



Regional News

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News

Legendary



Greg Davies’ first-ever solo stand-up show was called *Firing Cheeseballs at a Dog*. It was nominated for the Malcolm Hardee ‘Act Most Likely to Make a Million Quid’ Award and the prestigious Best Comedy Show (then known as the Foster’s Edinburgh Comedy Award) at the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Greg’s second show? You couldn’t guess the name if you tried.

The Back of My Mum’s Head toured across the UK in 2013, and next came *You Magnificent Beast* in 2017, which was released as Greg’s debut Netflix comedy special the following year. 2025 marked the age of the *Full Fat Legend*.

Greg’s new stand-up show and special *Full Fat Legend* sold out instantly across UK and Ireland venues this year and last. In London alone, the tour included shows at OVO Arena Wembley, Royal Albert Hall, The O2 Arena, and six nights at the Eventim Apollo. Now, it’s our turn. In his Aotearoa debut, the *Taskmaster* and *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* host, *The Cleaner* creator, *Would I Lie to You* guest, and *Cuckoo* and *The Inbetweeners* star will bring the “ravishingly entertaining evening” (*The Times*) to Michael Fowler Centre on the 20th of October.

“There’s nothing quite like a full-on, unadulterated blast of his preposterously infantile stand-up to leave you gasping for air”, Mark Wareham writes for *The Mail on Sunday*. “All excruciatingly funny... showstopping anecdotes.”

Watch this cream of the comedic crop milk fresh jokes for all they’re worth in *Full Fat Legend*.

Witty and clever *by Tanya Piejus*



British playwright Christopher Fry’s best-known work is being brought to the stage in Khandallah between the 8th and 17th of October. “It’s witty and it’s clever,” *The Lady’s Not For Burning* director Ruth Sarratt says. “He uses words so beautifully.”

The upcoming KAT Theatre production playing at Cochran Hall is essentially a love story that resonates down the ages. Its life-affirming, post-war optimism was an instant success with audiences and critics alike when it first opened. Today, its humour and delightful storytelling are just as enjoyably satisfying as they were then. “It’s an understandable and accessible story, even for modern audiences. It has a bit of everything. It’s mostly a comedy, but the two central love stories are delightful too.”

The script also has a serious side with a world-weary soldier trying to engineer his own death by hanging and a vibrant young woman condemned to burn for being a witch. “Like many of the grim things that happen to us in life, if we don’t find a way to laugh at what’s going on, we’ll end up in the depths of gloom,” Sarratt says. “It’s helpful to our wellbeing to be able to laugh at ourselves and our situations. We’re encouraged as an audience not to take the subject matter too seriously and instead take joy in the characters and how they frustrate each other. Setting the play in 1400 puts it far enough away from the reality of the lives people were leading when Fry wrote it in 1948, just after World War II, and turns it into something safer.”

The Lady’s Not For Burning will entrance you with its sparkling humour, witty wordplay, poetic lyricism, satisfying love stories, and occasional excoriations of the follies of humankind. It’s a must-see for all who enjoy a happy ending and a few ideas to ponder.

Cover: Macy Gray. Photo by Giuliano Bekor.
Wellington Jazz Festival.

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30 and thriving



The Wellington Jazz Festival is back for its 30th anniversary, with more than 180 performances scheduled in nearly 70 venues across Te Whanganui-a-Tara from the 14th to the 18th of October.

On our cover is GRAMMY®-winning singer-songwriter-superstar Macy Gray, who returns to Aotearoa for the first time in a decade for a sold-out concert at St James Theatre. Pictured here is Mercury Prize-winning British artist Benjamin Clementine, who makes his first-ever Aotearoa appearance for the festival. In a rare solo performance, the singer, pianist, composer, and actor brings his *Back to Basics* tour to The Opera House on the 17th.

Adding to the star power, triple GRAMMY®-nominated pianist, composer, and bandleader Joey Alexander makes his New Zealand debut with the Joey Alexander Trio (USA) at The Opera House on Wednesday the 14th. Festival audiences can also experience the Aotearoa debut of the GRAMMY®-winning Rebirth Brass Band (USA), presented in association with TEG Live, at Meow Nui on Thursday the 15th. Friday night belongs to one of Aotearoa’s brightest stars Zoe Moon, who returns to the festival with *Real Black for Me*, a stunning celebration of the music of soul legend Roberta Flack at Tāwhiri Warehouse.

The festival will also premiere fresh new music from its 2026 commissioned artist, acclaimed Ruawaipū and Ngāti Porou drummer and composer Hikurangi Schaverien-Kaa (Aotearoa), who’ll lead a journey of catharsis and transformation at Tāwhiri Warehouse on Sunday the 18th.

The City Line-up sees jazz spilling out into bars, galleries, cafés, churches, and unexpected places. Co-director Tama Waipara says this “homegrown offering is of an extremely high calibre”, demonstrating that the festival is as much about Wellington’s own music community as it is about bringing international artists to the capital.

Co-director Dolina Wehipeihana says the 2026 festival offers a rich abundance of jazz in all its splendour.

“From iconic international artists to Aotearoa favourites, jazz takes over the capital once more with grit, depth, brilliance, and uplift.”

Forget to remember



Lebanese New Zealand flamenco guitarist and composer Paul Bosauder will release his sophomore album with live shows across Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch this spring. Shaped by 16 years of living in Spain and studying with some of the leading artists of the flamenco tradition, *Arco y Olvide* marks a new chapter in Paul’s musical journey, reflecting a personal language developed slowly through immersion and discipline, distance and memories.

“This album feels like a summary of many years of listening, writing, practising, and searching,” he says. “Some things need time to mature. They need to be forgotten before they can be understood properly. Flamenco has given me a way to see music, culture, and memory through a different lens. My hope is that these pieces allow people to feel something of Andalucía – its warmth, its landscapes, its rhythm, and its soul.”

Arco y Olvide traces a line through time and place, with Paul’s music drawing from the deep vocabulary of Andalucía while allowing his own melodies, harmonies, and sense of space to gently emerge. The songs soar in the hands of exceptional Spanish producer Domi Serralbo and collaborators, including award-winning Indian bansuri flautist Lara Wong, flamenco singer Rosario Amador, and renowned percussionist Javier Ktumba.

Now based in Tairāwhiti, Paul is an engineer by day and a sunset surfer and muso by night who pours passion and heart into everything he does. The live album release shows will exemplify this electricity, with a talented ensemble of world-class flamenco musicians travelling directly from Spain for a night of energy and intimacy at The Hannah on the 17th of October.

SNIPS

Road rules

Key road rules have changed. The new rules require drivers to leave a minimum gap of 1.5 metres when passing road users who aren’t in a motor vehicle, allow children up to 12 years old to ride bikes on the footpath (and parents or caregivers to ride with them), allow e-scooters in cycle lanes, and require road users to give way to buses leaving bus stops.

New library

The new Cannons Creek Library has opened with a dawn blessing by Ngāti Toa kaumatua Dr Taku Parai. Its name Ngā Kete Mātauranga means baskets of knowledge.

Finding leaks

Tiaki Wai has appointed Aqua Analytics to deliver active leak detection across the networks that service Wellington and Porirua – around 1,295 kilometres of ageing drinking water pipeline. With an average water loss rate of 37 percent across the 2025/26 financial year, and Tiaki Wai crews fixing more than 8,100 leaks in that period, the goal is to find leaks before they surface.

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Elegance personified



Isata Kanneh-Mason. Photo by John Davis.

One of the UK’s most exciting pianists, who was sponsored by Sir Elton John to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London and went on to play with him in concert, makes her Aotearoa debut with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra this spring. Isata Kanneh-Mason, the eldest of the extraordinary Kanneh-Mason musical dynasty, will play Mozart’s exquisite Piano Concerto No. 27 for the *Elegance* concert at the Michael Fowler Centre on Friday the 16th of October.

Led by acclaimed New Zealand conductor Tianyi Lu, a Dudamel Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the first woman to become conductor in residence for the Welsh National Opera, NZSO’s *Elegance* opens with *Andante Recitative*. This remarkable work by Swedish composer and pioneering women’s rights campaigner Elfrida Andrée was written in 1878 and only rediscovered in the 1980s.

The evening concludes with Johannes Brahms’ magnificent Serenade No. 1, a favourite of musicians and audiences that shows Brahms finding his orchestral voice before composing his beloved symphonies.

Kanneh-Mason has performed in concert halls and with orchestras worldwide, beginning her meteoric recording career in 2019 with a number one album on the UK Official Classical Chart. She has said she thinks a concert is a unique experience for everyone, and as such doesn’t like to impose too much on our imaginations.

“But I like to think it creates the impression of doors opening... of hope.”

A blank canvas case



On at BATS Theatre from the 14th to the 17th of October, *The King’s Gambit* is a tense, high-stakes court drama taking aim at implicit biases in the Aotearoa legal system.

The courts are testing out a ‘blind trial’, which strips name, age, gender, and ethnicity from the case, so it is carried out based on unembellished facts.

Joshua Hunt (Liam Crow), an ambitious defence lawyer, and Derek King (Freddie Müller), a seasoned Crown prosecutor, go head-to-head in a high-profile trial. As charges escalate, the absence of identity doesn’t eliminate prejudice. Instead, it reveals the deep biases projected by counsel, jury, and audience onto the blank canvas of the case.

Director and playwright Jesse Duckworth says he has been mulling over the story for many years. “When I was a university student, I found myself getting drawn into the core philosophy of our justice system, asking questions like: What is its true purpose? Is it to prevent criminal behaviour? To punish it? To facilitate restorative justice, or to remedy the losses experienced by victims?”

“The courtroom is the ultimate arena for contrasting views.” Dealing with complex and nuanced societal questions, *The King’s Gambit* empowers audiences to critically engage in discussions together.

Brought to the stage by FORM Theatre, join the phenomenal cast for a performance that engages seriously in public debate, where the courtroom is not a playground but a place with the potential to create positive change.

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Directed by Neil Brewer

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Ahead of the dial



Photo courtesy of Wellington Museum.

When curators Dr Jamie Metzger and Leilani A Sio first began work on the exhibition *Arohanui, Carmen xx*, on at Te Waka Huia Wellington Museum until the 18th of February, Carmen Tione Rupe’s estate told them about a black suitcase filled with her things that hadn’t been opened in over 15 years.

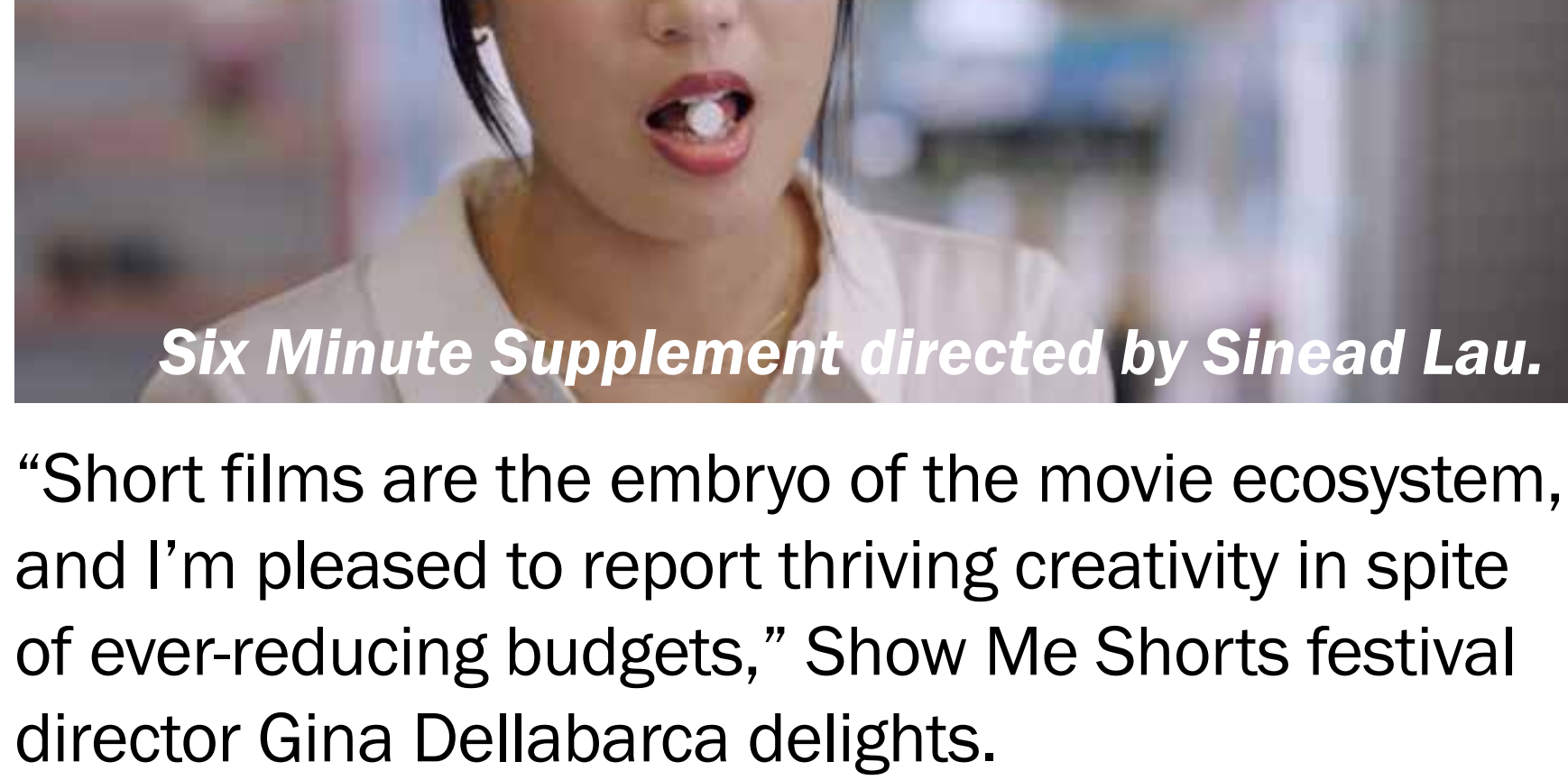
As they went through the archive, they found her birth certificate and resume, but more importantly, they discovered that Carmen was a prolific writer. “She was constantly recording her thoughts, reflections, memories, and observations about the world,” Metzger says.

Carmen’s words became the frame that the exhibition naturally built itself around. Her life is explored thematically, organised by three values that shaped the way she moved through the world: Manaakitanga, Aroha, and Tino Rangatiratanga.

The exhibition flows between English and te reo Māori in a conversational and cheeky tone that reflects Carmen’s voice. “One thing I noticed was that Carmen hasn’t been presented within the context of her Māoritanga, which was such an important part of who she was – she was proud to be Māori.”

Carmen was unapologetically herself. “She didn’t always fit neatly into anyone else’s expectations. I think there’s something really powerful in that,” Metzger says. “Carmen didn’t ask permission to take up space or to be herself. She had an incredible sense of her own mana, but she also understood that mana is something you give as much as something you hold.”

Who likes short shorts?



Six Minute Supplement directed by Sinead Lau.

“Short films are the embryo of the movie ecosystem, and I’m pleased to report thriving creativity in spite of ever-reducing budgets,” Show Me Shorts festival director Gina Dellabarca delights.

The 21st instalment of Aotearoa’s largest international short film festival is coming to Lighthouse Cuba between the 7th and the 31st of October, screening 65 short films from across the globe, all selected from a pool of almost 2,500 submissions.

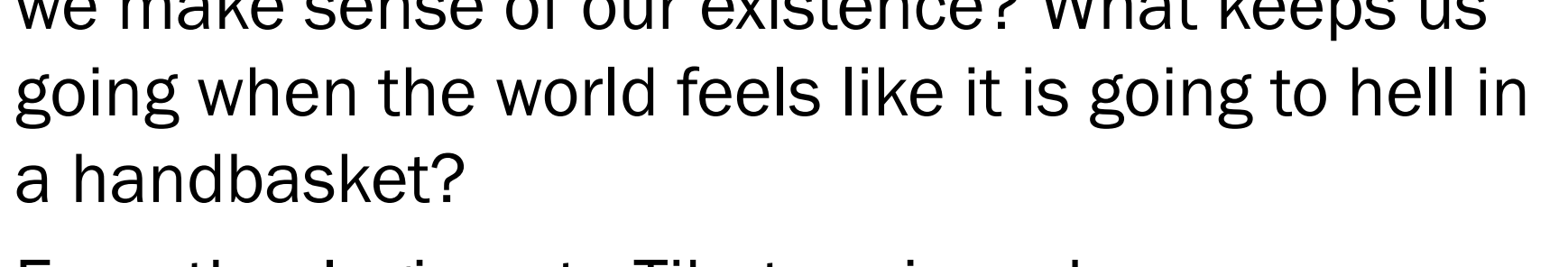
This year’s Show Me Shorts Film Festival features a broad sweep of homegrown talent, internationally acclaimed big-hitters, debut filmmakers, and rising stars. The programme is divided into 10 themed collections spanning comedy, drama, animation, documentary, horror, science fiction, music videos, and films for tamariki.

There’ll be 14 world premieres of New Zealand-made short films, including Wellington’s own Sinead Lau’s *Six Minute Supplement*, a comedy about two siblings who overdose on entitlement when a sample drug swaps their bodies. Films in the whānau-friendly sessions – happening on the 9th and 11th – were chosen by children for children and are perfect for primary-school-aged kids and their families.

If you can’t make your mind up about which theme to dive into, sampler sessions featuring festival highlights are happening on the 10th, 11th, and 13th, and a talk on the 13th offers audiences the inside scoop from three directors about their works.

Visit www.showmeshorts.co.nz to peruse the overwhelming amount of talent coming from our shores and abroad.

Hope is an act of defiance



Kali Kopae. Photo by Ben Sarikaya.

What does it mean to be alive right now? How do we make sense of our existence? What keeps us going when the world feels like it is going to hell in a handbasket?

From theologians to Tibetan rinpoches, cosmologists to philosophers, taxi drivers to hotel receptionists, everyone has a radically different answer to these questions. And Stuart McKenzie interviewed them all – right down to a famous singing nun. He even talked to his own mother for *After God*, a new verbatim play that explores meaning, madness, and the metaphysical mechanisms of belief.

After God follows the theatre-maker and unlikely everyman on a funny yet serious and ultimately unexpected journey from Wellington to Kathmandu, London to New York. At the heart of it all is his enduring relationship with American Death of God theologian Mark C. Taylor, played by acclaimed actor Michael Hurst. Their conversations anchor the play, transformed from interviews, ideas, and personal stories into exhilarating theatre by dexterous hands.

Co-directors Miranda Harcourt and McKenzie together are pioneers of verbatim and biographical theatre. For over three decades, they’ve established radical new ways of bringing real lives and voices to the stage through such groundbreaking works as *Verbatim*, *Biography of My Skin*, and more recently, *Transmission* and *Transmission: Beta*, which explore Aotearoa’s experience of COVID-19 and its aftermath.

Harcourt says *After God* isn’t a play that tells people what to believe. “It’s a quest. It’s about exploring why these ideas continue to haunt us.”

Bringing together a stellar cast of Hurst alongside Kali Kopae, Andrew Paterson, Tara Canton, and Roy Clark, *After God* premieres at Circa Theatre from the 17th of October to the 14th of November.

Calling all shutterbugs



Photo by Andy Spain.

At the annual 10-10-10 Evening held by the Wellington branch of the New Zealand Institute of Photography (NZIPP), 10 photographers are given 10 minutes each to showcase 10 images from their portfolio. Happening at Penthouse Cinema on Wednesday the 14th of October, the popular event is set to be a varied and fascinating snapshot of photographic talent in the region.

The show-and-tell style is a wonderful way to get deeper insights into each artist’s work and process, and is sure to inspire anyone interested in photography, from those just starting out to well-seasoned shutterbugs.

This year’s presenters are being revealed one by one, with two photographers already out of the bag: Andy Spain and Amber-Jayne Bain.

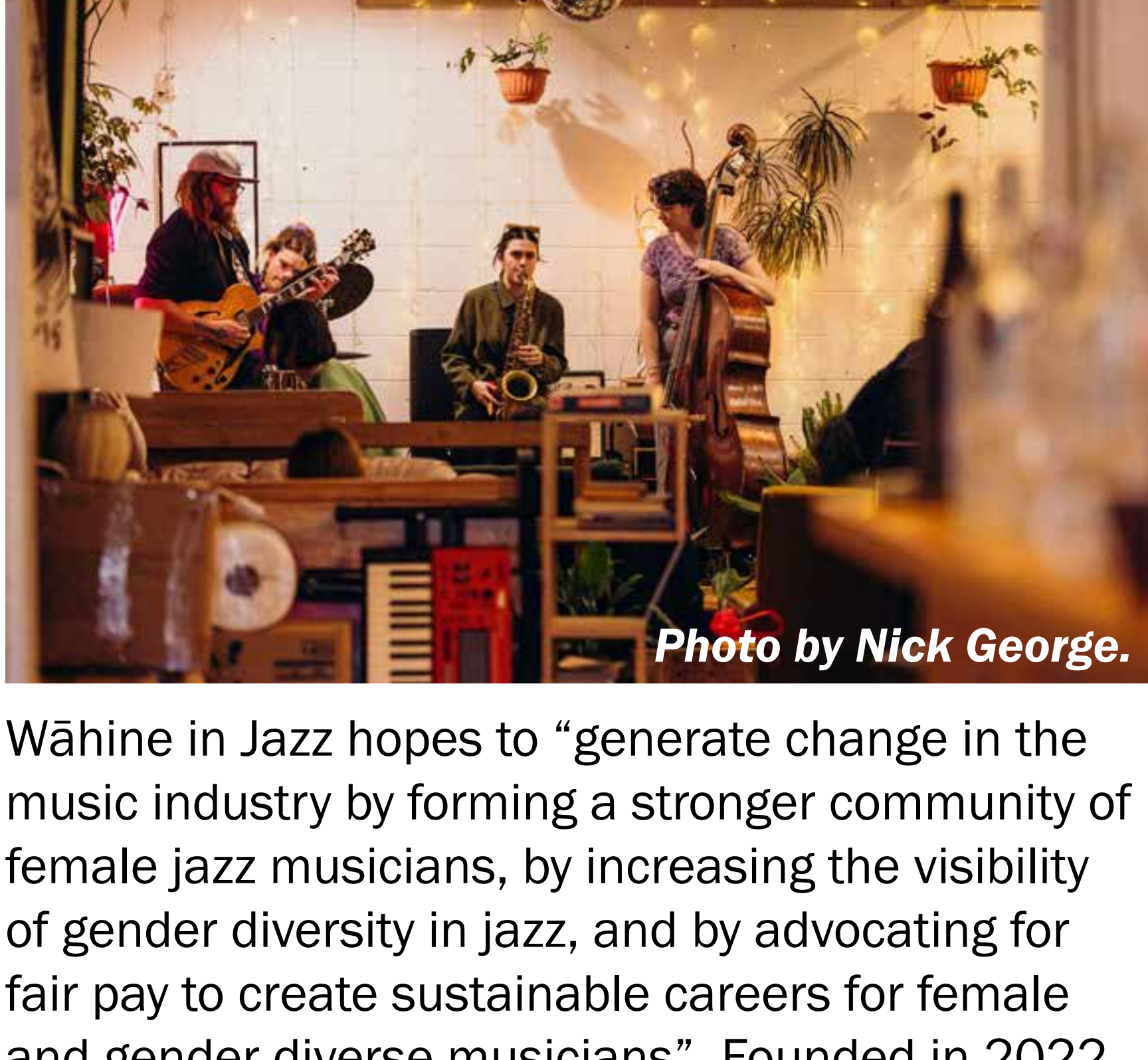
Spain has been a freelance photographer specialising in architecture in the UK and Aotearoa for over 20 years. In 2024, he was awarded the Ath Cup at the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) Awards, and in 2022, he was presented a President’s Award by the NZIA for his contributions to architectural photography.

Bain is a Pōneke-based advertising and editorial photographer who works across portraiture and lifestyle imagery. Her 10 minutes will cover her transition toward and alongside artmaking, grappling with identity and a technical and metaphorical striving for balance between precision and freedom.

Supported by Sony, each attendee goes into the draw to win a trip to Japan. Head along and see the world through the lens of some of Wellington’s most celebrated photographers.

Wellington Jazz Festival

Paving their way



Wāhine in Jazz hopes to “generate change in the music industry by forming a stronger community of female jazz musicians, by increasing the visibility of gender diversity in jazz, and by advocating for fair pay to create sustainable careers for female and gender diverse musicians”. Founded in 2022 by Francesca Parussini and Na’amah Cheiban, the Tāmaki Makaurau collective strives to create and provide a safe space for musicians to connect and learn from each other.

“Wāhine in Jazz is for those who feel disenfranchised by the hyper-masculinised culture surrounding jazz.”

For the Wellington Jazz Festival, Wāhine in Jazz will present a special collaborative showcase called *Freedom Within*, where an all-women and queer group of musicians will perform a set of jazz music mixing the joy and interaction of free improvisation around and within standards well known in the jazz idiom. The lineup includes Amina Ebrahim, Ella Jean, Jennah Mexted, Simone Hidalgo, Nina Sugimura, and Holly Kayser.

“Wāhine in Jazz is excited to present two nights of music at the Wellington Jazz Festival this year”, the advocacy organisation writes. “This is a group of passionate and talented young wāhine paving their way in the Tāmaki jazz scene.”

Night one will be on Thursday the 15th of October at Thistle Hall at 8pm. The second *Freedom Within* event is koha and takes place on the Saturday the 17th of October at Hamodava Cuba Street at 4:30pm.

Cosmic grooves



Driving grooves, soaring melodies, and the fire of afro-beat, Balkan music, and brass-house are what give Te Whanganui-a-Tara-based quartet ISKRA their singular, high-energy sound.

The otherworldly foursome was formed by saxophonist Josh Buckler and features Simon Grove (Niko Ne Zna) on helicon, Ato Kwamena (Culture Embassy) on percussion, and David McGurk (Planet Hunter) on drums.

Stripping back chordal instruments and letting the percussion build a musical universe made of brass, breath, rhythm, and deep grooves, this horn-led jazz extravaganza is the kind of thing you’d listen to at a dance party at the end of the world, when the last lights have gone out.

Inspired by the likes of Sons of Kemet and the London jazz scene, ISKRA will be blowing two sets at margarita bar and restaurant Superfina on Friday the 16th of October from 8pm until late. The gig comes fresh off the release of their debut EP *The New Spring*, which zooms in and out of cosmic picnics, sci-fi caves, secret safe places, the fires of greed and ignorance that see our planet destroyed by climate change, and goblin garden parties.

Their electric blend of driving rhythm and improvised brass produces a deeply textured and unique sound that’ll have audiences heaving at the top of Cuba Street. On as part of the Wellington Jazz Festival, why not finish off an evening of jazz with the infectious sounds of ISKRA.

And all that jazz!



The country’s first ever national jazz orchestra is gearing up for an evening of Kiwi-created compositions this Wellington Jazz Festival, performing a live-recorded concert at Meow Nui on the 14th of October. *Aotearoa Jazz Orchestra Presents: Music of Aotearoa* demonstrates AJO’s commitment to celebrating, commissioning, and recording new New Zealand works.

Promising plenty of excitement, the programme features new compositions from Briar Prastiti [pictured], a Greek-New Zealand composer, vocalist, and producer known for cross-genre work spanning orchestral writing, theatre, electronic music, and folk traditions; Sāmoan jazz drummer, composer, and Fulbright Scholar Dexter Stanley-Tauvao; AJO’s concertmaster Oscar Lavēn, an acclaimed multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, and performer with NZSO and international artists; influential New Zealand singer, guitarist, and songwriter Marion Arts, who works with Red Hot Peppers; and Julie Lamb, a Wellington vocalist, songwriter, bandleader, and award-winning recording artist.

A new work by AJO’s 2025-2026 Emerging Artist, Evie Patterson, is also part of the repertoire. While Evie is studying jazz in Verona so won’t be on stage for its performance, saxophonist and vocalist Reiss Fatani, the Emerging Artist for the 2026-2027 season, will be.

Led by Wellington-based, Scottish jazz musician and composer John Rae, whose work also features in the programme, AJO honours the legacy of big band leader and jazz educator Rodger Fox (1953-2024). Rodger shared John’s vision of a national orchestra backed up by national infrastructure. As well as championing New Zealand music, AJO is equally passionate about nurturing and developing young jazz talent. Later this year, the orchestra will launch the Aotearoa Youth Jazz Orchestra to help build a sustainable future for jazz musicians to flourish in Aotearoa.

Descended from stone



One of the most integral members of the Pōneke music community, over the last two decades drummer, percussionist, and composer Hikurangi Schaverien-Kaa (Ruawaipū, Ngāti Porou, Ashkenazi) has added his distinctive style to so many bands, the actual numbers are a complete mystery. Through his performance and work as a touring and recording artist, he has indelibly shaped the independent and improvised music scenes and sounds of the capital.

For this year’s Wellington Jazz Festival, Hikurangi was commissioned to write and perform a composition especially for the festival.

Exploring contested whakapapa, cosmogony, and the space between Māori and Pākehā constructions of knowledge, (pre-)history, and identity, *Te Ao Kōhatu* emerged out of the stories which say, while many of the people of Te Tairāwhiti that arrived on waka, some also descended from the stones themselves.

On at Tāwhiri Warehouse on Sunday the 18th of October, *Te Ao Kōhatu* will take audiences on a journey through loss, reflection, catharsis, and whirling colour. Hikurangi will be joined by a double ensemble, the jazz quintet The Unknot and the experimental collective Bub(z) and da Ouncle\$, and guided by the call of poet, composer, and taonga pūrora practitioner Ruby Solly’s (Kāi Tahu, Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe) Waitaki lithophone: an instrument made of stones found on a beach in Te Waipounamu.

Combining unique instrumentation, taonga pūrora, and ancient storytelling, *Te Ao Kōhatu* is a bold and deeply personal work from one of Aotearoa’s most inventive jazz artists.

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The power of love



The science fiction novel-cum-feature film *Klara and the Sun* feels less and less distant and dystopian in 2026, a time of warp-speed advancements in artificial intelligence and rapid rearrangements of relationships between humans and technology.

Instead of depicting the usual doomful sci-fi tropes, the film is set to be a moving, aesthetically beautiful tale exploring the power of love.

Taika Waititi brings Kazuo Ishiguro's 2021 novel to life on the screen this October. The film follows Klara (Jenna Ortega), an on-sale, older-model robot built to rid human companions of loneliness. When human Josie (Mia Tharia) meets Klara at the store, she recognises a kindred spirit. Josie suffers a mysterious illness and has a fraught relationship with her mother Chrissie (Amy Adams). The two of them have also suffered a great loss, but Klara's innocent wonder and unwavering loyalty brings light and healing into their world.

Wellington Timebank are hosting a special opening night screening of *Klara and the Sun* at Lighthouse Cuba on Thursday the 22nd of October. Snacks are included in the ticket and all funds go towards keeping their operations running.

Members of Wellington Timebank exchange skills, time, and knowledge instead of money to foster relationships and a sense of reciprocity. With over 1,000 members across the region, their continued operations help to redefine work, weave together supportive communities, and provide a space for people to share their contributions.

Stage spooktacular



Got skeletons in your attic? Join The Circus Hub for the spectacular, spine-tingling showcase *RAW: Out of the Attic!*, featuring live circus acts, costume prizes, and family fun on Saturday the 17th of October. Tricks *and* treats combine in this spooky Circus Hub fundraiser co-directed by Leanne Jenkins and Char McGrath.

Char, who performs a duo act with Liam Sharpe on the night, says the cabaret-style showcase features a lineup of Circus Hub trainers and students performing aerials such as lyra, trapeze, and straps, as well as plate spinning and hair suspension. "The theme takes our audience on a journey through different corners of an old attic – bringing to life forgotten relics, from discarded childhood items like the old Barbie forgotten in a box, to the creepy, dark shadows and demons lurking in the attic corners."

That Halloween focus is not just seasonal.

"Circus and spookiness complement each other because both rely on pushing beyond the ordinary and playing with the unknown. In circus, aerialists suspended high above the ground and performers executing amazing feats naturally evoke an eerie, captivating sensation. A fusion of theatrical character work and spooky aesthetics invites audiences to immerse themselves fully into a realm where the impossible becomes eerie, and the extraordinary feels delightfully haunted."

Roll up, roll up the ladder to the attic and support The Circus Hub in Newtown, "where folks of all backgrounds and fitness levels can come together".

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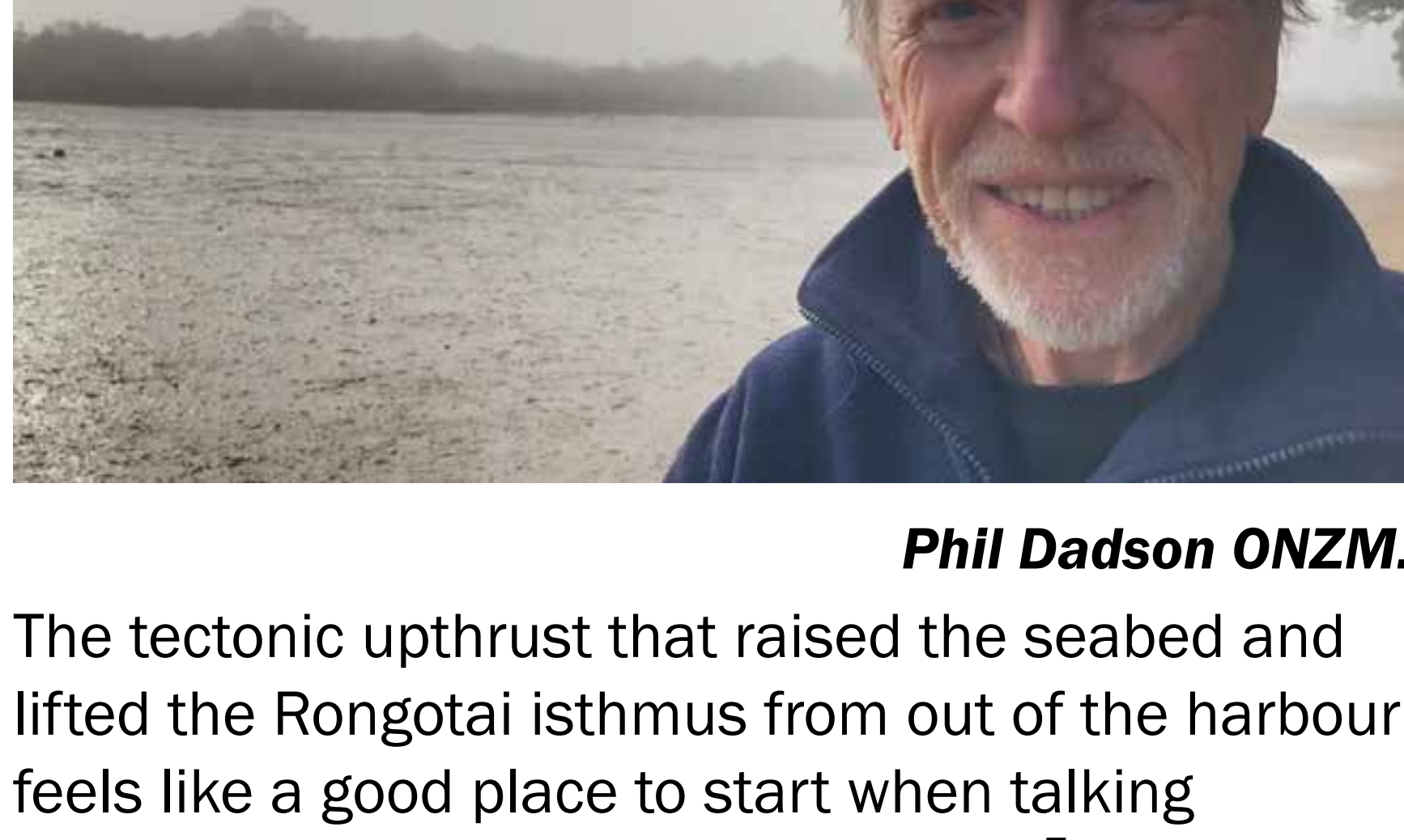
Wellington sculpture series

Ākau Tangi by *Isabella Smith*

In this new series, Isabella talks to the artists behind the sculptures dotted around our city.



Photos courtesy of Wellington Sculpture Trust.



Phil Dadson ONZM.

The tectonic upthrust that raised the seabed and lifted the Rongotai isthmus from out of the harbour feels like a good place to start when talking about Phil Dadson ONZM's sculpture *Ākau Tangi*, located on Cobham Drive by the airport. The hard consonants of rock grinding against the shore, the whipping wind, the crashing waves all form the wellspring from which Phil drew his supply of inspiration.

Materiality and motion are recurring elements in the multi-hyphenate sound and intermedia artist's work. As an inveterate collector of things with a huge range of interests in prehistory, ethnography, spiritual traditions, and the diversity of natural and sonic worlds, his concepts are realised in a variety of forms: building musical instruments and sonic objects, composition, improvisation, experimental filmmaking, sound and kinetic sculptures, installation, and graphic works.

Phil works in the realm of the ephemeral. A deep listener with poetic and scientific sensibilities, he captures and translates the earth in conversation with itself. Growing up in Ahuriri near Napier, Phil recalls the sounds of the turbulent coastline within earshot of his family home. "The sound of shingle on shingle and heavy seas going up and down the beach. The shifting landscape," he says. "Corporeality, body-based kinetics, vibration and rhythm, they're pretty much at the core of all that I do – not so uncommon as it is pretty much the core of our existence on this planet," he says.

Cobham Drive runs down the side of the airport connecting Kilbirnie to the Miramar Peninsula. A long, straight stretch exposed to the elements and the engine thrust of planes taking off and landing, the area is more fittingly known as *Ākau Tangi*, which can be translated to 'sounding coast' or 'crying seashore'. It is a centre of constant energy and movement, which is why the Wellington Sculpture Trust, alongside Meridian Energy, commissioned a number of artists to produce kinetic works that harness its elemental forces.

"For *Ākau Tangi*, I wanted a dynamic integration of motion, sound, and light in the installation of turbines transiting from land (airport) to ocean (harbour)."

Installed in 2010, the sculpture consists of 12 birdlike windsocks that migrate from the land, crossing the road onto the median separating east and westward traffic, and down into the sea. These sentinels swivel with the wind, alert to the changing weather and tides.

The ancestor of *Ākau Tangi* was created in 1971: a set of 10 white cotton windsocks and bags of coloured dye that were suspended on five tensioned wires across a section of Grafton Gully in central Tāmaki Makaurau.

"As the windsocks hurtled from one side to another in the wind, they became colour-splattered from banging into the bags of various coloured dyes, and eventually over time disintegrated, all part of the intent as an ephemeral work."

"The brief in Pōneke of course had to be more permanent," Phil says. "Hence the engineering complexity of the installation."

The original concept featured a wind-activated lighting system, with each windsock glowing in varying shades of blue, green, or red when the wind speeds were high enough. The highly engineered turbines also had sonic features. Sets of tubular, flute-like instruments played by the wind were installed on each pole in association with the spinning turbine. When heard together, they whistled and moaned in an ever-changing low-level harmony that joined the natural cries of the coast.

"In terms of pure sound, I am attracted to intricate texture; the microscopic, the unexpected, the naturally rhythmic and the adventurous; to sound atmospheres and layered perspectives, to sounds that conjure mood and imagination, that convey ideas and express the human heart and soul," Phil said shortly after *Ākau Tangi* was installed.

The sculpture needed to be able to survive the exposed environment, respond to the wind smoothly, and to gather sufficient speed to generate enough power to activate the lighting system. The wind turbines are made from sheet aluminium, the weathervane component is made of aluminium tube, and the poles, in an octagonal tapered design similar to streetlights, are made of light steel.

"In collaboration with the engineering firm I worked with, we firstly made tests at Auckland University's wind tunnel, then, and more successfully, with a turbine unit mounted on the back of a ute driven at around 130 kilometres around a racecourse."

This kind of play, exploration, and risk-taking are integral to Phil's work. "That's also true of much of the graphic work I do. It's often in the moment, spontaneity sort of stuff. It's trying a new technical approach to something, playing with it to see what happens, developing it, then deciding, hey, don't take it any further – it's working now."

While there was a huge amount of preparation that went into *Ākau Tangi*, it was ultimately a prototype. "You can't really pretest everything until you get the final thing up, and that's why the piece did create some problems along the way." Sadly, the lighting features died one by one over 18 months, and the sonic elements were returned to Phil due to noise complaints, though the birds continue to turn on their axis, caught between Tangaroa and Tāwhirimātea.

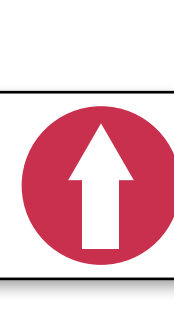
Phil tells me that he's stepped back from public art per se – though he appears to be no less busy – favouring time-based works over more permanent structures. A new film, *From Scratch: Songs for Unsung Heroes*, came out in July this year. Directed and edited by John Pain, it is a cinematic live concert experience of Phil's renowned experimental music ensemble From Scratch performing at Kāhui St David's in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Currently perched on the rooftop of the Len Lye Centre are two wind-activated aeolian harps that harmonise in accordance with the weather, created in collaboration with James McCarthy. A climate piece, it maps the changing weather patterns of the area with controllable surveillance cameras and audio recorders that transmit imagery and sound into the gallery space.

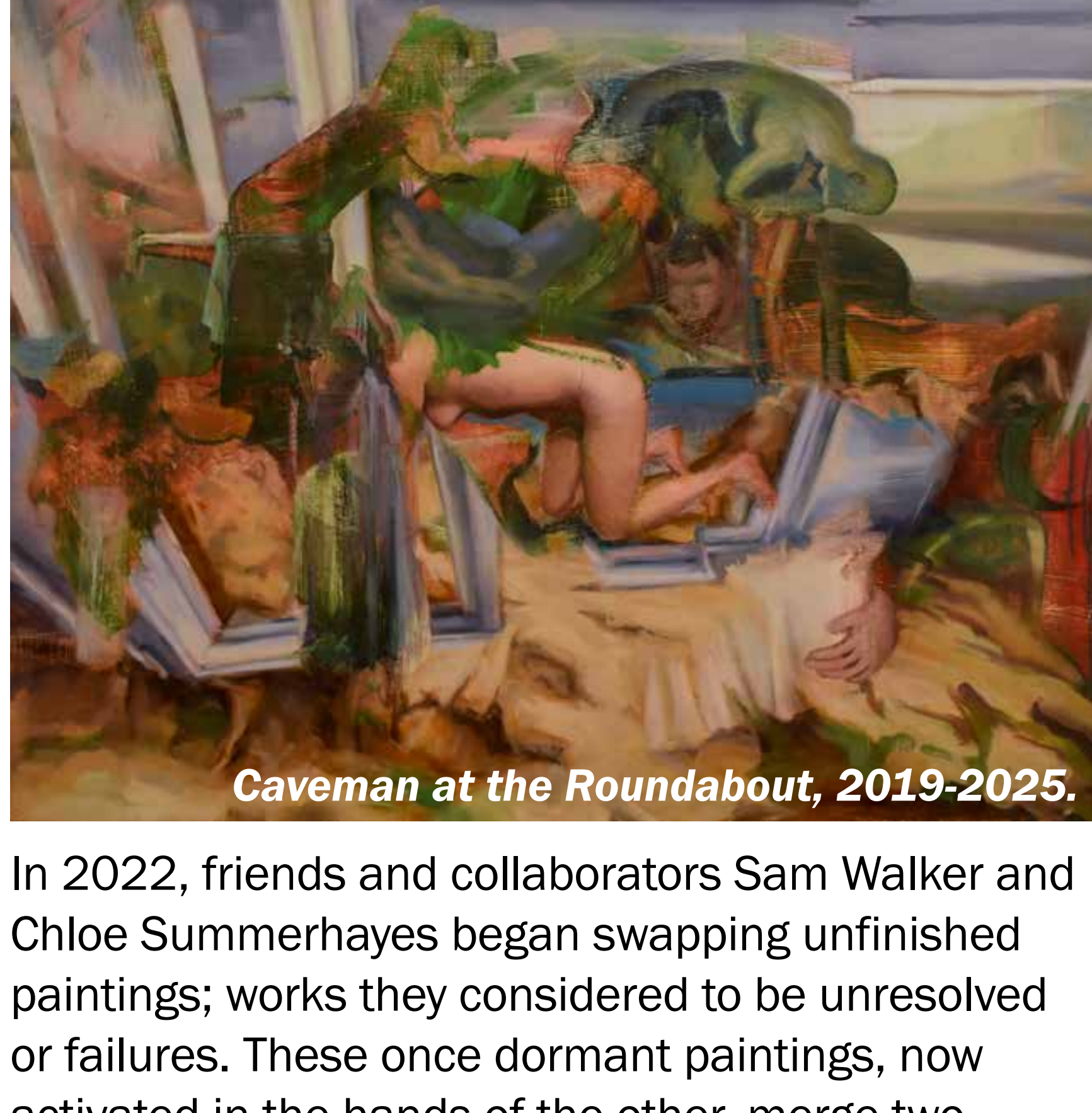
"It was the first time that they'd ever agreed to have anything mounted on the roof, a brave decision given the challenge of unpredictable weather and secure maintenance of the harps."

A seminal character in Aotearoa's art history, to engage with Phil's works is to become aware of the primordial gods that play out their dramas here on earth, causing storms to brew, tides to swell, and the earth to shift. The senses become blurred, metaphors are caught mid-action, and we are presented with the magic, reverberating resonance of nature.

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The third entity



Caveman at the Roundabout, 2019-2025.

In 2022, friends and collaborators Sam Walker and Chloe Summerhayes began swapping unfinished paintings; works they considered to be unresolved or failures. These once dormant paintings, now activated in the hands of the other, merge two distinct voices to create a series of uncanny works that blur and bleed from one image to the next.

Hotel California, on at Nine Fathom Deep until the 22nd of October, is part salon des refusés (exhibition of rejects) and part transient hotel. It deals with possession and the ability to adapt, demonstrating what can emerge out of an intuitive dialogue in the language of paint on canvas.

The paintings stretch from mythological figures, interior spaces, and wide-open landscapes to animals, ritual grounds, and dream-like visions. “We’re both magpies when it comes to collecting imagery”, Sam says. But greater than the subject matter is the eerie tone that all of them carry. “It just seemed to happen in some iteration with every work. There’s something about the combination of both of our choices and their resulting styles that ends up in some feeling of unsettledness.”

When swapping artworks, there were no limits on how Sam and Chloe chose to tackle each work, using narrative, form, style, colour, composition, and subject all as potential starting points.

Tensions emerged between Sam’s soft and sometimes invisible brushwork compared to Chloe’s expressive and somewhat crude brushwork. Both artists were forced to work with colours they weren’t familiar with. “In many ways our differences in approach balance things out and create harmonies. Sam’s familiarity with landscape and creating a backdrop of sorts worked well with my tendency to focus more on the figure,” Chloe says.

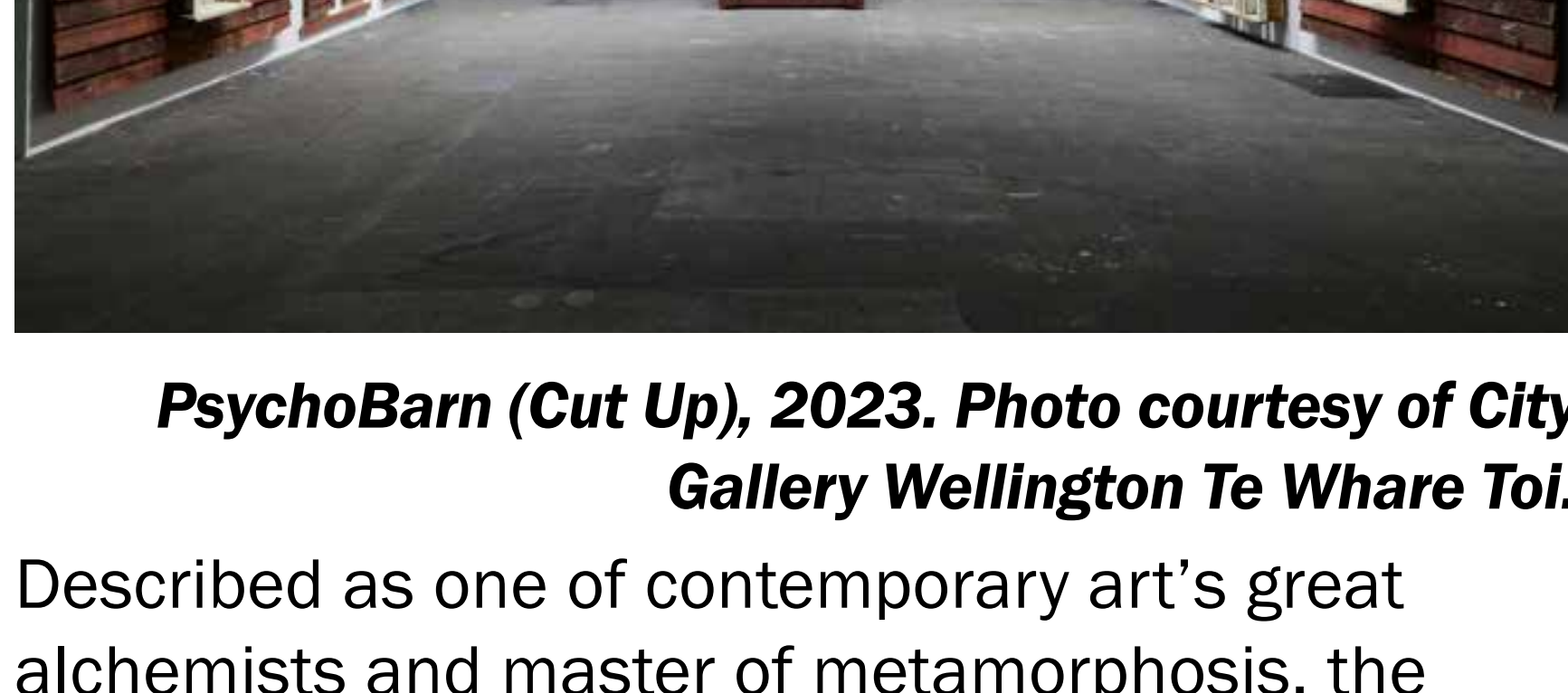
After working for months and years in ways that were unnatural to them, an amalgamated self emerged, made up of past and present; of old and new decisions, thoughts, and processes. They describe it as the presence of a third entity. “Once we were deep in the process it didn’t just reveal a lot about the other person – their visual hangups, their preoccupations, their fault-points – but also ourselves,” Sam says.

The artists occupy one another’s works and leave their traces. “Each painting we worked on was an opportunity to pass through a slightly foreign microcosm,” Chloe says.

The transience is reflected in the title *Hotel California* and in the decision to use partitions and isolate parts of the gallery with garnet-red curtains. Because the range was so extensive, “we ended up with a real variety of works that don’t always necessarily fit with others”, Chloe says, noting that the partitioning creates “the ideal environment for these works to be in conversation with one another.”

“As painters we are used to being – or at least have the illusion of being – in total control of what we make. This project turned that on its head. I think it was a really good exercise in learning to let go and surrender more to what’s in front of you.”

A city remade



PsychoBarn (Cut Up), 2023. Photo courtesy of City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi.

Described as one of contemporary art’s great alchemists and master of metamorphosis, the career-spanning works of Cornelia Parker will be displayed at City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi from the 10th of October to the 7th of March.

Parker is renowned for her large-scale installations. Often using found or discarded materials that are invariably squashed, exploded, burnt, broken, blasted, chewed, spat, and stained, she captures mid-flight the (at times violent) making, unmaking, and remaking of materials.

Taking over the entire gallery, Parker’s art is mischievous and magical, witty and inventive, and ever alert to the urgencies of our time. Over 50 works are coming from Europe, America, and Japan and cover 40 years of artmaking, ranging from sculpture and film to installation, photography, and painting. “It’s involved a complex set of relationships and negotiations to get to this point,” co-curator Andrea Schlieker says. “But in many ways the real complexity begins with the installation – these are major installations that take an immense amount of diligence and skill from a highly experienced team. The works are often room-filling and intricate – like *Cold Dark Matter* – an explosion of a humble garden shed, frozen in space, involving hundreds of objects.”

“Destruction, rebuilding, and renewal run through her works, which is why it is so fitting to have this exhibition in Wellington now. We hope that the exhibition and our return to Civic Square will reflect our city and also help remake it.”

When minds collide



Photo courtesy of City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi.

Coinciding with the highly anticipated reopening of City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi with four decades of work from the celebrated British artist Cornelia Parker is *Castomaniac*, a multi-venue young artists exhibition running from the 5th to the 11th of October in various locations around Newtown.

A thousand school students from across Te Whanganui-a-Tara were invited to be inspired by and respond to Parker’s artmaking practice, exploring themes of destruction, reconstruction, transformation, and renewal. “When tamariki make art using methods and materials they encounter in exhibitions, they gain insight and further appreciate the thought, effort, practice, and innovation of an artist,” City Gallery learning specialist Matt Gillies says.

“Tamariki absolutely soaked up the wild and free thought of Cornelia Parker. They were wowed by her bravery in using dangerous methods and unique materials. Then they quickly speculated on other projects that they could do using rare and unusual items.”

Rice Pudding Gallery will be home to 860 matchbox-sized sculptural works created by students asked to consider the material, economic, psychic, and spiritual histories of objects they collected.

“Children are great lateral thinkers and they are growing competencies; they have to overcome the obstacles of the adult-oriented world on the daily. We wanted to reiterate the validity of children’s creativity when it is often dismissed as trivial or marginal to learning.”

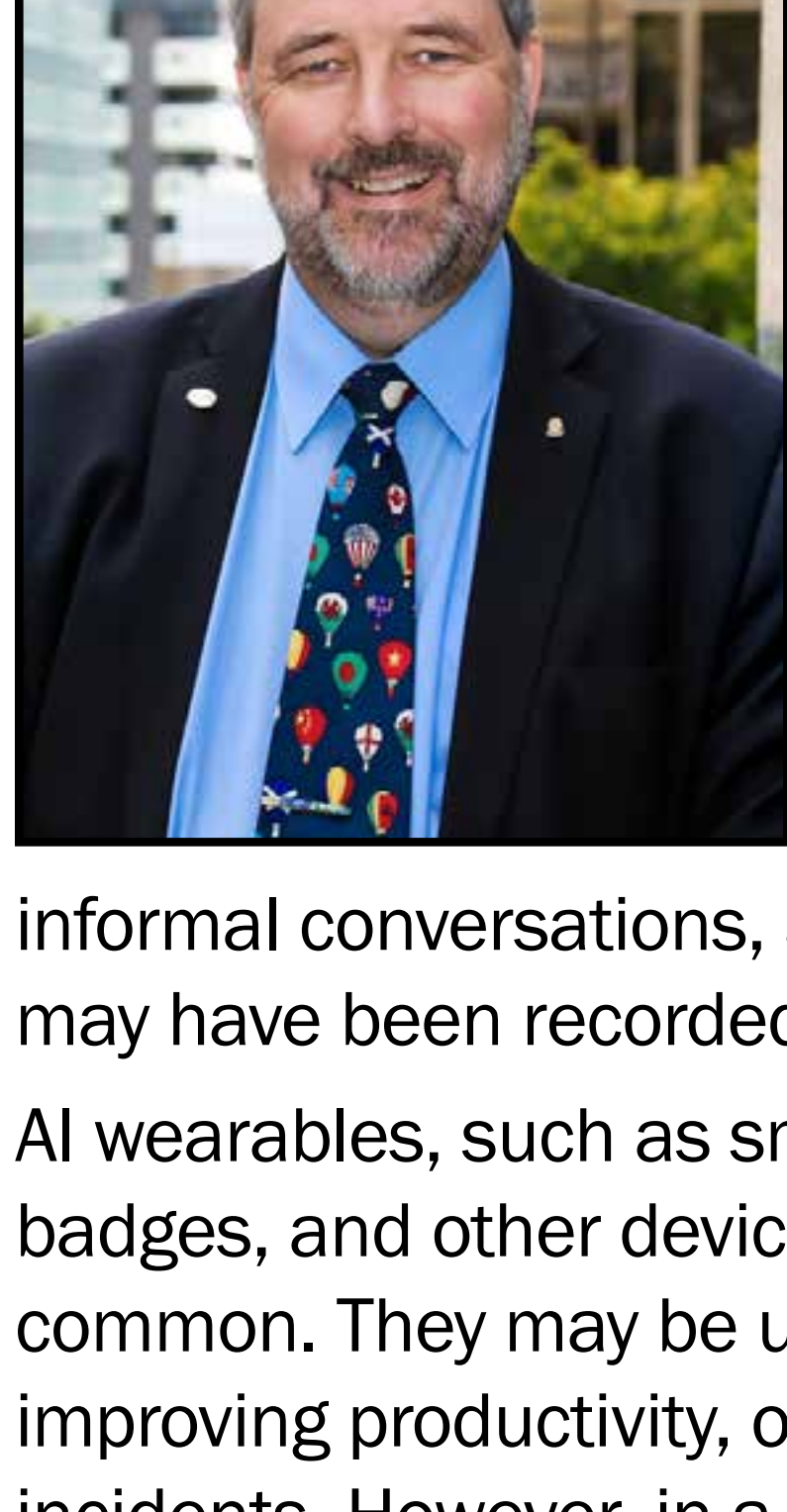
Visit Rice Pudding Gallery to discover what happens when the remarkable imaginations of our tamariki collide with the works of one of the 21st century’s most prolific artists.

News

Advice from Alan

Wearable AI at work

by Alan Knowsley, consultant, Rainey Collins Lawyers



If an employer or employee started wearing a pair of AI-enabled glasses at work and the device looked like ordinary glasses, but could record audio, capture images, and summarise conversations, this could raise serious privacy and employment issues. Others could be concerned that workplace discussions,

informal conversations, and customer interactions may have been recorded without them knowing.

AI wearables, such as smart glasses, recording badges, and other devices are becoming more common. They may be useful for taking notes, improving productivity, or recording health and safety incidents. However, in a New Zealand workplace they can also raise serious legal issues. The fact that a device can record, transcribe, or analyse interactions does not mean it should be used without clear rules. Employers and employees should think carefully about privacy, good faith, and the possible impact on trust and confidence in the employment relationship. Under our privacy laws, an employer generally needs a proper purpose for collecting personal information, must only collect what is necessary, and should be open about what information is being collected and why. If a wearable device records identifiable staff, customers, or visitors, the information collected is likely to be personal information.

There is also the employment law obligation of good faith. Employers and employees must deal with each other honestly, openly, and without misleading or deceptive conduct. A secret recording may not always be unlawful, particularly where the person recording is part of the conversation. However, that does not automatically mean it is consistent with good faith, appropriate workplace behaviour, or an employer's policies.

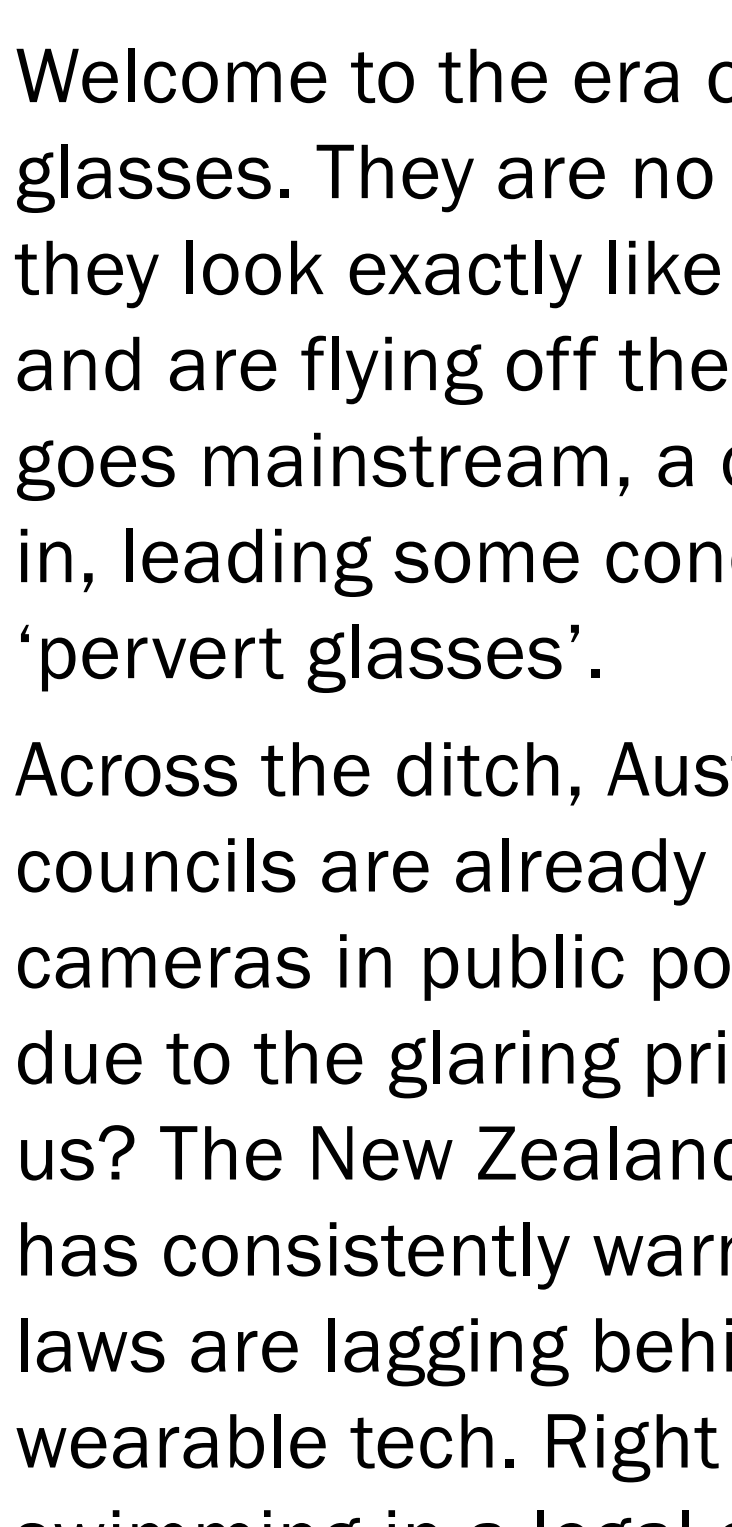
The position may depend heavily on the circumstances. For example, an employee who records their own disciplinary meeting because they are concerned about what could later be disputed may be treated differently from an employee who leaves a device running to capture conversations they are not part of. Surreptitious video recording is a serious issue, particularly where staff have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Employers should consult, update their policies, check their privacy obligations, and make sure their use of the technology is fair, transparent, and proportionate.

Tech talks with Pat

Is Wellington ready?

by Pat Pilcher



Picture this: you're doing laps at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre or Huia Pool. The bloke next to you is wearing a stylish pair of sunglasses. It is a bit weird indoors, sure, but you ignore it. What you don't realise is he's wearing the latest smart glasses, and he is livestreaming your morning swim straight to Facebook.

Welcome to the era of camera-enabled smart glasses. They are no longer clunky sci-fi props; they look exactly like standard designer frames and are flying off the shelves. But as this tech goes mainstream, a creepy new reality is setting in, leading some concerned citizens to dub them 'pervert glasses'.

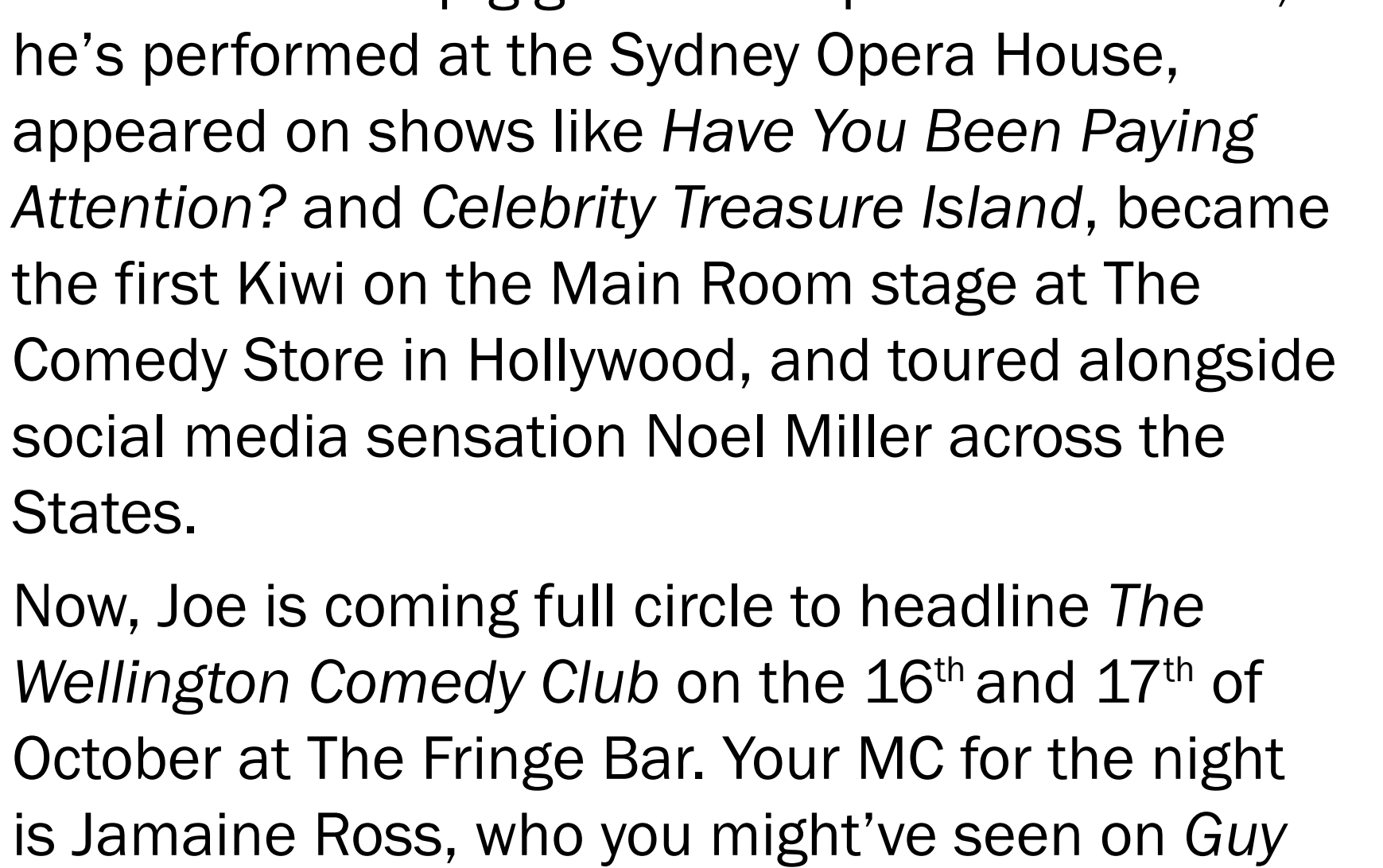
Across the ditch, Australian facilities and local councils are already moving to ban wearable cameras in public pools and childcare centres due to the glaring privacy risks. So, what about us? The New Zealand Privacy Commissioner has consistently warned that our current privacy laws are lagging behind the rapid evolution of wearable tech. Right now, we could find ourselves swimming in a legal grey area.

This raises a massive question for Wellington, Hutt City, and Porirua councils: is it time to implement local bans before things get out of hand?

The threat isn't just at the pool. Think about changing rooms, public transport, or your local Wellington café. The person sitting next to you on the number 2 bus could be snapping photos of your phone screen or recording your conversation with a subtle tap on their glasses frame or a whispered voice command.

While we wait for local lawmakers to catch up with Silicon Valley, the burden of privacy falls on us. Keep an eye out for people wearing sunglasses indoors, particularly specs with a tiny, sometimes blinking LED light near the hinge. It's time our local councils woke up and smelled the privacy breach, before we lose our right to a private swim.

Served up piping hot



Joe Daymond. Photo by Jared Tinetti.

The comedic legend Joe Daymond first cut his teeth at stand-up gigs in the capital. Since then, he's performed at the Sydney Opera House, appeared on shows like *Have You Been Paying Attention?* and *Celebrity Treasure Island*, became the first Kiwi on the Main Room stage at The Comedy Store in Hollywood, and toured alongside social media sensation Noel Miller across the States.

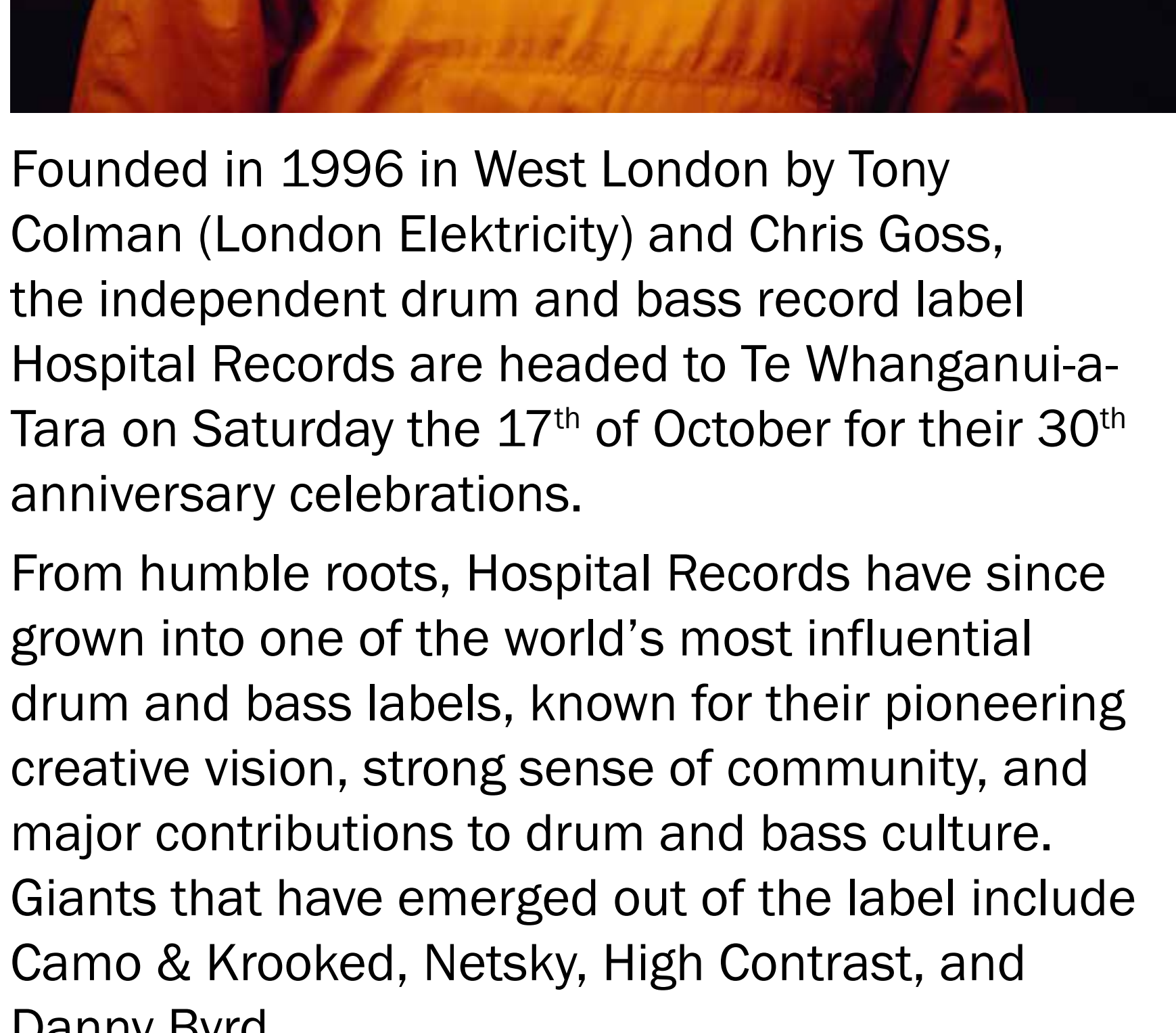
Now, Joe is coming full circle to headline *The Wellington Comedy Club* on the 16th and 17th of October at The Fringe Bar. Your MC for the night is Jamaine Ross, who you might've seen on *Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont-Spelling Bee* or *7 Days*. A recent transplant to Te Whanganui-a-Tara and recognisable face on the stand-up circuit, he's become known as 'The Māori guy with the beard and the hat'.

Sharing the stage is award-winning comedian and cabaret performer Lily Catastrophe, 2026 Wellington Raw Comedy Quest winner Ralph Hilaga (Friday only), Billy T Award-winner Hoani Hotene, multi-award-winning stand-up comedian and playwright Mamaeroa 'Mo' Munn (Friday only), crowd favourite Bronson Toghill, the wicked Keegan Thomas, and the sharp Lydia Sainsbury (Saturday only).

Expect nothing but comedy excellence on the menu, with everything served up piping hot. This year, *The Wellington Comedy Club* is teaming up with WELLfed, which supports cooking and gardening courses in Porirua.

Get ready for a big night of laughs with Te Whanganui-a-Tara's greatest comedic talent at your favourite comedy venue.

Late night deep bass



Founded in 1996 in West London by Tony Colman (London Elektricity) and Chris Goss, the independent drum and bass record label Hospital Records are headed to Te Whanganui-a-Tara on Saturday the 17th of October for their 30th anniversary celebrations.

From humble roots, Hospital Records have since grown into one of the world's most influential drum and bass labels, known for their pioneering creative vision, strong sense of community, and major contributions to drum and bass culture. Giants that have emerged out of the label include Camo & Krooked, Netsky, High Contrast, and Danny Byrd.

Lucky for the capital city, the last on the list will be gracing the Meow Nui stage to raise a toast to this genre-expanding record label. Danny Byrd is known for his unmistakable blend of soulful vocals and rave energy, his hip-hop, house, and RnB productions, and for creating some of the scene's most enduring anthems, including *Ill Behaviour*, *We Can Have It All*, and *Selecta*.

On the roster are two other major Hospital Records artists: Unglued, known for his heavy bass and fearless genre blending, and Hoax, whose high-energy sets are full of fast breakbeats, heavy sub basslines, and dancefloor sensibilities.

Whether you're a long-time Hospital Records fan and have watched their artists grow into legacy-building heavyweights, or you're only just discovering the label, head along for a night of world-class drum and bass that will go deep into the soul and late into the night.



Competitive rates for monthly parking (see Rates) or enjoy our early bird rate of \$16 a day before 10am. NO transaction Fees. Please contact us and enquire for special offers.



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Park all night for only \$7. Perfectly located for access to Wellington's theatres and restaurants. (Please note, no access for casual parking between midnight – 5.15am).



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FROM ONLY \$2.00
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\$16 (\$18 multiple entry) Early Bird before 10am till 7pm | \$24 Max per weekday, \$7 Overnight | \$3 weekends first hour, then \$2 per hour, max \$7
Early October Special on Roof Only - \$10.00 Early Bird | Monthly rates available 0508 447 275

Family – education

Committed to excellence



For just shy of 100 years, Rongotai College has been committed to the achievement of well-rounded excellence for its Year 9 to 13 students.

Studies in New Zealand have shown conclusively that boys who attend boys' schools achieve at significantly higher rates than those at co-ed schools. Rongotai College is an exceptional state secondary school, providing young men with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to succeed. Rongotai College is forward-thinking and progressive in educating its students to meet the challenges of today. It has a culture that encourages boys to strive for excellence in academic, creative, cultural, and sporting pursuits.

Rongotai teachers have a clear vision of what they want to achieve: encouraging young men to be the best they can be in all areas of their lives. Rongotai offers an engaging curriculum specifically developed for the way boys think and learn, helping them to thrive and to build confidence in their abilities.

A broad range of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom help students discover their passion. Having coached extensively across a range of school sports, Kevin understands the importance of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, believing they provide students with a further avenue to achieve their potential.

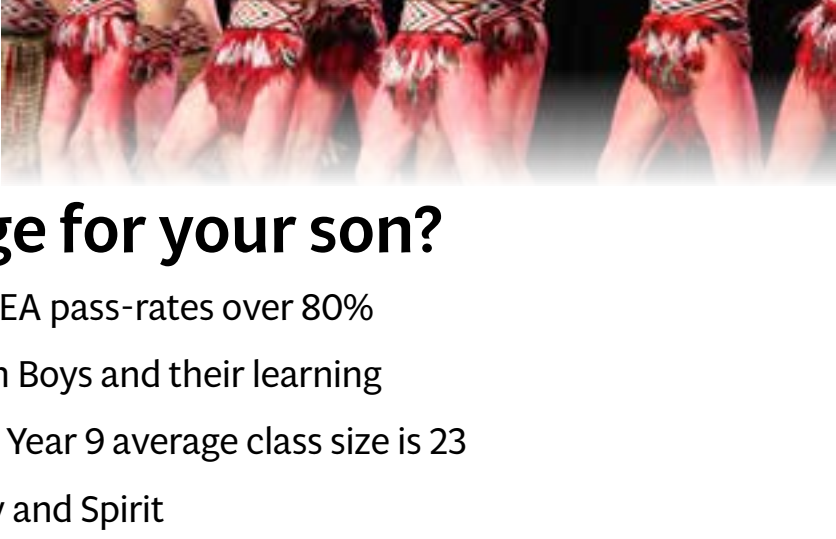
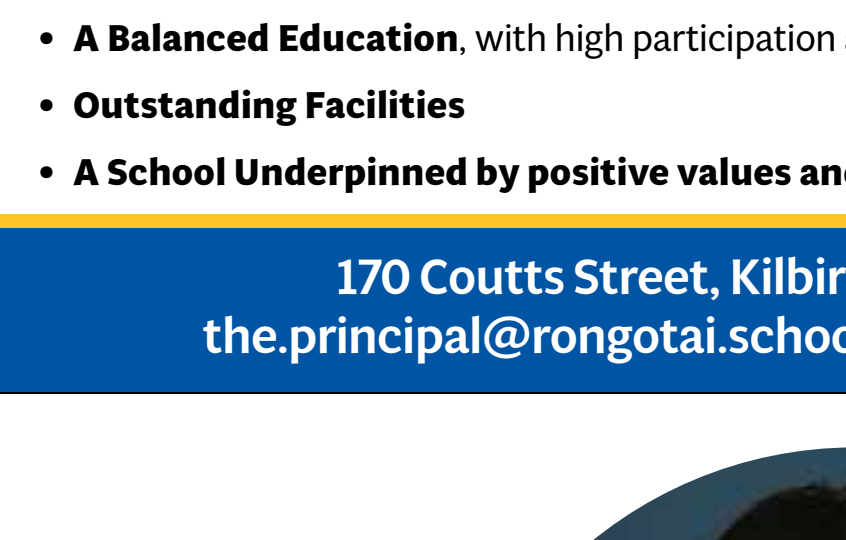
With a roll of 730, Rongotai College is small enough to know each boy well and recognise his individual character and needs, but large enough to offer an extensive curriculum that meets the academic and vocational needs of individual students. The rich culture and strong sense of belonging mean old boys remain proud of the school for the rest of their lives.



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

LUMEN ACCIPE ET IMPERTI | KAPOHIA TE MĀTAURANGA ME HAŌATU RĀ

Wanting a boys school education but afraid of being lost in the crowd? Come and visit Rongotai College, where all boys are known and treated as individuals.


Why choose Rongotai College for your son?

- High Levels of Achievement** – Level 2 and 3 NCEA pass-rates over 80%
- High Quality Teachers** and teaching focussed on Boys and their learning
- A Smaller School and Small Class Sizes** – 2026 Year 9 average class size is 23
- A Multi-cultural School** with a Sense of Identity and Spirit
- A Balanced Education**, with high participation and success in sport and performing arts
- Outstanding Facilities**
- A School Underpinned by positive values and a Positive School Culture**

170 Coutts Street, Kilbirnie | Phone: 04 939 3050
the.principal@rongotai.school.nz | www.rongotai.school.nz



Sarah Kidd – Centre Manager

Kia ora, my name is Sarah Kidd and I am the centre manager and NZ director for Chelsea House Early Childhood Centres Raumati and Levin.

I have been in ECE since the late 1990s and gained my qualification in 2003. I have been with Chelsea House since 2012 and feel so lucky and honoured to be entrusted with managing the operations of Chelsea House.

Stepping up into this role was a natural progression from centre manager in Levin to overseeing the whole company, working between the Raumati and Levin services since 2022. My main passion is mentoring and leadership. The other passion of mine is providing quality care and education for our tamariki, whānau, and community. Combining both of these along with the managerial side of things encompasses my values as a manager.

I believe that providing effective, robust leadership that flows down to the staff ensures they feel valued, supported, and appreciated. When teachers have this foundation, the children have happy teachers who are well placed to guide their learning and development.

Creating a strong sense of wellbeing and belonging in our services at Chelsea House, where our children learn through play in a safe, caring environment with love and laughter, imagination and exploration: that's what quality education and care looks like for us at Chelsea House.

Choosing the right childcare and education for your child is an important decision. Find out more about Chelsea House Early Childhood Centres at www.chelseahouse.co.nz



At Chelsea House we are committed to providing a quality early childhood experience for all children in our care

- High adult to child ratios**
- Supportive learning plans**
- Care for infants from 6 weeks through to over fives**
- Nourishing meals**
- 20 hours free ECE for 3-5 year olds**
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We would love you to come and view our purpose built centre and meet our dedicated passionate teaching team.



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Family – education

New Wellington school rapidly gathering steam



A new Wellington school is already making its mark, with strong enrolment demand, impressive competition results, and a distinctive educational approach attracting growing interest from families across the region.

Altum Classical Academy, which opened this year as a state-funded charter school, has announced that its Year 7 and Year 9 cohorts for 2027 are nearing capacity, with student numbers expected to more than triple next year. The academy will also expand its offering to include Year 10 students.

Principal Christian Pera says the school’s rapid growth reflects strong community support and a desire among families for greater educational choice. “We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received from the wider community,” he says. “Most families who visit us have heard about Altum through word of mouth, which speaks volumes about the positive experiences our students and families are having.”

Founded on the principles of classical education, Altum places an emphasis on academic rigour, character development, critical thinking, and active community contribution. The school combines a knowledge-rich curriculum with opportunities designed to support students’ intellectual, physical, and personal growth.

Despite being in its first year of operation and serving a relatively small number of students, the academy has already achieved notable success in regional competitions.

In mathematics, Altum’s Year 7 and 8 team recently competed against 45 schools in the Wellington Mathswell competition, placing first in two of the four rounds and finishing seventh overall. The school’s chess programme has also enjoyed remarkable success. Both the intermediate and senior teams qualified for the national Chess Power Championships after strong performances in the Wellington regional competition. The teams will travel to Hamilton later this year to compete against some of New Zealand’s top young players.

Sport has become a growing feature of school life. Altum recently hosted Wellington’s Chess Power tournament and an inter-school Kiwi Handball competition on its campus. Students also participated in their first off-site handball tournament, where one player earned the Top Goalkeeper award.

Beyond traditional academic and sporting pursuits, students take part in a diverse electives programme that includes calligraphy, football, Latin, music, chess, cooking, gardening, outdoor skills, and Dungeons & Dragons. There is also a Games and Conditioning programme focused on fitness, resilience, and personal goal-setting.

Parents have responded positively to the school’s approach. Many have noted that their children are learning more, enjoying school more, and developing confidence. With future expansion planned, Altum Classical Academy is already demonstrating how a small, focused community can achieve significant results and strong educational outcomes.

Fees-free excellence for all.

Altum Classical Academy is offering an excellent classical-style, intermediate and secondary education, without the fees. We are co-educational and enrolling now for Years 7-10 in 2027. We will add a year group each year, growing to Years 7-13 by 2030. Altum aims to graduate young men and women who think deeply, act justly and love what is good.

No school zone. Real focus. High expectations.

- Knowledge-rich curriculum
- Te reo Māori and Latin
- Minimal device use
- Strong parent partnership

Find out more at www.altum.school.nz



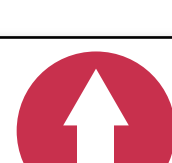
Book a Tour



Altum
CLASSICAL ACADEMY



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For everyday Kiwis



Like many, the National Party's Wellington North candidate Jonathan Pitts balances work, family, school, activities and all the competing demands of a busy life.

Being a single dad, raising his children keeps Jonathan grounded in what matters. "I want to help build a Wellington where families can thrive, businesses can grow, young people can build great futures, and everyone has the opportunity to do well," he says.

A corporate and commercial lawyer, Jonathan has spent his career working with businesses, government departments, charities, and people to solve problems, seize opportunities, and get things done.

"I believe most problems can be solved when people focus on what is possible, work together, and actually get on with the job."

For Jonathan, representing Wellington North is about making practical decisions, delivering results, and helping everyday Kiwis and their families to get ahead.

Curtail the long tail



This year the flu has taken a huge toll not only on the health of thousands of people but on a medical system that is struggling to keep up with the high rates of hospitalisations.

Flu season is expected to last longer than usual. But if you haven't already gotten your flu vaccination, it's not too late. Unichem Cuba Mall Pharmacy is offering flu vaccinations right up to December. Booking online now or making the most of the walk-in service could mean not only protecting yourself and friends and whānau who are more vulnerable, but also curtailing the long tail.

As people start to make overseas travel plans for the summer holidays, why not get prepared and have your travel jabs at Unichem Cuba Mall Pharmacy as well? A small prick in exchange for peace of mind, knowing your trip won't get waylaid by any nasty bugs.

Keeping on top of vaccinations, including whooping cough, shingles, HPV, and RSV is one of the best ways to help you and your whānau breeze on through to warmer days.

Stairlift solutions



Your home is a cherished part of your life: a place to welcome family and friends, make memories, enjoy, and relax. It is a simple truth that staying in your own home gives you a wonderful feeling of self-reliance. With a tailor-made Acorn Stairlift, you can stay right where you are, keeping your home, your freedom, and your independence.

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Jonathan Pitts

National Party Candidate for Wellington North

☎ 021 199 7919
 ✉ jonathan.pitts@national.org.nz
 🌐 national.org.nz/team/jonathanpitts
 📘 JPForWellingtonNorth

National
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Family – travel

Forest of peace



The *Tūmanako Children's Artworks for a Peaceful World* exhibition, on at Te Whare Manaaki o Toda on Cuba Street until the 18th of October, features more than 365 paintings, drawings, collages, and sculptural works created by over 400 students from 16 schools, kura, and community groups across the Wellington region.

This year's theme is: 'Kotahi te kākano whakaaro, he nui ngā hua o te rākau houhou rongo – One seed of thought grows the forest of peace,' with children invited to create based on their aspirations for a peaceful, inclusive, and nuclear-free world.

"There is a wonderful freedom in the way children communicate. They are not afraid to use colour, symbols, imagination, or unexpected combinations of ideas. There is no single way that a peace artwork should look, and that is part of what makes the exhibition so special," gallery manager Ronja levers says.

Some works are quiet and reflective, some are full of energy and optimism, while others make powerful statements about the world. One particular work brought together an entire school. It weaves strips of paper containing notes from the children about what peace means to them.

"Children often see connections that adults can overlook. Their ideas about peace are not necessarily abstract. They can be very practical: making sure everyone has someone to play with, helping someone who is lonely, listening to each other, looking after nature, or creating a world where everyone feels safe and belongs."

Inside your imagination



A little secret about Rotorua is that from this Kiwi town you can travel through time and space, around the world and to places unknown...

photographically, that is! 3D Trick Art Gallery is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and features over 50 life-size, realistic 2D paintings that come alive through your camera and your poses, changing them to 3D imagery. All you have to do is jump in to create epic pictures and fun memories.

There are five themed sections in the gallery. In Classic Art, visitors can step inside famous paintings. Kiwi Life is inspired by New Zealand culture and history. Visitors can explore glaciers and outer space while putting their creativity to the test in the Challenge section. Create your own mythical story in the Fantasy area. Grand Nature celebrates New Zealand's natural landscape.

Escape from the jaws of a giant crocodile, make a break from a great white shark, or leap from the clutches of a goliath octopus. Scale mountains and traverse waterfalls. Fancy a trip to the Moon? Or perhaps you'd prefer to explore Venice, a glacier, or fly away in a hot air balloon. Talk about an Instagram-worthy vacation!

Located on the grounds of Rotorua Heritage Farm just an eight-minute drive from the centre of town, 3D Trick Art Gallery is a fun, family-friendly activity come rain or shine. From within the dry and heated gallery, you can embark on countless once-in-a-lifetime adventures all in one day – the only limit is your imagination and creativity.

3D TRICK ART GALLERY

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Family – travel



Par2 Minigolf

Minigolf has been a staple of Napier's Marine Parade since the 1940s. What began simply as a large putting green has developed into Par2 Minigolf, guaranteed fun for you and the kids. Located adjacent to the local isite, you'll enjoy panoramic views

of the coast of Hawke's Bay while you compete on one of two courses: Pacific Pro-Am or Deco Drive. The former is a quintessential minigolf course, full of wacky angles, tricky water hazards, and tree obstacles. Deco Drive is a complex course with organic curves and harsh slopes.



Hawke's Bay Museum

There is always something new and exciting to discover at the Hawke's Bay Museum. This award-winning museum is made up of three distinct buildings – an art deco masterpiece, a modernist gem, and a light-filled gallery that looks out across

the Pacific Ocean. The museum's collections tell historic stories of the region and beyond, including the 1931 earthquake that devastated the region and the legacy of art deco architecture that is still celebrated today. Their fabulous shop also sells a range of beautiful cards, gifts, books, and mementos.



Faraday Museum of Technology

Ignite your imagination at the Faraday Museum of Technology, where hands-on adventures await visitors of all ages! Discover interactive exhibits where you can touch, play, and explore the wonders of science, technology, and history in exciting ways. From

historic appliances and engines to energy sources and games, there's so much to see and uncover. A magical place where history comes to life anew, the Faraday Museum of Technology offers an experience you won't forget that's perfect for families and anyone with a curious mind!



The National Aquarium of NZ

The National Aquarium of New Zealand is home to saltwater, freshwater, and land animal exhibits from New Zealand and around the world. The 1.5-million-litre Oceanarium, which you can experience with a walk through an underwater viewing

tunnel, showcases the variety of aquatic species that exist in Hawke's Bay, including stingrays, kingfish, hāpuku, snapper, and more. Watch the famous little penguins feed and play in the Penguin Cove, and connect with native wildlife like tuatara and kiwi.

Photo by Molly Rose Nilsson.



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i site

Visitor Information

NAPIER

Family – travel



Kennedy Park

Located near the heart of Napier, Kennedy Park is an accommodation option that's fun for the whole whānau. There is so much to do onsite that you'll be tempted to spend entire days on the premises. Kids and adults will love the heated swimming complex, basketball

half court, and giant outdoor chess board. Stroll the gardens or relax at the café while the tamariki let loose at the adventure playground and on the colourful jumping pillow. Spend time in the games room playing pool, table-top games, or air hockey together as a family.



Napier Aquatic Centre

You don't have to wait for hot summer days to enjoy a day in the water. Napier Aquatic Centre is open year-round for water-based exercise and fun. Three pools means everyone can jump in – choose from the five-lane 25-metre lap pool for walking and lane swimming, the

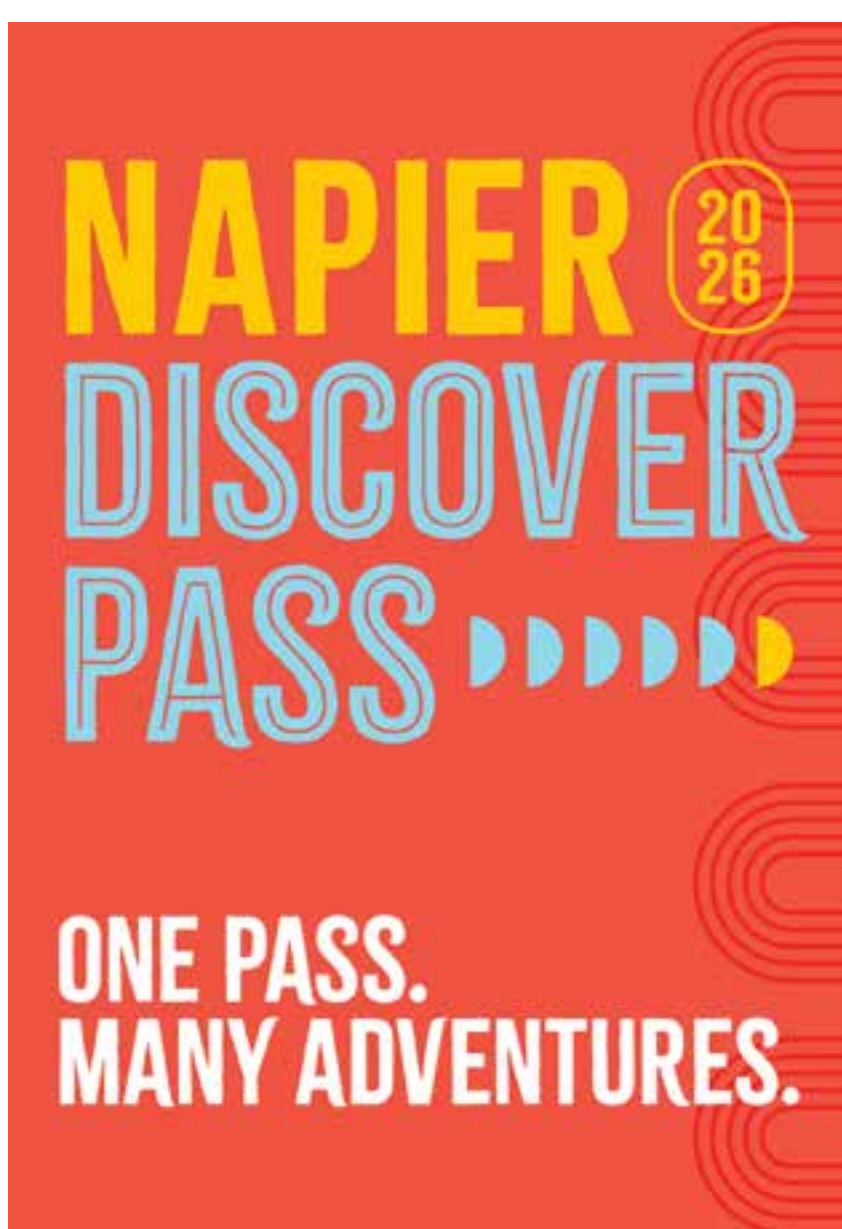
disability-friendly six-lane Ivan Wilson Pool, or the learners' pool complete with toddler pool and mini waterfall. The complex also features waterslides, a spray park open from October to March, a beautiful outdoor area, and relaxing spas. Jump in and have fun!



Ocean Spa

Ocean Spa is Napier's premier heated pool and fitness complex located on Marine Parade. Boasting open-air, heated, and chlorinated pools and spas with panoramic ocean views, visitors can enjoy a range of options from the toddler pool to therapeutic pools

with water fountains and pool jets. Visitors can unwind in spacious outdoor spa pools and refuel with a coffee or bite to eat at Bach Café. Centrally located, Ocean Spa is the perfect spot to relax and re-energise, rain or shine.



Discover Napier pass

Get adventurous and explore Napier with one simple pass! Take a journey through some of Napier's favourite attractions, from relaxing coastal experiences to hands-on discovery and family-friendly fun. Visit five iconic venues across Napier, uncover marine life, roll into skate

sessions, tee off by the sea, and bring fascinating machines to life. Choose where to return for a bonus visit and make the most of every experience. Get your pass at www.napiernz.com or instore at the Napier isite.

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Family on the move to Wairarapa

Law and empathy



When Michelle Williams left Wellington for Wairarapa, she traded in her heels for gumboots and brought her law practice along with her. A sole provider, Michelle Williams Law can be found just off the main square in Martinborough in a beautifully restored heritage building, where she provides a wide range of legal advice.

Michelle has built her practice to reflect the things she values most: relationships, community, and connection. Her services are based on empathy, care, and approachability, and she exercises the belief that legal advice should be clear, practical, and delivered in a way that makes clients feel confident.

Michelle can provide advice on: property law, whether you're buying a first home, subdividing, refinancing, or retiring; wills, trusts, and enduring powers of attorney; starting a business; navigating a relationship change; managing an estate; elder law to support ageing parents; and gifts, loans, and guarantees.

Michelle creates a welcoming environment and starts every important legal journey with listening, before going to great lengths to ensure her clients understand all their options and feel comfortable navigating important decisions. She works across Wairarapa and Greater Wellington but also has clients from other parts of the country and from around the world.

She is an active member of the vibrant Wairarapa community. In the street-facing window of her office an art space exhibits a rotation of local artists' works for the street to enjoy day and night.

Clear numbers, confident decisions



Heidi.



Sonja.

HJ Professionals brings decades of experience to the numbers. The accounting team works with small businesses across the Wairarapa and Aotearoa, keeping their finances clear, organised, and ready to grow, so owners can get back to running the business.

Heidi, Sonja, and the team have one goal: to be the first port of call when things get confusing and the steady hand behind every good decision.

Their services cover bookkeeping and payroll, accounting and tax returns, and smarter processes, from new software and IT to standard operating procedures and training. They also offer HR support, including strategy, compliance, recruitment, policies, and conflict resolution. The result is less stress and more time for growth.

At HJ Professionals, relationships come first. Building real connection with every client is paramount; it's how the team gets to know each business and how clients come to trust the advice they're given.

They are well known for sound advice, accuracy, and expertise. Clients feel confident, informed, and valued, and that their business is so much more than just numbers on a page. Everything the team does is built on honesty and transparency, plain language, genuine care, reliability, and a personal touch.

HJ Professionals also knows time is tight. The whole HJ Professionals team gives flexible, reliable support without the cost of an in-house hire. That means more time back for owners and a business that runs smoothly.

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✉️ michelle@mwill.co.nz

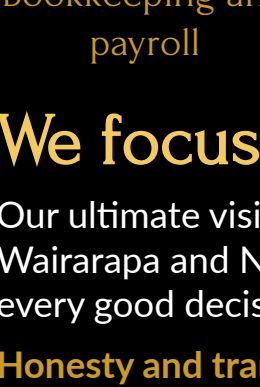
🌐 michellewilliamslaw.co.nz

📞 027 255 7098

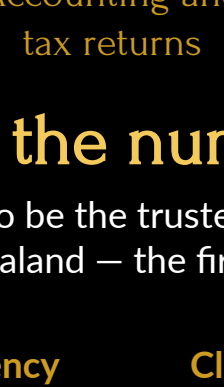
Providing clear practical legal advice with care and confidence.



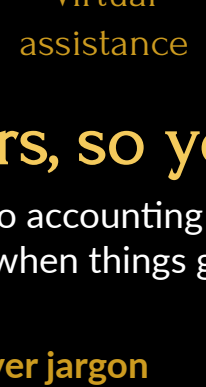
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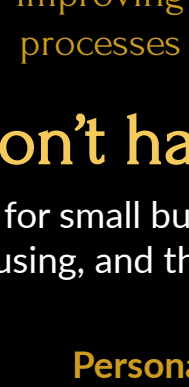
Bookkeeping and payroll



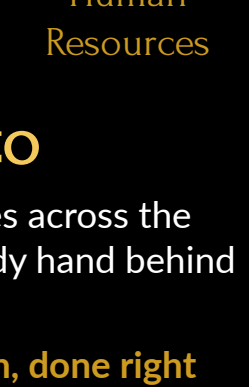
Accounting and tax returns



Virtual assistance



Improving processes



Human Resources

We focus on the numbers, so you don't have to

Our ultimate vision is to be the trusted, go-to accounting partner for small businesses across the Wairarapa and New Zealand – the first call when things get confusing, and the steady hand behind every good decision.

Honesty and transparency
Genuine care

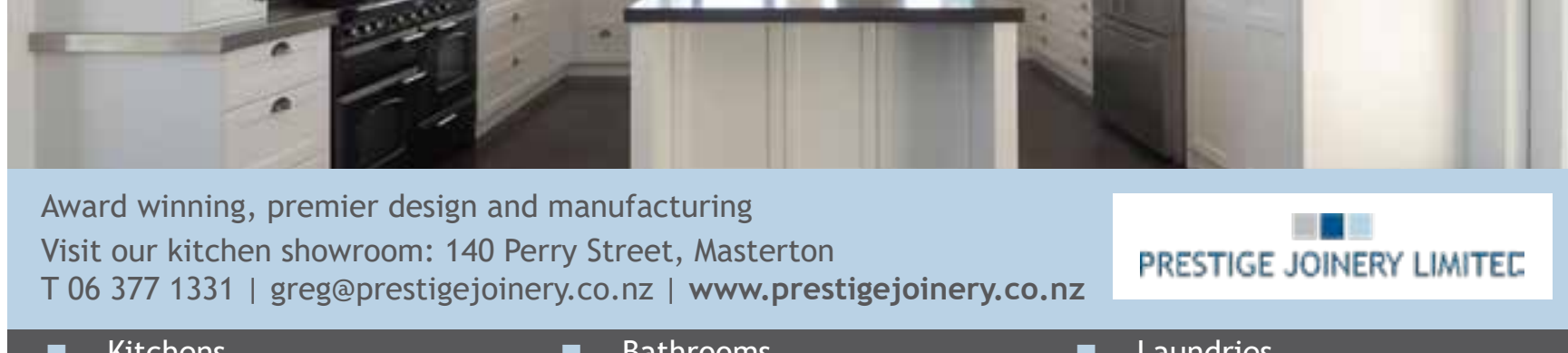
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Family on the move to Wairarapa

Water you waiting for?



The Better Water Company in Palmerston North is dedicated to making sure your water is clear, tasty, and free of harmful contaminants by providing world-leading water filtration and purification products that suit your needs and budget.

From under-the-bench filters to UV treatments and whole house systems, their solutions address unpleasant odours, bad taste, and contaminants for urban and rural properties, businesses, bachs, schools, and mobile homes.

The company handles everything from initial consultation and water testing through to instalment, ongoing maintenance, and servicing. The small and friendly team have built an excellent reputation, and their combined wealth of resources and experience means they provide tailored advice to every client.

Servicing Manawātū, Rangitīkei, Horowhenua, Tararua, Whanganui, and Wairarapa, The Better Water Company ensures your family is healthy and safe with a water system that gives you peace of mind.

Spring inspiration



The Masterton Home & Lifestyle Show will be at the War Memorial Stadium for a full weekend of inspiration on the 10th and 11th of October. With an extensive range of exhibits, seminars, and demonstrations, the show is a fabulous opportunity for homeowners and DIY enthusiasts to get inspired, discover new ideas, learn practical solutions, compare products, and speak directly with industry professionals.

Whether you're planning major renovations, refreshing one room, or improving your outdoor spaces, there'll be plenty to explore. Visitors can meet exhibitors covering building, renovating, kitchens, flooring, decorating, heating, solar energy, outdoor living, gardening, health and lifestyle products, and much more. Local Wairarapa businesses will be joined by national companies, giving visitors the opportunity to ask questions, discuss their plans, learn practical solutions, and find that missing spark, all in one convenient location.

Throughout the weekend, there are free seminars from experienced specialists covering a variety of home and lifestyle topics. Sit in on talks about the latest decorating ideas, wallpaper and colour trends, home improvements, flooring, and even a seminar on family history and genealogy, or get chatting with the builders, designers, renovators and interior specialists who are there to offer advice.

There are also a huge number of prizes to be won, with more than \$22,000 worth of products and experiences up for grabs. Visitors can be in to win a \$4,000 Fiji holiday from helloworld Travel Masterton or a luxurious queen bed valued at \$7,498 from Wellington Beds, alongside other prizes ranging from home decorating products and professional services to outdoor living items and local products.

With spring in the air and longer, warmer days ahead, the Masterton Home & Lifestyle Show is the perfect opportunity to find creativity and inspiration all under one roof.

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Family – home & lifestyle

Indoor green thumbs



Dome Garden Supplies is your one-stop shop for all hydroponic equipment, nutrients, and indoor gardening supplies. As a wholesale network it supplies a huge number of products from a huge range of brands to stores throughout Aotearoa. But its products are also available online, where hydroponic green thumbs will find everything they need from lighting and harvesting equipment to growing tents and substrates.

Deeply involved in the development of the hydroponic industry, Dome Garden Supplies loves not only ensuring that the technology and products remain cutting edge, but that it shares knowledge and resources with its customers to improve hydroponics across the globe.

Whether you're looking to start an indoor garden or have been keeping one for years, Dome Garden Supplies is dedicated to providing the highest quality products and ensuring you find everything you need in one place. Visit www.domegarden.com and have a nosey through the fabulous range of products on offer.

Wairarapa dreaming



Big skies, rolling hills, and stunning coastlines are what await you in Wairarapa. Locals enjoy an enviable lifestyle in a warm climate, surrounded by stunning vistas, beautiful towns, and some of the best wine and food in the country. Wairarapa accommodates every dream, whether you're after a coastal cottage, heritage homestead, suburban suite, or lifestyle lot.

No one knows this better than Property Brokers, who've been providing locals and out-of-towners the full spectrum of real estate services since 1992. Property Brokers Wairarapa have teams based in every town, from Featherston up to Masterton. Living and working locally, they know the lay of the land and love helping clients discover the perfect place to call home, wherever that may be in the region.

Whether you're looking to start a family, buy your first home, down size, up size, or are simply chasing the sun to bigger pastures, get in touch with Property Brokers Wairarapa.

Do the things you love



Retirement isn't about slowing down; it's about having more time to do the things you love.

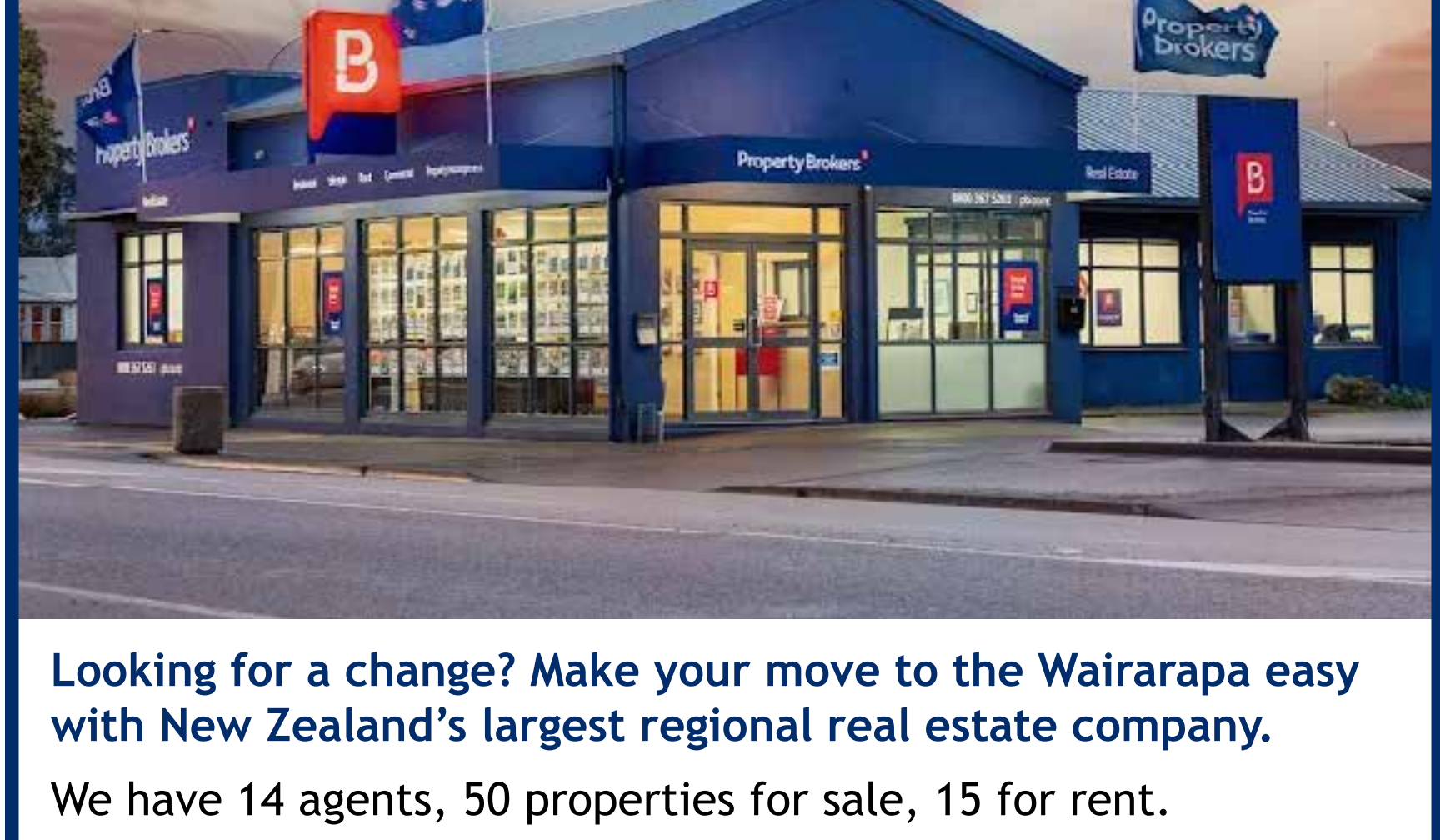
Enliven Central's Kandahar Retirement Village offers a boutique lifestyle, complete with a vibrant community, access to nature, proximity to the Masterton town centre, and all the comforts of assisted living.

Brand-new two-bedroom villas are now available, located in the recently completed and beautifully crafted Lansdowne extension. The villas are spacious, modern, and sunny, offering all the amenities that make life comfortable and carefree. Plus, with everything taken care of within the weekly fee, residents don't have to worry about a thing.

Picking up new or old hobbies is encouraged, and residents have access to the community centre where they can enjoy socialising, clubs, events, and outings. As needs change, so does the care provided. Kandahar Home and Kandahar Court give preferential entrance to Kandahar Retirement Village residents.

Live life to the fullest at Kandahar Retirement Village.

Property Brokers ^B



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Family – home & lifestyle

Bring your ideas to light



Light is more than something that helps you see; it shapes how a space feels and how you move through it.

At Inlucem Architectural Lighting Design, light is treated as an architectural material. They create tailored lighting solutions for homes and commercial spaces, combining creativity, technical knowledge, and a deep understanding of how people use their spaces.

Founded by Spanish architect and lighting designer Diego Sáez Ibarzábal, Inlucem brings more than 20 years of experience in architectural lighting, supported by a master's in architectural lighting and over 16 years living and working in New Zealand.

For over 12 years, Inlucem has helped clients shape spaces through thoughtful, purposeful light, from the first idea through to design, specification, and final refinement.

Planning a new build or renovation? Discover what the right illumination can bring to your space and let Inlucem Architectural Lighting Design bring your ideas to light.

The Nano-Clear solution



Looking to repair, protect, and rejuvenate the aluminium joinery around your house? Nano-Clear is a spray-on protective coating that keeps doors, windows, garage doors, and machinery protected and looking its best for over a decade.

Aluminium is prone to fading, UV damage, weathering, and damage caused by chemicals, salt, solvents, and graffiti. Nano-Clear Wellington offers an oxidised powder coating that either rejuvenates the original colour or coats the aluminium with a complete new colouring. The team also repair dents, scratches, stains, and vandalism, and then finish off the job with a protective coating that can be adjusted to offer a full-gloss, semi-gloss, or matte finish.

The Nano-Clear treatment not only freshens up your home by making windows, doors and garages look good as new, it also provides peace of mind, knowing that it will reduce wear and tear and offset further damage.

Email wellington@nanoclear.co.nz to get a free quote and learn more about the Nano-Clear solution.

Preparing for summer



Forecasters are picking another warm El Niño summer throughout New Zealand. This can mean stuffy bedrooms, trapped afternoon heat, and pollen drifting through open windows. HRV Lower North Island says now is the time to prepare, before installers get booked up.

HRV heat pumps heat and cool, keeping living areas and bedrooms comfortable on the hottest days and coldest nights. A hot water heat pump (HWHP) uses far less electricity than a standard cylinder, cutting power bills all year round.

With grass pollen season running from October to Christmas, HRV ventilation with proven filtration delivers fresh, filtered air, so families breathe easier even with the windows shut.

More than 500,000 Kiwi households have chosen HRV over 23 years, and *Reader's Digest* has named it New Zealand's Most Trusted Home Ventilation Brand for five years running. Book a free in-home consultation before summer at www.hrv.co.nz

Get your home ready for summer!

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Family on the move to Wairarapa – rural Fruits of the hunt



With the hunting season in full swing, it's important that you plan ahead to convert the beast into something that'll fit neatly in the deep freeze to feed the family.

Dave's Homekill is a small, locally owned, Marton-based business that offers professional butchery services across Whanganui, Rangitikei, and Manawatū. Dave and his team can process your venison, pork, and waterfowl, giving you back your own animal without you having to do the grizzly stuff. The crew operate to the highest standard, following strict hygiene guidelines and packaging everything up professionally.

Dave's Homekill not only tests the quality of the meat but also slices it up to your favourite cuts. It's well known that homekill and hunted animals are often healthier and tastier due to the quality of the animal's life, ageing and butchering techniques, freshness, and a stress-free slaughter process.

Serve your friends and whānau the fruits of the hunt with Dave's Homekill.

One of the best



Wairarapa Diesel Service (WDS) has been keeping folks across the region moving for 25 years. Owners Brent and Jennifer Ward provide a comprehensive service at their workshop, they cater to all heavy and light equipment and machinery – from motorhomes and trucks to agricultural machinery, wind turbines, and utes – and offer engineering and filter recycling services. If it's diesel-powered, they'll look at it.

Brent and Jen are passionate about their community. As mentors, they give back by sharing their experience and knowledge with the next generation. WDS has put over 12 young men through their apprenticeships, with two more currently working in the shop.

With a passion for heavy machinery, hydraulics, and diesel engines, Brent offers an all-weather, 24-hour service. WDS stock a wide variety of parts and are the local BOA Hydraulics agent. Brent loves what he does, and that's what sets him apart as one of the best.

Hill country retreat



The iconic Glenburn Station, a 7,000-acre sheep and cattle station located in stunning hill country east of Masterton, is home to five fabulous holiday homes available for groups of any size to experience an unforgettable retreat in breathtaking landscapes.

Guests can enjoy pastoral scenes in the original, beautifully preserved Glenburn Station homestead. Built in 1907, it has six bedrooms that sleep up to 16 people. Nearby you'll also find The Cookhouse, which sleeps 18, and the Shepherd's Rest, which sleeps 11, all within walking distance of the shore. Get right on the coast and stay in Russ' Bach or Beachcomber's Bach – classic Kiwi beach houses with modern amenities where guests can smell the salty air and hear the waves crashing.

Enjoy Glenburn's 11 kilometres of natural coastline combining sandy beaches, seal colonies, and rockpools. With an abundance of kaimoana, you might even enjoy fresh pāua or crayfish for dinner.

IT'S TIME TO RELAX AND ENJOY NATURE!
While staying at our range of accommodation enjoy time on our renowned coastal and Honeycomb Rock walk.

- Glenburn Station Homestead - sleeps up to 16 people
- The Cookhouse - sleeps 18 with 16 beds
- Russ's Bach - sleeps 10
- Beachcomber's Bach
- Shepherd's Rest - for the extended family or 2 families on holiday

Glenburn Road, Te Wharau, Wairarapa | Phone 027 447 9535
www.glenburnstation.co.nz | info@glenburnstation.co.nz

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Operating in Whanganui, Rangitikei, and Manawatu areas.

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Family – Manawatū

Hill country retreat



Visit Feilding Art Centre throughout October to experience the outstanding exhibition and discover the winners of the Manawatū Art Awards 2026.

The Manawatū Art Awards continue to showcase the remarkable depth of artistic talent found throughout Aotearoa. This year's exhibition features an inspiring collection of works from both emerging and established artists, demonstrating excellence across a wide range of media, including painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, fibre arts, mixed media, and contemporary practice.

From more than 100 entries received, 90 artworks were selected for exhibition, reflecting an exceptional standard of creativity, technical skill, and artistic vision. Together, these works offer visitors a diverse and engaging experience, with each piece presenting a unique perspective, story, or exploration of contemporary life.

The Manawatū Art Awards are more than a competition. They are a celebration of artistic achievement and the important role creativity plays within our communities. With \$6,000 in prize money to be awarded, the exhibition highlights some of the finest new work being produced by artists from across New Zealand.

We invite you to visit and encourage you to spend time exploring the exhibition, meeting the artists through their work, and enjoying the conversations and connections that art creates. We are confident you will leave inspired by the talent, innovation, and passion on display in another exceptional year of the Manawatū Art Awards.

Find colour in Manawatū



Photo by Ava Thomas.

With the blur of winter and its washed-out blues – and more commonly, greys – behind us, it's time to put away your winter coat and scarf. Swap 'em for your glad rags, dancing shoes, sunnies, and maybe even those knees! It's time to prepare for a springtime full of colour in Manawatū!

This spring, find colour here.

Find it in the sequins, feathers, and the bold lip of a fierce Queen. In gardens awash with peonies, azaleas, and rhododendrons. In blossom petals in the breeze and the song of the tūi sitting in its boughs.

Find colour in a flavour-packed dish shared with a friend, in the artistry of a great cocktail, or in the time and passion behind a hand-crafted treasure.

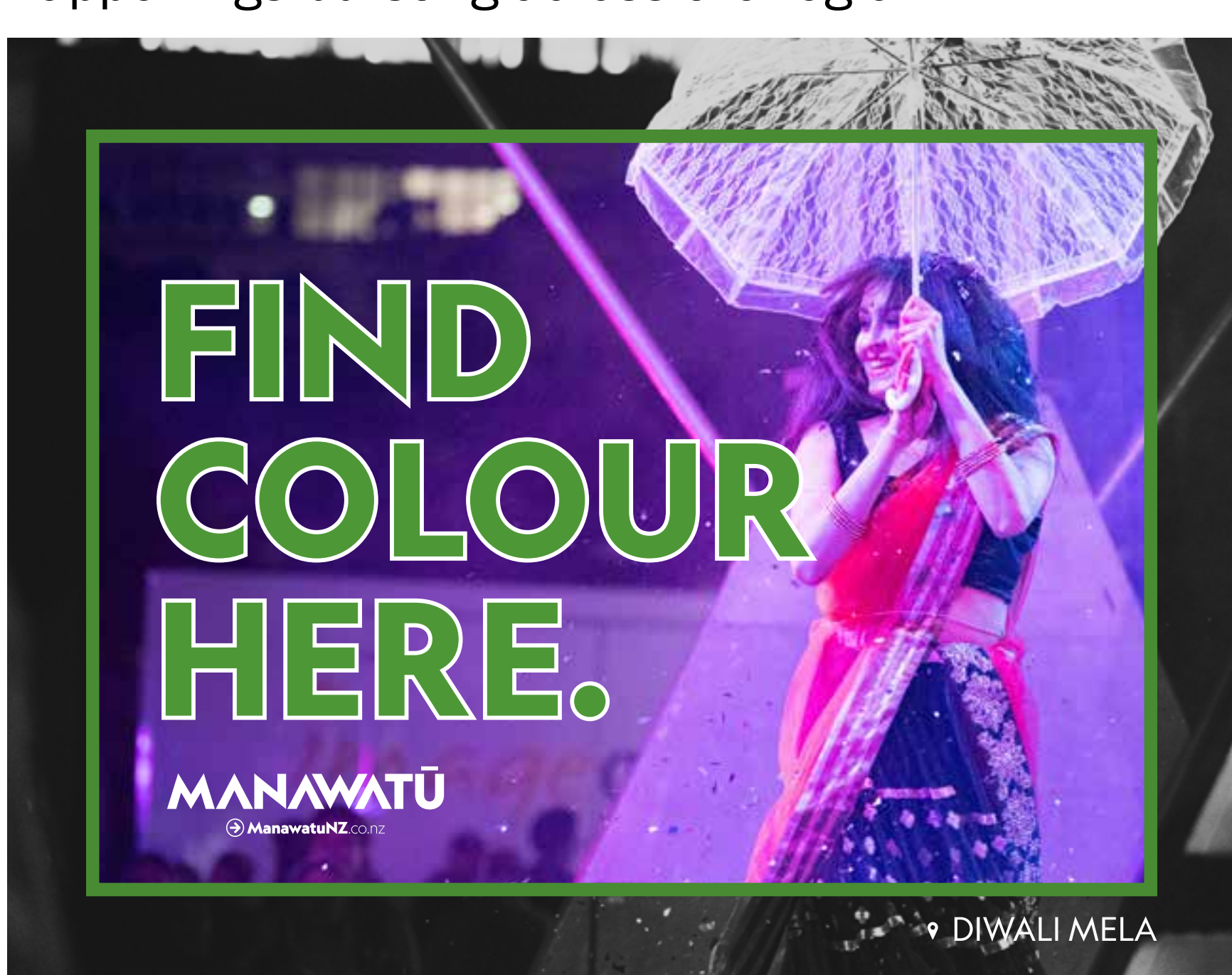
Find it in the contagious energy of a crowd, in the joy of a friend's face, or in the giddiness of doing something just for fun.

Find colour in the sea of verdant greens of our native bush, and the lightness in your chest when you're amongst it.

From the vibrant energy of Palmy Drag Fest and the flavours of ¡Salud! Festival to the one-of-a-kind shopping experience at Cross Hills Country Garden Fair and

the joyful nature escapes across our region... It's time to gather your favourite people, make a plan (or don't), and find colour in Manawatū. Spring

onto www.manawatunz.co.nz to discover more happenings bursting across the region.



Family – Manawatū – Rangitikei

Go behind the scenes



Square Edge Community Arts is proud to present Art Trail Manawatū 2026! Join us for an inspiring weekend on the 17th and 18th of October, when 150+ artists and makers across Palmerston North, Manawatū, Horowhenua, Rangitikei, and Taranaki will open their studios and creative spaces to give you a glimpse behind the scenes. From painting and sculpture to ceramics, textiles, jewellery, photography, and more, the trail is a chance for you to meet the artists, see their process in action, and experience the exciting and diverse range of creativity happening throughout the regions.

Visit Square Edge in October to see the exhibition *Trail Mix*, which features artwork from participating artists. From there you can plan your route before you hit the road on the weekend. Art Trail Manawatū is the perfect opportunity to spend time with friends and whānau while exploring new places and supporting our creative community.

For more information, visit www.communityarts.org.nz

Consciously curated



Set amongst the rolling countryside of Rangitikei, MOOMAA is more than a café – it's a destination where great food, thoughtful design, and genuine country hospitality come together.

Born from our family farm and a love of interiors, MOOMAA brings together a relaxed café, curated design store, and stylish rural accommodation.

The name itself reflects our surroundings – inspired by the sounds of the cattle and sheep in the paddocks around us. Visitors can settle in for generous café fare, homemade baking, and great coffee, browse carefully selected furniture, homewares, artwork, and gifts, or extend their stay at MOOMAA Stay, our cosy rural retreat just up the drive.

With its natural textures, beautiful countryside views, and welcoming atmosphere, MOOMAA is a place to slow down, reconnect, and enjoy the simple things. Whether you're stopping for coffee, meeting friends for lunch, or staying a while, we hope you leave feeling like you've discovered something special.

Come love the country!

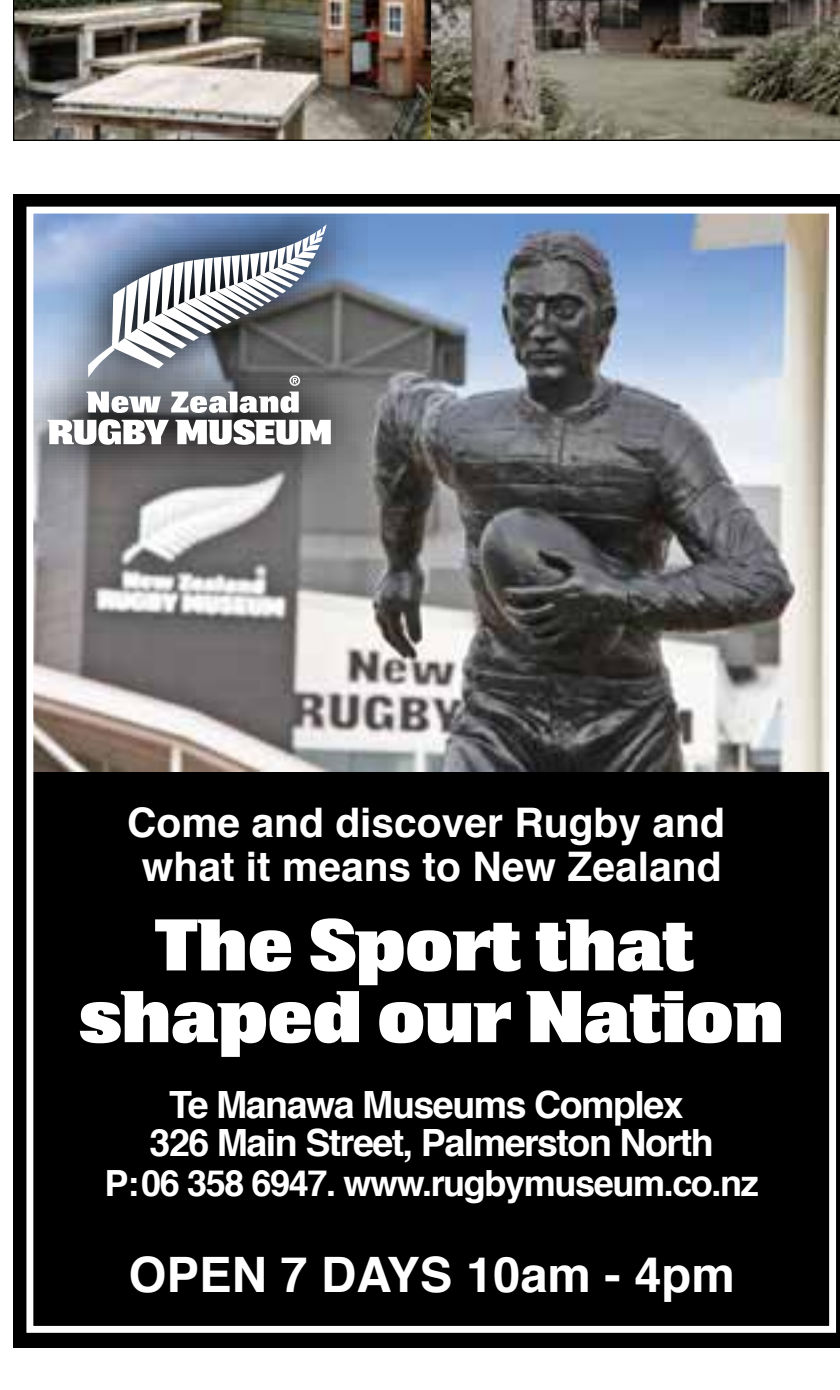


Get ready for October's month-long celebration of everything to love about rural Manawatū! Manawatū's Rural Month brings the district alive with more than 30 events and activities. Come and enjoy guided farm experiences, demonstrations, music, food, workshops, and family fun – celebrating the people, places, rural roots, and way of life that make Feilding so unique.

As food producers to the nation and beyond, The Great Manawatū Lamb Dish competition showcases NZ lamb at 19 local eateries.

Don't miss the iconic Rural Day in the school holidays on Friday the 9th of October, when Feilding's town centre goes rural! Enjoy shearing, farm animals, tractors, pony rides, line dancing, and the hilarious Gumboot Relays, with special guest MC William Wairua.

Start your country weekender in Feilding every Friday with the Farmers' Market and Saleyards Guided Tours, explore our spectacular country roads, and stay over for a special rural getaway. Discover it all at www.feilding.co.nz



Family – Rangitikei

Get Real in the Rangitikei



Follow the Rangitikei River and discover a district made for real adventures and real country hospitality.

Carving its way from the Central Volcanic Plateau through dramatic papa cliffs, deep river canyons, and rolling farmland before reaching the Tasman Sea, the Rangitikei River is at the heart of the district and one of the best ways to experience it.

Get on the water with an exhilarating whitewater rafting trip, cast a line for trout, or slow things down with a night camping beside the river.

Away from the water, take to the quiet back-country gravel roads by bike, linking rural communities, farmland, and spectacular viewpoints on peaceful cycling loops. Pack your clubs and discover five golf courses dotted throughout the district, or explore local reserves, bush walks, and walkways where you can stretch your legs and enjoy the landscape at your own pace.

Rangitikei towns are as authentic as its landscapes. Taihape brings high-country character and a strong sense of adventure while Mangaweka is quirky, creative, and perched spectacularly above the river. Marton offers heritage charm and country hospitality, and Bulls is famously un-bull-ievable, with plenty of personality of its own.

This isn't about rushing from one attraction to the next. It's about taking the quieter road, meeting the locals, getting outdoors, and discovering somewhere that still feels genuinely uncrowded and full of authentic adventures.

We invite you to slow down, explore a little, and Get Real in the Rangitikei.



Your destination to relax, recharge & make memories while fulfilling Rangitikei journeys
Eat – Stay – Explore – Celebrate with us!





flathills.co.nz | 06 322 9734
5733 State Highway 1, Ohingaiti, Rangitikei



The Duke's Roadhouse live by their motto “connecting people who love great food”, and this is felt through the food and atmosphere at this rural gem just off State Highway 1. Owners Laura and Rob have poured years of travel, hospitality experience, and hard-earned know-how into creating something that feels distinctly their own.




2 Koraenui Street, Mangaweka  **06 928 9137**



Get Real

Family adventures without the crowds?
 Sounds too good to be real.

Find your next adventure at rangitikei.co.nz



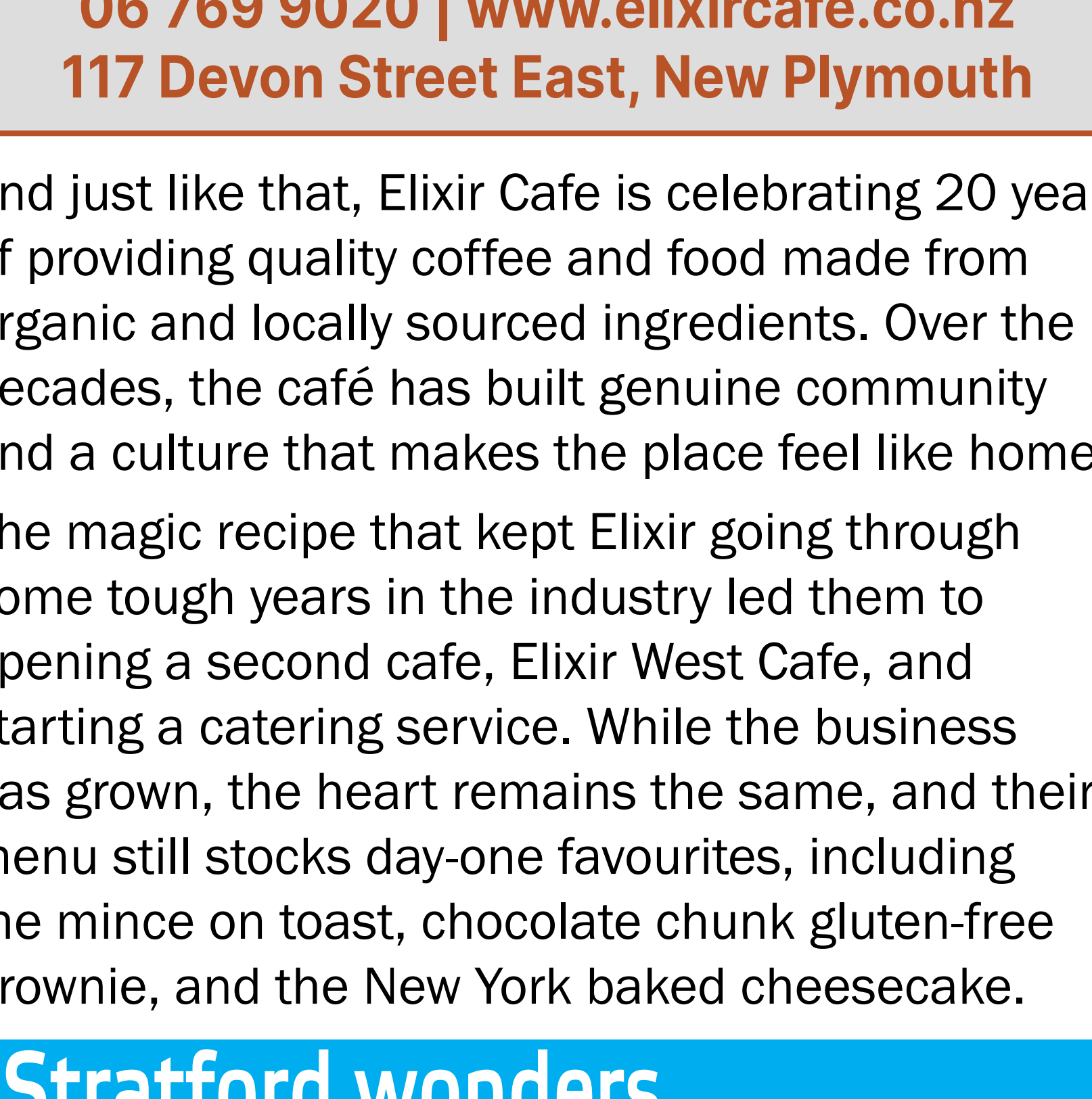

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Family – Iconic New Zealand

Tastes of Taranaki



"Your daily fix Since 06"



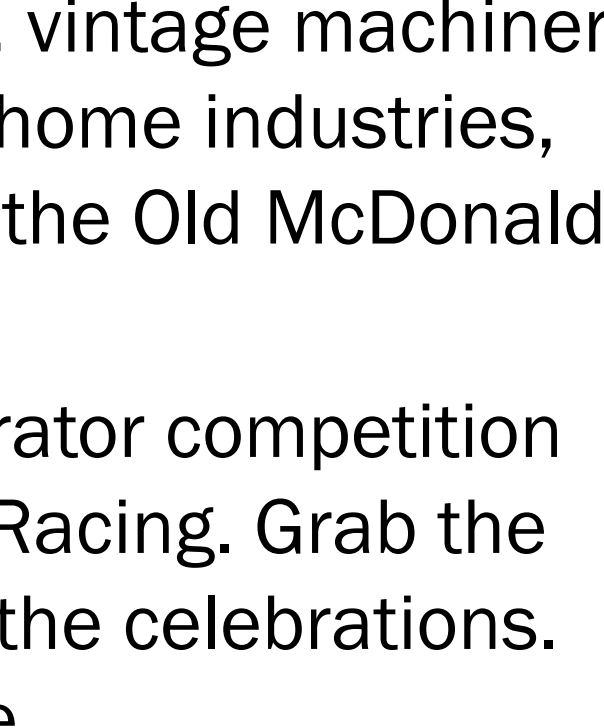
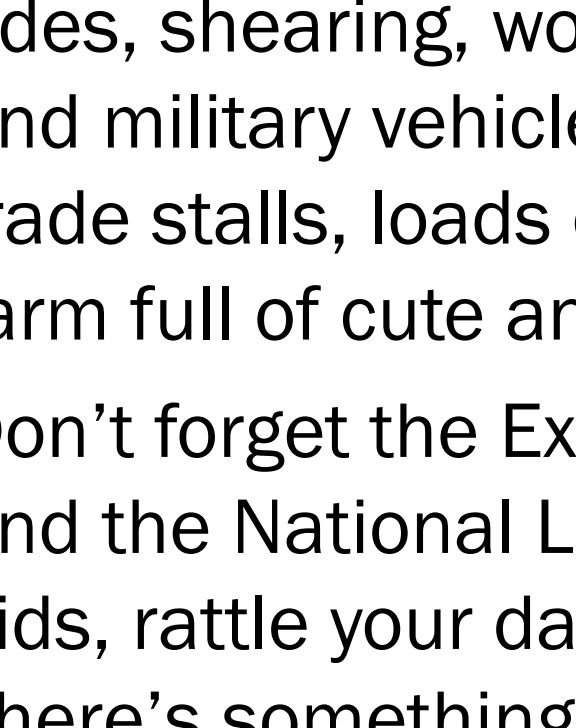
06 769 9020 | www.elixircafe.co.nz

117 Devon Street East, New Plymouth

And just like that, Elixir Cafe is celebrating 20 years of providing quality coffee and food made from organic and locally sourced ingredients. Over the decades, the café has built genuine community and a culture that makes the place feel like home.

The magic recipe that kept Elixir going through some tough years in the industry led them to opening a second cafe, Elixir West Cafe, and starting a catering service. While the business has grown, the heart remains the same, and their menu still stocks day-one favourites, including the mince on toast, chocolate chunk gluten-free brownie, and the New York baked cheesecake.

Stratford wonders



Stratford A&P Show

28th & 29th November 2026

Where rural and urban meet for farming business and family fun



9 Flint Road East, Stratford

stratfordshow.co.nz

There'll be all the fun and loads of national livestock competitions over the weekend of the 28th and 29th of November at the Stratford A&P Show. Check out the horses, dog trials, pigs, sheep, and beef and dairy cattle as they strut around the parade rings.

Fan favourites return with Mahons Amusements rides, shearing, woodchopping, vintage machinery, and military vehicles. There're home industries, trade stalls, loads of food, and the Old McDonald farm full of cute animals.

Don't forget the Excavator Operator competition and the National Lawn Mower Racing. Grab the kids, rattle your dags, and join the celebrations. There's something for everyone.

Family fun



10:00am 1 NOV 2026 FOUNTAINE SQUARE

CRAZY HAT COMPETITION | MARKET STALLS ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC AND MUCH MUCH MORE

Each year, Woodville transforms into a whimsical wonderland when the Mad Hatters Day comes to town. With a touch of steampunk, the event features over 70 market stalls, live entertainment, food vendors, family activities, and the famous Crazy Hat Competition.

There'll be spot prizes for best dressed, so come in your swishest glad rags; something fitting for a Mad Hatter's tea party, something retrofuturistic, or a blend of both.

The kids will love dressing up, playing old fashioned games, and listening to the live entertainment. Don't be afraid to go a little bit mad... all the best people are!

Arts & Distillery

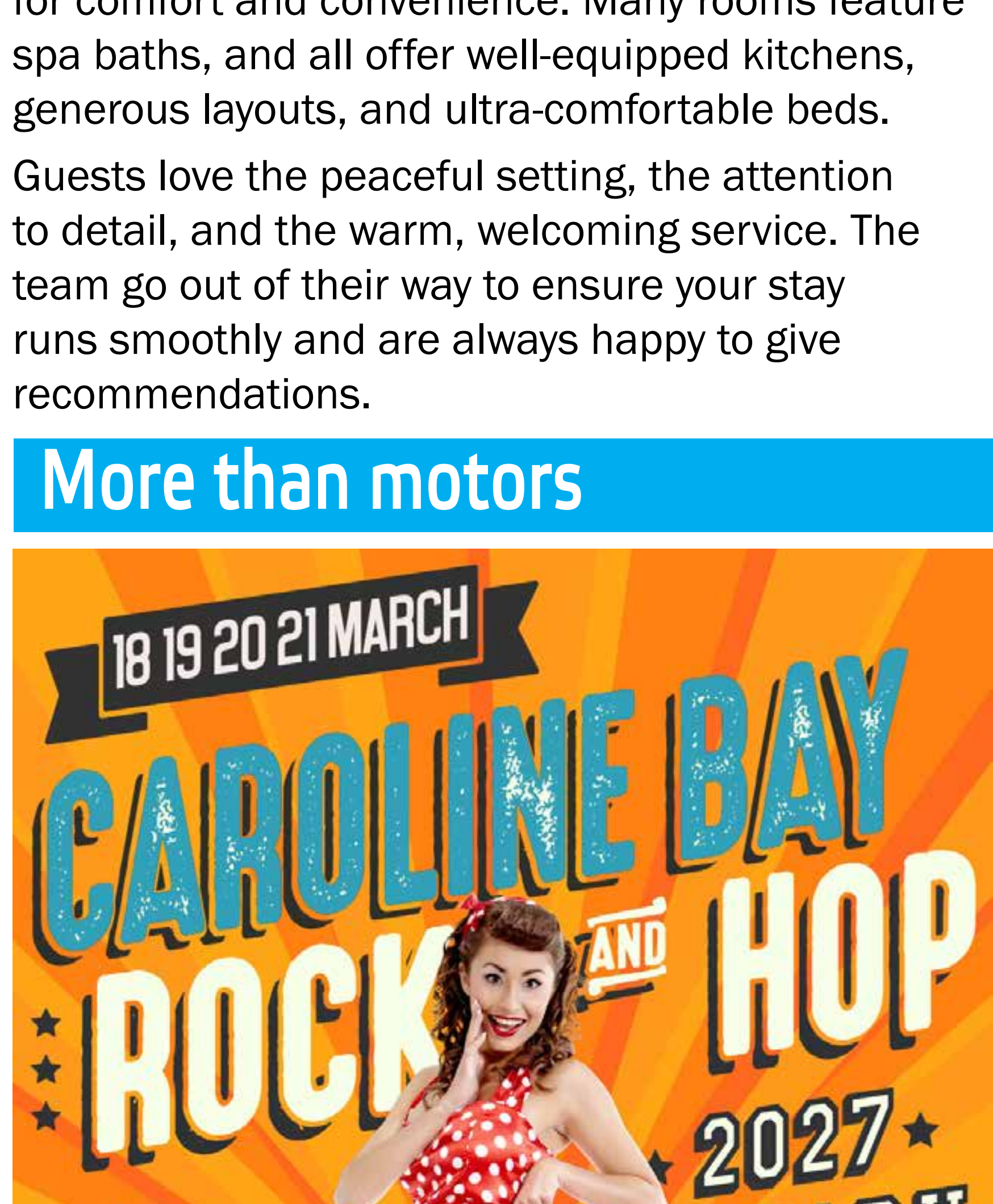


VISIT US AT 11 FENTON STREET, STRATFORD. WWW.FENTONSTREETARTSCOLLECTIVE.CO.NZ

Fenton Street Art Collective & Distillery is the passion of its founders, Jo Stallard and Stuart Greenhill, personified. A gin distillery, gallery, studio, and espresso bar and eatery all in one, this artistic hub in the heart of Stratford, Taranaki was born when the couple discovered the historic Egmont Chambers on Fenton Street in 2016 and set about restoring the building to its former glory.

People come to Fenton Street, grab a coffee or gin from downstairs, visit Jo's working studio upstairs, and check out the rotating art in the gallery space. Meanwhile, Stuart – a published novelist and award-winning poet – distils their prize-winning gin.

Nature lovers



Spacious Powered & Non Powered Camping, Cabins, and Glamping, set on farm & park like surroundings bordering the Marahau River.

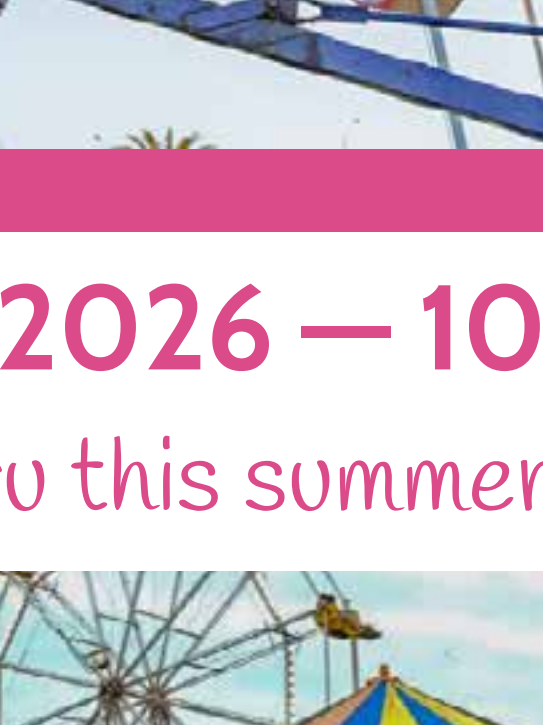
www.oldmacs.co.nz | info@oldmacs.co.nz

03 527 8288 | 51 Harvey RD, Marahau, Tasman

Bordering the Marahau River at the entrance to the Abel Tasman National Park, Old Macdonald's Holiday Park is the perfect base to explore the bountiful golden-sand beaches and sparkling, clear waters of the region.

Hidden in the green, the holiday park offers camping, glamping, shared kitchen and laundry facilities, family cabins, river access, Wi-Fi, and secure car parking. The Macdonald family are more than happy to help you book your activities and transport, whether you're setting off on a kayaking adventure, going hiking, or require a water taxi. Book in and make the most of Old Macdonald's natural surrounds, swimming holes, and birdsong.

Timaru stays



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95-99 King Street, Timaru

www.ashleymotorlodge.co.nz

Whether you're in Timaru for a family getaway, a couples' escape, or one of the many great events happening throughout the year, ASURE Ashley Motor Lodge is the perfect base for exploring the region. This four-and-a-half-star accommodation is spacious, spotless, and thoughtfully designed for comfort and convenience. Many rooms feature spa baths, and all offer well-equipped kitchens, generous layouts, and ultra-comfortable beds.

Guests love the peaceful setting, the attention to detail, and the warm, welcoming service. The team go out of their way to ensure your stay runs smoothly and are always happy to give recommendations.

More than motors

18 19 20 21 MARCH

CAROLINE BAY

ROCK AND HOP

2027 TIMARU

CAROLINEBAYROCKANDHOP.CO.NZ

The 2027 Caroline Bay Rock & Hop promises to be another spectacular celebration of classic cars, motorcycles, music, fashion, and community spirit. From the 18th to the 21st of March, thousands will come together in South Canterbury to enjoy four days of nostalgia, entertainment, and unforgettable experiences. More than just a motoring event, Rock & Hop is a major fundraiser for Hospice South Canterbury, helping provide compassionate care and support to local families when they need it most. Whether you're entering a vehicle, dressing in vintage style, or simply soaking up the atmosphere, there's something for everyone. Join us and help make 2027 our biggest and best event yet.

Carnival craze

26 Dec 2026 – 10 Jan 2027

Visit Timaru this summer & join the fun!

carolinebay.co.nz

Every year since 1911, the Caroline Bay Carnival takes over Timaru from Boxing Day through to mid-January, bringing all sorts of family fun with free concerts and live performances, rides, and traditional show-style games.

This year is no different. Running from the 26th of December through to the 10th of January, there's more fun to be had in Timaru than you can shake a stick at. Expect the spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks display, loads of local musical talent, food trucks galore, mini golf, prizes and competitions, and plenty of carnival rides.

Head on down to Timaru and see what all the fuss is about.

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Dig into the past



The towns and cities of Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui (Greater Wellington) are riddled with stories and histories. The Wellington Heritage Festival is a chance to dig into the past of the places we walk past every day and the people who once wandered along the same streets.

Taking place from the 24th of October to the 15th of November, the festival is community-led, with events created by individuals, iwi, community groups, and businesses across Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Hutt Valley, Porirua, Kāpiti, and Wairarapa.

Tens of thousands of visitors attend more than 160 events that happen across the month, such as historic talks and walking tours, visits to cemeteries, and tours of historic homes and buildings, including old theatres, churches, and civic buildings. There's archaeology, art, music, theatre, and, of course, old-fashioned fun and games.

With events too numerous to mention, check out what's happening in your neck of the woods at www.wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz

Where careers begin



The Design School offers level 2, 3, and 4 certificates, including NCEA L2, which opens the door to all higher education, and a Diploma in Creative Enterprise Level 5 to help people launch their own business.

The courses provide the skills to be successful in any of the creative disciplines. Projects focus on drawing, graphic design, and digital media or fashion design and textiles, and graduates can progress onto degrees in any creative discipline.

As a small specialist school, courses can be tailored to the individual needs of each student and small groups mean the courses can be started at any time during the year.

All level 2 courses are free and there are no hidden costs; The Design School supplies everything.

Check out www.designschool.ac.nz or find them on Facebook and then pop into The Design School studio to see what can be achieved.

Your folk family



Adam McGrath.

This Labour Weekend, Welly Fest returns for its 61st year from the 23rd to the 26th of October, bringing days of music, workshops, and community to the beautiful outdoors of Wainuiomata.

This year marks an exciting new chapter, with a fresh committee of mostly young women stepping up to run one of Wellington's much-loved grassroots festivals. With new blood taking the reins, this year's committee is over the moon to present the 2026 festival with plenty of energy and fresh ideas.

Welly Fest offers something for the whole whānau, with a packed weekend of music, dance, craft, and workshops alongside performances from artists all across Aotearoa – including Adam McGrath, “A national treasure” (RNZ).

It's the perfect chance to escape the city for a few days, breathe some fresh air, and enjoy a festival that's all about participation, our NZ folk family, and fun.

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Kāpiti – arts and lifestyle

Explore and be inspired



The Kāpiti Coast Art Trail returns this spring, inviting visitors to explore the studios, galleries, and creative spaces where local art comes to life.

Held over Labour Weekend from the 24th to the 26th of October, and again from the 31st of October to the 1st of November, the popular event features 140 artists across 117 sites from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki.

Now in its 26th year, the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail offers more than a traditional gallery experience. Visitors can meet artists, hear the stories behind their work, and see the materials, tools, and works in progress that shape each piece.

With artists working across painting, jewellery, woodwork, textiles, photography, printmaking, and more, the Kāpiti Coast Art Trail showcases the depth and diversity of the local creative community.

Check the website to view participating artists or pick up an Art Trail Guide, then plan a day trip or weekend escape to discover inspiring people, places, and landscapes along the Kāpiti Coast.

Dream-makers



Boasting over 40 kilometres of unspoilt beaches, a warm microclimate, and a wonderful community, Kāpiti is considered one of Aotearoa's best-kept secrets. With sun, sand, superb real estate, and speedy commutes, so many young people, families, and retirees call one of its coastal towns home.

Locals or out-of-towners looking to buy will be thrilled to know that Tommy's Kāpiti can help you find your dream beachfront bungalow overlooking the sea, your picturesque lifestyle block nestled into the emerald foothills, or your sun-facing heritage cottage smack bang in the heart of town.

Tommy's Kāpiti real estate agents are driven by a desire to help clients find their home in this slice of paradise. With in-depth knowledge of the whole district, excellent negotiation skills, and a genuine love for their profession and the place they call home, you're guaranteed to find your dream come true with the Tommy's team.

Visit www.tommys.co.nz

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events@otakimaoriracing.co.nz
www.otakimaoriracing.co.nz
Ōtaki Racecourse 47 Te Roto Road, Ōtaki

Kāpiti Coast Art Trail

Te Ara Toi o te Takutai Kāpiti

'26

Opens Labour Weekend
24–26 Oct + 31 Oct–1 Nov
10am–4pm. FREE entry

Start planning your Art Trail
www.kapiticoastarttrail.co.nz

@KapitiCoastArtTrail

Kāpiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL

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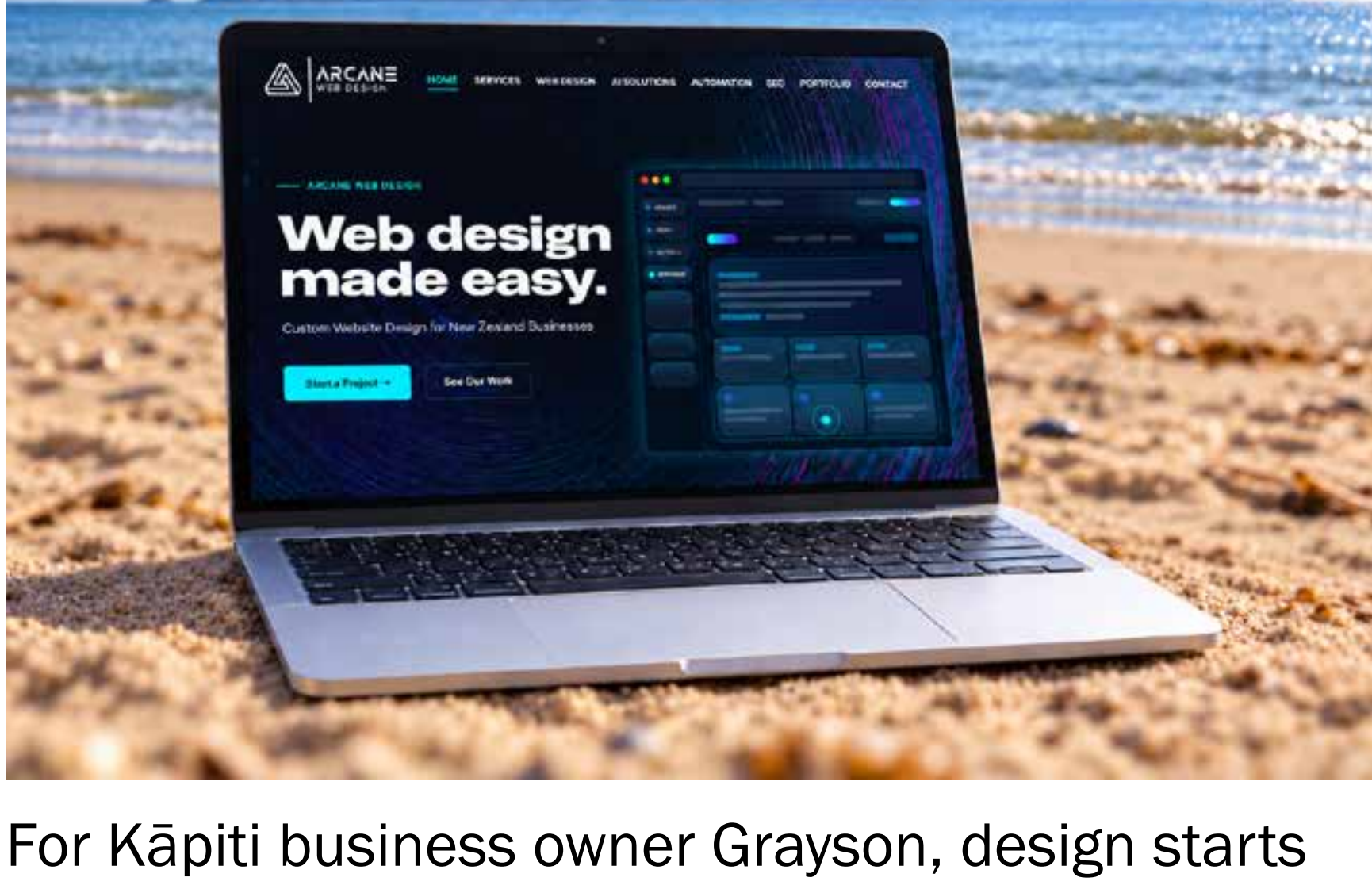
173A Coastlands Parade, Paraparaumu
f Nepal NZ Connection

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Kāpiti – creativity and design

Local by design



For Kāpiti business owner Grayson, design starts with understanding how people work and what they need from their technology.

Through Arcane Web Design, he works with businesses to turn their ideas into practical websites. His approach begins with conversations about the business and its customers before moving into layout, design, and development.

Dedicated to his community, Grayson donated time and expertise to create websites for Golf for Good and the Kāpiti Squash Club.

Grayson also runs Arcane Platforms, developing practical tools for small businesses, including a tool that turns voice notes into quotes. He offers AI and automation audits that identify ways to simplify processes and builds software tailored to how each business works.

Both businesses reflect a passion for making technology more useful and accessible, with solutions shaped around the needs of people using them every day.

Makers and shakers



Kāpiti is completely saturated in creativity and design. Locally made products and grassroots businesses and ventures are at every turn, showcasing the huge talent of the small area.

The Kāpiti community is good at celebrating its makers and shakers. Beyond just word of mouth, they talk in the form of stars, giving credit where it's due to build reputations around things that deserve to shine.

So, when you're selecting the things to fill up your life with, be it home décor or the food on your table – why not listen to the voice of the people and go with a five-star option? Those five twinkling things are the signs you can trust to guide you toward making the right choice.

Keep it local by supporting the people around you to continue making, creating, and innovating to such a high standard that word isn't just going about town, it's going about the country.

A household name



For over 30 years, John and Sharon Thompson of Coast to Coast Blinds have been furnishing windows through Kāpiti, Horowhenua, and Wellington. They have a fantastic showroom in Paraparaumu that boasts a wide range of roller, Venetian, vertical, and timber blinds as well as curtains, interior shutters, and outdoor awnings.

Their mobile service brings the showroom directly to your door so you don't have to imagine how the new décor will enhance your space. If you need advice, the experienced team are more than happy to help you select your window treatments, so get in touch today for a consultation, full measure, and quote. Once you've decided on your dream adornments, one of the team will install them for you, making the whole process from quote to install hassle free.

Coast to Coast Blinds are a household name; they're local, reliable, and offer fresh ideas on how to amplify any room.

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING PUBLIC REVIEW AND INQUIRY

TO: Firearms licence holders,
affected families, and
witnesses

FROM: LandsAirWater Counsel
isayso.net

DATE: 1 August 2026

REFERENCE: FIREARMS-REVIEW-2026-01

Firearms licence holders, affected families, and people with relevant records,

We are gathering information for a public review concerning firearms licensing, suspension, revocation, search, seizure, storage, return, disposal, and related Police or Firearms Safety Authority processes.

Concerns have been raised that some affected people may not have been given clear written reasons, the lawful authority relied upon, complete itemised property records, review or appeal information, or a fair opportunity to respond before firearms or related property were removed or retained.

In carrying out this review, we are seeking documents, timelines, notices, decision records, and first-hand accounts that can be checked against the underlying law and agency records. This process is evidence-gathering. It does not make findings against any person or agency at this stage.

Against that background, this public review raises serious questions.

The issue is not simply that firearms matters were reported or acted upon.

The issue is what was relied upon, what was independently verified, what contrary information was available, what records were created, and whether the affected person was given the information needed to understand and challenge the decision.

Accordingly, identify and provide:

- 1.** every Police or Firearms Safety Authority letter, notice, email, risk assessment, decision record, or reason relied upon;
- 2.** every source of information relied upon before suspension, revocation, search, seizure, retention, disposal, or refusal to return property;
- 3.** every person, officer, agency, or organisation from whom information was obtained or to whom information was supplied;
- 4.** what lawful authority was relied upon for any search, warrantless attendance, seizure, storage, retention, disposal, sale, surrender, or forfeiture;
- 5.** whether any inquiry was made into ownership, licensing status, custody, storage, compensation, or third-party interests in the firearms or related property;
- 6.** whether any inquiry was made into disputed facts, unsupported labels, risk categories, "fit and proper" concerns, or contradictory dates before action was taken;
- 7.** whether the affected person was invited to respond before final action was taken, and if so, the date, time, method, and substance of that contact;
- 8.** whether an itemised seizure list, property receipt, storage record, return record, disposal record, or chain-of-custody record exists;
- 9.** what review, appeal, complaint, or disclosure rights were explained, and when they were explained; and
- 10.** any records showing delay, missing documentation, incomplete disclosure, or differences between what was said and what the written records show.

People providing information may ask for names and identifying details to be treated as confidential. Please do not send identifying details about other people, or material that may prejudice active court proceedings, unless a confidential intake process has first been arranged.

This review forms part of a wider public accountability process. Nothing sent in response should be taken as limiting any rights, remedies, review processes, complaints, or court steps available to affected people.

Thank you

LandsAirWater Counsel

Public review intake: claims_2@tangatawhenua.org

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Whether you need your locks changed, outdoor lighting installed, or an alarm system set up, look no further than this page for excellent security hardware, software, and services.

Let the lights, locks, and alarms take care of the security so you can get on with taking care of the rest.

Your eyes and ears

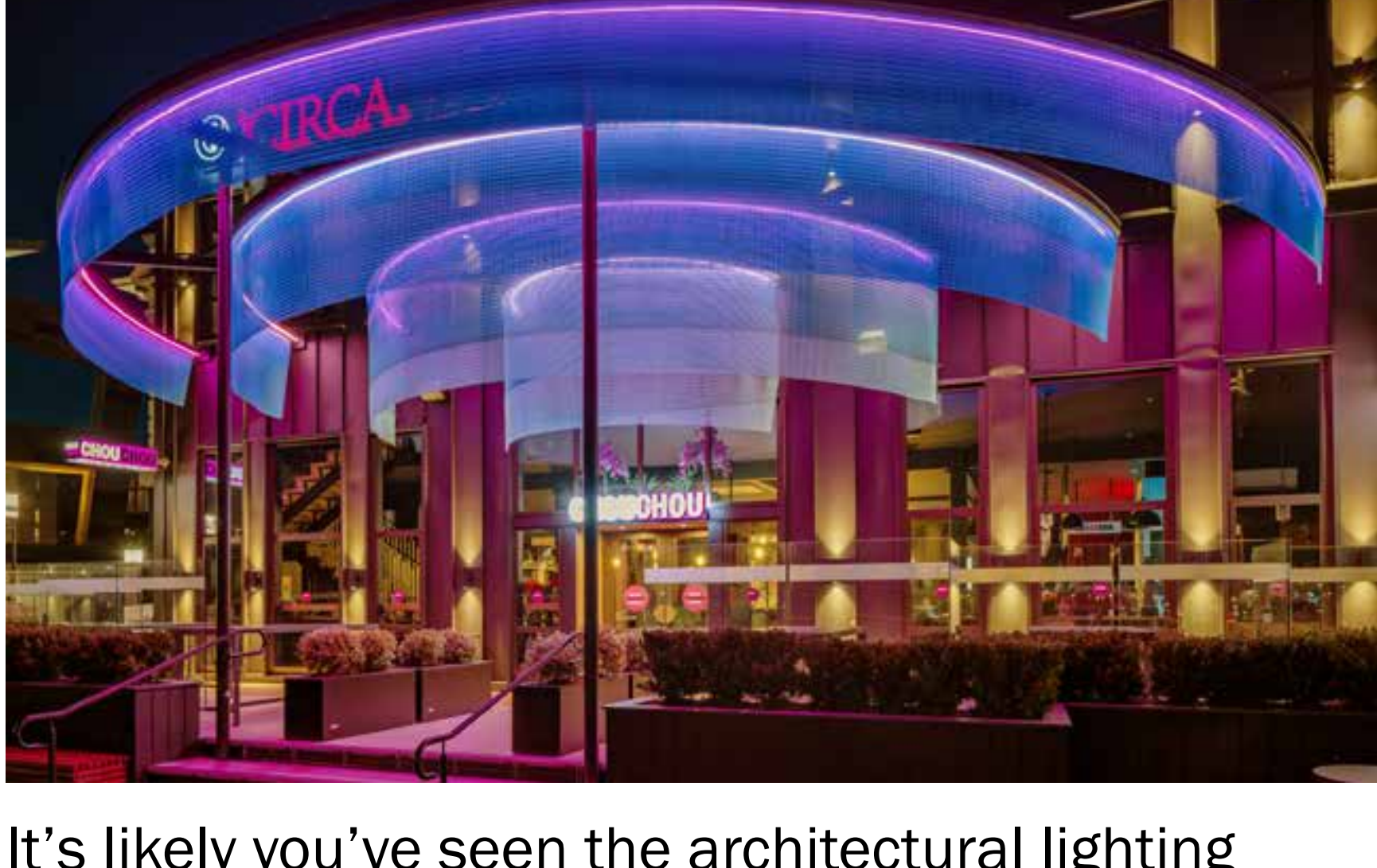


The stress of making sure your commercial property is secure can be enough to lose sleep over. At night, the streets empty out and shopfronts, warehouses, restaurants, and other commercial spaces become vulnerable to potential break-ins.

Luckily, there are so many different ways you can go about protecting your business when you're not there to keep it safe yourself. Complex alarm systems, video surveillance and CCTV, and access control such as keycards and video intercom systems become your eyes and ears, while deterrents like floodlights and motion sensors encourage people to move along.

The Wellington region has a wealth of reputable commercial security businesses that have all the safety solutions to meet the needs of your property, no matter what size. Look no further than this page to find the right guys who've got the right tools to ensure you can rest easy at night.

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32 Puzzles

[illegible][illegible]

- Dawn (8)

- 5 - Verge (4)
- 9 - Courage; boldness (5)
- 10 - Type of dance (3-4)
- 11 - Room attached to a house (12)
- 13 - Close at hand (6)
- 14 - Something done (6)
- 17 - Mentally acute (5-7)
- 20 - Backtrack (7)
- 21 - Reluctant (5)
- 22 - Utters (4)
- 23 - Went before (8)
- TAH

1 - Insince

- 2 - Bodies of writing (7)
- 3 - Fast food item (12)
- 4 - Semiaquatic fish-eating mammals (6)
- 6 - Mark of repetition (5)
- 7 - Evacuating (8)
- 8 - Not intoxicating (of a drink) (12)
- 12 - Single-horned creatures (8)
- 15 - Country whose capital is Dublin (7)
- 16 - Device for removing impurities (6)
- 18 - Way in (5)
- 19 - Garden outbuilding (4)

Roots

Written by Raure
The Hannah, 18th

Reviewed by Oliver Mander

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2639-2644.

TRUTH IS POWER



Maori in particular, have a spiritual connection with 'place'. Raureti Ormond's foundation is Tihoi (near Taupō). For this reviewer, and the rugged rbury.

ā maunga me

tētahi awa wai mātao e rere ana i taku taha
find my spirit in the mountains with a river
rushing water at my side.
Given that Greengroats is billed as a “bilingual

Given that *Grassroots* is billed as a “humorous and heartfelt odyssey through New Zealand’s rugby culture”, that may seem like an odd place to start. But as Ormond explores finding personal identity within inherited legacy, it is his connection to both *whenua* and *whānau* that is

the most powerful feature of this must-see show. We all find our 'greatness', even if it is different to what has gone before.

Ormond observes that in rugby, to go forward, we are forced to pass the ball backwards. The analogy describes how we learn from both history and our personal background. New Zealand's rugby history becomes the mere vehicle by which Ormond explores our country's social and

Grassroots is not really a comedy. Great comedic

dialogue and devices help move the story, but the core audience emotions are based on reflection, nostalgia, and relationships. Ormond's renditions of classic Kiwi tunes within the performance augment the emotion. Comedy allows delivery in an engaging form and helps to manage emotional transitions, but the use of humour feels a touch overdone at times. This wasn't helped by an over-enthusiastic audience, many of whom clearly knew Ormond. In this context, it wasn't easy for Ormond to encourage reflection, even when his performance warranted it.

The show's production values are strong. A simple set (Scott Maxim) supported by multimedia (Maxim, Ormond) facilitates scene and wardrobe changes that keep the story

moving.

Grassroots is a uniquely Kiwi experience that had this reviewer in tears. See it whenever and wherever you can.

The Hunt for the Canterbury

The Hunt for the Canterbury Panther

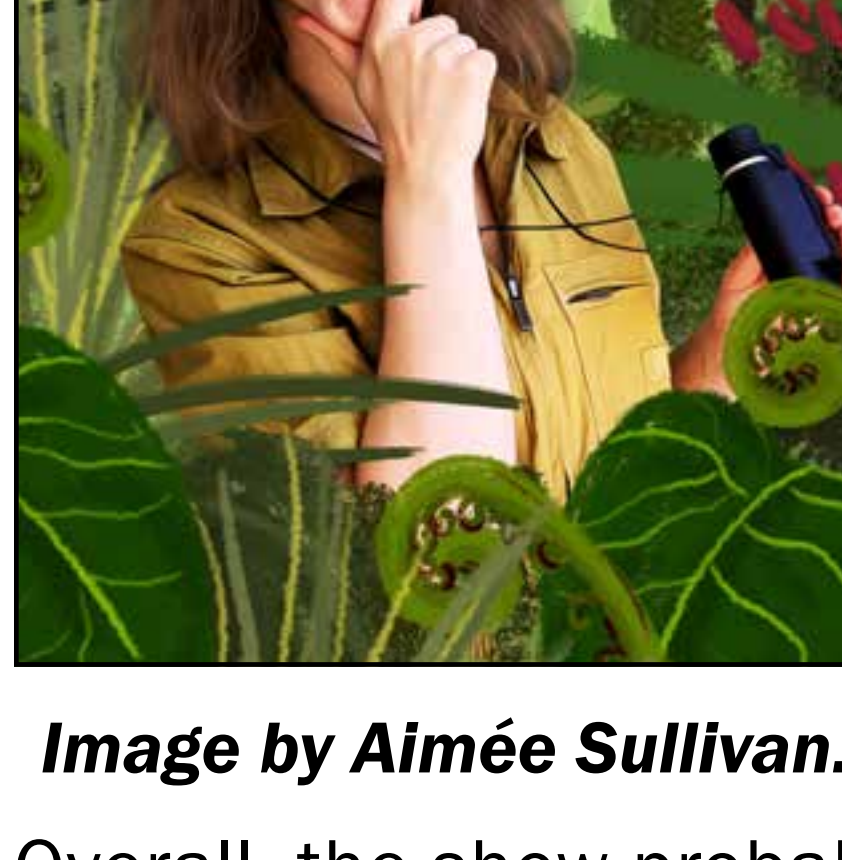
Written by Anna Barker and Jack Ellison-Jones

BATS Theatre, 19th Sep 2026
Reviewed by Oliver Mander

 On the face of it, *T*



Hunt for the Canterbury



confirmed at 10 to 14-year-olds. The plot follows the title, drawing on a long-standing legend of a black panther roaming Canterbury, with sightings ranging from Kaiapoi to the Mackenzie Country. It has broader age appeal by its description.

The youngest members of the audience will be dazzled by solo performer Anna Barker's colour and energy, the mystery panther adds intrigue for the 'tweens' audience, and for adults... well, there is plenty of scope for 'adulthood'.

Despite the target age range, there were a number of children younger than 10 in the audience. They were clearly engaged by Barker's high physical energy on stage, her imaginative

use of props, and the inclusion of audience volunteers.

Barker casts the audience as fellow cryptozoologists attending a conference in Wellington; whether the words 'cryptozoology' and 'conference' feature in an average 10 to 14-year-old's vocabulary hardly matters when

the real appeal is likely that of a mystery big cat roaming around Canterbury!

What surprised me was the extent to which the show offered interest to the adults in the audience, provided through the subtext behind the story.

The Hunt for the Canterbury Panther explores

The Hunt for the Canterbury Panther explores the tension between believing in yourself and how self-belief is perceived by broader society, with a further exploration of the trade-offs we all make between imagination, ambition, reality and outcome. We should all possess a degree

self-belief, but Barker's performance reminds us that we need a good dose of integrity to ensure it never overpowers the truth. The well-crafted script explores those tensions and trade-offs, delighting the youngsters while offering plenty of intellectual fodder to pick over for those who want to look deeper.

An appealing, high-energy, and fun show that is worth a watch for kids of all ages (including children aged 30+).



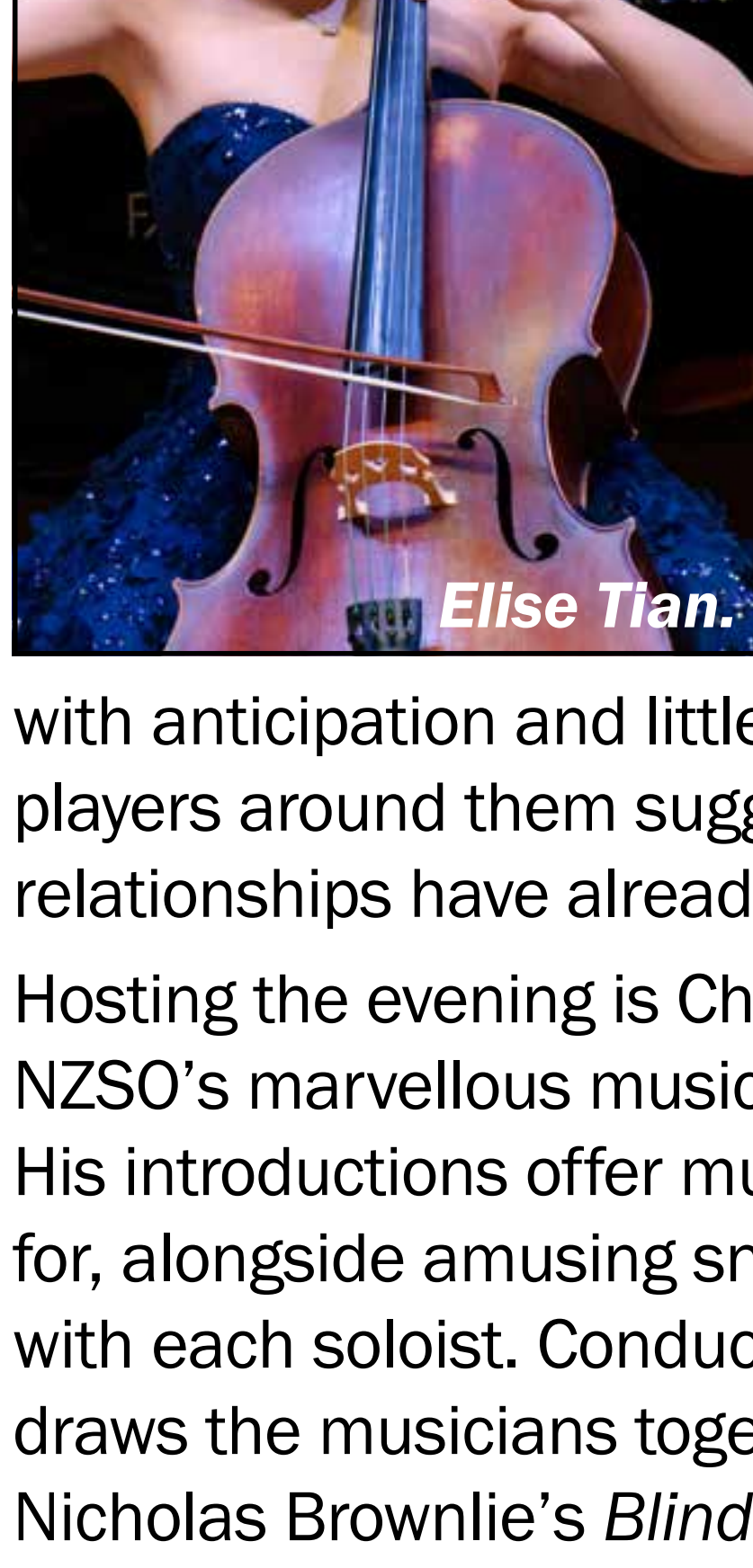
Emerging Artists

Presented by New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Hamish McKeich

Michael Fowler Centre, 23rd Sep 2026

Reviewed by Ruth Corkill



with anticipation and little interactions with the adult players around them suggest that warm, supportive relationships have already formed.

Hosting the evening is Chris Lam Sam, the NZSO's marvellous music education amateur. His introductions offer musical details to listen for, alongside amusing snippets from interviews with each soloist. Conductor Hamish McKeich draws the musicians together in the opening of Nicholas Brownlie's *Blind is the Gardener* and my expectations for the evening are immediately surpassed by this short but cinematic opening.

Our first soloist is violinist Catherine Harrison playing the final movement of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Her formidable technical precision carries her through its playful virtuosity before melting into Tchaikovsky's characteristic bittersweet lyricism. Harrison is simply lovely as she moves through the variations.

Elise Tian follows with my favourite cello concerto, Shostakovich's first, and astonishes. This ferociously demanding movement requires extraordinary physical and emotional stamina; Tian meets this with assurance, capturing its anguish and emotional complexity while navigating its relentless technical demands.

Next, Alex Wu brings another character entirely to Vaughan Williams' Oboe Concerto, with a beautifully rounded, reedy tone and an engaging playfulness.

The atmosphere tonight is special. Students and young families fill the Michael Fowler Centre, while a gregarious group of retired music teachers behind us marvel at the soloists' technique between pieces, swapping memories and war stories of teaching those same skills. During interval, most people remain in their seats or form excited conversation circles in the aisles.

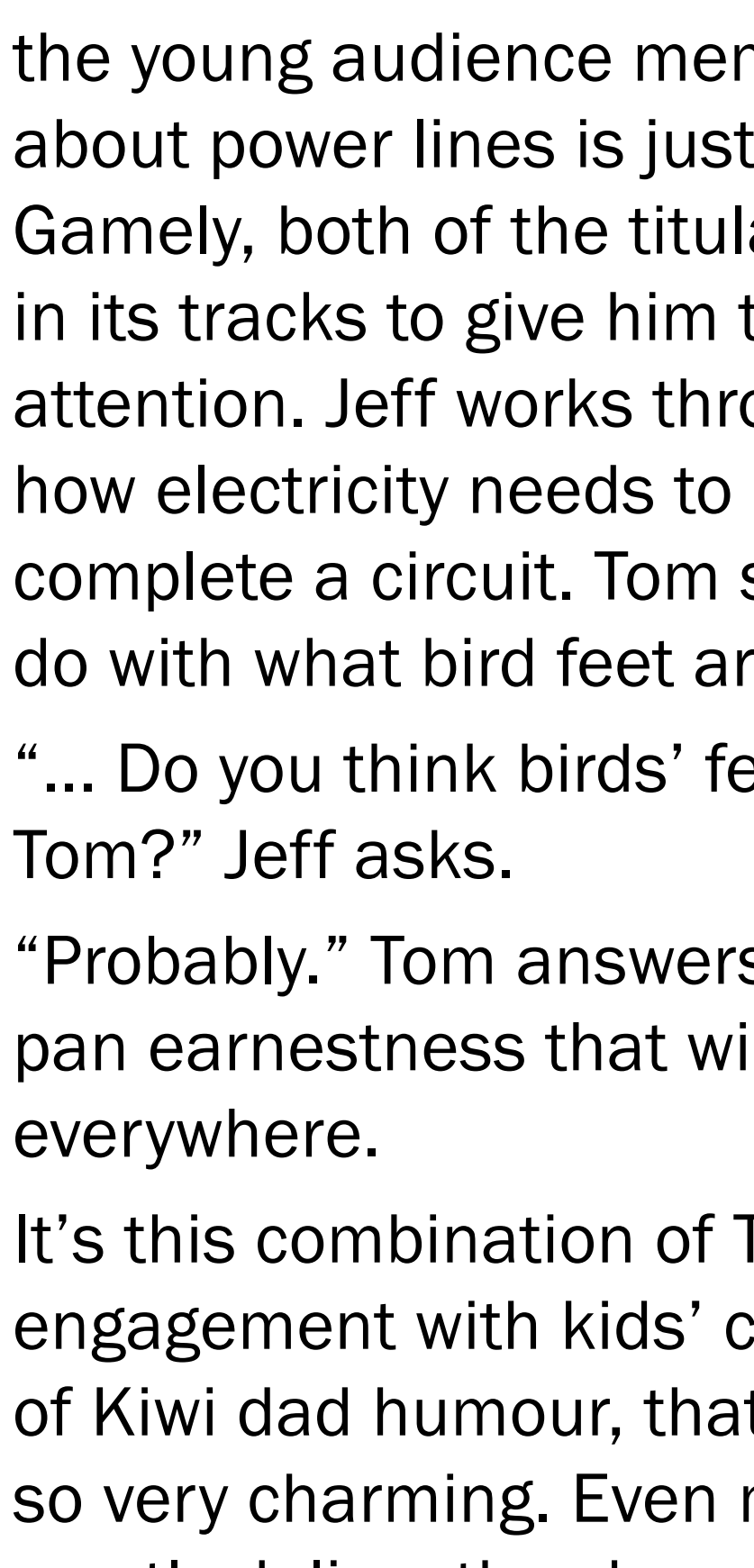
After interval, pianists Jerry Wang, Steven Song, and William Ding tackle Grieg, Prokofiev, and Brahms respectively, maintaining the astonishing standard. I have rarely seen an audience leave a classical concert so happy. If this joyous, generous evening offers a taste of classical music's future in Aotearoa, we have much to look forward to.

But Why, Dad?

Created by Tom Knowles and Jeff Parsnips

Running at Circa Theatre till 10th Oct 2026

Reviewed by Dani Yourukova



“Why do birds sit on power lines, but if I touched a power line I would be electrocuted?”

The show has not technically started yet, but Tom Knowles and Jeff Parsnips *did* say that they wanted us to ask questions. So, the young audience member who wants to know about power lines is just following instructions. Gamely, both of the titular dads stop the pre-show in its tracks to give him their full and immediate attention. Jeff works through an explanation about how electricity needs to be grounded before it can complete a circuit. Tom suggests it's something to do with what bird feet are made of.

“... Do you think birds' feet are made out of rubber, Tom?” Jeff asks.

“Probably.” Tom answers, with the kind of dead-pan earnestness that will be familiar to dad-havers everywhere.

It's this combination of Tom and Jeff's genuine engagement with kids' curiosity, and a riotous side of Kiwi dad humour, that makes *But Why, Dad?* so very charming. Even more impressively, they mostly deliver the show through the medium of musical comedy.

The story is loosely centred around a son asking his dad a series of difficult questions, which become prompts for comic songs. Together, Tom and Jeff tackle topics like overwhelming emotions, the power of asking 'why', and lesser-known words you could put in an alphabet song (B is for Barracuda!). It's sweet, goofy, and heartfelt, with tonnes of laughs, loads of opportunities for the kids to join in, and plenty of humour for the parents too.

The show does have a villain: an AI robot who offers to answer the child's questions when dad starts to struggle. It speaks from its clinically smooth screen in a clinically smooth American accent, in stark contrast with dad's stumbling Kiwi bloke mannerisms and mismatched socks. This topical conflict comes down to a delightfully silly resolution, which celebrates the many joys of 'asking dad' when you have a question.

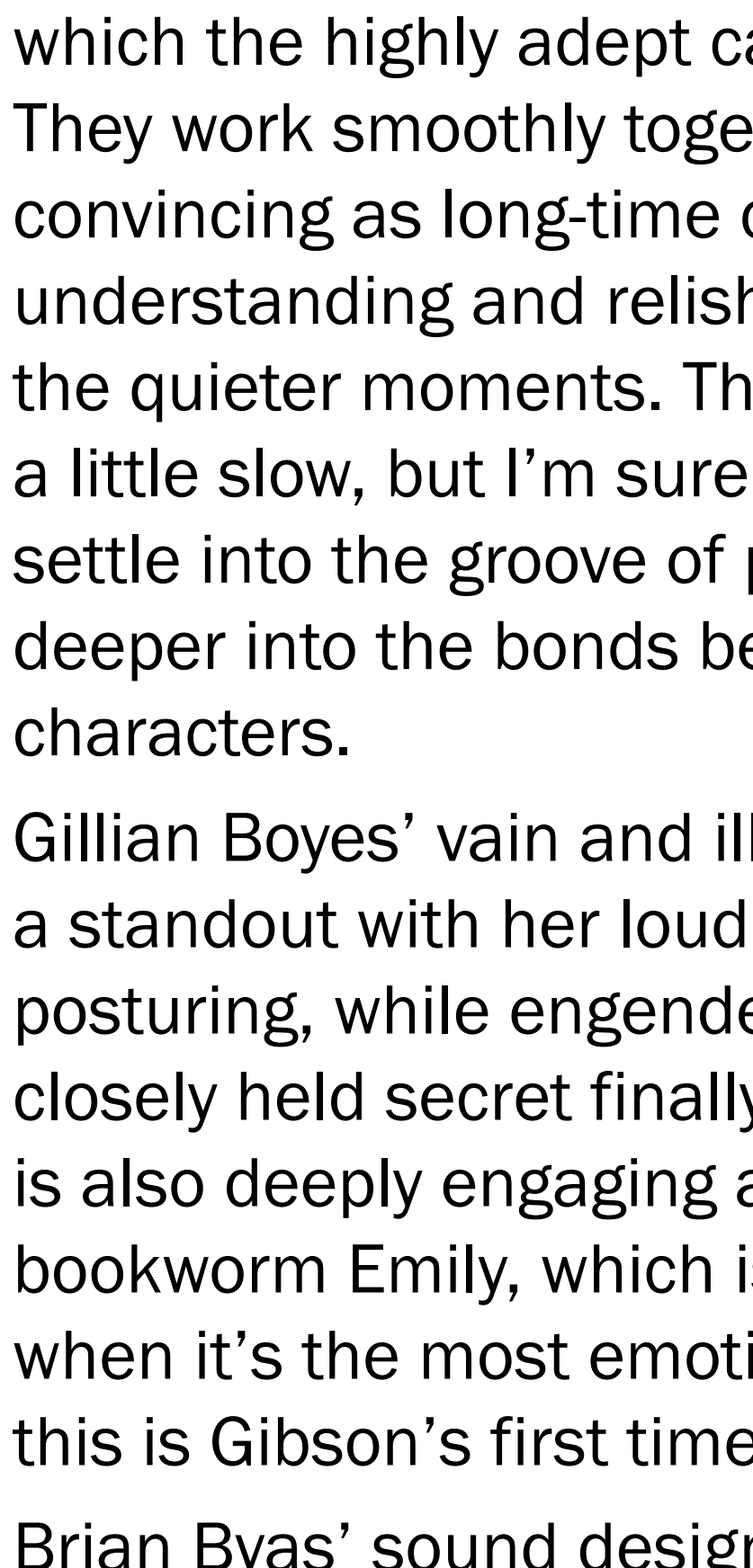
Social Climbers

Written by Roger Hall

Directed by Trudy Dalziel

Gryphon Theatre, 23rd Sep 2026

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Roger Hall's 1995 comedy is given a gentle facelift in Stagecraft Theatre's revival. The six disparate personalities and electricity-free DOC hut are the same, but new references to Wi-Fi, charter schools, and former Minister of Education Hekia Parata update the script for a modern audience. It's a good choice on director Trudy Dalziel's part as this comedy about a group of female teachers forced to spend a long weekend together with minimal comforts is an evergreen one, displaying Hall's gift for understanding people with all their virtues and flaws.

Simon Boyes' authentic set – complete with solid bunks, running water, and a corrugated steel wall visible beyond the door – is an excellent canvas on which the highly adept cast paint their characters. They work smoothly together as a group and are convincing as long-time colleagues, while clearly understanding and relishing the comedy as well as the quieter moments. The opening night pace felt a little slow, but I'm sure it will pick up as the cast settle into the groove of performance and dig even deeper into the bonds between these appealing characters.

Gillian Boyes' vain and ill-prepared Maxine is a standout with her loud, Fendalton-accented posturing, while engendering sympathy when her closely held secret finally emerges. Liz Gibson is also deeply engaging as put-upon mum and bookworm Emily, which is particularly impressive when it's the most emotionally demanding role and this is Gibson's first time on stage in 30 years.

Brian Byas' sound design nicely bridges the scene changes with soundscapes of birds and relentless rain. Jamie Byas' accompanying lighting design is particularly effective in the nighttime scene when the deep blue and possum stomping on the roof will bring shivers to anyone who's attempted sleep in a tramping hut. Caitlin Laurie and Dalziel have done an excellent job with the many tramping-related props.

Revealing the complexities of relationships with humour and warmth, *Social Climbers* is an enjoyably entertaining way to spend a couple of hours this spring.

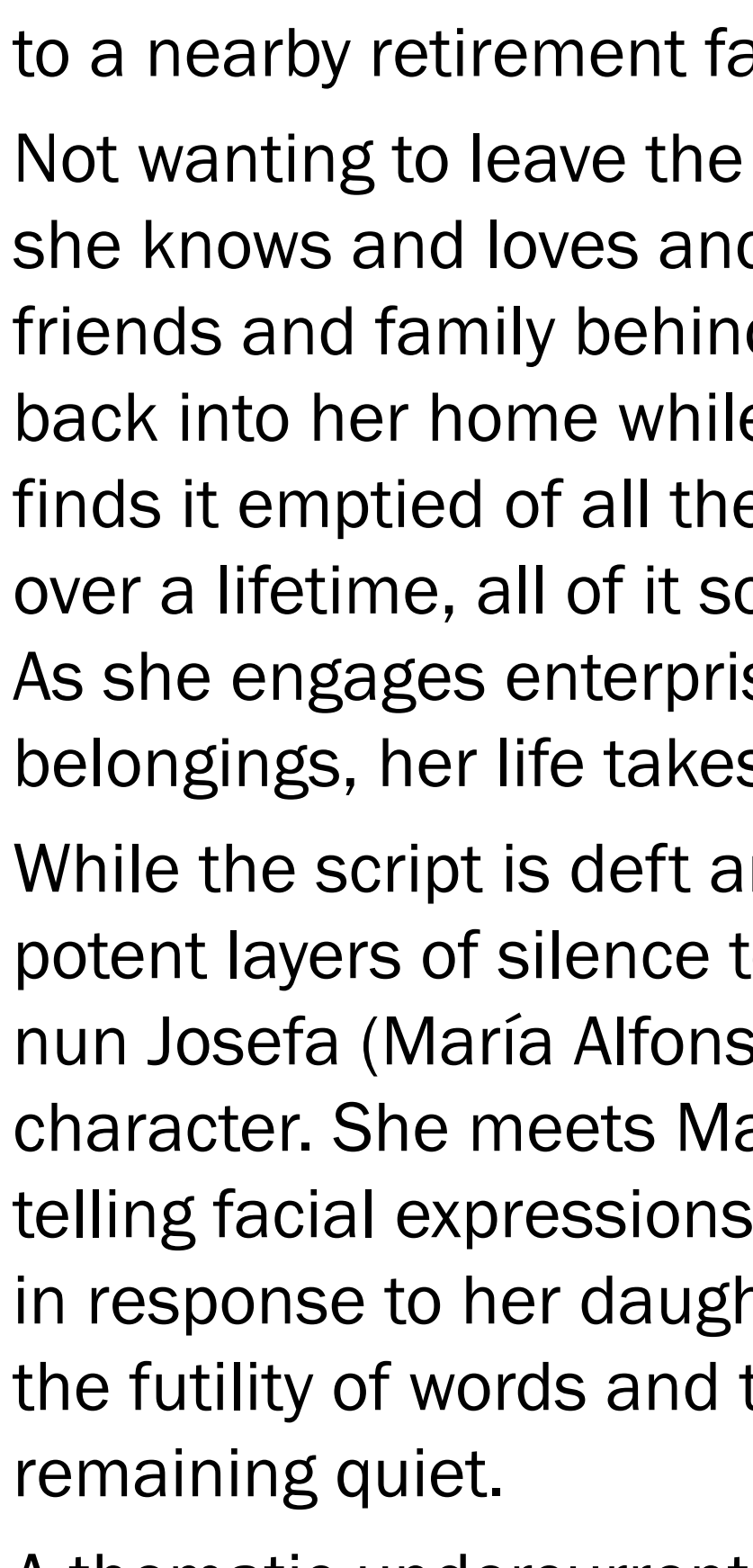
Calle Málaga

116 minutes

M

★★★★

Reviewed by Isabella Smith



I've recently (accidentally) gone back-to-back with movies ranging from relentlessly bleak and cerebral to horrifically violent and morbid. Watching *Calle Málaga*, directed by Maryam Touzani, was a tonic for the soul.

Warm and uplifting, it takes place in Tangiers, following the cheeky, defiant, and resourceful widow María Ángeles-Muñoz (Carmen Maura) after her estranged daughter arrives at short notice to alert her that she is selling the apartment María has lived in for over 30 years, giving her the option to come back with her to Madrid or be shipped off to a nearby retirement facility.

Not wanting to leave the streets and community she knows and loves and the cemetery full of friends and family behind, María secretly moves back into her home while the sale is pending. She finds it emptied of all the things she's collected over a lifetime, all of it sold to an antiques dealer. As she engages enterprising ways to buy back her belongings, her life takes on new colours.

While the script is deft and humorous, there are potent layers of silence too. The best friend and nun Josefa (María Alfonsa Rosso) is a favourite character. She meets María's hilarious tales with telling facial expressions, while María's silences in response to her daughter's betrayal highlight the futility of words and the strength and dignity of remaining quiet.

A thematic undercurrent of fading empire adds its own accent to the film but never quite rears its head. The apartment, bought for a song, is furnished in old-world fashion, and María fondly recalls her days working in the Teatro Cervantes during the golden age of the Spanish protectorate. Her daughter exclaims that she is the last one of her friends to remain in Morocco, the rest having followed their children and grandchildren back to Spain. Yet it is María's love of Tangiers that defines her, and the rich colours and textures of the ancient city – with its narrow, labyrinthine streets filled with sounds and smells and people – make it a character in its own right.

Other silences in the film were a source of frustration. Threads didn't get pulled and questions went unanswered that had the potential to adjust the light cast on each character, especially regarding the daughter, who felt quite 2D. When the credits rolled, I felt slightly shortchanged. But then again, those gaps and silences leave space for the imagination.

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Kicking up a kerfuffle



Are you ready for a great kerfuffle? Tim Mahon of Blam Blam Blam fame is headed on tour with “the album he wanted to make, full of sharp asides, assertive politics, and strident music... The album you never expected but one which is welcome because it makes you think as it draws you to your feet” (Graham Reid, *Elsewhere*).

Out in May this year, *The Great Kerfuffle* is Mahon’s second solo record. His first, *Music From a Lightbulb* (2002), was cleverly released under the name The Moth. Across the new 10 tracks, Mahon is joined by a top-notch team of collaborators – including Teina Benioni (Bamboo and Ardijah), Sina Saipaia (OMC), Brent ‘Syd’ Pasley (Newmatics), and Mark Bell (Blam Blam Blam) – to explore wide-ranging themes with thread after thread for listeners to pull. From an ode to one of the original Radio Hauraki pirates to climate anthems like *Fresh Northerly*, anarchist revolutionary notes remain – like those from the seminal Blam Blam Blam track *There is No Depression in New Zealand*.

As former bassist for The Plague (1978-1979), The Whizz Kids (1979-1980), and Blam Blam Blam (1980-1982), Mahon has had a long-lasting impact on the Aotearoa music scene. On bass, guitar, and vocals, he’ll pull up to Meow on the 16th of October with his full Kerfuffle band behind him: Roger Stanners (guitar), Alastair Mace (drums), and Benioni (guitar) – who is also the support act on all 10 dates of *The Great Kerfuffle Tour*.

Disco-boogie dance

by Madelaine Empson



Photo by Tom Grut.

Flamingo Pier call Aotearoa home but first formed in London in 2014, cutting their beaks by throwing parties on a floating pontoon on an East London canal in Hackney Wick.

“The pontoon was the ‘pier’ and we decorated it with neon flamingos,” hence the name, the trio tell me.

Luke Walker, Dominic Jones, and Brad Craig have spent more than a decade building dancefloors around the world for collaborators, artists, and music-lovers to come together and form lasting connections. It’s that global community that the disco-boogie dance collective will celebrate on their sophomore record *Woven Together* – a little darker than their debut but still sprinkled with “plenty of light and joy”.

Having previously worked with record labels, Flamingo Pier are independently releasing the new album, “so there’s been a lot of work to get to this point”. They feel excited and relieved to be on the home stretch and “ready to play these songs live and see how people respond to them”.

Pōneke gets the first peek when the euphoric six-date, full-band tour opens here on release day: October the 9th.

“Meow Nui looks like such an incredible space to play in”, Flamingo Pier rave. “We’ve heard nothing but good things and we always have the best crowds in Wellington. The capital has been good to us! Feels like an ideal place to play the new music live for the first time (alongside plenty of fan faves from our back catalogue).”

Jazz virtuoso



Photo by Evelyn Freja.

Joey Alexander is one of the most exciting contemporary jazz artists today. At just nine years old, he won the Grand Prix at the 2013 Master-Jam Fest, an international competition for jazz improvisation. By then he’d already played for Herbie Hancock, and since then, his career has soared to even greater heights. Joey is a three-time GRAMMY® Award nominee, he’s shared the stage with the likes of Wayne Shorter and esperanza spalding, has performed in major venues including Carnegie Hall and the Apollo Theatre, and played jazz festivals across the globe.

As part of this year’s Wellington Jazz Festival, Joey will make his debut performance in Aotearoa on the 14th of October at The Opera House. He is joined by bassist Alon Near and drummer Tyson D. Jackson, both internationally celebrated in their own right, to form the Joey Alexander Trio. Expect tracks from his latest album *Celestial Keeper* alongside highlights from his back catalogue.

Joey’s music is renowned for its lyrical improvisation, melodic depth, and a sound that connects modern jazz with the spirit and rhythm of his Indonesian roots. Raised in Bali, by the time Joey was six he had taught himself to play piano on a miniature electric keyboard by listening to classic jazz albums his father gave him. The early signs of his extraordinary talent led him and his family to move to New York to pursue his music career in 2014.

“I’ve never heard anyone who could play like him,” world-renowned trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis says.

Never fading away

by Madelaine Empson



On the 11th of October, the incomparable Che Fu will celebrate 25 years of his seminal album *Navigator* with his long-time band The Kratez and some very special guests: Aaradhna, Betty-Anne, and King Kapisi.

Released in 2001, *Navigator* debuted at number one on the New Zealand Albums Chart, going on to achieve multi-platinum status. Threading themes of identity, resilience, unity, and hope across radio anthems like *Misty Frequencies*, *Fade Away*, and the unmistakable *Waka*, the album became a defining soundtrack for Aotearoa and solidified Che as one of its most influential voices.

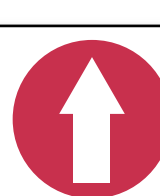
When he looks back on the whirlwind time, Che thinks firstly of his wife and their family – his youngest son Loxmyn, who featured on the album cover, and of trying to be good parents. Then all the people he created the record with – who helped him take it to Aotearoa and beyond – spring to mind. And finally, he remembers the legendary shows that came off the back of *Navigator*.

“I never would’ve thought I’d be here talking to you about my record being around for 25 years,” he says. “It’s a surprise, a good surprise.”

In concert, the New Zealand Music Hall of Fame | Te Whare Taonga Puoro o Aotearoa 2026 inductee will deliver the album in full alongside selections from the remarkable catalogue that followed. When the 10-date national tour hits Wellington’s Michael Fowler Centre, he wants us to “come in ready to party” for a career and genre-spanning concert that blends funk, soul, reggae, and hip-hop.

“If you’re into that, I hope you leave with a big smile.”

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Dancefloor rocker



Hailing from Japan, Rena Hayashi became the world's youngest DMC World Champion DJ in 2017 at just 12 years old.

Since then, DJ RENA has been redefining what's possible in turntablism on a global scale. Now a three-time world champion, DJ RENA is headed to the capital to spin the decks at Meow on the 21st of October, with support from Aotearoa's own hip-hop pioneer DJ Raw.

Expect a night of technical virtuosity and the dynamic DJ RENA style that propelled this electrifying dancefloor rocker into international acclaim. DJ RENA is known for scratching, blending, and beat-juggling hip-hop, electronic, and boom bap genres. Performing at prestigious venues worldwide including the opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and as a headline act at Billboard Live Tokyo, this event is a chance to see why he has cemented himself in the role as a cultural ambassador for modern DJ turntablism.

Ian Seumanu aka DJ Raw has been dominating the Aotearoa DJ battle scene. He remained unbeaten in all New Zealand competitions for a decade and has gained respect as a world-class turntablist at international events. He's amassed a huge list of gigs and has played support for industry heavyweights like Rihanna, Snoop Dogg, Black Eyed Peas, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Cypress Hill, and De La Soul.

Head along for a night of turntable excellence, with two giants offering up a sonic feast that'll have audiences grooving late into the evening.

Authentic and intimate



The Americas in Concert is a brand-new series brought to you by Latin Events Welly, presenting ensemble and solo artists connected with the musical traditions of North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean to suburban stages around Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

First on the bill is an evening with Tango Vivo held at Karori Baptist Church in Marsden Village on Saturday the 17th of October. The quartet comprises Marilyn Mansilla (vocals), Christine Watson (violin), Irena De (piano), and Bill Vella (double bass), who will perform live Argentine tangos, milongas, and vales in the intimate, seated setting of the church.

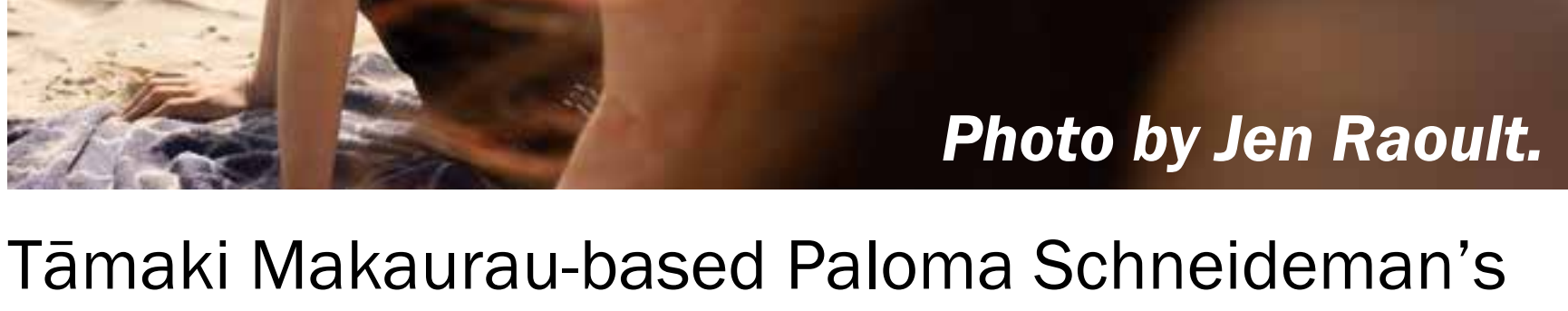
"There is something very special about experiencing tango live in a small room," Latin Events Welly's Mariela Porrini says. "You can feel the emotion in the voice, the tension and softness in the music, and the way the instruments speak to each other."

Tango Vivo was formed in 2021 through a collaboration between Argentine and Pōneke-based musicians. Their music is grounded in traditional tango, authentic interpretation, and musical quality.

Latin Events Welly hope to provide opportunities for audiences to listen to live music that might be unfamiliar and create deeper cultural connections between the Americas and Aotearoa.

"Tango can be elegant and intimate, but also very powerful. For us, this concert is about giving people the chance to experience that atmosphere up close, whether they already know tango or are discovering it for the first time," Porrini says.

A tender portrait



Tāmaki Makaurau-based Paloma Schneideman's debut feature film *Big Girls Don't Cry* has been causing a stir since it first aired earlier this year at various film festivals, including opening night of Whānau Mārama New Zealand International Film Festival. It gained further notoriety when it was awarded the coveted Grand Prix at the Nouvelles Vagues International Film Festival, where Kristen Stewart said the film "unpacks the early 2000s and subliminal trespass and pain and strength in the face of it all with such an astounding touch". She went on to say, "I loved this film with my whole heart."

Set in 2006 across one transformative summer, the film is a distinctly Kiwi coming-of-age story. Shot on location in rural Omaha and Matakana, it follows 13-year-old Sid (Ani Palmer) who is captivated by the wealthy out-of-towners who flock to the beach every summer, carrying with them a world she can only imagine. Intoxicated by their effortless glamour, Sid shapeshifts through different versions of herself, desperate for acceptance. When her sister returns from university with Freya, a magnetic friend from America, she awakens in Sid something she can't yet name.

Big Girls Don't Cry is a tender portrait of queer adolescence, class shame, and identity, as Sid navigates friendship, identity, sexuality, desire, and the new and growing online world.

Coming to cinemas across the region on the 8th of October, get in quick to witness an exceptional film from one of Aotearoa's rising stars.

Play and slay



Welcome to *Myrtle's Red Room: A Spooky Cult-Classics Drag Show* paying tribute to all your favourite characters from *Twin Peaks*, *The X-Files*, and *American Horror Story*.

Multi-award-winning drag supermonster Myrtle Montgomery will be your host, embodying her namesake Myrtle Snow: the quirky, fashion-forward witch from *American Horror Story*. Myrtle has summoned a coven of local drag icons in the first instalment of what's to become her annual Halloween show.

First up is psychedelic supermodel Blink Bogan as Agent Dana Scully from *The X-Files*. Summoned from *Twin Peaks* are stellar drag kings Rocky and Amoeba Geezer as toy boy Bobby Briggs and Agent Dale Cooper. Everyone's favourite takatāpui sex witch and activist Vixen Temple will be Audrey Horne, while Pōneke's it girl Bunny Holiday will play the it girl of *Twin Peaks*: blonde bombshell Laura Palmer.

Enter the *American Horror Story* universe and there's the gorgeous Dusty Daze as Sister Jude, drag thing Dickslexia as the wicked Madison Montgomery, Sugar Tits as the iconic Countess, and newcomer Miss Magenta Moans as the hot yet tragic housekeeper Moira O'Hara.

Expect a "fun, eccentric, sexy, dramatic celebration of the 'outsiders'", Myrtle says. "That's exactly what drag is. Horror cult-classics... and the art of drag are so similar because they are both theatrical, campy celebrations of subverting societal norms."

Both also have a dedicated and passionate fan base, so head down to Ivy Bar on the 16th of October and witness this epic lineup giving it their all to play and slay as the characters you love.

Cosmic conversations

Hell hath no fury like...

by **Richard Hall**, *astronomical communicator*



For most of human history, knowledge was passed from generation to generation in allegories. An allegory is a story that uses characters and events to symbolise hidden meanings, moral lessons, or political truths. Many of these stories are written in the stars. Here

is one such story...

Long ago, there was this great hunter called Orion. He was beloved by the male gods because he did all the manly things. Trouble was that he was also a very boastful man. One day, he was sitting with the male gods and drinking wine when he came out with this boast... Such was his prowess as a hunter he could hunt and kill every animal on Earth. Now, it may have just been an idle boast, but this time his words were overheard by a goddess... a very powerful goddess. Her name was Artemis. The Romans knew her as Diana. She was the goddess of the wilderness, wild animals, and the hunt. And, she wasn't going to have Orion slaughter all of the creatures in her domain.

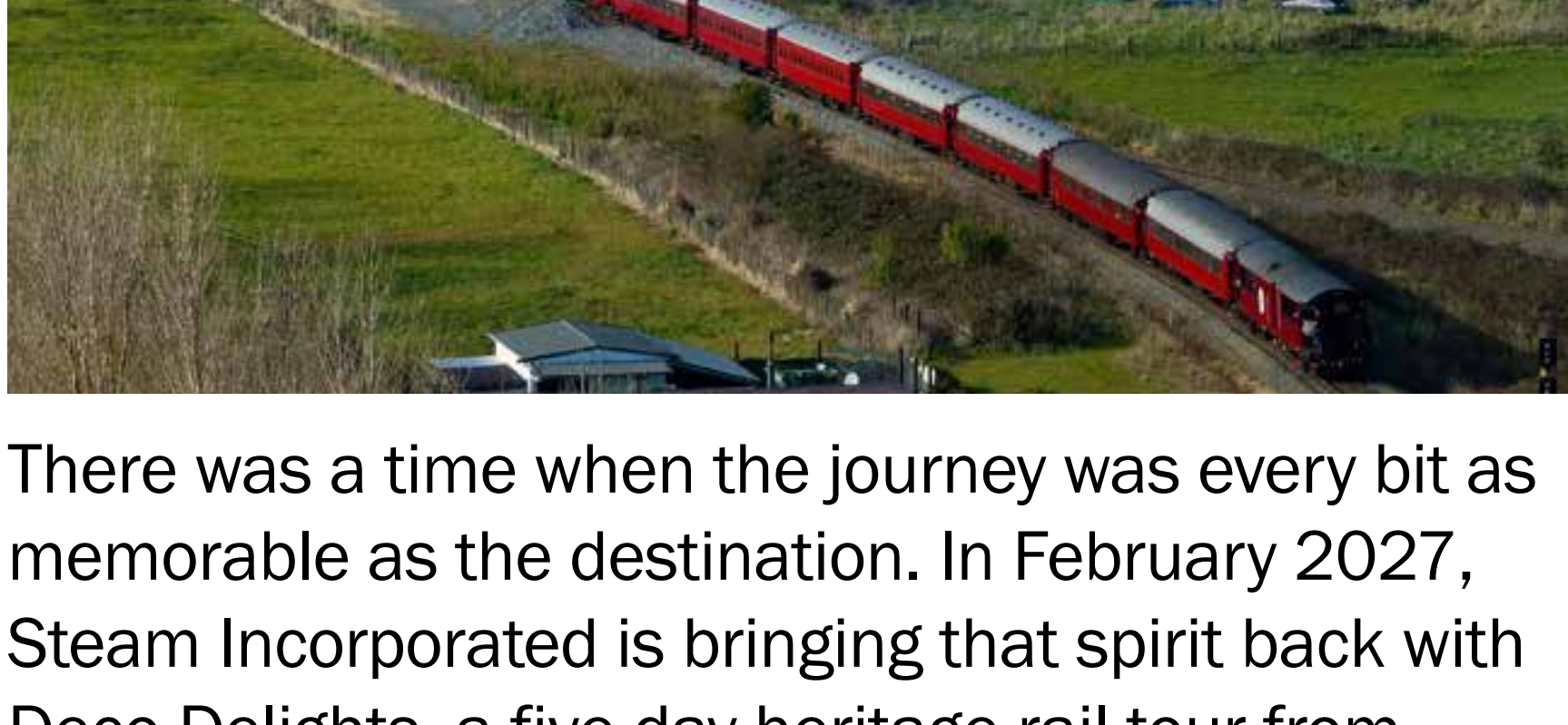
Artemis sent forth a monstrous scorpion to teach him a lesson. A great battle occurred between the two, but eventually the scorpion stung Orion, who fell in agony to the ground and died. Now,

this upset the male gods. After all, Orion was their buddy and drinking mate. So, they resurrected him from the dead and placed him in the heavens.

This further angered Artemis, who retaliated by placing her scorpion in the sky at the opposite end of the heavens to chase Orion across the sky for the rest of eternity. He would never lose sight of The Scorpion. Hence... Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned! (This is where the phrase comes from.)

Orion (The Hunter) and Scorpius (The Scorpion) are two of the most notable constellations in the sky. Both are set against the Milky Way and are composed of bright stars. These two brilliant constellations, Orion and Scorpius, are directly opposite each other in the sky. One marks summer, the other winter. As one sets, the other rises. At present, on a clear evening sky we see the Scorpion – our sign of winter – setting in the west. Rising in the east is Orion, our sign of summer. Spring is here.

The Art Deco age of travel



There was a time when the journey was every bit as memorable as the destination. In February 2027, Steam Incorporated is bringing that spirit back with Deco Delights, a five-day heritage rail tour from Wellington to Napier for one of New Zealand's most colourful celebrations: the Art Deco Festival in Napier.

Running from the 18th to the 22nd, Deco Delights combines classic rail travel with four nights' stay in Hawke's Bay and a carefully curated programme showcasing the very best of the region.

Guests will travel aboard Steam Inc's heritage train, enjoying the changing scenery of the lower North Island before arriving in Napier as the city transforms for its famous festival. Vintage cars fill the streets, jazz provides the soundtrack, and thousands embrace the fashion and atmosphere of the 1930s.

The tour brings together selected meals and dining experiences, Hawke's Bay wine, a private Art Deco experience, and the spectacular Vintage Car Parade.

All this while still allowing plenty of free time to explore Napier and enjoy the festival at your own pace.

It's a chance to dress for the occasion, discover remarkable history, and rediscover the simple pleasure of travelling somewhere special by train.

Five days, one remarkable festival, and a classic train waiting at the platform. All aboard for Deco Delights 2027!

Visit www.steaminc.org.nz/book-train-trip/ddrt to reserve your seat for an unforgettable ride with Steam Incorporated.

Electric-city



"I've got the power!" sang Snap! in 1990. Never has that been more true than now, when there are more ways than ever for Kiwi households to take their electric bills into their own hands and create a more resilient home.

At the free Electrify the Capital Expo, on at TSB Arena on the 17th of October, there'll be local experts and providers hanging out to show you what's possible. Whether you're thinking about getting solar, switching from gas to electric, just purchased an EV, want to dip your toes into the electric pond, or have already taken the full plunge, there's something for everyone.

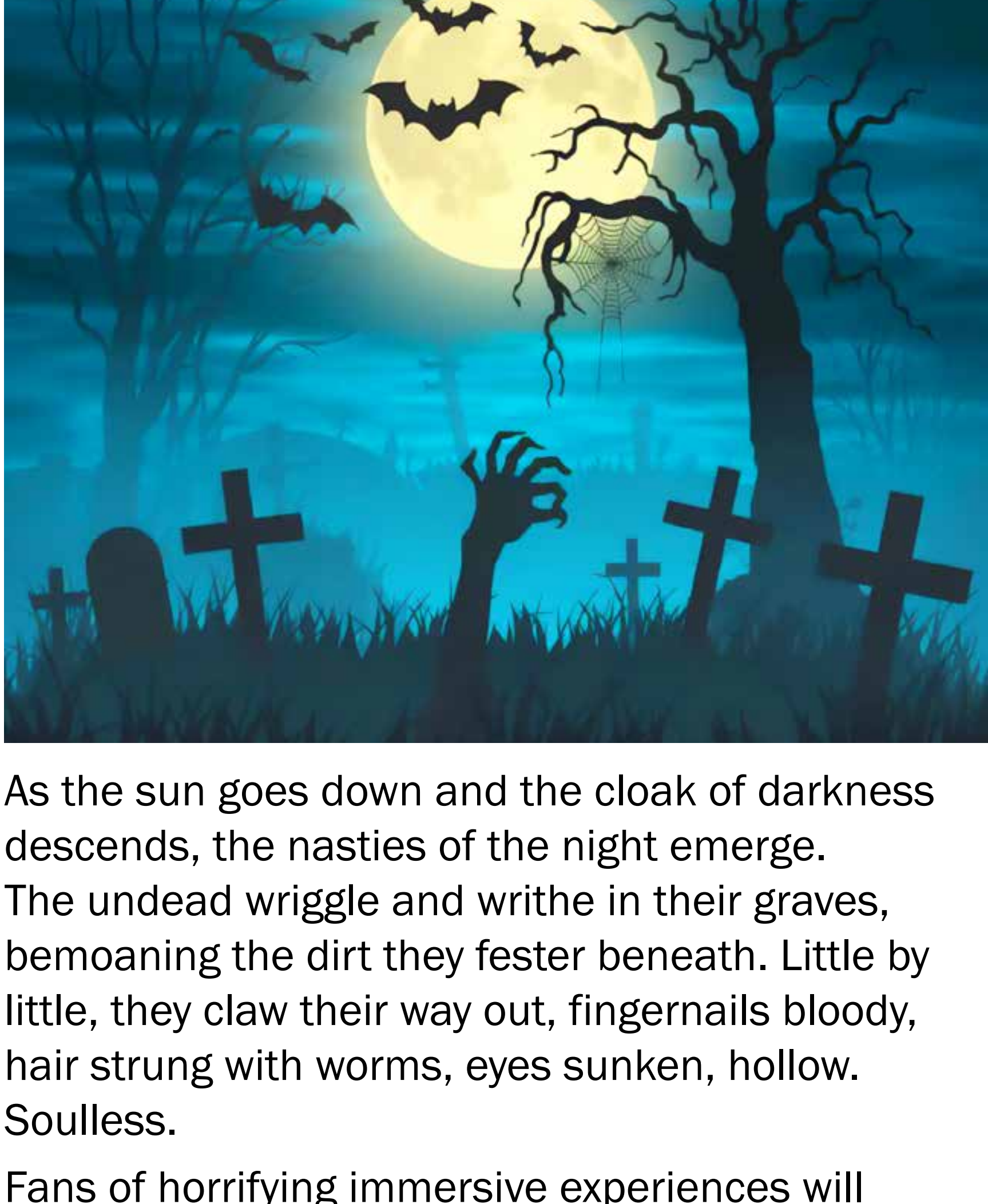
The Start Here table is the perfect place for newbies wondering what all the excitement is about. Friendly volunteers will introduce key ideas about home electrification and how to make the switch from fossil fuels to electricity.

The Ask Me Anything Lounge is for folks needing advice about anything from solar and electric appliances to EVs and home batteries. Technical Talks from industry leaders will get into the nitty-gritty about products, services, and innovations that are electrifying homes and reducing household costs.

Local electric community groups from the Hutt Valley, Porirua, Kāpiti, and Wairarapa will be there to chat, and politicians will share their energy policies ahead of the elections.

There's also a Fun Zone to entertain the kids and a coffee corner to keep the conversation fuelled and the sparks flying as you explore the Electrify the Capital Expo.

Do you dare?



As the sun goes down and the cloak of darkness descends, the nasties of the night emerge.

The undead wriggle and writhe in their graves, bemoaning the dirt they fester beneath. Little by little, they claw their way out, fingernails bloody,

hair strung with worms, eyes sunken, hollow. Soulless.

Fans of horrifying immersive experiences will have the time of their lives at Cobblestones After Dark: two special fright night sessions at 8pm and 8:30pm on Saturday the 24th of October. Shadows creep between the historic buildings of Greytown's Cobblestones Heritage Village as strange (dis)

figures groan and gargle in the darkness. With eerie encounters around every corner, live scare actors will loom large and leave you whimpering, "Who was that?" Or rather, *what?*

Creative director Lynn Bushell says last year's After Dark event was so popular, Cobblestones just had to bring it back in 2026. It grew from the notion that kids get to have all the fun at Halloween, so why not utilise the Victorian setting to scare the heebie-jeebies out of the adults, too?

Yes, it'll be scary, Lynn confirms. But even if you're too spooked and wired to sleep that night, your enjoyment during the experience is paramount. So, best be safe and wise – only 12 and ups allowed, and parental guidance is recommended for any daring soul under 14!

Try to muffle your screams: you never know who's listening.

What's on



16th-18th Oct. Embassy of Japan Presents: Japanese Schools Through Films: *Dominion Museum Building, Buckle Street, Wellington* – various times. From a fascinating award-winning documentary to a popular anime and an acclaimed drama, discover Japanese school life through cinema. Plus, on the 16th of October, catch an online director's talk and Q&A with Ema Ryan Yamazaki.



15th Oct. Mia Farlane Book Launch: *Unity Books, Willis Street, Te Aro* – 6pm. Wellingtonian Mia Farlane, daughter of Marilyn Duckworth and niece of poet Fleur Adcock, will launch her new book *And How Are Things With You?*, a novel set in the capital and shot through with the dark humour and dry observations that readers loved in her first novel *Footnotes to Sex*.

Photo by Marine Place.



Photo by Jeff Tollan.

24th Oct. Long Live the Drag Parade – A My Chemical Romance Drag Show: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8:30pm. Mark the 20th anniversary of My Chemical Romance's emo rock opera *The Black Parade* with a night of teenage heartbreak, black nail polish nostalgia, and full-throttle theatrical drag featuring Darryl Parton, Trudy Madly Deeply, Vixen Temple, MANNNTIS, Sir Traylene, and host Homer Neurotic [pictured].



6th-25th Oct. Squiggla by Train: *Wellington Railway Station, Bunny Street, Thorndon*. The public are invited to exercise their creative brains on the train and at Wellington Railway Station by substituting their phones for the joy of drawing. During the month of October, grab a travel pack with starter exercises or attend any of the weekend workshops responding to the grand architecture and railway network maps and diagrams.



10th Oct. Discovery – Daft Punk Experience: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Following the 20-year anniversary of Daft Punk's iconic show at Coachella, this tribute delivers a high-energy, immersive live performance, complete with the iconic helmets and signature sound. Support electronic house act Humble Kumara from Nelson will keep the good vibes going all night long.



Photo by Crystal Hart.

17th Oct. Red Light Night: Creatures of the Night: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. Sex activist Vixen Temple [pictured] and Ness Quick, alongside a local cast of sex workers, invite audiences to a world of seduction and temptations with the creatures of the night. The show celebrates the shared whakapapa of drag and sex work while honouring the legacy of the likes of Carmen Rupe.

What's on

Wairarapa

10th Oct. Songs and Smiles: *Featherston Anzac Hall, Bell Street, Featherston* – 3pm. From Tokyo's University of Agriculture, Chor Farmer is on its 23rd Goodwill Tour of Australia and New Zealand, performing songs from Japan, Germany, and around the world.

24th Oct. The Alternative Garden Tour: *Carterton Pool, Pembroke Street, Carterton* – 9:30am. Featuring six extraordinary gardens within the Carterton district, the self-guided tour provides a unique opportunity to peek behind the garden gate.

24th Oct. Fright Night at the Museum: *Cobblestones Heritage Village, Main Street, Greytown* – 8pm; 8:30pm. The historic village will be transformed into a Victorian Gothic horror, where live scare actors bring the darkness to life.

Kāpiti

10th Oct. Kapiti Coast Highland Ball: *Waikanae Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa Street, Waikanae* – 7pm. Don your tartan for a night celebrating Scottish traditions and culture with food and flavours, dancing and drinking.

Events

14th Oct. New Zealand Institute of Professional Photography Annual 10-10-10 Evening: *Penthouse Cinema, Ohiro Road, Brooklyn* – 6pm. Hear from 10 photographers for 10 minutes each, showcasing 10 images from their portfolio.

18th Oct. Embassy of Japan Presents: Bunkasai – Japanese Cultural Festival: *Dominion Museum Building, Buckle Street, Wellington* – 10am. From haunted houses and food stalls to concerts, exhibitions, and karaoke competitions, this Japanese cultural festival will see participants create, present, and enjoy together.

22nd Oct. Klara and the Sun film fundraiser: *Light House Cuba, Wigan Street, Te Aro* – 5:30pm. This fundraiser for Wellington Timebank will screen the Taika Waititi sci-fi *Klara and the Sun*, an adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel about an artificial friend designed to prevent loneliness.

24th Oct. Oh The Horror 2.0: Horror and Gothic Market: *Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt* – 11am. Be mesmerised by the macabre at this market celebrating everything spooky across music, cartoons, art, apparel, and more.

Music

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*.

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.

16th Oct. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Elegance: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. Dynamic British pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason makes her NZSO debut in a concert featuring Mozart, Brahms, and Elfrida Andrée.

16th Oct. Tim Mahon: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Following the release of his single *Vote*, Tim Mahon unleashes his new album *The Great Kerfuffle*.

17th Oct. Americas In Concert Presents Tango Vivo: *Karori Baptist Church, Karori Road, Karori* – 7pm. In association with Karori Business Association, Latin Events Welly brings the sound and emotion of Argentine tango to life in a rich and evocative 60-minute concert.

17th Oct. Paul Bosauder: *The Hannah, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Inspired by a 16-year stint living in Spain, Lebanese New Zealand flamenco guitarist and composer Paul Bosauder presents *Arco y Olvide*.

17th Oct. Hospital Records' 30th Anniversary Celebrations: *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 9pm. Leading the Wellington anniversary lineup is Hospital veteran Danny Byrd, joined by Unglued and Hoax.

18th Oct. Björn Again: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. The only ABBA-endorsed tribute show hits the stage for a spectacular night that is bound to be a Super Trouper celebration of the band's timeless discography.

21st Oct. Creedence Clearwater Collective: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. This tribute show celebrates the music of Creedence Clearwater Revival and John Fogerty, performing the songs they wrote, covered, and crafted for others.

21st Oct. DJ RENA: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Hailing from Japan, DJ RENA made history as the youngest-ever DMC World Champion, winning the title at just 12 years old and redefining what was possible in turntablism on a global scale.

23rd Oct. Midge Ure: *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. UK legend Midge Ure brings his extensive catalogue to New Zealand, performing hits from his superb solo career plus favourites from his bands Ultravox, The Rich Kids, Thin Lizzy, and Visage.

24th Oct. Amped Up 2026: *Brewtown, Blenheim Street, Upper Hutt* – 2pm. New Zealand's loudest night of mean as metal mayhem is locked and loaded with a lineup featuring Devilskin, Villainy, Tadpole, Head Like A Hole, Written By Wolves, and Boondocks.

Performance

8th-17th Oct. KAT Theatre Presents: The Lady's Not For Burning: *Cochran Hall, Cashmere Ave, Khandallah* – various times. Sparkling humour, witty wordplay, poetic lyricism, satisfying love stories, and occasional excoriations of the follies of humankind – Christopher Fry's well-known work has it all.

10th Oct. Dirty Minded Little Girls Play Reading: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – 2pm. Inspired by one of Aotearoa's most sensational crimes – the Pauline Parker and Juliet Hulme case – Lori Leigh's play sees the imagined reunion of two estranged women, once infamous.

14th-17th Oct. FORM Theatre Presents: The King's Gambit: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – various times. In the wake of a national inquiry into systemic bias, Aotearoa launches a revolutionary experiment where legal counsel and jury must argue a high-stakes case based purely on raw facts.

16th Oct. Scratch Night: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 8:30pm. At this messy works-in-progress showcase where Pōneke creatives test their ideas, each artist will have a maximum of 10 minutes to share their work – be it dance, music, comedy, theatre, improv, or anything in between!

16th Oct. Myrtle's Red Room: A Spooky Cult-Classics Drag Show: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. Multi-award-winning drag supermonster Myrtle Montgomery has gathered an all-star cast to pay tribute to the greatest spooky cult classics in television history: *American Horror Story*, *X-Files*, and *Twin Peaks*.

16th-17th Oct. The Wellington Comedy Club with Joe Daymond and Friends: *The Cavern Club, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Comedians Joe Daymond, Jamaine Ross, Lily Catastrophe, and more join forces to bring laughs aplenty to Pōneke.

17th Oct. RAW: Out Of The Attic! – A Circus Hub Student and Trainer Showcase: *The Circus Hub, Hutchison Road, Newtown* – 7pm. Featuring acts across a multitude of circus disciplines, this spooky showcase asks audiences to come dressed for Halloween.

17th Oct. Theatresports: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 7pm. Two teams fearlessly occupy the stage with no scripts, taking turns performing scenes, playing games, telling stories, and creating characters spontaneously.

17th Oct-14th Nov. After God: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. This theatrical journey across continents and conversations featuring actor Michael Hurst and co-directors Miranda Harcourt and Stuart McKenzie, explores big questions about meaning, madness, and metaphysics.

20th Oct. Greg Davies: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Star of shows such as *Taskmaster*, *The Inbetweeners*, *The Cleaner*, *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*, and more, Greg Davies brings his new standup show *Full Fat Legend* to Aotearoa.

25th Oct. Weekend Laughs at Cavern Club: *The Cavern Club, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. This two-hour comedy showcase will see a crack-up MC and four or five local legends laugh the night away.

Galleries

Until 22nd Oct. Hotel California: *Nine Fathom Deep, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro*. Friends Sam Walker and Chloe Summerhayes examine the rules of engagement that shape creative and gallery relationships.

Until 18th Oct. Tūmanako Children's Artworks for a Peaceful World: *Te Whare Manaaki o Toda, Cuba Street, Te Aro*. Explore artworks by tamariiki and young people from across Wellington inspired by the whakatauki/Māori proverb: kotahi te kākano whakaaro, he nui ngā hua o te rākau houhou rongo (one seed of thought grows the forest of peace).

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.

5th-11th Oct. Castomaniac: *Rice Pudding Gallery, Constable Street, Newtown*. *Castomaniac* brings together the work of over 1,000 young artists who have explored destruction, reconstruction, and material storytelling inspired by the art of Cornelia Parker.

10th Oct-7th Mar. Cornelia Parker: *City Gallery Te Whare Toi, Te Ngākau Civic Square, Te Aro*. Cornelia Parker is one of contemporary art's great alchemists – a master of metamorphosis and transformation; a maker of objects and encounters full of awe and wonder.

Festivals

4th-18th Oct. Wellington Jazz Festival: *Various locations and times in Wellington*. Music icons from around the globe collide with local food and drink offerings at this festival celebrating everything about the jazz genre.

8th-14th Oct. Show Me Shorts Film Festival: *Various locations and times in Wellington*. Discover 65 of the best short films from Aotearoa and around the world at this Oscar, BAFTA, and GOYA-qualifying festival.

23rd-25th Oct. Wellington Folk Festival: *Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre, Moores Valley Road, Wainuiomata* – various times. Disappear into the bush and surround yourself with the sounds of folk music, food, and fun times at this annual music festival over Labour Day Weekend.

25th Oct. Diwali Festival of Lights: *TSB Arena, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront* – 2pm. Enjoy live cultural performances and family-friendly activities, browse fashion and jewellery stalls, experience henna painting, connect with local community groups, and savour delicious vegetarian food from across India!

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 13 October

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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