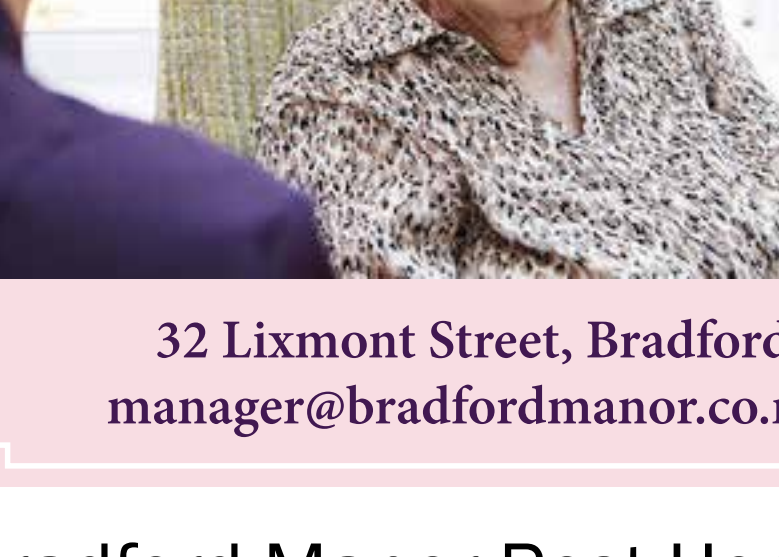
The dedicated team of nurses and trained carers provide tailored care to each resident, all administered with respect and compassion, overseen by a clinical manager, and bolstered with weekly check-ups from a GP.

The private, spacious rooms have pleasant outlooks of gardens, patios, and greenspaces, while the meals provided are seasonal, prepared onsite, and cater to all dietary requirements. Resthaven offers a range of activities and outings that encourage residents to continue to live everyday life. One need only walk out the front door to be in the main shopping area and close to cafés.

Visitors are welcome any time, any day, and rooms can be furnished with residents' own belongings to make the place feel even more like home.

Ensuring that the golden years are comfortable requires teamwork. Resthaven Care Home works closely with residents and their whānau to ensure they receive the best care possible.

Where family comes first

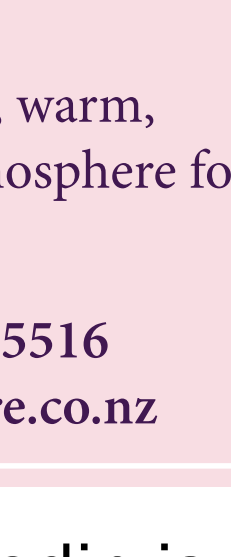


BRADFORD MANOR

Bradford Manor is a 26 bed, secure dementia rest home.

We aim to provide a safe, warm, friendly, and homely atmosphere for all our residents.

32 Lixmont Street, Bradford, Dunedin | Phone 03 453 5516
manager@bradfordmanor.co.nz | www.phantomeldercare.co.nz



Bradford Manor Rest Home located in Dunedin is a 26-bed secure dementia rest home offering round-the-clock care within a safe, warm, and homely environment. Underpinned by Bradford Manor's reputation as a trusted provider, the compassionate and experienced staff provide tailored care and services that promote individual wellbeing.

The excellent activities programme is developed for each residents' needs alongside group activities like indoor bowls that encourage fellow residents to connect with one another.

Bradford Manor takes pride in their high staff-to-resident ratio with a host of registered nurses, practitioners, and caregivers onsite, including two caregivers who monitor residents overnight. Families can feel comforted knowing their loved one is in safe hands and are encouraged to participate in the planning and provision of care.

Residents have free access to stroll and sit in the secure gardens of Bradford Manor Rest Home, creating a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere. The doors are always open so residents can receive visitors any time, with a cup of tea always ready.

Community and companionship



Thornbury House is a smaller personal dementia care rest home providing comfort and security whilst promoting a sense of community.

30 Eskvale Street, Saint Kilda, Dunedin | Phone 03 455 5646
manager@thornbury-house.co.nz
www.phantomeldercare.co.nz



Located just a few blocks from St Kilda Beach, Thornbury House is a small rest home for dementia that provides comfort and security for its residents, no matter what stage they are in.

The rest home has two areas under the same roof known as The House and The Cottage. Residents can move freely between them and the two lovely shared living spaces foster community and companionship.

Thornbury House focuses on quality of care, with a special emphasis on purposeful activities. The in-house diversional therapist works with residents to develop an activities programme that promotes independence, wellbeing, and engagement.

Offering a range of group activities, residents love heading down to St Kilda Beach to watch surfers catch waves while drinking a cup of tea, and enjoy receiving visits from live entertainment and animal friends.

The experienced staff encourage whānau to visit and be a part of the planning and care of their loved ones. Thornbury House prides itself on fostering a homely and safe environment where residents can enjoy living life to the full.

International Day of Older Persons

There's no place like home



Phantom Eldercare Group believes aged care should feel like home.

Trusted and family owned and operated, Phantom Eldercare manages five rest homes in the South Island: Ashlea Grove Rest Home in Milton; Bradford Manor Rest Home, Highview Rest Home & Hospital, and Thornbury House in Dunedin; and Resthaven Care Home in Gore.

Together these providers offer rest home, hospital, dementia, palliative, and short-term care to residents in personal settings that are small, personal, and cater to the individual's needs, no matter what stage they're in.

Angie-lee and Ricky Boulton began Phantom Eldercare Group just over 10 years ago. With four children of their own they know the importance of whānau. Each rest home strives to create a strong sense of family, working hard to ensure they are warm, safe, welcoming, and filled with the same care and respect anyone would expect in their own home.

Both Thornbury House and Bradford Manor are dementia care rest homes, and Ashlea Grove includes a dementia unit alongside its rest home units.

Phantom Eldercare is dedicated to delivering exceptional services and quality care. Each rest home is made up of experienced, compassionate staff who focus on wellbeing, independence, and quality of life.

Every person who calls Phantom Eldercare home deserves comfort, respect, and to be genuinely cherished every day.

Strategy for success



Financial advice provider Enrich Financial has one goal: to make your life better. From KiwiSaver and investment advice to managing your wealth and enriching your retirement planning as you and those you love move through life's stages, Enrich helps its clients each step of the way.

With over 25 years of experience in the finance sector, Rodney Varga is the driving force behind Enrich. He runs a passionate and knowledgeable team who are committed to helping clients achieve better financial outcomes through robust understanding of market conditions and comparing these to your needs and requirements. Exceptional customer service is the top priority, which is why the Enrich team focus on building lasting and trusting relationships. They work alongside you to guide you through difficult financial decision-making processes, helping you feel equipped and able to adapt as life evolves and your goals change.

Enrich is available to help with your immediate and future financial needs. In today's complex world, effective wealth management is essential for individuals seeking to secure their financial future. Enrich guides clients towards financial freedom by outlining key opportunities and navigating personal circumstances.

Enrich also provides KiwiSaver advice. The savings scheme gives Kiwis the opportunity to build a nest egg for retirement, but the fund can also be used in other circumstances. The team can also assist you with options for retirement planning by creating a strategy for your success.



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International Day of Older Persons

Superb lifestyle



Parkwood Retirement Village

Setting the Standard

• Residential villas • Rest home apartments • Hospital studios

Phone (04) 293 5142 | retire@parkwoodvillage.co.nz
99 Belvedere Avenue, Waikanae | www.parkwoodvillage.co.nz

Parkwood Retirement Village in Waikanae is one of Aotearoa's most picturesque residences for mature people. Offering residential villas, rest home apartments, and hospital studios, they provide a peaceful, private, and secure home within an affordable price range for anyone eligible to receive New Zealand superannuation.

Set on 25 hectares of park-like grounds with numerous walks through native bush, botanic gardens, and around lakes and dells, the retirement complex comprises 209 fully equipped villas that differ in size and design where residents can go about their everyday lives while also having the option to participate in the numerous village activities with the convenience of easy check-ups.

Parkwood Lodge has 54 apartments featuring separate bedrooms and ensuites and shared spacious lounge areas, and 25 hospital studios for residents requiring more hands-on care. The lodge has fully trained nursing staff who offer palliative care where needed and promote comfort, dignity, and independence in a serene environment.

The complex includes a hair salon, library, doctor's surgery, several lounges, and an activities programme that suits every interest, be it chair yoga, snooker, line dancing, movie nights, or an excellent array of outings and live entertainment.

Additional amenities include a swimming pool, fitness area, bowling green, barbeque, and vegetable garden allotments.

Parkwood is a tight-knit community with a busy calendar and a spectrum of services. The ability to maintain continual monitoring of residents' needs and to cater for changing requirements is the heart and soul that makes Parkwood special.

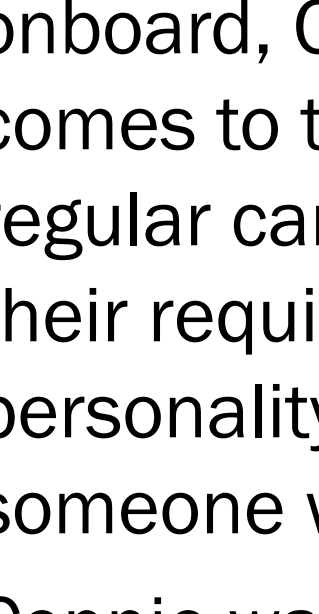
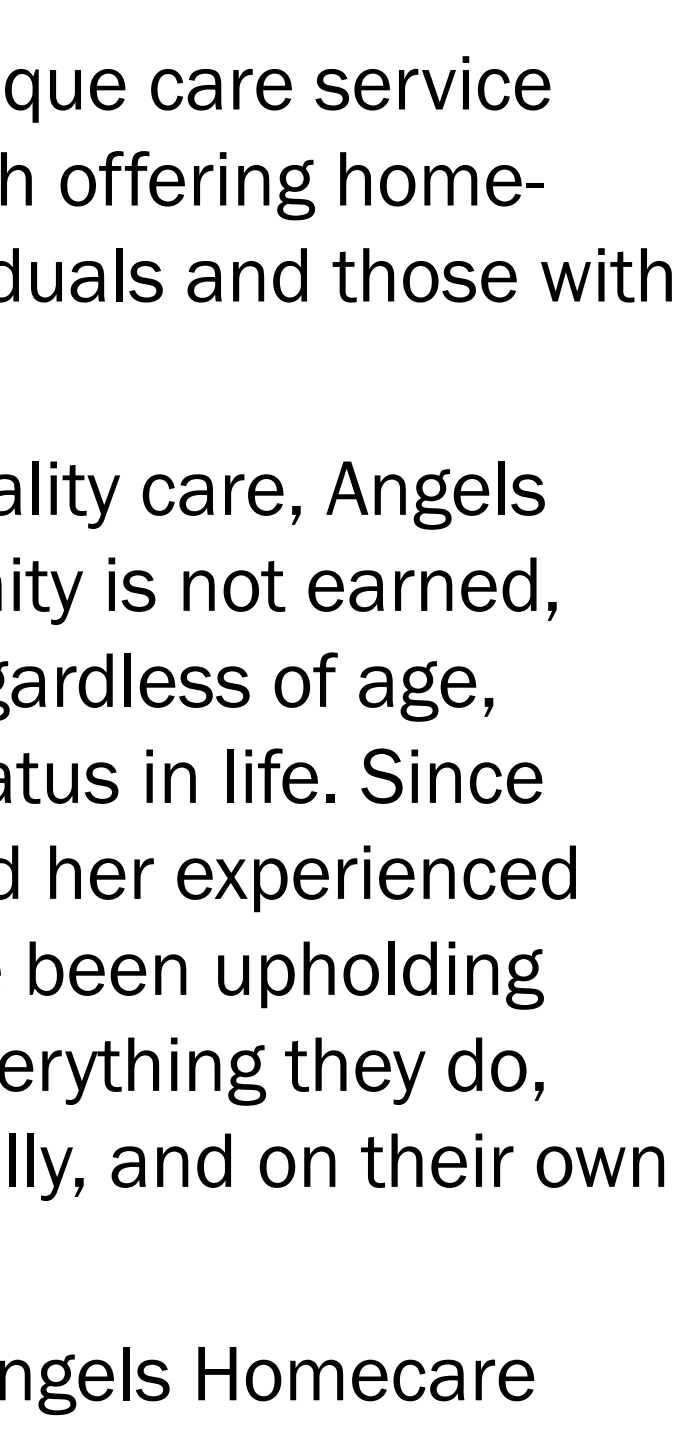
Helping your way

HOME CARE SERVICES

Angels Homecare offers personalised home-based support for older adults and people living with disabilities. Our extensive services cover:

- **Personal Care & Daily Living Support**
- **Home Support & Safety**
- **Companionship & Social Support**
- **Transport & Community Access**

We proudly support clients across Kāpiti Coast, Otaki, Wellington, Hutt Valley



Dedicated to dignity. Committed to care.

Phone: **02108868255** | www.angelshomecarenz.com

Email: angelshomecarenz@outlook.com

Angels Homecare NZ is a boutique care service provider in Paraparaumu Beach offering home-based support to elderly individuals and those with disabilities.

With a commitment to high-quality care, Angels Homecare NZ believe that dignity is not earned, but inherent to all people – regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, and status in life. Since 2016, founder Connie Paul and her experienced and compassionate team have been upholding the dignity of their clients in everything they do, ensuring they live fully, gracefully, and on their own terms.

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

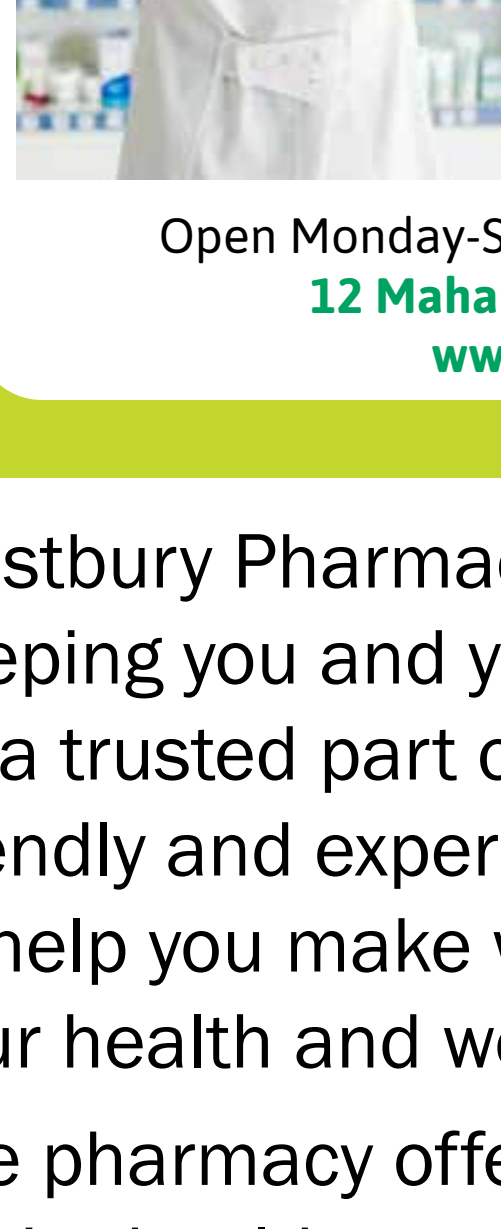
Connie was a doctor in the Philippines before coming to New Zealand and pursuing gerontology at Auckland University. Having worked in the healthcare industry for decades, she decided to start her own home health service company that catered to clients' individual needs.

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

Wrap-around support



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12 Mahara Place, Waikanae | 04 902 9100

www.westburypharmacy.co.nz

Westbury Pharmacy in Waikanae is committed to keeping you and your family healthy and vibrant. As a trusted part of the Waikanae community, their friendly and experienced team offer expert advice to help you make well-informed decisions about your health and wellbeing.

The pharmacy offers wrap-around support for its senior health customers. With winter lurgies still going around, they provide vaccinations including COVID-19 booster shots, shingles vaccines, and a free flu vaccination for those aged over 65.

Westbury offers long-term condition support, medicine management, and reminder services to ensure that patients who are taking multiple medications and receiving multiple scripts are able to access and keep track of them, with a plan for taking them at the right time each day.

If you're in need of a walker, walking stick, respirator, or crutches, Westbury stock a range of medical equipment for hire. Consultations for general ailments and concerns related to senior health for men and women are available, and qualified staff can treat minor wounds, remove stitches, and help with weight loss.

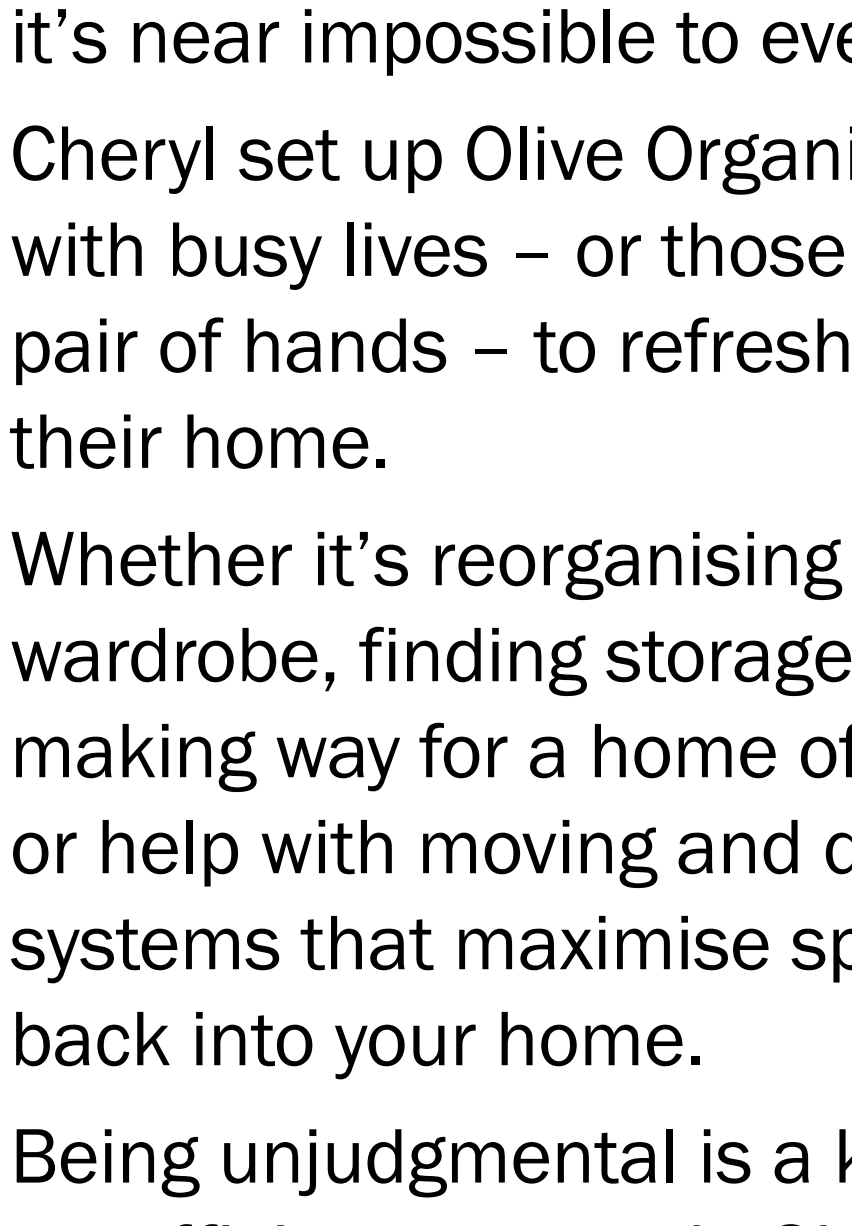
Their wide range of pharmaceutical products and the pharmacy's walk-in treatment clinic can help customers treat many health concerns. They have recently added new services including micro ear suctioning to remove wax build up, and offer wart and skin tag removal, sleep services, and travel medications.

Pop in store to visit the Westbury Pharmacy in Waikanae, who will welcome you with open arms.

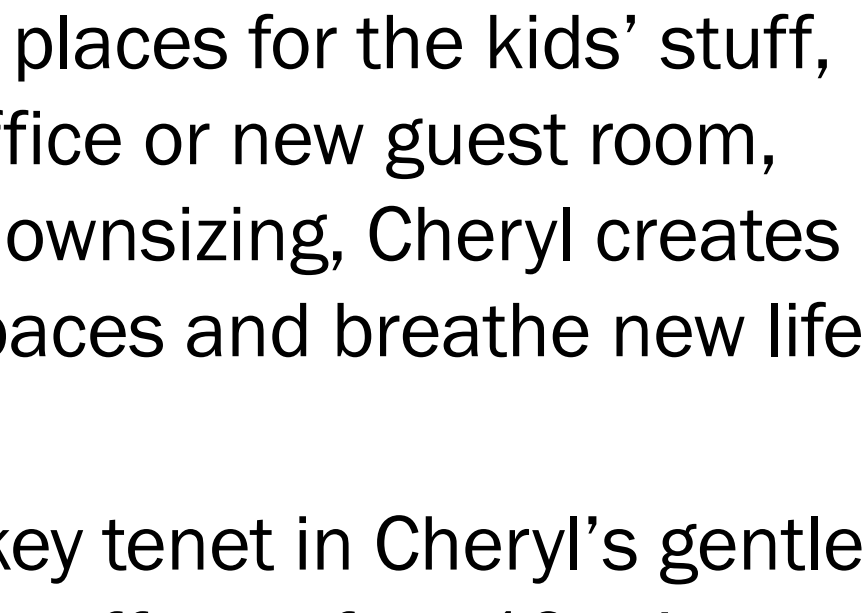
Declutter, refresh, breathe

OLIVE

ORGANISING



My home organisation services buy you calm and order - you're buying back some time.



Life often gets busy and clutter slowly builds up over time. At first, it might be hard to notice how your environment is affecting you and your family, until it's near impossible to ever feel on top of things.

Cheryl set up Olive Organising in 2023 to help those with busy lives – or those who simply need an extra pair of hands – to refresh, declutter, and organise their home.

Whether it's reorganising the pantry, laundry, or wardrobe, finding storage places for the kids' stuff, making way for a home office or new guest room, or help with moving and downsizing, Cheryl creates systems that maximise spaces and breathe new life back into your home.

Being unjudgmental is a key tenet in Cheryl's gentle yet efficient approach. She offers a free 10-minute phone consultation with her clients before visiting the home and developing a plan that helps achieve individual lifestyle goals.

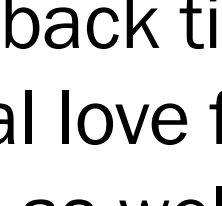
Olive Organising services buy back time and order. Drawing on her personal love for organising and creating beautiful spaces as well as her professional experience as a leader, problem solver, and mentor, Cheryl helps her clients minimise stress caused by mess and clutter.

"Cheryl is literally a magician of organisation", one happy client proclaimed.

There is nothing better than staying on top of things and coming home to a space that invites calm and clarity, enabling you to focus on the things that really matter.

021 463 053 | cheryl@oliveorganising.co.nz | www.oliveorganising.co.nz

Follow us on socials



International Day of Older Persons

Aged care is health care



Most New Zealanders think of hospitals when they think about healthcare. But every day, thousands of older New Zealanders receive complex healthcare somewhere else: in aged residential care.

When an older person can no longer be cared for safely at home, they do not stop needing healthcare. In many cases, they need more of it.

Residents in aged residential care receive 24-hour nursing support, medication management, rehabilitation, dementia care, palliative care, clinical oversight, and regular medical review. These services are delivered by skilled health professionals every day. That is healthcare.

Every rest home, hospital, and dementia care bed is part of New Zealand's health infrastructure. These services care for people who would otherwise remain in hospital longer or be admitted more often. They support families during some of life's most difficult moments while ensuring older New Zealanders receive the right care in the right place.

As our population ages, the demand for aged residential care will continue to grow. Strengthening aged care is not simply about supporting older people. It is about protecting the capacity of our entire health system.

The conversation about healthcare must include aged residential care. Because aged care is health care. When aged residential care is strong, New Zealand's health system is stronger.

Learn more at www.aca.org.nz

Managing property titles after a death



What happens to the title when a property owner dies? The answer depends on how the property is owned.

Land owned jointly, without specified shares, will need to be 'transmitted' to the surviving owner. It doesn't need High Court paperwork. It's done through Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand. Law firms such as Kiwilaw use the online Landonline system. If you do it yourself, you must use the manual-lodgement system.

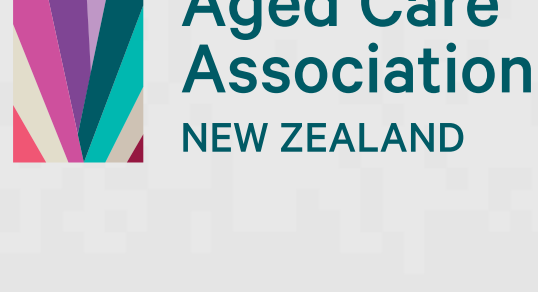
Solely owned land, or land held in specified shares, will generally require High Court probate or letters of administration before it can be dealt with. Then there are two steps: a 'transmission' to the executor or administrator, and a 'transfer' to beneficiaries or third parties.

Since 2018, Cheryl Simes and Kiwilaw have been helping ordinary people manage that paperwork clearly and affordably. With Kiwilaw, a transmission usually costs about \$600, including LINZ fees. A transfer costs about the same.

Kiwilaw also helps tidy up titles where nobody has died: removing the mortgage from the title after the loan has been repaid, or adding another person as co-owner, with no money changing hands.

"I was shocked in 2018 by what one lawyer proposed to charge for a simple transmission involving leasehold land in the back blocks," Cheryl says. "I came to grips with Landonline so that people didn't have to pay ramped-up fees for simple transactions within estates."

Visit www.kiwilaw.co.nz for more information and resources.



**Aged Care
Association**
NEW ZEALAND

aca.org.nz

Aged Care is Health Care

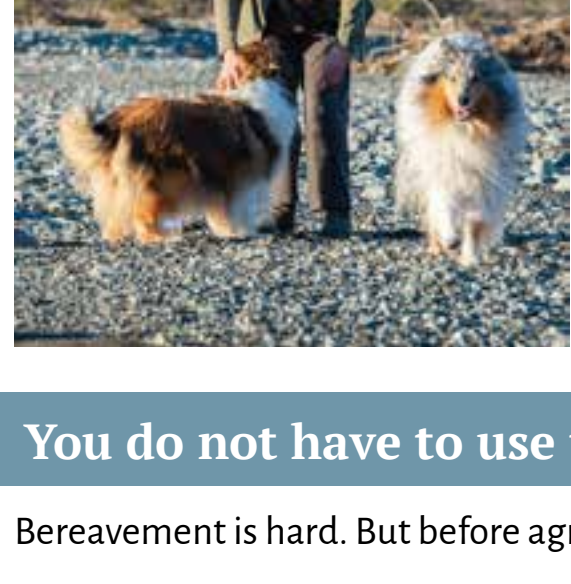
When an older New Zealander can no longer be cared for safely at home, aged residential care becomes part of our health system.

Every rest home, hospital and dementia care bed supports older New Zealanders, their families and helps reduce pressure on our hospitals.

When aged care is strong, our whole health system is stronger.



Kiwilaw
there to help you at a difficult time



"Every year, bereaved New Zealand families are paying lawyers millions more than they need to, for basic paperwork, after a loved one dies" - says Kiwilaw lawyer Cheryl Simes.
(Figures based on 2019 research.)

Spurred by a local client who needed letters of administration, Cheryl has developed a nationwide online service for bereaved families who need High Court approval ('probate') before they can uplift their loved one's financial assets or deal with their loved one's land. Although now based in North Canterbury, Cheryl's service is available anywhere in New Zealand or indeed overseas.

Probate is usually needed even if there is a valid will.

You do not have to use the lawyer who holds the will

Bereavement is hard. But before agreeing to anything, ask your lawyer for a specific probate estimate.

Most lawyers charge from \$1,500 to \$3,500 **just for probate**, not counting the rest of the estate administration.

Check the fee, before you agree.

Why use Kiwilaw?

It really is straightforward. An initial no-obligation online screening checks the will and any complications. If extra fees are required, you are told at that point. To go ahead, you answer questions in a simple online interview. Court-ready documents then arrive at your door, complete with instructions on what needs to be signed, how, where, and by whom, and how to send everything to the High Court for processing.

When there's a valid will, **Kiwilaw's fee is usually just \$590** and you pay the \$275 High Court fee direct.

Director/Lawyer: Cheryl Simes MA (Hons) LLB (Hons)

Phone: 03 312 1508 | Mobile/text: 021 701 838

kiwilaw.co.nz | Email: probate@kiwilaw.co.nz



International Day of Older Persons

Keep your loved one close



Based in Hope, just south of Richmond in the Tasman Region, Flame Art is home to stunning glass objects and jewellery created by flame glass artist Emily Lake.

Emily began creating beautiful objects with glass in 1978, and has been doing it full-time since 1991. She takes commissions to craft customised, sculptural jewellery for special occasions that deserve to be captured in glass, be it a birthday, anniversary, or the loss of a loved one.

Flame Art custom-made memorial beads are special keepsakes designed to remember a deceased loved one or pet. Using Italian glass, ash from cremation is incorporated into the bead and sealed internally (either visible or shielded from view with coloured glass) and allows wearers to carry their loved one close to their heart in a stunning piece of bespoke jewellery.

Emily works with her customers to decide colour, shape, and style so that each design aspect helps the wearer feel close to the one they have lost.

After the design has been decided, Emily fires the glass at her studio and turns the bead into a pendant using sterling silver fittings and a chain.

Each little bead is like a small universe. They are delicate, detailed, and can be a keeper of special memories. Visit www.flameart.co.nz to learn

about the glass-making process and to start your commission process for special jewellery pieces you'll hold onto for life.

Warm and welcoming

Glenwood Masonic Hospital is here to look after you or your loved one. Based in the heart of Masterton, they offer residents the very best care within a warm and welcoming community.

The staff are compassionate, understanding, highly trained, and dedicated to providing everyone with the best care possible. They recognise that each person in their care has their own unique needs and requirements. They take time to get to know you personally so they can provide tailored care that will truly help.

Glenwood Masonic Hospital has 48 rooms, with a large variety of care options depending on what you or your loved one requires. They offer rest home care, hospital care, respite care, palliative care, ACC patient care, and care for disabled youth.

There are also seven suites designed for couples available to purchase on an Occupation Right Agreement. Each suite is beautifully decorated and fitted with a personal ensuite, kitchenette, armchairs, and heating.

Along with the wide range of care options, the facilities at the hospital are truly top class. There's a library, chapel, activity room, four day rooms, two nurse stations, and even a hair salon. There's an onsite diversional therapist and an extensive meals on wheels service.

Residents of Glenwood Masonic Hospital can enjoy an independent lifestyle while receiving compassionate and skilful care you can trust. The staff have a flawless reputation for their level of understanding and dedication.

Cheerful and supportive

– Otahuhu

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

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

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

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

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

Keep it local

Unichem Kilbirnie Pharmacy is a family-centred one-stop shop for prescriptions, a wide range of pharmaceutical products, vaccinations, advice, consultations, and general health services.

While spring is well underway, those pesky winter colds and flus are still circulating, and it's recommended that people get vaccinations to support their health. For over 65s, the flu vaccination is free and both a COVID-19 booster shot and a shingles vaccine are strongly advised.

You can book online or on the phone to secure your preferred time and receive your vaccinations from an authorised staff member.

With age often comes a plethora of prescriptions. Keeping things local means creating real connections with the nurses and pharmacists at Unichem Kilbirnie. The pharmacy offers prescription repeat reminders and medical management services to help you keep on top of your health.

Unichem Kilbirnie has a huge range of pharmaceutical products that help manage common health concerns. They've recently included an additional micro ear suctioning service, and their qualified team can help with wart and skin tag removal, travel medications, and provide improved sleep services.

If you have any queries, the friendly and knowledgeable team offer expert advice and can direct you to the right pharmaceutical products and services.

Customer parking is available at the rear of the shop for easy access. Unichem Kilbirnie Pharmacy is dedicated to supporting the health and wellbeing of you and your whānau.

Bereavement

Celebrate loved ones



Te Awahou & Ōtaki
FUNERAL SERVICES

Where we honour and celebrate life.



teawahoufunerals.co.nz

200-202 Main Highway Ōtaki, Corner of Purcell St & SH1 Foxton

Email: info@teawahoufunerals.co.nz **Phone:** 06 363 7404

Te Awahou & Ōtaki Funeral Services is a locally owned funeral home that serves Foxton, Ōtaki, and the wider region. They offer funeral and memorial services to their communities that are genuine, compassionate, and grounded in dignity, respect, and cultural awareness.

Each service is tailored to meet the family's wishes. The funeral directors provide support, guidance, and practical advice throughout the planning to relieve whānau of additional stress that comes with organising an event during a period of grieving.

Supported by a qualified funeral director and embalmer, the teams in both branches are highly experienced. They offer affordable and flexible options for funeral arrangements, pre-arrangements, cremations, and burials, ensuring there is clear communication, warm consideration, and manaakitanga at every stage.

There are so many ways to remember a loved one. Te Awahou & Ōtaki Funeral Services can assist whānau with ashes interment, plaques, and memorial attributes. The private and peaceful viewing lounge offers whānau time for togetherness and reflection, while the team are available 24/7 to offer support and advice.

Jayden Moore established Te Awahou Funeral Services in 2017 at the age of 19, making him the youngest funeral-home owner in Aotearoa at the time. His dedication to the Foxton community and honouring the lives of those who have passed meant he could expand his services into Ōtaki earlier this year. The Ōtaki branch is led by Andrae Peipi, who has over three decades of experience as a funeral director.

An important decision

Talking about death can be uncomfortable, but it's an important conversation to have. It's about ensuring that your funeral will help your whānau and friends feel a sense of closure when it's time to say goodbye, and to help them along the grieving process.

Windsor Industries have over 30 years of experience making caskets in their factory in Pahiata. The team understand we are all different – they believe in offering a choice.

Their range is personalised and includes a wide range of colours, hand-carved caskets, solid timber, timber veneers, two-tone caskets, woven caskets, environmentally accredited caskets, and, of course, the traditional caskets that you're familiar with.

It is important that your family's last memory of you is meaningful and that the casket resonates with the life you have lived, so the bereaved can feel a sense of celebration and remember you the way you want them to.

As most funeral homes only have a limited selection of caskets to choose from, start your journey now with Windsor Industries, who can help you plan, prepare, and feel in control. Why not select a casket and register it with a funeral home so your family doesn't need to make the choice while they're grieving? That way, you can be assured you will be conveyed in the casket of your choice when the time comes.

Visit windsorindustries.co.nz to see what best reflects you and your life.

Making memories



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

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

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

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

Preserve the precious MEMORIES OF YOUR BELOVED PET

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

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



06 354 4086

www.soulfriends.nz



SOUL FRIEND
PET CREMATIONS

[Back to contents](#)



John Bertrand Collectables Buying in Wellington and Lower North Island Regions Soon

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting Wellington and Lower North Island regions soon. Mr. Kevin George from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "Soon will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr. George. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr. George. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Wellington and Lower North Island regions soon. (see details below). As Kevin George points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



Mr Kevin George

Senior Buyer
John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd

Gold & Silver At Very High Prices

Over the last couple of years, we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is still at historically high levels. So, gather up all your unwanted items and make an appointment to see the buyers. Kevin George says "We can buy gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc.), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting Wellington and Lower North Island regions soon, are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

"If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Kevin George, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr. Kevin George, Senior Buyer. Mr. George is in Wellington and Lower North Island regions soon on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound banknote from a New Zealand

trading bank dated 1932 or before.

Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from \$700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least \$1000" said Mr. George.

Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars.

General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr. Kevin George, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Kevin George from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to purchase pre-1946 New Zealand Silver Coins and World Silver Coins. "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr. George.

JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) ARE BUYING NOW!!

OLD GOLD

- Unwanted Jewellery or Broken Rings
- Gold Chains
- Gold Watch Cases
- Alluvial (River) Gold
- Dental Gold
- Gold Coins
- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



COINS

- All Gold & Silver Coins
- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
- Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
- Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets



No Pennies or Halfpennies Please

BANKNOTES

- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
- Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
- Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissory Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



GOLD & SILVER

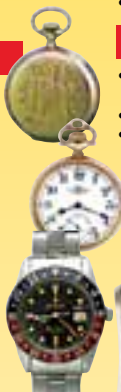
- Racing Cups
- A&P Show Cups
- Sports Cups
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
- Show Pieces
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Sterling Silver Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver

No EPNS or Silver Plated items Please

WRIST & POCKET WATCHES

- Gold & Silver Pocket Watches
- Any Rolex Watches
- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)

No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please



TOKENS

- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
- NZ Transportation Tokens
- Railway Passes
- Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
- Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
- Bread Tokens
- Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand

COLLECTABLES

- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
- Old Fountain Pens
- Maori & Pacific Artefacts



No item too small for our consideration

WAR MEDALS ETC

- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
- 1st World War Medals
- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand

HISTORICAL MEDALS

- A&P Show - Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals
- Commemorative Medals & Medalets
- Prize Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Sports Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Life Saving Medals
- Shipwreck Medals
- Coronation Medals
- etc, etc, etc



JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) LTD OUR BUYERS ARE IN YOUR AREA SOON

WELLINGTON – HUTT VALLEY – PORIRUA

KHANDALLAH	Mon 5 Oct	Khandallah Presbyterian Village Church, 33 Ganges Road	9 am to 10.30 am
PETONE	Mon 5 Oct	Petone Baptist Church Auditorium, 38 Buick Street	11.30 am to 1 pm
SEATOUN	Mon 5 Oct	Seatoun Village Hall, 22 Forbes Street	2 pm to 3.30 pm
LOWER HUTT	Tues 6 Oct	Knox Presbyterian Church Café, 574 High Street	9 am to 10.30 am
WAINUIOMATA	Tues 6 Oct	Wainuiomata Baptist Church Foyer, 38 Wainuiomata Road	11.30 am to 1 pm
NEWLANDS	Tues 6 Oct	Newlands Community Centre Hall, 9 Batchelor Street	2 pm to 3.30 pm
MIRAMAR	Wed 7 Oct	Miramar & Maupuia Community Centre Hall, 27 Chelsea Street	9 am to 10.30 am
JOHNSONVILLE	Wed 7 Oct	Johnsonville Uniting Church Lounge, 18 Dr Taylor Tce	11.30 am to 1 pm
UPPER HUTT	Wed 7 Oct	Upper Hutt Uniting Parish Church Lounge, 1 Benzie Ave	2 pm to 3.30 pm
PLIMMERTON	Thurs 8 Oct	Plimmerton Main Hall, 9 Sunset Parade	9 am to 10.30 am
LOWER HUTT	Thurs 8 Oct	St Mark's Wesley Uniting Church Atrium, 58 Woburn Road	11.30 am to 1 pm
WHITBY	Thurs 8 Oct	St Mary's Church, 69D Discovery Drive	2 pm to 3.30 pm
PORIRUA	Fri 9 Oct	Pataka Museum, Helen Smith Room, 17 Parumoana Street	9 am to 10.30 am
KARORI	Fri 9 Oct	St Ninian's Uniting Church, Front Room, 208 Karori Road	11.30 am to 1 pm
WAIWHETU	Fri 9 Oct	St Paul's Church Hall, 76 Waiwhetu Road	2 pm to 3.30 pm

WAIRARAPA – HOROWHENUA – RANGITIKEI – MANAWATU

LEVIN	Mon 5 Oct	Levin Uniting Church, Andrew Room, 87 Oxford Street	9 am to 10.30 am
PARAPARAUMU BEACH	Mon 5 Oct	Ocean Road Community Centre, 45 Ocean Road	11.30 to 1 pm
WAIKANAE	Mon 5 Oct	Waikanae Senior Citizens Community Centre, 28 Utauta Street	2 pm to 3.30 pm
RAUMATI BEACH	Tues 6 Oct	St Mark's Church, Rita King House, 330 Rosetta Road	9 am to 11 am
OTAKI	Tues 6 Oct	All Saint's Church, Hadfield Hall, 47 Te Rauparaha Street	12 noon to 1.30 pm
FOXTON	Tues 6 Oct	Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Teal Room, 92 Main Street	3 pm to 4 pm
TERRACE END	Wed 7 Oct	Pathways Presbyterian Church at St David's, Corner Main & Rainforth Streets	9 am to 10.30 am
MARTON	Wed 7 Oct	St John Ambulance Rooms, Corner Lower Beaven Street & Wellington Road	11.30 am to 12.30 pm
FEILDING	Wed 7 Oct	Concert Chamber, Feilding Civic Centre, 84 Aorangi Street	1.30 pm to 3 pm
PALMERSTON NORTH	Thurs 8 Oct	Central Baptist Church, East Lounge, 190 Church Street	9 am to 10.30 am
PAHIATUA	Thurs 8 Oct	St Paul's Union Church Lounge, 12 Arthur Street	12 noon to 1.30 pm
MASTERTON	Thurs 8 Oct	St James Union Church Hall, 116 High Street	2.30 pm to 4 pm
MASTERTON	Fri 9 Oct	Masterton Baptist Church Hall, 12 Renall Street	9 am to 11 am
CARTERTON	Fri 9 Oct	Carterton Courthouse Community Hub, 60 Holloway Street	12 noon to 2 pm
GREYTOWN	Fri 9 Oct	St Andrew's Church Hall, 63 Main Street, left side entrance	2.30 pm to 3.30 pm

John Bertrand The Trusted Name In Numismatics Since 1965!

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Please note: If you sell anything to us, suitable ID is required. Please also bring your bank account details for the deposit of funds for larger purchases.

John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited
T: 04 232 9832 • E: info@bertrand.co.nz
Level 1 Harcourt's Building, 215 Main Road,
Tawa, Wellington 5028
PO Box 323, Wellington 6140



JOHN BERTRAND
COLLECTABLES LTD

Members of the Australasian Numismatic
Dealers Association and the New Zealand
Numismatic Dealers Association



International Day of Older Persons

Every aspect of wellbeing



Porirua Union and Community Health Service (PUCHS) is so much more than a GP clinic, offering affordable general medical care alongside a range of specialised and holistic services that cater to every aspect of wellbeing.

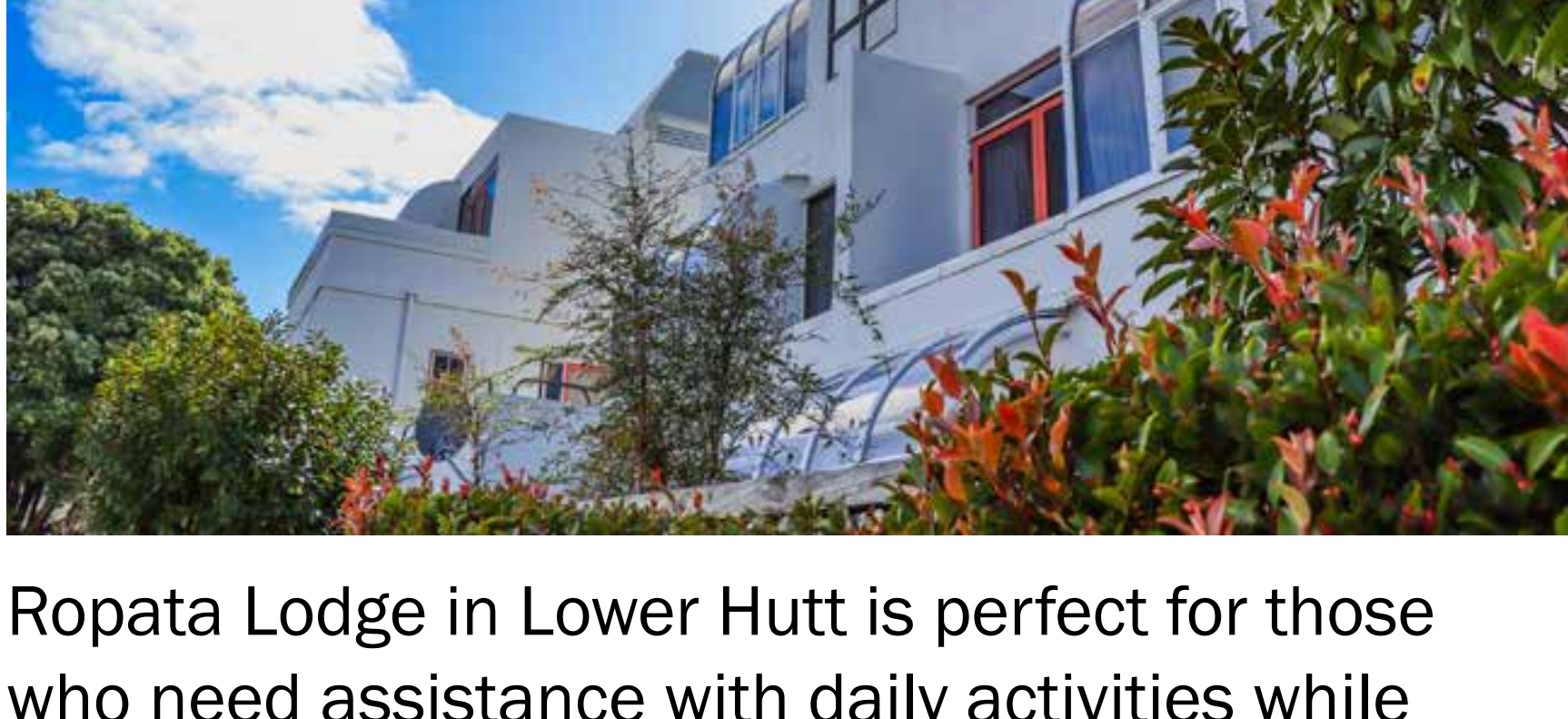
The PUCHS nurse-led outreach service ensures that healthcare and support reaches those who need it, especially the elderly and people with mobility challenges. They provide in-home assessments, medication support, general healthchecks, and chronic condition management. The wider outreach team includes a health coach, community worker, cross-cultural worker, and health improvement practitioner to offer additional support.

Other nurse-led clinics specialise in diabetes, respiratory illnesses, and immunisations. Other on-site staff include a counsellor, extended care paramedic, pharmacist, dietician, physiotherapist, podiatrist, hearing therapist, paediatric eczema specialist, and midwife.

Health and wellbeing is more than just physical. The community support team also offer support with broader needs like transport and housing. Programmes run by PUCHS include Wai Ora, a free aquafit class, a weekly walking group, and Motonui, a 10-week programme for people with mild to moderate dementia, delivered with a Pasifika approach.

PUCHS is a low-cost health provider dedicated to accessible care for all. With a diverse, highly skilled clinical team, the door is open to support you in living a happy and healthy life.

Community and care



Ropata Lodge in Lower Hutt is perfect for those who need assistance with daily activities while still enjoying a vibrant lifestyle. The architectural facility was designed by Roger Walker in 1988. The building still retains his creative engaging design choices but has since been renovated to provide modern comforts.

The boutique and supportive environment offers 35 spacious studios and lifestyle suites that come with ensuite bathrooms. Most offer a kitchenette, and many have a private courtyard or balcony.

Families can find comfort in the provided 24-hour care, homecooked meals, and flexible visiting hours. The seasonal menu is nutritious, varied, and can be served either in the dining area or brought to the resident's studio.

Ropata Lodge believes it is important to keep moving and stay engaged. Residents enjoy a diverse activities programme that promotes socialising and connection and provides options for all interests and abilities, including scenic van outings, board games, quizzes, creative workshops, live entertainment, and walking groups.

Ropata Lodge goes to great lengths to build a tightknit community and ensure residents feel at home. The local owners believe that retirement is a time to thrive and experience dignity, joy, and a sense of belonging. At Ropata, they prioritise quality of lifestyle, connection, patience, and comfort at affordable prices.

Book a tour today to visit the place where you, or your loved one, can enjoy the next stage of life.



Vibrant Rest Home Living

Feel at home in our purpose-built, assisted living complex. With just 35 studios and lifestyle suites, our friendly team can cater to your individual needs and ensure a comfortable transition to our care community.

57 Ropata Crescent, Boulcott, Lower Hutt | 04 920 0846
manager@ropatalodge.co.nz | www.ropatalodge.co.nz



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It is essential to book early to avoid disappointment.

ITINERARY PLANNING | BIKE HIRE | TRANSPORT

60 plus and planning a cycling trip? Bike It Now! in Central Otago is exceptionally well-suited to your needs. Highly regarded for their **e-bike specialization, comfortable gear setups, and flexible, self-guided multi-day tours** that cater beautifully to mature riders looking for a scenic, low-impact adventure. Bike It Now! caters for all ages.

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• 6 Barry Avenue, Cromwell
• Three Parks, Wanaka
Ph 0800 245 366 (NZ) | 1800 446 356 (Aus)
info@bikeitnow.co.nz | www.bikeitnow.co.nz

PUCHS
PORIRUA UNION & COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE



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Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm, Closed Weekends
Ph 04 237 4207 | 221 Bedford St, Cannons Creek, Porirua
www.poriruaunionhealth.co.nz

International Day of Older Persons

A graceful home



At Summerville Rest Home in Hastings, Hawke's Bay, the experienced and nurturing staff provide quality care for their residents, rooted in respect for individual dignity, self-worth, cultural identity, and religious beliefs.

The 17-bed rest home feels like home for its residents, who are encouraged to maintain their independence, stay healthy and active, and engage in the wide range of activities on offer. Summerville Rest Home gracefully fits in with the surrounding houses in the neighbourhood and features a lovely, landscaped garden with places to sit and enjoy the changing seasons and the people passing by.

Twice a month there is live entertainment, while bingo and quiz nights happen weekly and special outings take place twice weekly. Meals are cooked onsite, and special events like Christmas and birthdays are observed. Families are encouraged to come and visit their loved ones; the open-door policy means that they are welcome any time.

The golden years



This year, the 1st of October marks the International Day of Older Persons, a global reminder to celebrate our older friends and whānau, and the important roles they play in our communities.

The goal of the day is to amplify the voice of older persons, create connections, challenge ageism, and spark conversation around how communities and governments can support our senior citizens, whose contributions, experiences, skills, and stories deserve to be uplifted.

Positive ageing is underpinned by health and independence. Strengthening care and support systems is key to ensuring lasting dignity for older persons as they meet new challenges relating to accessibility, health conditions, and maintaining purpose long after retirement.

There is so much to learn from older generations, and much of what we enjoy today is underpinned by a lifetime of their contributions. On the International Day of Older Persons, why not have a cuppa with a loved one or see what events are happening in your neighbourhood?

Electric, independent



In 2019, the owner of EV Bikes NZ travelled to China and was stunned by the number of people travelling on electric bikes. Standing on the corner of a busy street, he glimpsed the future of New Zealand transportation: one full of electric trucks, cars, passenger vehicles, and importantly, bikes.

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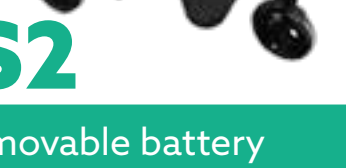
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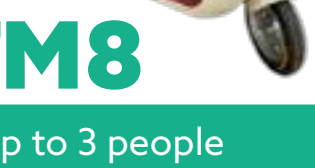
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Small universes



Photo by Samson Dell, courtesy of Enjoy Contemporary Art Space.

Greek stoic philosopher Epictetus wrote, “Know first who you are, and then adorn yourself accordingly.”

Curated by Brooke Pou, *Adorn yourself accordingly* brings together three emerging artists – Arawhetu Berdinner, Bailey Gardner, and Te Māreikura Whakataka-Brightwell – whose works are grounded in an inward sense of self: whakapapa, connection to Tangaroa (among other atua), and their interests.

Pearls, shells, metal, and synthetic materials transform into ornate adornments through careful craft, guided by ancestral making practices and learnt processes from across the globe. They are delicate yet sturdy, quiet yet charged. Some shine with a natural lustre while others are placed in darker corners of the gallery. Hung on the walls, the expanses of negative space only seem to make each stitch, puncture, bind, and cluster more acutely felt. Each adornment houses a small universe.

“I love the contrast between size in Arawhetu’s enormous kuku (green-lipped mussel shells) in *Kōuma Mahara* and Bailey’s small pōrohe (blue mussel shells) in *Untitled #3*,” Brooke says. “It’s really cool to see the different ways they work with these gifts from Tangaroa: Arawhetu by binding them together with muka [harakeke fibres] and Bailey by piercing them with steel.”

Arawhetu has an enduring interest in the artforms of her ancestors. “Her practice considers material culture as carriers of whakapapa, and the creator as a conduit for that exchange in real-time.”

Researching early Māori and Moana adornments, she works with water and hōanga (sandstone or grindstone) to create the notches of the ngau pae pattern that encodes whakapapa.

Bailey works with metal, handwoven chains, and found shells collected from various beaches to lessen her impact on te taiao. Her designs are made to feel like armour, or a form of protection, “for the wearer who has little choice but to adapt to our rapidly changing climate amidst rising tides”.

Te Māreikura’s work acts as a mode of resistance. Working with what he calls “big fat ugly pearls”, he questions dominant narratives of beauty. His practice incorporates medieval European influences with Tahitian and Māori adornments such as the Tahitian pārae, a headdress worn by the chief mourner in the Heva Tūpāpau funeral ceremony. *Sacrum Maris/The Sacred of the Sea* [pictured] is his take on a Sacred Heart, made with a megalodon shark tooth and Tahitian pearls – the same pearls that the French Polynesian Government in Tahiti is trying to ban.

“The artworks in this exhibition really complement each other,” Brooke says. “Each work gets its own space to breathe, while staying in conversation with the other.”

“Working with natural and synthetic materials allows an exploration of the tension between the two while contributing to exciting experiments in contemporary adornment.”

Personal adornment is one of humanity’s oldest forms of expression. Outdating any written language, we find perforated shells, feathers, and beads of clay, stone, teeth, and bone from hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Adorn yourself accordingly adorns the walls of Enjoy Contemporary Art Space until the 24th of October.

The rising star



Whiro, Te Whitu o Hakihea | New Moon, The Seventh of Menkent. 20-11-2025 by Nikau Hindin.

Photo by Sam Hartnett, courtesy of Jhana Millers Gallery.

On at Jhana Millers Gallery until the 3rd of October, *Kimihia ngā Whetū Pukepoto* is a collection of works from aute (bark cloth)-maker and contemporary Māori artist Nikau Hindin (Ngāi Tūpoto, Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi). The main series, *Ngā Whetū Maiangi II: The Rising Stars of the Stellar Lunar Calendar 2025-2026*, comprises 12 star-maps that chart 12 successive whiro (new moon) night skies. Each new lunar month is announced by a heliacal rising star – a morning star. Nikau captures the shifting constellations across the full spectrum of the maramataka (Māori lunar calendar) as a way of mapping relations across generations and more-than-human worlds.

Embodying and reinvigorating ancestral practices, the aute are made of beaten mulberry bark and inscribed using natural pigments derived from the whenua.

“The more you learn about her mahi, the more layers reveal themselves,” curator Jhana Millers says. “There is an extraordinary amount of knowledge held within each piece: celestial navigation, the maramataka, seasonal observation, whakapapa, whenua, and the reclamation of aute-making itself.”

For Nikau, the star maps decentre the Gregorian calendar and recentre the place and environment in which we live, with the maramataka indicating times to plant, harvest, gather kai, or rest.

“The works can be understood individually, but when seen together they allow you to read the larger cycle across the year. Repetition is important: the format and visual language remain consistent, while the stars, symbols, and configurations shift from month to month,” Jhana says.

“I’m really interested in artists whose work is visually compelling but also has a rigorous conceptual and material foundation, and Nikau’s practice has all of those things,” Jhana says. “Nothing feels arbitrary; the materials, symbols, and processes are all deeply connected to the ideas within the work.”

Fade Into Yellow

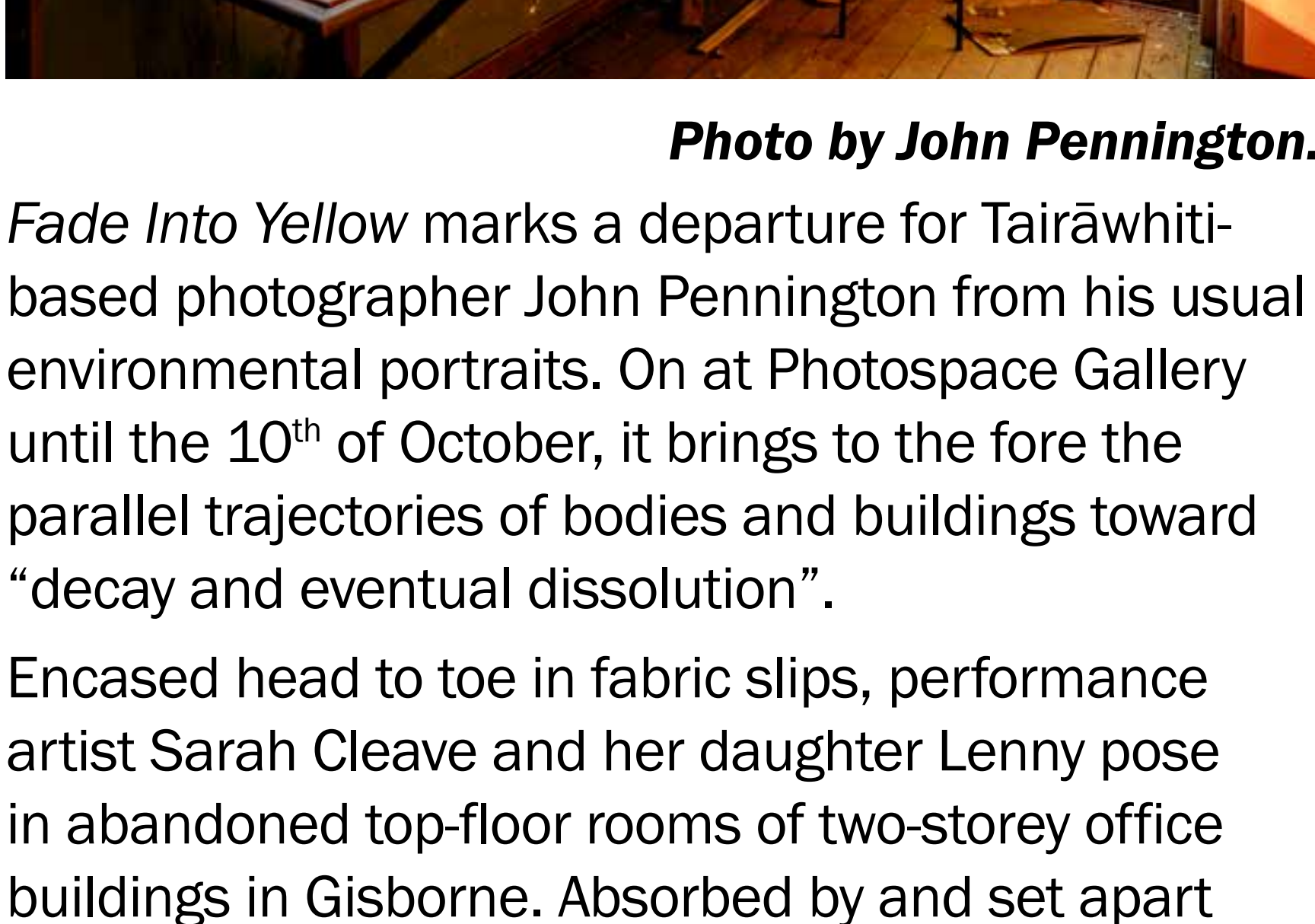


Photo by John Pennington.

Fade Into Yellow marks a departure for Tairāwhiti-based photographer John Pennington from his usual environmental portraits. On at Photospace Gallery until the 10th of October, it brings to the fore the parallel trajectories of bodies and buildings toward “decay and eventual dissolution”.

Encased head to toe in fabric slips, performance artist Sarah Cleave and her daughter Lenny pose in abandoned top-floor rooms of two-storey office buildings in Gisborne. Absorbed by and set apart from their environment, they appear as sculptural imitations – bodies bent, elbows stuck out at right angles – of the human form.

The warm golden light filtering through the windows into these forgotten rooms seems to amplify abandonment. Awoken from a long sleep, the rooms are surprised to be photographed as they travel their long arc of decline.

“Light is often evanescent”, John says. “One second, it’s there and the next it’s shifted, completely altering the image. Any photographer will tell you that you need your wits about you and respond accordingly.”

Sarah organises the annual event NOise VACANCY, which sees neglected spaces in Gisborne’s city centre activated through performance art.

“Abandonment seems to ground both Sarah’s performance and the state of the building, so we put the two things together”.

There is an inherent power imbalance between photographer and subject. However, in this project, “the subjects of the images were as much agents as the photographer. It was very much a collaborative affair which I hope helped create a dynamism to the images”.

“There are some parallels between buildings and people,” John continues. “Buildings perform certain functions and we perform certain functions and display certain characteristics and personalities.”

“Just like we renovate buildings, these days we spend increasing amounts of time and money on renovating ourselves.”

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Heading north – Taranaki

Explore, wander, discover



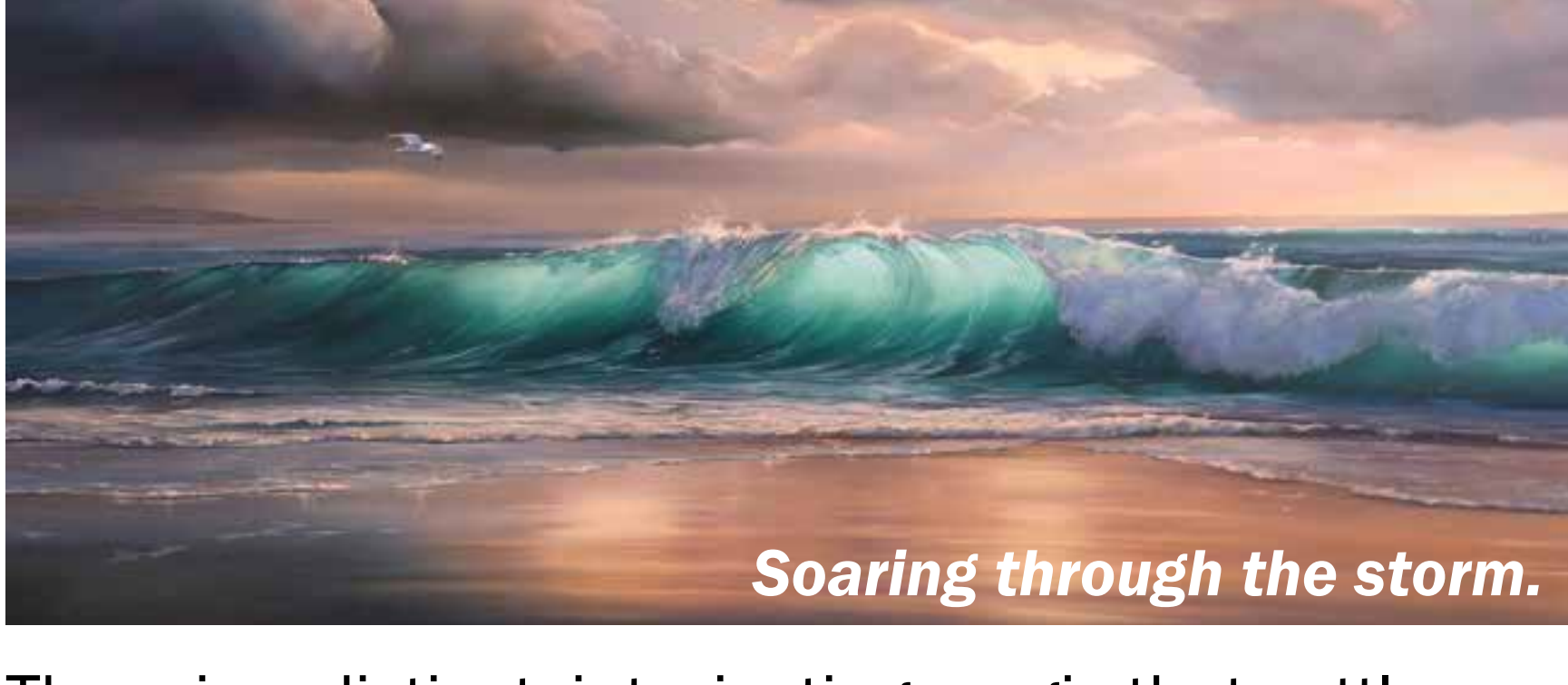
Spring is a great time to explore South Taranaki, with gardens in bloom, longer days, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy coastal scenery, culture, heritage, and good food. From Hāwera and Pātea to Ōpunakē and the smaller communities in between, visitors can build a relaxed itinerary around discovering some of the district's best-known attractions.

Between the 30th of October and the 8th of November, the Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival brings an extra burst of colour and creativity to the region. Gardens ranging from grand country estates to native sanctuaries and urban food forests open their gates to visitors, including established favourites such as King Edward Park in Hāwera and Hollard Gardens near Kaponga.

Stopping off at local attractions along the way adds another dimension. Tawhiti Museum, renowned for its dioramas and Traders & Whalers experience brings local history to life in Hāwera. Aotea Utanganui Museum of South Taranaki in Pātea shares the stories and heritage of the district, while Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga in Hāwera is home to the Lysaght Watt Gallery and a welcoming café.

For the outdoorsy types, Surf Highway 45 winds past beaches, surf breaks, and lookouts. Ōpunakē is well worth a stop for its coastal walkway, shops, and cafés. Whether wandering gardens, discovering museums, exploring towns, or enjoying scenic drives through coast and countryside, spring is an ideal time to experience South Taranaki.

Where canvas meets community



There is a distinct, intoxicating magic that settles over our region when the spring warmth finally coaxes the coast into full bloom. For 10 glorious days, the landscape transforms into a living gallery. Returning from Friday the 30th of October to Sunday the 8th of November 2026, the Taranaki Arts Trail invites the public to step past the gallery ropes and cross the threshold directly into the engine rooms of creativity.

With artist studios open daily from 9:30am to 4:30pm, this entirely free community event has grown into one of Aotearoa's premier creative art excursions. The premise remains beautifully simple yet deeply profound: self-drive your way around the mountain, use the iconic regional map, and discover the diverse, world-class talent hiding right down our rural roads and suburban avenues.

What makes the trail an indispensable fixture of the Taranaki calendar is the raw intimacy of the open-studio format. Art, at its core, is a dialogue. Too often, we only experience the final, polished syllable of that conversation hanging silently on a sterile white wall. The trail flips the script, celebrating the chaotic, beautiful, and collaborative process behind the work. It is an invitation to witness the dust, the discarded sketches, the shared ideas, and the rhythmic meditation of the hand at work.

Grab a physical brochure from a local hub or load up the interactive digital directory, and immerse yourself in the vibrant, community-focused energy that makes Taranaki truly "Like No Other".



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Heading north – Taranaki

Majestic maunga



The majestic Taranaki Maunga behaves like an anchor to the fascinating west coast headland. Often adorned by clouds, it is surrounded by

fertile, rolling plains and hemmed in by some of Aotearoa's most spectacular surf breaks,.

Whether you're hiking up the side of the mountain, cruising down Surf Highway 45, stopping off for a coffee in one of many rural and coastal villages, or making the most of the vibrant heart of New Plymouth, Taranaki is one of the most exciting places to explore in Aotearoa.

People who live in Taranaki are proud of their corner of the world. Taranaki is a nature nut's paradise, with natural wonderlands and hidden gems around every corner: cascading waterfalls, ancient tracks of bush, botanical gardens, sparkling beaches... How you want to enjoy them is up to you, be it hiking, rafting, skiing, or surfing.

History buffs can visit important landmarks and myriad museums found in every town. As for arts and culture, New Plymouth has them in spades, plus a world-class gastronomic scene and a buzzing events calendar. Peek into galleries and museums, peruse boutiques, settle into cafés and bars – whatever you fancy, Ngāmotu always has something brewing and plenty to see and do.

With spring knocking at the door, now is the perfect time to visit gardens that have come to life and opened their gates or, come summer, witness the town transform with the magical Festival of Lights.

Springtime celebration



Photo by Anne Clough.

For over two decades, the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival has shared some of the most beautiful gardens in the region with locals and visitors. This year, over 40 gardens and places of interest will take part in the springtime celebration.

Stretching from the coast to the base of Mount Taranaki, the bustling city centre to quaint countryside towns, and everywhere in between, the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival will be as vast and varied as the region itself. The gardens along the 2026 map will span everything from picture-perfect to practical and achievable, ensuring guests leave brimming with inspiration and knowledge to apply to their own gardens, regardless of the time, money, or space at hand.

Just as important as the gardens are the gardeners behind them. The Taranaki Garden Trust seeks to celebrate their passion and achievements, which is why visitors are encouraged to meet the gardeners, hear their stories, and learn from their adventures.

With the festival kaupapa rooted in keeping things personal and accessible, the gold coin cost of entry hasn't changed in the last 22 years. This enables people from all walks of life to take part in the 10-day adventure that runs from Friday the 30th of October to Sunday the 8th of November, encouraging them to discover, share, and enjoy real gardens by real people.

Greet the gardeners and take a stroll through some of the most beautiful outdoor spaces in Taranaki and Aotearoa while they're in full bloom.



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TaranakiFringeGardenFestival

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Heading south

Finding paradise



The top of the South Island comes alive beneath the sun. A hotspot for eco-tourism, a delight for the culturally focused traveller, a haven for foodies, and a nonstop party of music, art, and events, this region is the poster child of a quintessential Kiwi summer.

For whatever reason you may find yourself in this sun-soaked spot of golden sands, abundant nature, and quirky townships, consider extending your stay to explore magical Motueka and astonishing Abel Tasman.

Eccentric and eclectic in equal measure, Motueka is a great place to make your base. Brimming with boutiques, galleries, museums, eateries, and attractions, this funky village has something the whole family will fall for.

Whether you choose to explore by land or sea, Abel Tasman National Park is simply divine. One of Aotearoa's calling cards, the winding trails, burgeoning flora and fauna, secluded hideaways, and idyllic beaches will make you believe you found paradise.

Majestic sea giants



With a three-metre wingspan, the toroa or albatross is a truly majestic bird to behold. The Royal Albatross Centre in Ōtepoti Dunedin is home to the world's only mainland northern royal albatross colony. From the exclusive viewing observatory, you can witness these sea giants at their nesting grounds on the headlands of the Otago Harbour.

The fully guided tours include an informative short film and presentation about the albatross, as well as a history of the site – from a small Māori camp to a fortified pā where Te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed in 1840, from a lighthouse to an underground fort, to a large defence base in World War II, to the nature reserve it is today. Visitors can also walk through the underground Taiaroa Fort, built in the late 1880s, and visit the McMillan Gallery to learn about the diverse marine wildlife in the area. It's the perfect educational attraction for families over the spring school holidays and Labour Weekend.

Special species



Photo by Tim Cuff.

690 hectares of protected native forest bustling with rare species sit just outside Nelson's city centre. The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is the South Island's largest fully fenced eco-sanctuary and a beautiful place to reconnect with nature and immerse yourself in the mauri (life force) of Aotearoa's unique environment.

There is plenty to see and do at Brook Waimārama Sanctuary. 15 kilometres of walking tracks are the perfect way to explore the sanctuary on your own. By following along the well-delineated trails suitable for all levels, you can explore the beauty of the native forest at your own pace. Guided tours are the way to go if you want to learn about New Zealand's flora and fauna from specialists. With night and day experiences available, you can come face to face with native creatures of all kinds.

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Heading south

Food worth travelling for



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Named the Upper South Island's number one gastropub in 2024 and 2025, Strawberry Tree is a destination for food worth travelling for all year round. In winter, settle beside the indoor fire with a glass of local wine. During summer, relax in the spacious beer garden and soak up the stunning snow-capped mountain views and laid-back coastal charm.

With the venue's popularity continuing to grow, Strawberry Tree is expanding its building and team to keep pace with demand and cater for larger groups, functions, and events. The expansion will create more space to welcome guests while continuing to deliver great food, a welcoming atmosphere, excellent service, and genuine hospitality.

The edge of the Earth



One of the most remarkable places to visit in the country, The Catlins is just over two hours from Dunedin and 70 minutes from Invercargill. Famous for being remote and rugged, the landscapes make you feel like you're standing at the very edge of the Earth.

There is no better spot to set up sticks than the Whistling Frog Resort, also home to a café and bar serving up excellent burgers and beers on tap seven days a week. The chalets and cottages are fully self-contained and sleep different-sized groups. Each one has its own charm, whether it's a chalet in the rainforest or a cottage drenched in birdsong. There are also motel rooms with ensuites, historic cabins, dorm rooms, camping, and powered RV sites with shared bathroom and kitchen amenities.

The Catlins coastline is home to the world's smallest dolphins, most endangered sea lions, and rarest penguins. Visitors to Curio Bay can see Hector's dolphins playing in the surf, and at low tide view the 180-million-year-old Jurassic forest which is revealed on the shoreline. Low tide is also the time to go to Cathedral Caves, one of the world's largest sea cave complexes.

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Across

- 1 - Inner surface of the hand (4)
- 3 - A magical quality (8)
- 9 - Endurance (7)
- 10 - Large bags (5)
- 11 - Dictatorial (12)
- 14 - Compete (3)
- 16 - Spiny yellow-flowered shrub (5)
- 17 - 21st Greek letter (3)
- 18 - Sweet red fruits (12)
- 21 - Makes beer (5)
- 22 - Large ocean (7)
- 23 - Finance department (8)
- 24 - Weapons (4)

Down

- 1 - Certain (8)
- 2 - Smallest quantity (5)
- 4 - Popular beverage (3)
- 5 - Minimum purchase cost at auction (7,5)
- 6 - Unfasten (7)
- 7 - Throw a coin in the air (4)
- 8 - Binoculars (5,7)
- 12 - Palpitate (5)
- 13 - Cuts into bits (8)
- 15 - Exceptional; not usual (7)
- 19 - Conclude (5)
- 20 - Tuba (anag) (4)
- 22 - Level golf score (3)

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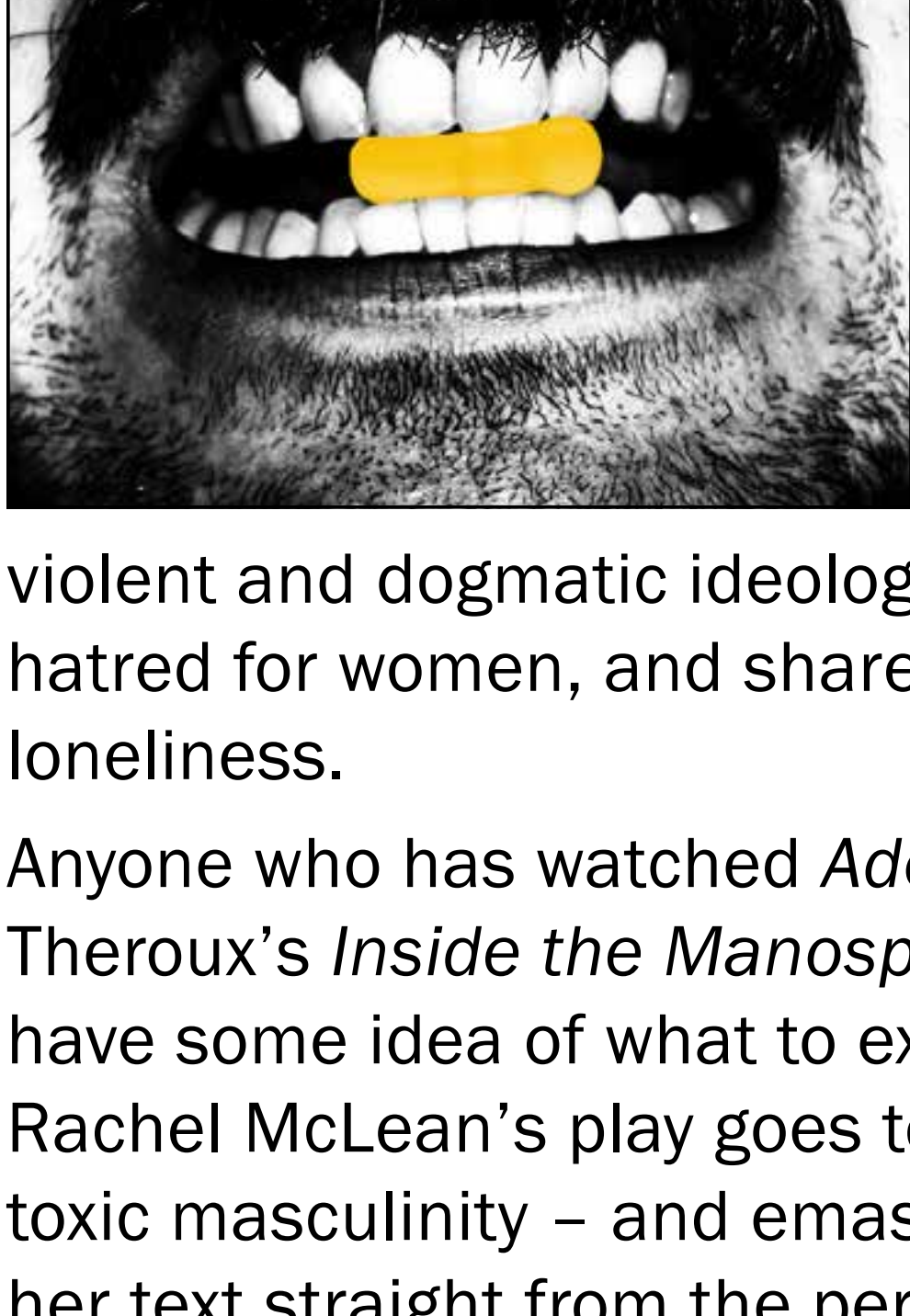


Blackpill

Written and directed by Rachel McLean

BATS Theatre, 9th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Part of the TAHI Festival of Solo Performance, *Blackpill* is a confronting verbatim play taken from the online forums of the manosphere where incels preach their

violent and dogmatic ideology, express profound hatred for women, and share their pervasive loneliness.

Anyone who has watched *Adolescence* or Louis Theroux's *Inside the Manosphere* on Netflix will have some idea of what to expect. However, Rachel McLean's play goes to a deeper level of toxic masculinity – and emasculation – by taking her text straight from the pernicious anonymity of the internet. What results is a brutal exposé of a sub-culture that is extraordinarily warped in its view of life.

Zachary Klein is a devastatingly effective performer. Starting with simulated masturbation, he brilliantly embodies the diverse facets of the incel world from the clichéd basement-dweller to the looksmaxxing poser to the severely depressed, socially isolated loner contemplating suicide as the only solution to his entirely joyless existence. It is this last persona that hits hardest, along with the realisation that these men hate each other, and themselves, as much as – or maybe more – than they hate women.

Rachel McLean's direction is as accomplished as her scriptwriting, making the visual presentation of a solo performance constantly interesting. And I'm always excited when I see Rebekah de Roo's name on the crew list. Her production and AV design more than meet my high expectations. A multi-panelled, monochrome screen behind Klein becomes a canvas for a complex and ever-changing, equally monochrome kaleidoscope of imagery, helpful definitions of the language of incelism, distorted videos of Klein, and hate-filled rants from the chatrooms. Lucas Neal's lighting design is also superb with highly effective use of practical lamps and subtle colour tones to complement and highlight the action. Ben Kelly's liminal sound design rounds out the production's netherworld between reality and the limbo of cyberspace.

Like its glossy Netflix cousins, *Blackpill* is blisteringly truthful, painfully revealing, and will leave you wondering where and why it all went so horribly wrong.

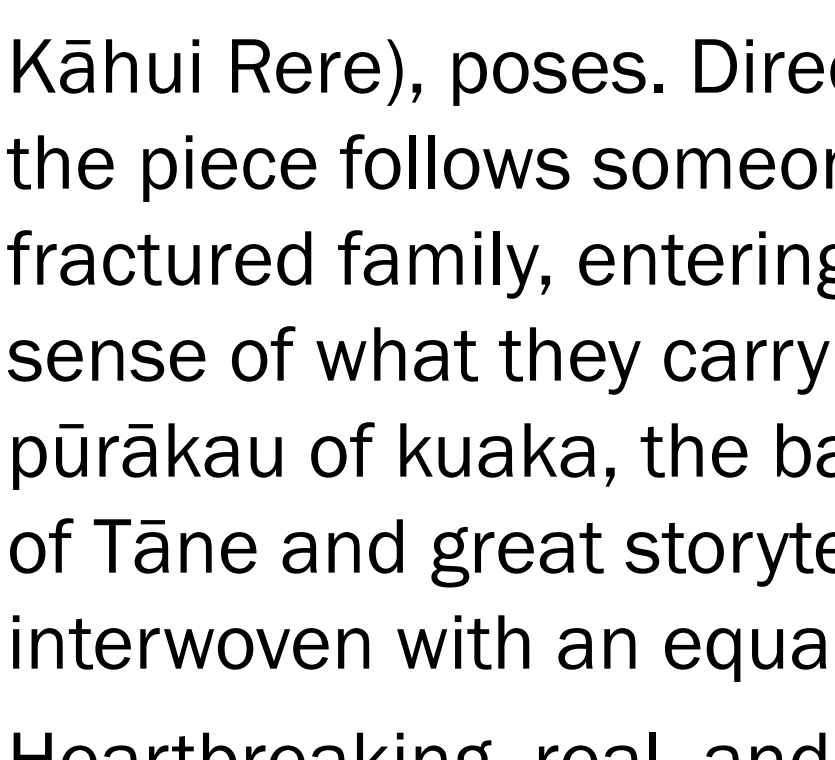
Flight Club

Written by Zody Takurua

Directed by Ahi Karunaharan

BATS Theatre, 9th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Zac Fitzgibbon



How do you hold what you are given when someone passes away? Is being needed the same as being loved? How does loneliness impact our actions? These are some of the many questions that *Flight Club*, written and performed by Zody

Takurua (Ngā Rauru, Te Kāhui Rere), poses. Directed by Ahi Karunaharan, the piece follows someone growing up in a fractured family, entering foster care, and making sense of what they carry as a result. Utilising the pūrākau of kuaka, the bar-tailed godwit, child of Tāne and great storyteller, the narrative is interwoven with an equally remarkable tale.

Heartbreaking, real, and relatable, this solo show could touch the innermost part of everyone's wairua. Through design (mentored by Grace O'Brien) and Takurua's performance and words, the idea of how difficult it is to hold what people leave behind particularly moves me. *Flight Club* challenges you to feel, connect, and consider so much in such a short time.

The motif of the heartbeat (sound design by Manuel Caballero) pulsating through the space enriches the performance. It feels like the stone in the kuaka's throat urging him to return to Aotearoa, but also a signal for yet another moving conversation. Lighting (Alexander Dickson) is dramatic and at times playful; the way it interacts with Takurua's body creates a perfect partnership. I enjoy the inherent queerness of *Flight Club*, the beauty of it creeping into the softest of moments. I would love this to be explored more.

Takurua soars with outstretched wings. With tact and dexterity, they switch from thoughtful, tear-jerking remarks to proclamations of bountiful humour. Their movements flow like a manu gliding in the sky. Vulnerable points of human connection are poignant, particularly during audience interaction.

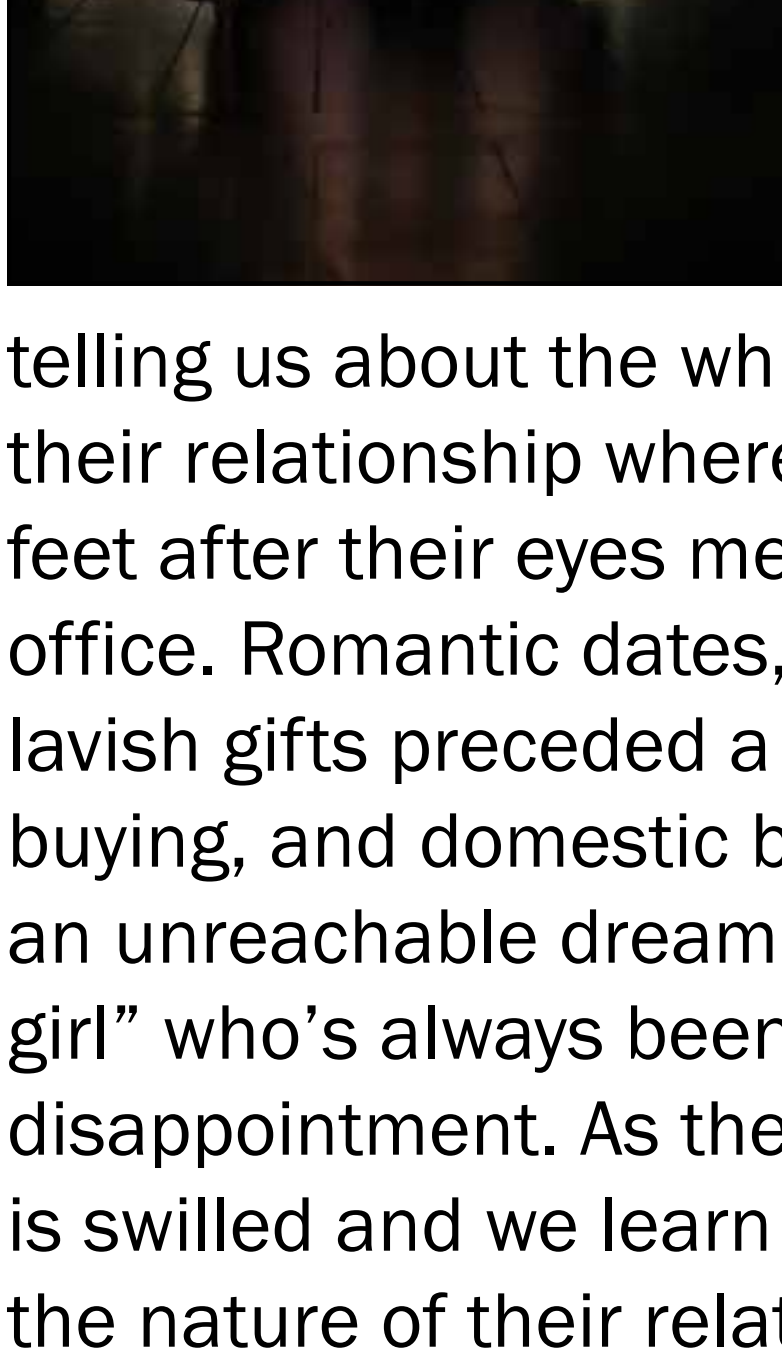
Touching parts of grief I didn't even consider, I feel *Flight Club* helping to heal my wounds. Even if you see it multiple times (and I implore you to do so), you will collect new fragments of brilliant wisdom. Part of the TAHI New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance x BATS Theatre Residency for LGBTQIA+ artists, this show is filled with nothing but aroha and ātaahua. Arohanui Zody Takurua.

Dinner's Getting Cold

Written by Mamaeroa Munn

BATS Theatre, 9th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



A solo psychological thriller with lashings of dark humour, *Dinner's Getting Cold* concerns a woman somewhere in the past played by the production's writer Mamaeroa (Mo) Munn (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāpuhi) waiting for her husband to come home for dinner.

She starts off confidently telling us about the whirlwind beginnings of their relationship where John swept her off her feet after their eyes met across a smoke-filled office. Romantic dates, gooey compliments, and lavish gifts preceded a quick marriage, house buying, and domestic bliss. This all seems like an unreachable dream come true for "a Māori girl" who's always been a klutz and told she's a disappointment. As the evening wears on, wine is swilled and we learn the twisted truth about the nature of their relationship and why John still hasn't come home.

Munn is a gifted comedian and able to skilfully draw out the emotional depths of the situation her character is swamped in, both in her writing and her performance. Decades of trauma and abuse are unravelled in seemingly throwaway lines and the sudden realisation of the enormity of what has happened to John occurs through a simple and otherwise innocuous question. Her final image is a uniquely delicious moment of comedy horror.

The semi-realistic setting (production by Quentin Potts (Ngāti Kahungunu), Aroha Faletolu (Ngā Puhi), and Ralph Hilaga) is a retro fanatic's delight of mid-20th century gorgeousness. Furniture and appliances suggest 50s, pop music suggests 60s, and cultural references suggest 70s. The nebulousness of the exact time we're in feels deliberate, revealing how trapped within this world our protagonist is and that this story could belong to any woman.

Tough themes often hit hardest when their truth is revealed through cleverly pitched comedy and that's clearly the case with *Dinner's Getting Cold*. Without the laughs, this hour of storytelling could be emotionally torturous for its audience. The healthy dash of mystery also propels it forward to its seemingly inevitable ending.

Flutter

Created by Anna Bailey, Bridget Saunders,

Stephanie Cairns, Jen McArthur

Directed by Bridget Saunders

BATS Theatre, 11th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Madelaine Empson

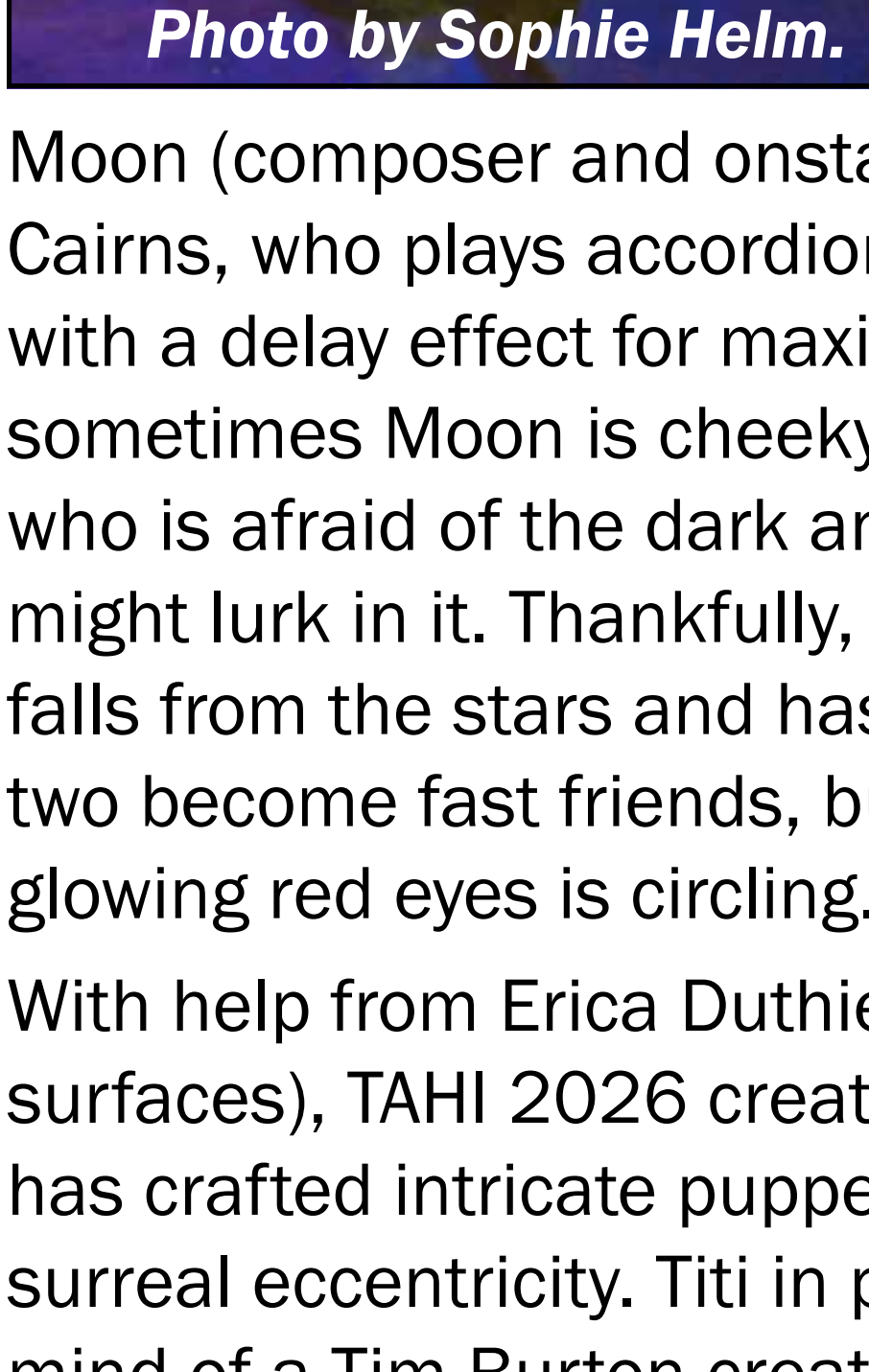


Photo by Sophie Helm.

As I take my seat at *Flutter*, a tiny, curious chick hops over to me and... dunk! Takes a sip out of the water glass at my feet! I'm charmed before this kids' puppet show has even begun.

Pepe the bat is enamoured with regal Moon (composer and onstage musician Stephanie Cairns, who plays accordion, keys, and a toy piano with a delay effect for maximum whimsy). But sometimes Moon is cheeky and hides from Pepe, who is afraid of the dark and what scary creatures might lurk in it. Thankfully, Titi the glowworm falls from the stars and has a light-up butt! The two become fast friends, but a hungry stoat with glowing red eyes is circling...

With help from Erica Duthie (puppet painter/surfaces), TAHI 2026 creative resident Anna Bailey has crafted intricate puppets that crackle with a surreal eccentricity. Titi in particular puts me in mind of a Tim Burton creation. Her characters are magnetic and so fascinating to watch that you forget she is, quite literally, pulling the strings. They glide along Struan Ashby and Roger Sanders' set, which comprises bright green hills to climb, silken waterfalls to slide down, and little nooks for bedtime. It all makes for magical viewing, especially when Moon floats past a tapestry of stars (electrician and light construction by Joseph Bailey) in her ethereal costume (Sarah Bell).

No doubt kids will walk away wanting to know more about New Zealand wildlife, just like I did. I was inspired to do some research into the nasty stoat and learned that it reportedly mesmerises its prey with a weasel war dance! After the show, Anna chatted with lots of the littlies who wanted to meet the puppets and I heard her telling them all about the introduced predator to many 'ooh's and 'aah's. It was lovely seeing their curiosity so stimulated, their comfort in large part thanks to the safe environment Anna created – especially by giving cues at the start as to how they could opt out of interaction if they wanted.

Flutter does a marvellous job of sparking the imagination of tamariki... and, safe to say, grownups too!

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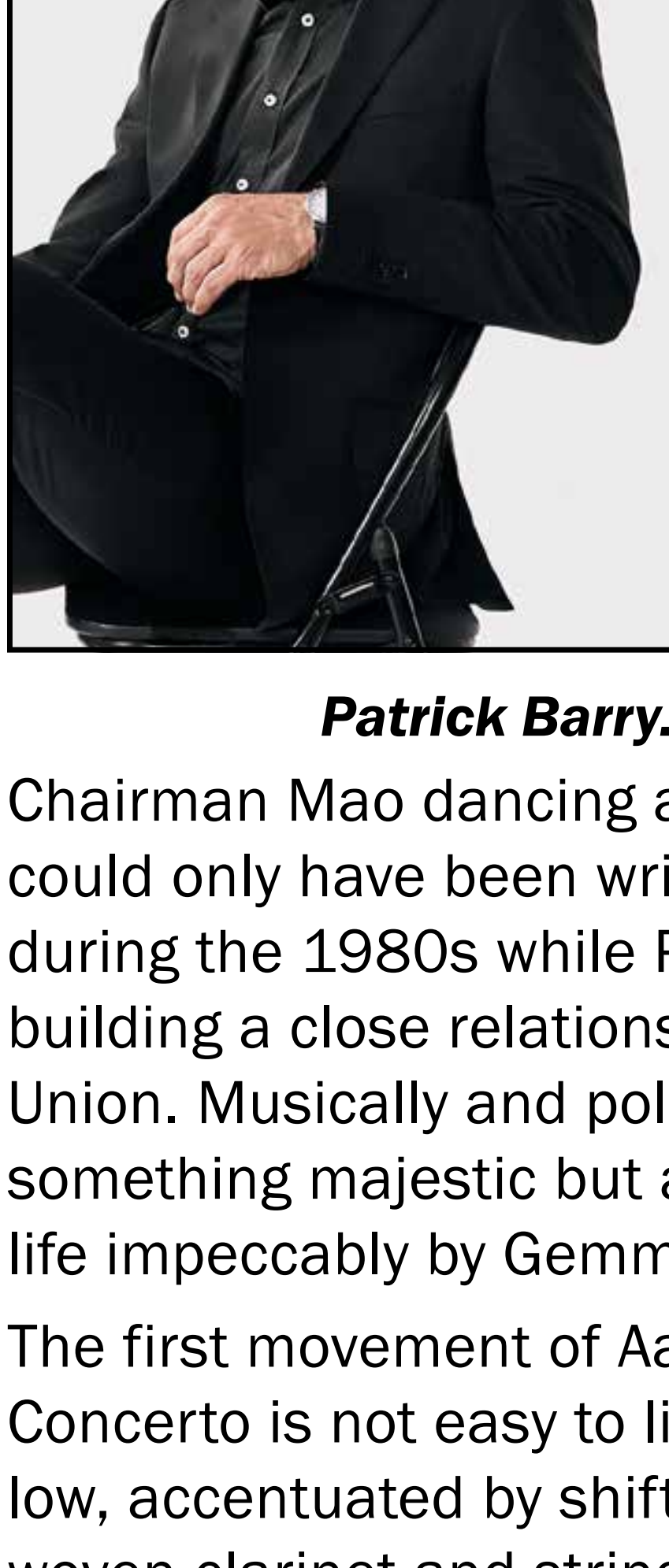
Rhythm & Dance

Presented by New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Gemma New

Michael Fowler Centre, 4th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Tamsin Evans



Patrick Barry.

There couldn't be a more apt programme title than *Rhythm & Dance*. It told me what to expect and describes what I took home.

20th-century American music is one of my favourite genres and *The Chairman Dances* by John Adams is a great example of why. An 'outtake' from Adams' opera *Nixon in China* depicting

Chairman Mao dancing a foxtrot with his mistress could only have been written by an American during the 1980s while President Reagan was building a close relationship with the Soviet Union. Musically and politically clever, this was something majestic but also skewed, brought to life impeccably by Gemma New and the orchestra.

The first movement of Aaron Copland's Clarinet Concerto is not easy to listen to. The mood is low, accentuated by shifting tonality and tightly woven clarinet and strings. That mood broke with the cadenza linking the two movements. Patrick Barry's virtuoso clarinet playing was very clean, with a crisp, clear sound launching a jazzy liveliness, demanding energy and dexterity from the musicians. The eight bass players got to really strut their stuff with a great stomp.

Antrópolis by Gabriela Ortiz is a tantalising glimpse of Mexico City's vitality and spirit. The surprising star? Timpani. In several brilliant, amazing solos, section principal Laurence Reese took centre stage like (but also quite unlike) the dancer who steals the floor and dazzles the crowd standing in the club.

New is celebrated for her attention to detail and texture, meticulous rhythmic control, and collaborative relationship with the orchestra. Leonard Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* demonstrated the extraordinary partnership between New and the NZSO. Together they brought us intense, hopeful teenage romance, energetic and vital dance in mambo and cha-cha, *Cool* young men circling, shouting, and posturing before the *Rumble*, and the tragic but powerful and emotional *Finale*. No words, outstanding musicians, great leadership. Unspeakably good.

Mel Parsons:

Castle Hill Album Tour

The Opera House, 5th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Graeme King

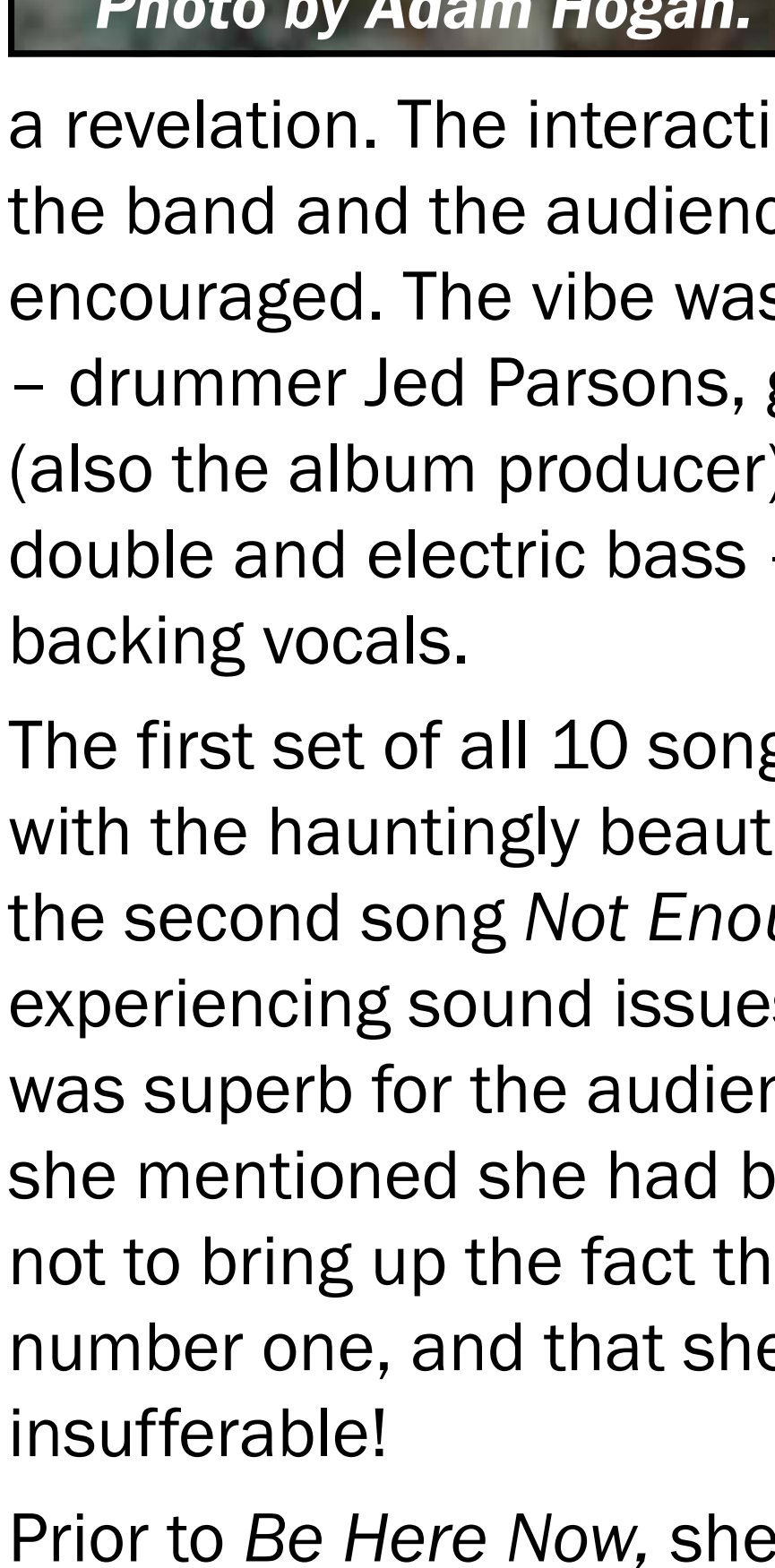


Photo by Adam Hogan.

Mel Parsons is an award-winning indie folk and alt country singer, songwriter, and guitarist based in Lyttleton. She is touring her seventh album *Castle Hill*, currently number one on the Official Top 20 Aotearoa Albums Chart.

This show, which included the whole new album and many older favourites, was

a revelation. The interaction between Mel and the band and the audience was natural and encouraged. The vibe was fun! The superb band – drummer Jed Parsons, guitarist Josh Logan (also the album producer), and Aaron Stewart on double and electric bass – all provided impeccable backing vocals.

The first set of all 10 songs from *Castle Hill* opened with the hauntingly beautiful *Grain by Grain*. After the second song *Not Enough*, Mel said she was experiencing sound issues, but the sound balance was superb for the audience. After *Caravan*, she mentioned she had been trying desperately not to bring up the fact that the new LP went to number one, and that she had been absolutely insufferable!

Prior to *Be Here Now*, she described how she was trying to be more present with her children in these days of cell phone overuse. The tone became sombre with *Don't Leave the Light On*, a heavy song about psychological domestic abuse. The upbeat *Post High Slide*, featuring full harmonies, finished the set.

Set two started with *Alberta Sun* from her 2015 *Drylands* album. The stunning 5432 featured haunting melodies. Then came *Circling the City* with its beautiful a cappella ending. A three-song semi-acoustic bracket followed, including Aaron's gorgeous double bass on *Down So Long*, and the bluegrass vibe of *True Story* featuring a brief double bass solo!

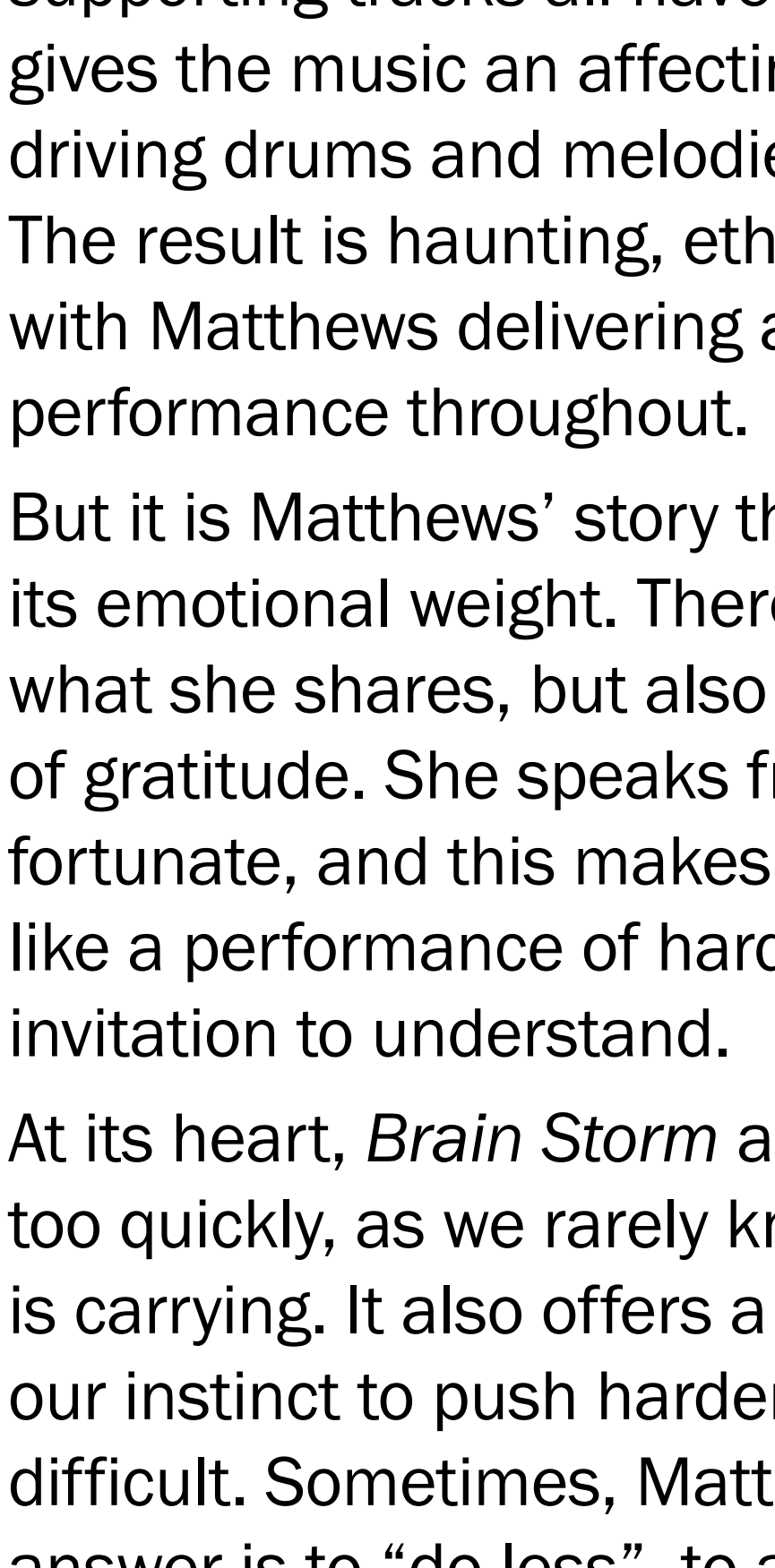
After Jed's solid drumming on *Little Sadness*, with its catchy chorus, Mel gave a huge shout out to the sound man, backstage crew, and everyone involved with the tour. *Driving Man* featured Josh's very tasteful Mark Knopfler-esque guitar licks, followed by the upbeat and rocking *Just 'Cause You Don't Want Me*. The first encore was the mellow *Don't Wait*, then sadly it was time for the last song *Far Away*, which sounded like an Irish reel, complete with loud audience clapping! A fun ending to the night's sublime entertainment.

Brain Storm

Created by Bryony Matthews

BATS Theatre, 2nd Sep 2026

Reviewed by Stanford Reynolds



A live music experience that takes us through the story of musician Bryony Matthews' traumatic head injury and years of recovery, *Brain Storm* is an immediately striking show. Against a sparsely decorated stage backed by mesmerising visuals (visual art by Nicholas

Ahu, *Storm* music video by Harry Knight and Maria Webb, *Recovery* music visualiser by Spencer Hall), performers Matthews and Joshua Holmes create an unexpectedly rich and immersive world.

Matthews' story unfolds through original songs interspersed with narration. In the narrated sections, the stage falls into darkness as Ahu's visuals bring the story to life. The imagery is hypnotic and evocative, moving between recognisable places in Christchurch and dreamlike recreations. During the songs, the projection shifts into something more like a concert visualiser, with engrossing, otherworldly images that sweep us up in the music.

The sound design (soundscape by Holmes, sound engineering by Marcus Winstanley) is excellent. Every element is distinct and beautifully balanced. The two guitars, Matthews' vocals, and the supporting tracks all have room to breathe. Reverb gives the music an affecting spaciousness, while driving drums and melodies provide momentum. The result is haunting, ethereal, and dreamlike, with Matthews delivering a clear and moving vocal performance throughout.

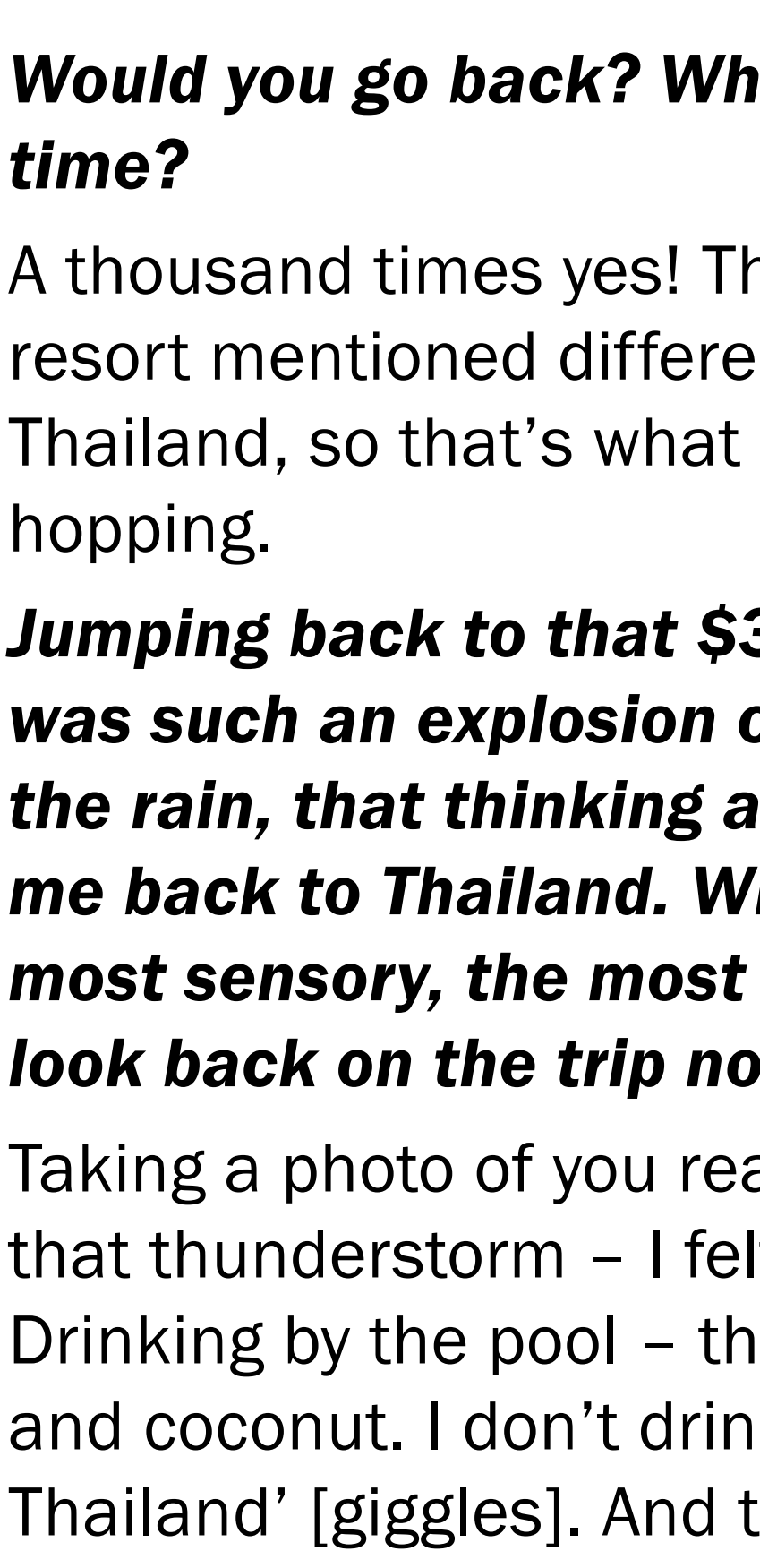
But it is Matthews' story that gives *Brain Storm* its emotional weight. There is real vulnerability in what she shares, but also an unmistakable sense of gratitude. She speaks from a place of feeling fortunate, and this makes the experience feel less like a performance of hardship and more like an invitation to understand.

At its heart, *Brain Storm* asks us not to judge others too quickly, as we rarely know what someone else is carrying. It also offers a gentle challenge to our instinct to push harder when things become difficult. Sometimes, Matthews suggests, the answer is to "do less", to accept rather than force.

It's a thoughtful, beautifully crafted show, and I would love to see Bryony Matthews performing live again. *Brain Storm* travels to Hamilton and Auckland in October. Catch it if you can; I've already added the album to my playlists.

A chat with Tung...

The Land of Smiles



by Madelaine Empson

We talked a bit about your Thailand trip for your last column, but we couldn't fit in all the highlights! Shall we jump into part two?

I could write a book about it! It was my first trip to Thailand in 15 years, so of course, there were a million things I wanted to do at once. My highlights that I didn't mention last

time would be trying fried rice at a roadside store during heavy rain – the best \$3 I've ever spent in my life! The next one is spending time with my colleagues, doing things I thought we'd never get to do together. It felt like a family, like I was one of the children being looked after and taken care of the whole time. And finally, interacting with the locals. I treasure it all.

Tell me more about meeting the locals in Southern Thailand.

I think there'd be a strong case for calling Thailand 'The Land of Smiles'. People smiled at me everywhere I went. That was their first reaction: no words spoken, no words needed. I picked up a few phrases – don't ask me to pronounce them now [laughs] – but they taught me how to communicate without knowing their language. Everyone was so friendly.

I have friends from Thailand here in New Zealand. We play volleyball on a weekly basis, and I am so lucky because they are very lovely people who go out of their way to give me an authentic taste of Thai food and culture whenever I ask.

Would you go back? What would you do next time?

A thousand times yes! The receptionist at our resort mentioned different islands in Southern Thailand, so that's what I want to do next: island hopping.

Jumping back to that \$3 fried rice... Eating it was such an explosion of senses, especially in the rain, that thinking about it now almost takes me back to Thailand. What memories feel the most sensory, the most transportive, when you look back on the trip now?

Taking a photo of you reading Stephen King during that thunderstorm – I felt like the paparazzi! Drinking by the pool – the smell of pineapple and coconut. I don't drink at all, but... 'When in Thailand' [giggles]. And the texture of the pork belly stew at Nai Mueang Restaurant in Khao Lak. It has stuck with me. I don't know how and where I can find that taste again – unless I go back to Thailand!

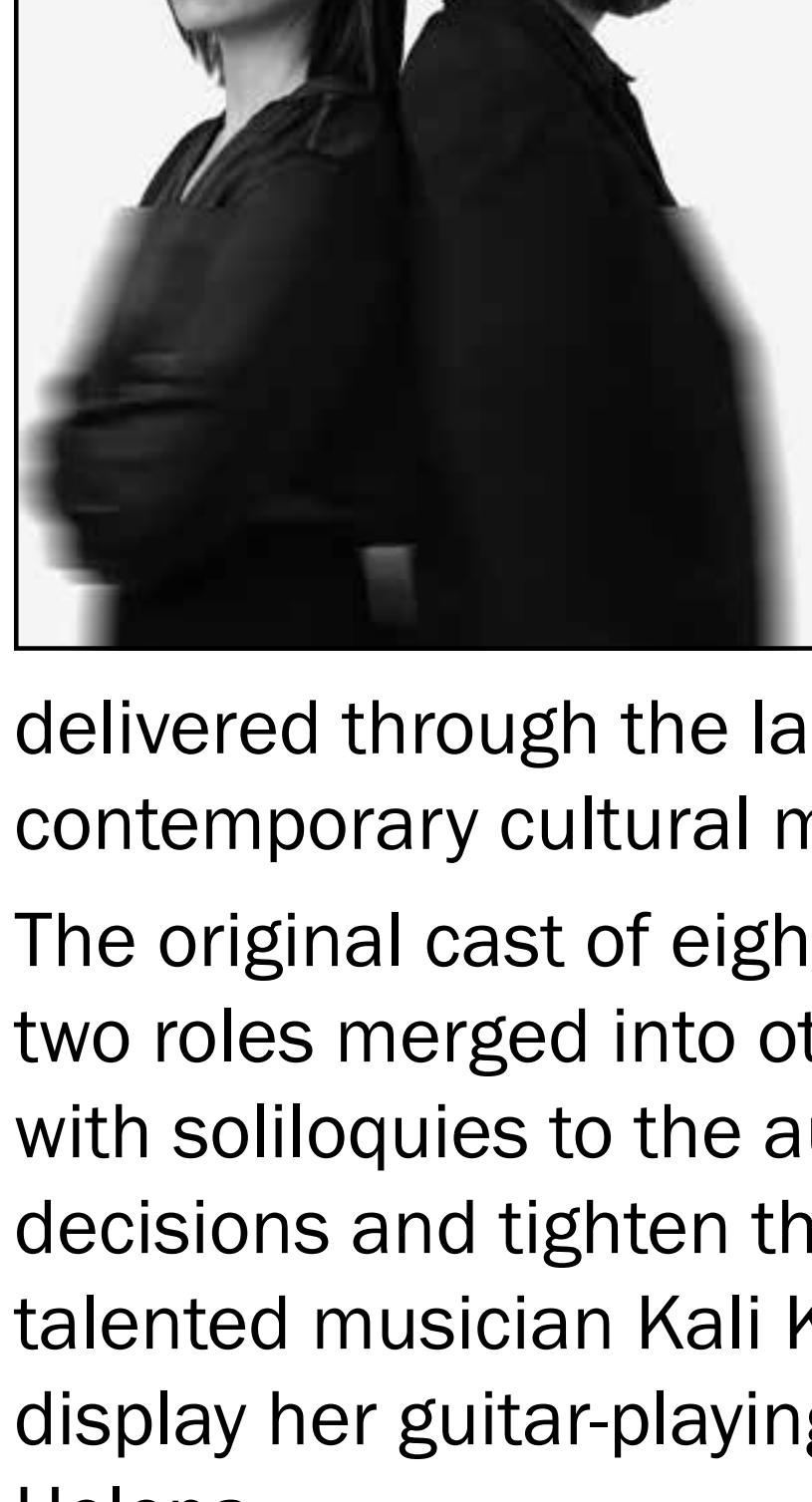
Uncle Vanya

Written by Anton Chekhov

Directed by Andrew Foster

Circa Theatre, 12th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Circa has brought to new life another theatrical classic for its 50th anniversary. Anton Chekhov’s masterwork of the human condition is this time seen through Andrew Foster’s sensitively creative lens, relocated to a rambling Kiwi farm, and delivered through the languorous dysfunction of contemporary cultural malaise.

The original cast of eight is reduced with aspects of two roles merged into other characters or replaced with soliloquies to the audience. Both are clever decisions and tighten the narrative, while giving talented musician Kali Kopae the opportunity to display her guitar-playing and singing skills as Helena.

As Vanya, Tawhi Thomas is superb: deeply fallible but ultimately empathetic despite his self-described failure at life and tendency to whine about everything and everyone. The other five cast members are equally strong, and all are entirely convincing as a group of people who have known, loved, and irritated each other for years. Cross-casting Sonya as Sonny is a brilliant decision and Andrew Paterson brings fresh longing to the character’s unrequited love for Michael (an excellent Jonny Potts). His final speech to Vanya with his arms wrapped lovingly around Thomas’ leg is devastating. Peter Hambleton’s Alex is wonderfully arrogant and the sort of character you love to hate.

Foster’s set is a long, narrow area between traverse seating rostra with a dark, hazy space beyond it through which the characters move off into the world outside the house. His scene changes are just as watchable as the scenes themselves, as the cast move bits of furniture and props in subdued light while occasionally interacting with each other in character. The final transition in which the stoic Maria (Carmel McGlone) stands alone while others move around her, one gently handing her a scarf, is sublime.

Marcus McShane’s lighting design is lush and warm. A huge disc suspended above the void at the end of the acting area is most often a vibrantly glowing sun, a visual delight that anchors the space. Chris Ward’s sound design complements the lighting beautifully with subtle soundscapes, spot-on effects, and well-chosen music.

Classic Chekhov for the modern age. Don’t miss it.

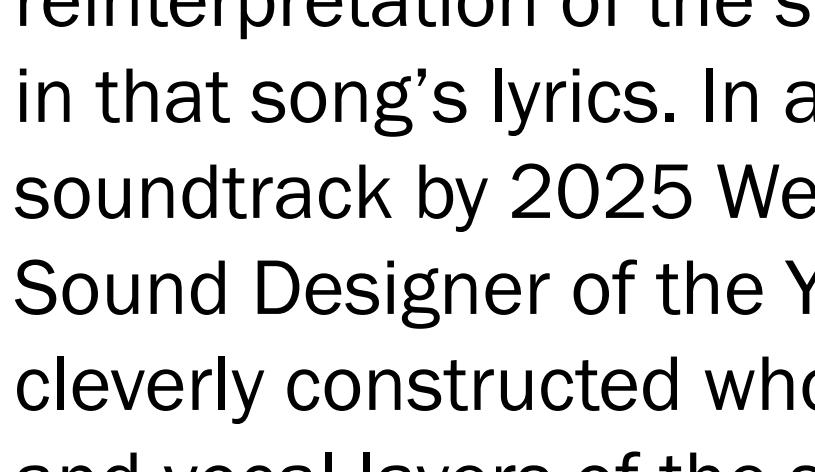
Big Low Dream

Choreographed by Jessie McCall

Presented by Footnote New Zealand Dance

The Hannah, 10th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Footnote New Zealand Dance always delight and surprise with their boundary-pushing productions and *Big Low Dream* is another fine example of that ethos. Described as “an unorthodox homage to *Dreams* by The Cranberries”, this work is an imaginative

reinterpretation of the sentiments expressed in that song’s lyrics. In addition, the pulsing soundtrack by 2025 Wellington Theatre Awards Sound Designer of the Year Thomas Lambert is cleverly constructed wholly from the instrumental and vocal layers of the song.

Four young dancers (Airu Matsuda, Sasha Matsumoto, Caleb Heke, and Millie Maden) open with an appropriately 90s set of spunky dance moves to the introductory bars of the song, but these are abruptly cut short by a blackout (lighting design by Tony Black). Then, we are launched into a dream world of moving clouds, drifting smoke, floating gold helium balloons in the shape of letters, and a giant, pink mouth that frequently spits out the performers into new movements and tableaux. The gorgeously patchworked backdrop by Anne de Geus holds this plump-lipped orifice, which the dancers operate to excellent effect.

The four dancers work seamlessly together and apart in a series of short segments, while the handful of floating gold letters spell out reconstituted words: DEATH, DREAM, TEAM, MATE, ART, and so on. These are a creative cue to the vibe and intention of many of the segments and sometimes become part of the choreography as they gently dance above the performers or form part of their tableaux.

The hard-working dancers manage all the other simple, recycled props too. Perspex triangles start as teeth inside the sinisterly gaping mouth, are taped together to become a crown, and are used as daggers. A square of the same stretchy material the dancers’ outfits are made from is a superhero’s cape, a portable backdrop, and finally a shroud.

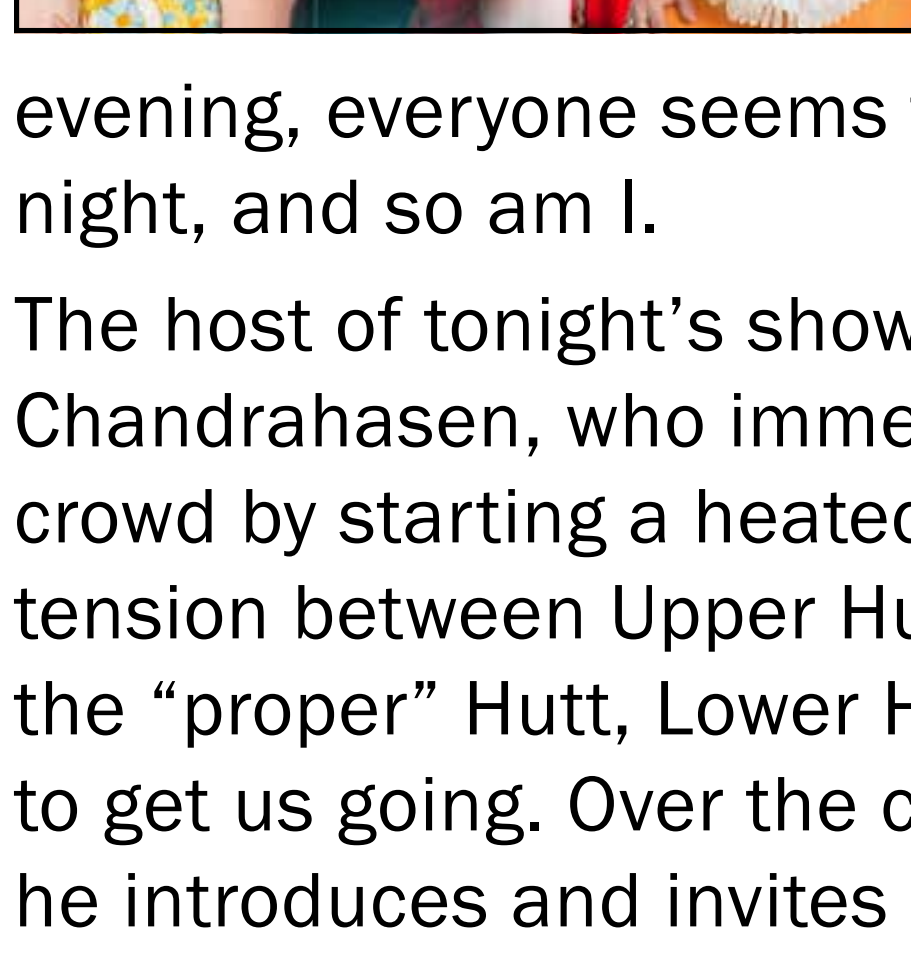
Like dreams themselves, this new dance work is ever-changing, surreal, and sometimes hilarious. So, slip on your virtual pyjamas and drift into the land of the Sandman with Footnote Dance.

A Welly Full of Laughs

Presented by Mon Platon Productions

The Hannah, 13th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Numi Stössner



After a sold-out January showcase, *A Welly Full of Laughs* is back at The Hannah for another round of Wellington’s “best comics delivering their best sets”.

According to the queue that is already forming when I approach the theatre on this spring evening, everyone seems to be ready for a good night, and so am I.

The host of tonight’s show is Jerome Chandrahasen, who immediately warms up the crowd by starting a heated discussion on the tension between Upper Hutt and, in his words, the “proper” Hutt, Lower Hutt. What a perfect way to get us going. Over the course of the evening, he introduces and invites 10 of Wellington’s top comedians to deliver compilations of their best bits on a stage as colourful as their performances. Designed by Austin Harrison, who constructed it with Nina Hogg (the pair behind Mon Platon Productions), the bright backdrop consists of dozens of buckets hanging from the ceiling to the floor – a set befitting such varied sets!

Topics range from lesbian awakenings at the Catholic church (Clarissa Chandrahasen), to the uniquely Kiwi “aggressively passive” character of men (Mike Fowler), and the questionable reasons for buying café merch (Hoani Hotene). My favorite set by far is Jak Darling’s, who proudly takes us beyond comedy alone into “thinking territory”. They proceed to dramatically perform a tragic poem of a daddy long-legs trapped in their shower, a story that is as relatable as it is hilarious. The evening ends with a comically bizarre dance performance by JoJo Bellini, in which she invites the crowd to throw ping pong balls at one of the targets fixed on her barely clothed body, all whilst singing *Hit Me with Your Best Shot*.

While no comedian can be for everyone, *A Welly Full of Laughs* was a great way to explore what Wellington’s comedy scene has to offer. I laughed, I cringed, and I guarantee that every viewer will have walked out with a different personal favourite, just like I did. An entertaining collection of carefully curated, clever comedy.

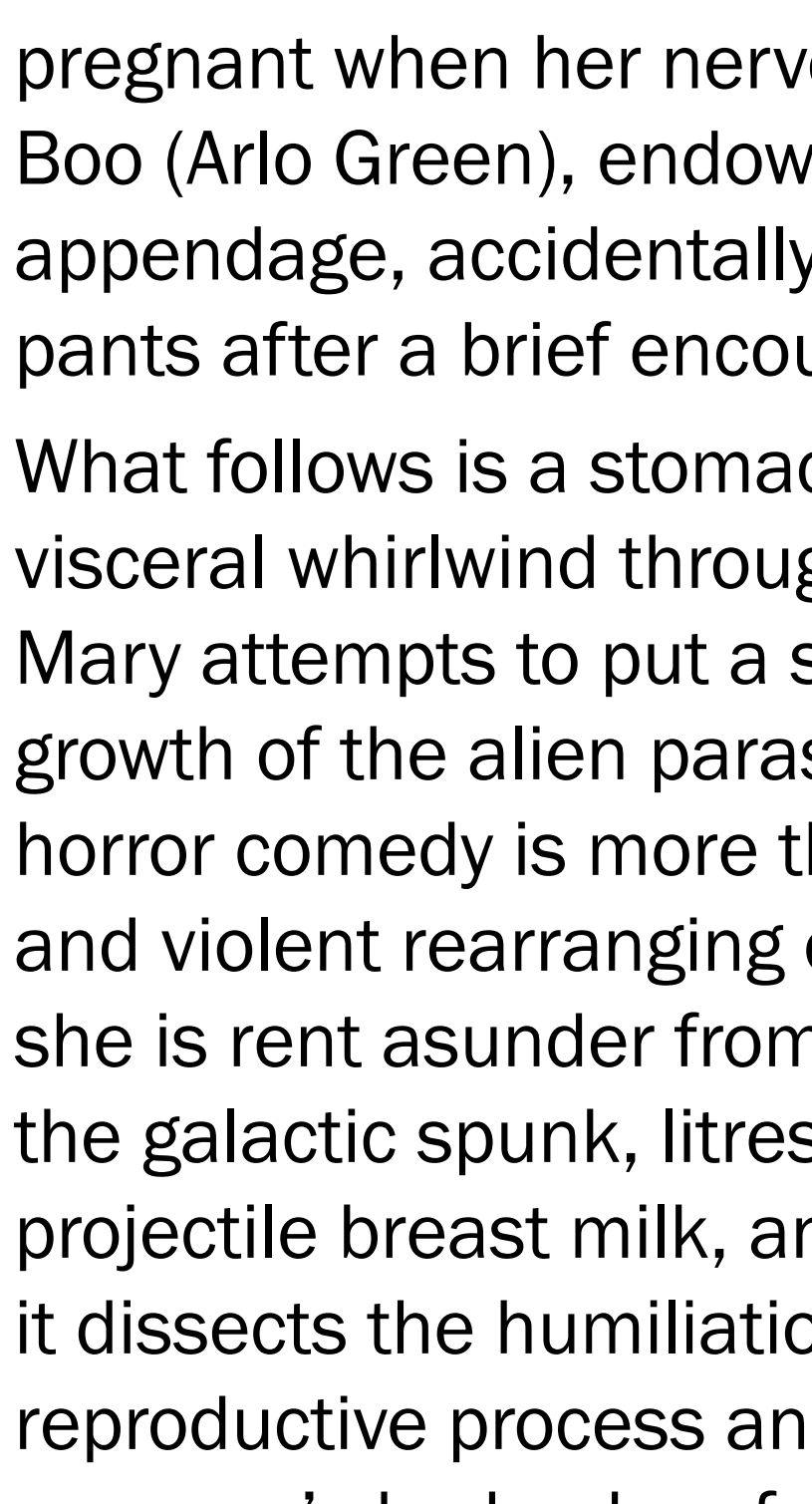
Mum, I’m Alien Pregnant

95 minutes

R16

★ ★ ★ ★

Reviewed by Isabella Smith



The debut feature film of director duo THUNDERLIPS (Sean Wallace and Jordan Mark Windsor) follows the immaculate conceiver Mary (Hannah Lynch), a millennial rotter living with her overbearing mum Cynthia (Yvette Parsons) in a housing complex. Mary becomes alien

pregnant when her nervous and gawky neighbour Boo (Arlo Green), endowed with an extraterrestrial appendage, accidentally fires a cosmic load on her pants after a brief encounter in the shared laundry.

What follows is a stomach-flipping, blood-draining, visceral whirlwind through the hospital system as Mary attempts to put a stop to the turbo-paced growth of the alien parasite. This clever sci-fi body-horror comedy is more than just the exaggerated and violent rearranging of Mary’s body and life as she is rent asunder from the inside out. Beneath the galactic spunk, litres of Powerade-blue vomit, projectile breast milk, and mucus-drenched sheets, it dissects the humiliations that come with the reproductive process and the sudden loss of agency over one’s body when family, religion, doctors, police, and politicians get involved.

The film is riddled with Kiwi deadpan comedy, but the ‘yeah nah’ and ‘she’ll be right’ pleasantries of the doctors, nurses, and police become insidious when paired with their do-nothing attitude. Comments like ‘you asked for it’ and ‘maybe it’s fate’ derail agency, while the lengths Mary takes to abort the alien shines a gruesome light on the dangerous situations people find themselves in when confronted with an unwanted pregnancy and a system built by men who deny their right to choose.

The characterisation and acting are spectacular on all fronts, capturing classic Kiwi types and their role in upholding systemic and societal issues over plenty of cups of tea. A special mention to Jackie van Beek who plays Ann, Boo’s uptight and starchy mum hellbent on protecting her son and keeping the mess off the carpet.

Mum, I’m Alien Pregnant is a must-see, bold, and batty exploration of autonomy and consent. Blending gore, humour, and depth in healthy measures, it highlights the outsized expectations placed on women (and their partners) when they accidentally find themselves up the duff and out on a limb.

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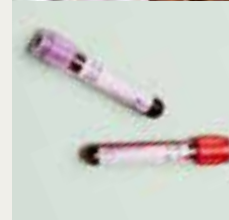
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My passion is helping individuals and families have a healthier and happier life. I have been a qualified functional nutritionist since 2018. My background has always been in health and fitness.

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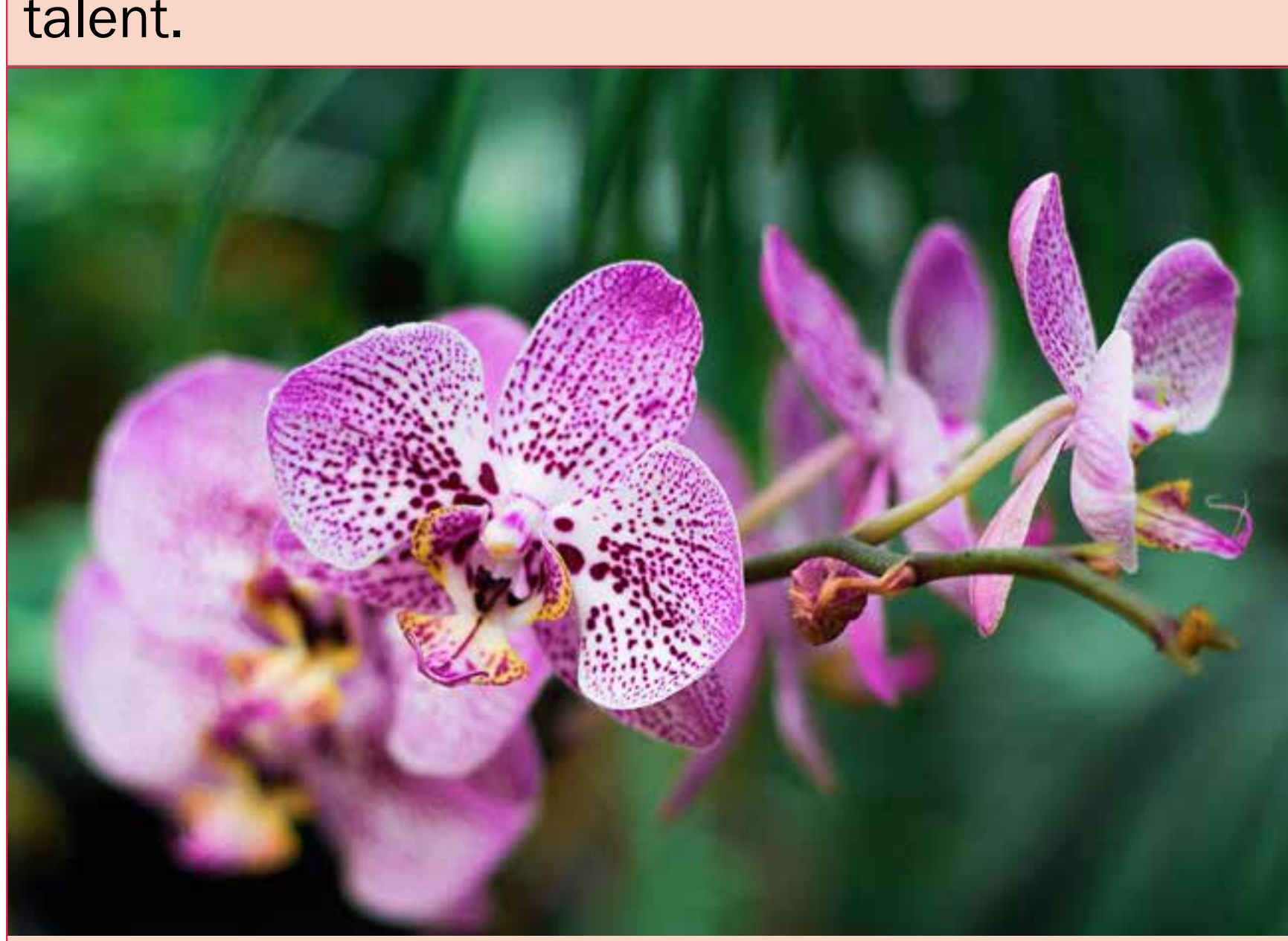
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What's on



26th Sep. Video Vixens: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. If you've ever had a crush on someone in a video game, then this one is for you: a drag show dedicated to the gritty and glamorous game characters. Think of Katana Zero, Lara Croft, and Duke Nukem, plus many more, strutting their stuff on stage in an epic performance crafted by Wellington's local drag talent.



10th-11th Oct. Wellington Orchid Society Presents: 49th Spring Show: *Walter Nash Stadium, Tocker Street, Taita* – 10am. Orchids from local and commercial growers, any supplies you may need, and potting demonstrations collide for the 49th Spring Show! Peruse the many varieties of orchids while learning all you need to know to care for your own at home at this colourful celebration.



10th Oct. Anti-Pageant: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8:30pm. Prepare for a night of twisted glamour and unholy talent to crown Aotearoa's 2026 Drag Monster. In this filthy, freaky, and fabulous celebration of queer expression and alternative artistry beyond the mainstream, performers can showcase their most daring, boundary-pushing, grotesque, and creative work. **2025 winner Faux Femm. Photo by Lioness Photography.**



Dorothy and Tallulah

27th Sep. The Great Global Greyhound Walk: *TSB Arena, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront* – 10am. The waterfront will be the scene of an elegant parade as the capital's 'noodlehound' community sets out on The Great Global Greyhound Walk of 2026. Raising awareness for rehoming the racing breed, this year's walk will see participating dogs dress up to the theme of mythical hounds.



Bridget Douglas.

27th Sep. Seascapes: *Erskine Chapel, Avon Street, Island Bay* – 3pm. Join acclaimed flute and harp duo Bridget Douglas and Michelle Velvin for an evocative chamber music recital celebrating the beauty, mystery, and power of the sea. Set in the intimate acoustics of Erskine Chapel, this captivating programme will feature the music of Gareth Farr, Eve de Castro-Robinson, Tōru Takemitsu, and Astor Piazzolla.



9th Oct. The Paekākāriki Sessions Presents: Glow Becky: *St Peter's Village Hall, Beach Road, Paekākāriki* – 7:30pm. Get ready for a night celebrating the talent, creativity, and diversity of original New Zealand music. Headliners Glow Becky from Auckland will be joined by The LokoJackLins from Hawke's Bay and Paekākāriki locals The New Things and Interlopers [pictured].

What's on Wairarapa

20th-27th Sep. Martinborough Music Festival:

Various locations and times in Martinborough. 12 musicians from across New Zealand, Australia, and the world come together alongside guest composer Victoria Kelly at this 10th annual music festival.

27th Sep. Distinguished Gentleman's Drive:

The White Swan, Main Street, Greytown – 9:30am.

Raising funds for men's health through Movember, the Distinguished Gentleman's Drive cruises through for a day of classic motoring, gentlemanly style, and community spirit.

4th Oct. Wairarapa Cinémathèque Presents:

Le Notti di Cabiria:

Regent 3 Cinemas, Queen Street, Masterton – 7:30pm.

Giulietta Masina gives an unforgettable performance as Cabiria, a Roman sex worker whose optimism endures despite repeated heartbreak in Federico Fellini's masterpiece.

4th-10th Oct. Carterton Space Week:

Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton – various times.

Space is landing right here in Wairarapa to unleash a rocketship-load of fun activities and events.

10th Oct. The Tempestuous:

Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton – 7pm.

Award-winning comedian Penny Ashton sparks 13 characters to life in this Elizabethan tale of magic, meddling, and puffed bull's pizples.

Kāpiti

28th Sep. Retro Pack '50s Rock 'n' Roll Night!:

Civic Theatre, Main Street, Ōtaki – 7:30pm.

Join local legends Andrew and Kirsten London, April Phillips, James Tait-Jamieson, and Ryan Watson as they reprise their popular 50s show, with the accent firmly on the great rock 'n' roll songs of the era.

29th-30th Sep, 1st, 6th-8th Oct. The Academy of Dramatic Arts Presents: Henny Penny – The Sky is Falling Down:

St Peter's Village Hall, Paekākāriki – 10:30am.

Join Henny Penny and friends for a fun-filled local children's theatre adventure, featuring a wonderful young Kāpiti cast.

2nd Oct. Girls Rock the Boys:

St Peter's Village Hall, Beach Road, Paekākāriki – 8pm.

This lineup of women with range, grit, soul, and the kind of stage presence that pulls you straight into the mosh pit will perform some of rock music's biggest anthems.

2nd-3rd, 8th-10th Oct. Maven Theatre Company Presents: Mother Courage and Her Children:

Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu – 7:30pm.

A gripping, thought-provoking, and entertaining theatrical masterpiece, Lee Hall's adaptation brings Brecht's iconic anti-war play vividly to life for modern audiences.

6th Oct. Mr Fungus:

Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu – 11am.

New Zealand's loudest mime will amuse and delight tamariki of all ages!

Events

25th Sep. Daniel Falconer Book Signing:

The Weta Cave, Weka Street, Miramar – 11am.

To mark a quarter-century of Middle-earth on screen, and just in time for Hobbit Day, celebrate the film that started it all with the definitive behind-the-scenes companion written by Daniel Falconer and K.M. Rice.

27th Sep. Little Shadow Fundraiser:

Pow Wow Room, Courtenay Place, Te Aro – 6:30pm; 7:45pm.

This Shut Up & Dance and mental health charity Little Shadow fundraiser for perinatal counselling and group support will get your body moving and kōrero flowing with spots still open for the 7:45pm class.

3rd Oct. 90s Latino Day Time Fiesta!:

Eva Beva, Eva Street, Te Aro – 4pm.

From Ricky Martin to Fulanito, *La Macarena* to everything in between, enjoy all the 90s Latino hits!

Music

24th Sep. Roots:

Erskine Chapel, Avon Street, Island Bay – 7pm.

This concert features NZSO musicians Julia and Simeon Broom, Sophia Acheson, and Ian Greenberg performing a rich and wonderful programme.

25th Sep. Bard & Barley:

The Great Hall, Buckle Street, Mount Cook – 6pm.

Gather your adventuring party, grab your armour, and get ready to sing, mosh, dance, and feast your ears on a night of live bands, heavy riffs, DJs, medieval mayhem, and a whole lot of tavern chaos.

26th Sep. Kotahitanga: a Party for The People:

Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro – 6pm.

Come together alongside local bands to celebrate connection, have a kanikani, and recharge your wairua for the mahi ahead: shaping the future together.

26th Sep. Cindy:

Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro – 8pm.

One of the most magnificent live bands in Aotearoa, Cindy has released their long-anticipated debut album *The Way I Do* – enjoy it live in the capital.

26th Sep. Wet Denim:

San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro – 8pm.

Following the announcement of their forthcoming EP *Water For Dogs*, Wellington four-piece rock outfit Wet Denim are taking their new music to the stage.

30th Sep; 3rd Oct. Skin & Bone:

Wairarapa Events Centre, Carterton; Abandoned Taproom Petone, Lower Hutt – 7:30pm; 8pm.

Hailing from Ōtepoti Dunedin, Skin & Bone are a five-piece acoustic swing band bringing infectious energy, tight harmonies, and a seriously danceable sound.

2nd Oct. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Four Last Songs:

Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro – 6:30pm.

One of the world's most acclaimed conductors Sir Donald Runnicles returns to the NZSO in a programme of pure luxury and ravishing beauty featuring soprano Madeleine Pierard.

2nd Oct. GENA:

Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro – 8pm.

There is a kinetic energy that binds drummer and producer Karriem Riggins and singer-songwriter, rapper, and producer Live; the result is GENA.

3rd Oct. Meow's 18th Birthday Celebration:

Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro – 8pm.

To celebrate 18 years of partying, Meow has organised a night that reflects its kaupapa: exceptional musicians, adventurous sounds, a packed dancefloor, and a room full of people who love live music.

9th Oct. Camerata Nova:

St Peter's on Willis, Willis Street, Te Aro – 6:30pm.

Wellington-based chamber orchestra Camerata Nova performs two works by Joseph Haydn and a Frederick Delius piece.

9th Oct. Flamingo Pier:

Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro – 8:30pm.

After more than a decade of building dancefloors around the world, Flamingo Pier return home to celebrate the release of their new album *Woven Together*.

10th Oct. Supertonic Presents: Petite Messe Solennelle:

Allan Gibbs Centre, Dufferin Street, Wellington – 7pm.

Enjoy Gioachino Rossini's masterwork featuring soloists Nicola Holt, Maaïke Christie-Beekman, Bayley Goldstone, and Simon Christie, and instrumentalists Nicola Sutherland, Matthew Oliver, and Rachel Malcolm-Swindells.

11th Oct. Che Fu & The Kratez:

Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro – 8pm.

Celebrating 25 years of sonic excellence, Che Fu brings his signature blend of soul, reggae, hip-hop, rock, and Pacific influences to the capital along his national tour.

Performance

23rd Sep-3rd Oct. Stagecraft Presents: Social Climbers:

Gryphon Theatre, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro – various times.

A group of teachers, joined by a reluctant daughter, set off for a weekend of bushwalking in the mountains when torrential rain and a washed-out bridge trap them in a hut for three days in this Roger Hall play.

24th-26th Sep. New Zealand School of Dance Presents: Spring Experience:

Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt – various times.

Featuring four classical ballet works and four contemporary works, this programme showcases dance creativity and individuality.

25th Sep. Vampire Disko:

Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro – 9pm.

Wellington's newest night of goth, post-punk, EBM, dark synthpop, industrial, and wave music will get the city's ghouls and ghosts dancing till dawn.

30th Sep; 2nd; 3rd; 4th Oct. Sonic Boom:

Southward Car Museum, Paraparaumu; Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Upper Hutt; The Hunter Lounge, Wellington; Wairarapa Events Centre, Carterton – various times.

A high-energy live concert experience for families, Sonic Boom brings the excitement of a real music concert to young audiences, packed with epic singalongs, huge dance moments, and nonstop fun.

2nd; 3rd Oct. Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand Presents: National Shakespeare Schools Production:

Tāwhiri Warehouse, Newtown; VUW Memorial Theatre, Kelburn – 7pm; 7:30pm.

46 talented young students will perform 40-minute adaptations from *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Twelfth Night*.

3rd Oct. Caburlesque Presents: Once Upon A Tease – A Burlesque Fairytale:

The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro – 10pm.

Join storyteller Constance Craving on a journey through Far Away, where Prince Charming is not so upset about Cinders leaving, Jack finds something surprising up the beanstalk, and a whole heap of other things!

8th Oct. Wellington Roast Battle Championship:

The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro – 8pm.

The Wellington Roast Battle Championship brings together 12 of the city's funniest comics for an unforgettable night of brutal burns, quick wit, and big laughs.

Galleries

Until 2nd Oct. Kimihia ngā Whetū Pukepoto:

Jhana Millers Gallery, Victoria Street, Te Aro.

Nikau Hindin's new exhibition centres on a suite of 12 star aute maps that ground astronomical knowledge in whenua, whakapapa, and lived experience.

Until 10th Oct. Fade Into Yellow:

Photospace Gallery, Courtenay Place, Te Aro.

John Pennington's exhibition is the result of a collaboration with his friend Sarah Cleave and her daughter Lenny, captured during a series of experimental performances designed to shake up Gisborne's city centre.

Until 24th October. Adorn yourself accordingly:

Enjoy Contemporary Art Space, Left Bank, Te Aro.

Adorn yourself accordingly brings together the work of three emerging artists living in Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui, under the broad theme of Māori and Moana adornment.

Until 18th Feb. Arohanui, Carmen xx:

Te Waka Huia Wellington Museum, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront.

Step into activist and icon Carmen Tione Rupe's world through glamorous outfits, intimate photographs, unseen archives, and new works inspired by her life and legacy.

Festivals

23rd-27th Sep. Verb Readers and Writers Festival:

Various locations and times in Wellington.

Writers and artists from all over Aotearoa and the world share their ideas and stories with curious readers in a vast and varied events programme.

1st-31st Oct. ChoctoberFest Porirua:

Various locations and times in Porirua.

During ChoctoberFest, Porirua cafés will delight sweet tooths of all ages with a decadent, month-long showcase of the iconic Whittaker's chocolate made right here in Porirua.

2nd-11th Oct. New Zealand Improv Festival:

Various locations and times in Wellington.

Featuring a dizzying variety of shows, workshops, mixers, conference sessions, and social events, NZIF showcases the best of improv from Aotearoa, Australasia, and beyond.

**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 September**

**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.**

Regional News

Connecting Wellington

Answers to the puzzle on page 32

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