

# Regional News

Eyes on *Livingston*

Issue 254

October 7, 2025







singer, songwriter, and all-  
Ryan Adams is kind of a big

deal. And it doesn't stop there. His music spans genres, his lyrics build worlds. His work has featured on soundtracks from Judd Apatow's *Bridesmaids* to *This Is 40*, *True Blood*, *Felicity*, and *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. He's produced albums for Willie Nelson, Jesse Malin, and Jenny Lewis, and collaborated with the crème de la crème of the music world—Weezer, Fall Out

Boy, America, anyone? As if that wasn't enough, he has 22 albums to his name, both solo and with the rock alternative country band Whiskeytown, including his 2014 GRAMMY-nominated self-titled album, *Ashes & Fire, Easy Tiger, Cold Roses, Jacksonville City Nights, Love Is Hell*, and his breakthrough solo debut *Heartbreaker*.

It's in honour of *Heartbreaker* – now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year in the hearts and hands of fans around the world – that Adams comes to Wellington's Michael Fowler Centre on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October along his world tour. Known for his emotionally charged performances and genre-defying sound, he will deliver an intimate, acoustic set that highlights his expansive catalogue.

With a setlist that will include favourites like *Oh*

*My Sweet Carolina, Come Pick Me Up, To Be Young (Is to Be Sad, Is to Be High)*, and many more hits and deep cuts, “one of rock’s most talented songwriters” (*SPIN*) will make Pōneke feel *So Alive*.

## A good distraction *by Madelaine Empson*



That he can and that he does. A regular headliner here and abroad, Douglas is one of New Zealand's busiest comedians and has featured on shows like *7 Days*, *Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee*, and five of the last six *Best Foods Comedy Galas*. Five, he emphasises!

With a focus on storytelling, his style has been described as simultaneously laid-back and frenetic. National treasure Dai Henwood once said, “There are many ways to enjoy pleasure and laughter as a human being, one of the easiest is

daughter as a human being, one of the easiest is watching Paul Douglas” – feedback he describes as “unreal”, having been inspired by Henwood to get into comedy in the first place. Since setting out about 10 years back, he thinks his comedy has evolved to be more instinctual.

“The experience I have now allows me to do a lot of my writing on stage. In the early years I would make sure everything was written out and remembered word for word but as time has gone on I trust myself to fill in the gaps more naturally

between ideas and punchlines. As far as the content? It's just as stupid as it's always been." Douglas is about to perform at easily one of his "favourite venues in New Zealand", San Fran, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, delighting that the team there are "always so welcoming and the crowds always bring it!"

The best thing an audience member could say about his *Could Be Keen Tour* would be that it

helped take their mind off their day to day.  
 “I’m always stoked when someone says watching me was a good distraction.”

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*Cover: Benjamin Baker. Enemy of the State, Orchestra Wellington. Photo by Kaupo Kikkas.*

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# A vivid symphonic portrait



Orchestra Wellington presents *Enemy of the State* at 7:30pm on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October at the Michael Fowler Centre. The programme spans new music, Romantic lyricism, and one of the most incendiary works in Shostakovich’s career, performed by outstanding guest artists.

The concert opens with the New Zealand premiere of John Psathas’ *Next Planet*, commissioned by the Tonhalle Düsseldorf and Düsseldorf Symphony for their award-winning *Green Mondays* project, which links music to pressing social and environmental issues. Psathas’ work responds to the billions poured into Mars exploration, a venture he contrasts with the immediate, transformative impact such resources could have if invested here on Earth. As Psathas explains, “My work was subsequently triggered by the self-aggrandising heroes who are intent on spending billions in taking a few people to Mars, rather than invest that same money in improving life here on Earth – which they could do dramatically, and immediately, for all of humanity, with the staggering wealth they’ve hoarded.”

The programme continues with Alexander Glazunov’s Violin Concerto in A minor, a Romantic masterpiece notable for its warmth and lyricism. Composed in 1904, the concerto weaves together heartfelt themes across its uninterrupted movements, culminating in a brilliant solo cadenza leading to the trumpet calls heralding the final Allegro. Orchestra Wellington is delighted to welcome back Benjamin Baker, violinist and artistic director of At the World’s Edge Festival, to perform this remarkable work.

Excerpts from Shostakovich’s opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, featuring internationally acclaimed soprano Madeleine Pierard, will close the evening. Premiered in January 1934 as a massive success, in early 1936 the Russian newspaper *Pravda* denounced the opera in an article titled *Muddle Instead of Music*, sending Shostakovich’s life into a tailspin. The work was banned in the Soviet Union for almost 30 years, until 1961. Orchestra Wellington music director Marc Taddei has crafted a suite tracing the journey of the opera’s protagonist, Katerina, from isolation and passion to betrayal and despair, combining arias and orchestral interludes into a concentrated symphonic portrait. Pierard’s powerful voice brings Shostakovich’s heroine vividly to life, illuminating both the work’s humanity and the reasons it provoked such outrage.

# Spotlighting an untold battle



**Photo by Matt Grace.**

On the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2010, New Zealand’s West Coast was wracked by tragedy following a methane explosion in the Pike River Mine. 29 people lost their lives, including Anna Osborne’s husband and Sonya Rockhouse’s son. *Pike River*, a new Aotearoa feature film, follows their years-long untold battle for justice and accountability alongside other Pike River families. The film marks the return home to New Zealand of three-time Emmy nominee Melanie Lynskey (*Yellowjackets*, *The Last of Us*, *Heavenly Creatures*), working alongside BAFTA-nominated New Zealand actress Robyn Malcolm (*After the Party*, *Far North*, *Outrageous Fortune*), *Xena: Warrior Princess* star Lucy Lawless, and Tim Gordon (*King Kong*, *District 9*). Written by Fiona Samuel, *Pike River* was shot on location in Māwhera Greymouth, Wellington, and Auckland.

In the director’s chair is Kiwi Robert Sarkies (*Out of the Blue*, *Consent: The Louise Nicholas Story*, *Scarflies*), who is honoured to “bring the story home to the families and community who survived it. At the heart of the film are Sonya Rockhouse and Anna Osborne, two Kiwi-as women whose unique bond demonstrates the power of friendship in the face of adversity. I can’t wait to share their extraordinary story with audiences across New Zealand”.

*Pike River* premiered at the Sydney International Film Festival in June to standing ovations. In its New Zealand debut, it will first visit Greymouth for a private screening for the Pike River families before hitting Auckland. Wellington will have its turn on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October at Embassy Theatre followed by a Q&A with director Sarkies, members of the cast, and special guests Osborne and Rockhouse. Those who can’t make the premiere can catch *Pike River* in cinemas across the motu from the 30<sup>th</sup> of October.

## SNIPS

### Volunteers needed

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ is calling on Wellingtonians to volunteer for its Pink Ribbon Street Appeal, taking place on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. You can sign up to collect for the charity at [pinkribbonvolunteer.org.nz](http://pinkribbonvolunteer.org.nz) until midday on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October.

### Hill closures

One week of night closures will commence from Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October between 9pm and 4pm on State Highway 2 Remutaka Hill. Road maintenance will also be underway along SH2 in Upper Hutt at the same time. Escorted crossings for light vehicles are available once per night in each direction, with bookings essential at [nzta.govt.nz](http://nzta.govt.nz)

### Celebrating 60

Porirua has just celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 1965, it officially became a city when its population hit 20,000 people, the official threshold at the time. Today, Porirua is home to 61,800 people.

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# News

## Thrilling and thunderous

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



**Yuka Eguchi and Kemp English.**

“It’s hardly surprising that Mozart described the organ as the ‘King of Instruments’”, virtuoso organist Kemp English beams. “Its versatility and range of tonal colours allows the performance of almost any kind of music, from the softest sounds to thrilling fortissimo climaxes”.

The renowned Kiwi organist, who believes organ concerts should be fun, gave concerts in Auckland, Dunedin, and Adelaide in 2024 to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his *Stormin’ Norma* CD trilogy. This year, it’s Wellington’s turn to host English on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October when he will play the newly restored Croft organ at St Andrew’s on The Terrace.

“[The Croft Organ Company] were the benchmark in New Zealand organ building for more than half a century”, English says. “The quality of their building techniques and the materials used have left a legacy hard to match. The South Island Organ Company’s restoration of the Croft organ in St Andrew’s on The Terrace helps to keep this legacy alive”.

Filling the strings role at *Terrace Dynamics: Pipes & Strings* is violinist Yuka Eguchi, who will join English in a scintillating, soothing, thrilling, and thunderous programme featuring works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Louis James Alfred Lefébure-Wély, Alan Rawsthorne, Mons Leidvin Takle, Alex Lithgow, William Lloyd Webber, and more.

“Both instruments work superbly well together and will add an extra special magic to the performance”, English adds. Tune in to his signature mix of high-octane musicianship and quirky humour.

## A lightbulb in the universe



**Daniel Nodder.**

Despite what the title suggests, *Only Bones* is infinitely more. The intricate work of physical theatre devoid of any spoken word or a single set piece and starring just one human and a lightbulb spans the width and breadth of the universe and dances hand in hand with the fickle mistress that is time, taking audiences on a journey from the Big Bang to the invention of fire to a primordial hand ballet with upbeat jazz.

From within a small circle on the floor, performer Daniel Nodder dances, clowns, and bends with jelly-like movement to an original score as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> iteration of The Only Bones Project. Created by award-winning physical and circus performer Thom Monckton (*The Artist, The King of Taking*), the project is designed to challenge and celebrate physical performers.

“We have such a wealth of talented physical performers in this world and I wanted to create something that celebrates the weird, wacky, and wonderful things they can do,” Monckton says. “The restrictions are a key part of that. It means that the performers can’t rely on a big set or fancy tech, all they have is their body and their creativity.”

This latest version created by Nodder, who says seeing Monckton’s original in 2018 changed his life, recently took home two awards at the San Diego International Fringe Festival and four at Dunedin Fringe Festival 2025. For its next trick, *Only Bones* will contort into Wairarapa Events Centre on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October.



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Directed by  
**LYNDEE-JANE RUTHERFORD**

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# Milestone memories



**Photo by Rhapsody Pictures.**

First strumming onto the Wellington music scene on Labour Weekend in 1965, the Wellington Folk Festival will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on its customary public holiday weekend between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

Born out of the folk revival of the 1960s in the UK and USA, what is affectionately known as Wellyfest is now the longest-running folk festival in Aotearoa. In 1966 the festival was held over Queen’s Birthday and from then it was held on that weekend for decades in a variety of venues around Wellington. But, in 1996, it reverted back to Labour Weekend and found its new home at the bush-clad Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre in Wainuiomata, where the bands still strike up to this day. This campsite area means attendees can stay overnight, so jamming can continue as long as they can stay awake!

Over the years Wellyfest has evolved to include dance, activities for tamariki and rangatahi, workshops, blackboard concerts, open mics, a festival choir, and informal sessions. It becomes a village for the weekend, complete with craft and food stalls, onsite catering, and kitchens.

Musical guests will flock to the folk fest from Australia, Auckland, Waikato, and Wellington, joining a programme alongside Adam & Marika, Fiona Ross, Klezmer Rebs, Rhys Crimmin, We Mavericks [pictured], The Trenwiths, and many more. To celebrate 60 years, a special concert will be held on Saturday, plus the usual Saturday cèilidh and Sunday headliner concert will remain highlights.

# Flooding hearts



Noye’s *Fludde*, Benjamin Britten’s beloved opera, seamlessly casts professional musicians with children and community performers to retell the story of Noah’s Ark. First performed in 1958, the joyful work will flood into Wellington Cathedral of St Paul on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

The inventive score calls for bugles, recorders, and even household objects, alongside singers and orchestra. Wellington will see professional soloists Robert Tucker and Maaike Christie-Beekman as Mr and Mrs Noye posting up alongside young soloists and musicians, a children’s chorus featuring tamariki from a dozen Wellington schools, and members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Animations and animal masks will be designed by cathedral artist-in-residence Matthew Lawrence and handbells will be rung by Samuel Marsden Collegiate School students, while acclaimed New Zealand Opera director Jacqueline Coats and the cathedral’s director of music Michael Stewart will take on the roles of stage and musical directors respectively. Stewart is overjoyed to be at the helm of a rangatahi-centric performance, saying that in *Noye’s Fludde*, “children are celebrated and given a platform to shine”.

Coats is thrilled to connect with a new generation of singers and introduce them to the work. “Its popularity and appeal endures, I think, because of its central message of hope, and through the creative way that it brings the community together to make music. The joy that it brings, both to the singers, instrumentalists, and audience, is infectious!”

# Into the time machine



Celebrate our region’s people, places, and stories during Wellington Heritage Festival. Running over 22 days and featuring more than 170 events between the 18<sup>th</sup> of October and the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, this annual volunteer-led, community-sourced culture and heritage festival spotlights our wacky, wild, and wondrous Wellington.

With tours, workshops, performances, and exhibitions happening across the capital, into the suburbs, up through the Hutt Valley and Porirua, and beyond into Kapiti and the Wairarapa, the festival brings history to life for all ages. Whether you’re keen to delve into mana whenua stories at breathtaking marae, discover architectural wonders on your doorstep, or participate in hands-on heritage workshops, attending any Wellington Heritage Festival event is like stepping into a time machine.

In 2025, the Wellington Heritage Festival will once again use its successful focus weekend system, introduced in 2024. This approach groups most events in a given weekend into a specific area, making it easier for people to explore different parts of the region. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October will focus on Wellington City; Labour Weekend, the 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October on the Kapiti Coast, Porirua, and Tawa; the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of November on the Hutt Valley; and the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of November on Wairarapa.

“Wellington Heritage Festival has become a mainstay for celebrating our people, places, and stories,” chief executive and festival director Alex Hockley says. “The growth we’ve seen over these last years shows the passion of the community, and the ongoing interest in, and importance of, our shared heritage.”

Plan your adventure through time by checking out the exciting 2025 programme at [www.wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz](http://www.wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz)



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# Succession meets Barbie

by **Madelaine Empson**



**Photo by Mark Tantrum.**

The team who brought you the award-winning play *Prima Facie* return to Circa Theatre with a timely tale of the pressures women face in their political, public, and private lives. *Monument* by Emily Sheehan will have its New Zealand premiere from the 11<sup>th</sup> of October to the 9<sup>th</sup> of November and is set in a lush presidential suite, where Edith Aldridge – the youngest woman to be elected leader of her country – has just 90 minutes to get ready for the most monumental day of her life. With Edith’s team stuck in another city due to heavy fog, 22-year-old makeup artist Rosie is deployed from the David Jones counter. Though face to face, the two women do not see eye to eye in this slick, provocative play. Starring Mel Dodge and Tara Canton, *Monument* is directed by Lyndee-Jane Rutherford, who calls it “a theatrical high-wire act”.

“Over 100 minutes, the makeup is applied right there live on stage in real time. And here’s the twist: the actor playing the makeup artist isn’t a trained professional makeup artist. That means the stakes are even higher – she has to deliver a full, emotionally charged performance while also pulling off the meticulous task of applying makeup in front of the audience.”

“Working with such talented actors on a script that is funny, moving, and full of surprises has been an absolute delight”, Rutherford says. “*Monument* explores the ways we shape each other and the power we have to create change. My ultimate hope? That after seeing it, people feel inspired to step up, speak out, and vote.”

## Loose cannon



If you haven’t heard of internet and social media sensation Rory Lowe yet, consider his first-ever New Zealand tour your introduction.

Bringing chaos to Abandoned Taproom Petone on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, the award-winning Aussie comedian with over 475,000 TikTok followers and 2.2 million YouTube subscribers as part of YeahMad is ready to take Aotearoa by storm with his high-energy, off-the-wall show. Lowe is fresh from sold-out tours across Australia and Asia and has his first comedy special on the way, so he’s prepped and primed to unleash mayhem in New Zealand.

With a reputation for unpredictability, quick wit, and genuine connection with his audience, Lowe is known for his fearless storytelling and manic stage presence. He is raw, real, and wholly unpredictable. His stand-up blends outrageous real-life adventures with razor-sharp crowd work and unfiltered honesty. He may seem like just a man with a mic, but once he opens his mouth you’ll think he’s lived a thousand lives. From getting arrested for terrorism, to snitching on a meth head, getting married to failing miserably at quitting the party life, Lowe’s real-life tales are as ridiculous as they are hilarious.

Releasing rapid-fire jokes, Lowe never misses when it comes to making his audiences explode with laughter. Join this loose cannon’s legions of fans as he invades New Zealand with his arsenal of comedic grenades.

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# News Advice from Alan

## Poor performance mistakes

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



There are genuine poor performance issues that an employer is required to address with an employee. However, a failure to adhere to the required process and act reasonably sees employers caught out and facing grievances on a regular basis. From my experience, the seven

most common mistakes employers make are:

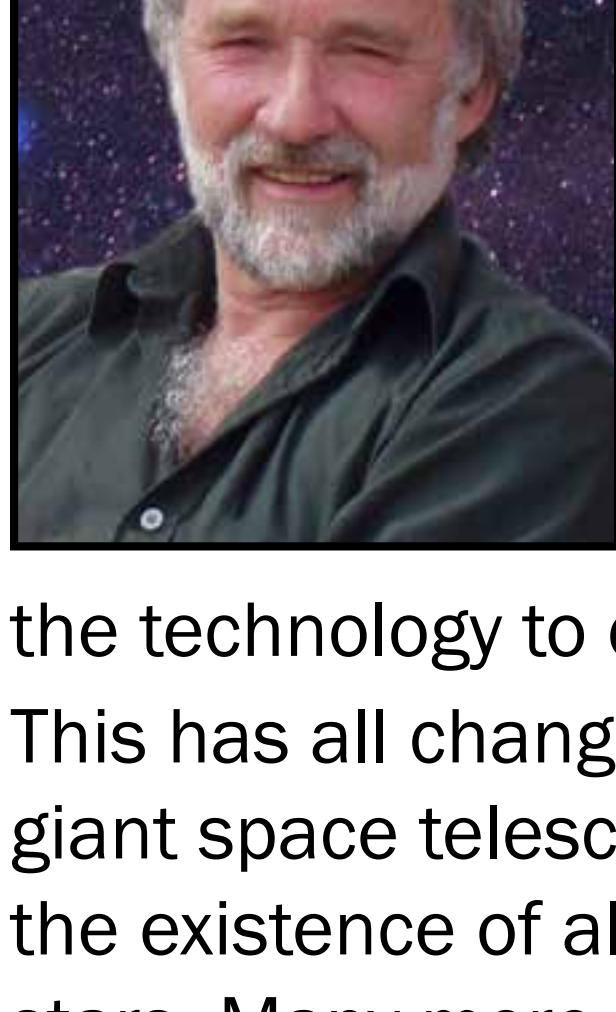
1. Failing to deal with matters early enough. Point out fairly the reasonable standards that are expected, and help the employee get to them.
2. Failing to undertake a performance improvement process. This should be to improve the employee's performance, not manage them out.
3. Failing to allow for support persons. Employees have the right to have a support person or representative to help them through the process and be present and speak for them during performance meetings.
4. Failing to record the outcomes of meetings. Notes should be taken about what was discussed, and what the employee and employer have agreed to do in order to rectify the performance issues. This reduces misunderstandings.
5. Failing to provide support or training. This may include training courses, mentoring, examples of the standard of work expected, and other resources related to performance of their role. Dealing with untrue claims as to experience and skills is a disciplinary issue handled separately.
6. Failing to measure and document progress. Detailed notes should be kept regarding performance at the beginning, during, and at the end of the improvement process. Keep the employee informed of progress or lack of progress throughout the process.
7. Failing to act in good faith. This covers all meetings and actions that an employer may undertake (or omit) during the performance process. It includes the failure to provide adequate support or time for the employee to improve, and having unrealistic or inconsistent expectations for their employees.

It is vital the performance process is carried out correctly to avoid grievances for disadvantage or unfair dismissal.

## Cosmic conversations

## Worlds beyond the Solar System

by **Richard Hall, astronomical communicator**



Our planet Earth, along with a number of other worlds, orbits a star that we call the Sun. In theory, a planetary system is a natural by-product of star formation. Thus, every star should be accompanied by a retinue of planets. However, until recently we did not have

the technology to detect them.

This has all changed with discoveries made by giant space telescopes. We can currently confirm the existence of almost 6000 planets around other stars. Many more await confirmation. Think about it. Our galaxy contains approximately 150,000 million stars. If only one in a thousand of these stars has a planet similar to the Earth in size, mass, and climate, Earth-like worlds must number more than a hundred million. And, that is just in our galaxy.

Where do we look to find these other Earths? The answer is... right on our doorstep! When you have a clear, dark evening sky, go out and look for the Southern Cross. On a spring evening, it is in the south-west. You can identify the Cross by the two bright 'Pointer stars' that follow it around the sky. The brighter of the two Pointer stars is Alpha Centauri. It is the third brightest star in the sky and shines with a yellow-white hue. The other Pointer, Agena, is blue-white. The Pointers appear to be close to each other, but this is an illusion. Agena is a giant star, 526 light-years distant, while Alpha Centauri appears brilliant because, on a cosmic scale, it is close to us. Its distance is just 4.4 light-years.

I have always had a fascination for this star. Not just because it is close to us, but because it has the potential to support another Earth-like world. There are, however, some major differences between the Solar System and the Alpha Centauri System.

Alpha Centauri is a glorious system of two suns that orbit around each other in a period of 79.8 years. One star is a little brighter than our sun, the other a little fainter. In addition, Alpha is a billion years older than our Solar System.

It has been recently confirmed that a planet similar to Saturn orbits around the brighter star. Other planets appear to be present around both stars, and work continues to identify their properties. Imagine living on a world with two suns.

## Bloody good comedy

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



First materialising on the scene in 2003 at Wellington Comedy Club on Cuba Street before flitting across the globe following supernatural success as Nick in *What We Do in the Shadows*, Cori Gonzalez-Macuer has been summoned to the stage once again with (most) of a new show soaked in his signature brand of self-deprecating observational and deadpan comedy.

The Kiwi Chilean entertainer grew up in the Hutt Valley, studying film at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington before becoming a Billy T Award winner, *7 Days* regular, and heavyweight of the screen and stage. He has appeared on *Wellington Paranormal*, *Mean Mums*, *Eagle vs Shark*, *Baby Done*, and under the *Best Foods Comedy Gala* spotlights as well as on stages across Australia and the Americas, Scotland and Singapore, England and the Middle East, and, of course, Aotearoa.

Despite the sheer volume and variety of shows he's performed, Gonzalez-Macuer says that no two are alike. "One night you could be performing to a few thousand people in a gala for TV and the next night you could be cancelling a show because only four people showed up to it. That's probably what keeps my comedy grounded. I've never taken it too seriously, which is both a good thing and a bad thing."

Now back home in the capital with some new ideas, Gonzalez-Macuer will swoop into The Fringe Bar on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October with a work-in-progress show, hoping to test out new jokes on fresh meat. It may sound sinister, but he just hopes audiences have fun... "and don't make too many complaints to the venue afterwards"!

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Contemporary New Zealand art



by Madelaine Empson

## Confluence and collision



**Photo by Andrew Empson.**

Marc Feldman's illustrious orchestral career has spanned four decades in some of "the most stunningly gorgeous places in the world". From his time as bassoonist in both Lyon and Lisbon to working as a liaison between orchestral and musical theatre worlds at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in the Canadian Rockies; from leading the Orchestre pour la Paix (Orchestra for Peace) to perform in the ruins of Petra for the 2005 Nobel Prize Conference to living in between Napa Valley, the Sierra Foothills, and the Sierra Nevada mountains, with Lake Tahoe on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other as the executive director of California's Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra... it would take fewer words to list where he hasn't been and what he hasn't achieved.

In 2011, Feldman, who grew up in New York City, took up a position as the head of France's renowned Orchestre National de Bretagne. "I'm really proud of what I did there, and the people that I worked with and the amazing orchestra. That led me to say, after 14 years in Brittany, wanderlust gets you again. They call Breton the sailing country, because a lot of Bretons travelled around the world. And I say that I became an honorary Breton while I was there. So I said, 'There's only one thing I can do now that I feel totally at home in Brittany: leave,'" laughs Feldman, who hopes to go back one day.

"The musical gods played a trick on me. They said, 'Okay, you want to leave? You're gonna go to the antipode of Brittany. To the exact other side of the world. We're going to set you up in New Zealand.'"

**Congratulations on your appointment as chief executive of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. What is special to you about the NZSO and what had you heard about it?**

The thing that was very special to me about the NZSO is New Zealand itself. I was coming from Brittany, where there were dual or multiple cultures living in one spot – often confronting each other because the Breton culture was almost wiped out by the dominant French culture – but that duality was there. I saw in the orchestra they were taking on the mantle of that for New Zealand. I saw they were doing interesting things. The orchestra sounds phenomenal. The orchestra in Brittany was more of a chamber-sized orchestra. This was a full symphony orchestra, so that flattered my ego [laughs]. I learned about the film music they were doing, *The Lord of the Rings*, the other films they've done over the ages. The fact there's going to be a new studio coming to completion very soon that's going to open to the public in February, March 2027, the new Town Hall, the studios, the ambition of the orchestra, New Zealand itself... I said, 'This looks like the place for me.'

**How have you found the transition to living in Wellington?**

Well, everybody was telling me from day one, 'You're going to freeze. The rain is going to be too much for you. It's going to be windy.' First of all, I find it spectacular. I love it. I've been tramping around and I've even gone for a mid-winter swim in Oriental Bay.

**That's bold!**

I will tell any New Zealander, 'Go to Brittany in January or February and you will find something very, very similar.' We get nor'easters that come up the coast of the United States, cross the Atlantic, and hit Brittany with 160-mile-per-hour winds. We have these spectacular high tides and swells. I brought all my winter gear, all these nice, thick sailor's sweaters because everyone said, 'You're gonna freeze to death' and I'm too hot [laughs].

Another thing that I love about Wellington is I had a chance in my career to work in Portland, Oregon. Portland had a funny tagline to the city, 'Keep Portland Weird'. I feel like Wellington has that vibe, and I really like it. It's a challenge for an orchestra, how do we fit into this Wellington zeitgeist that I'm just beginning to explore. I'm having a good time! And the orchestra is incredible.

**What is your ultimate goal for the NZSO?**

I would like things to be more visible, for people to know that we're a resource for all the creativity that an orchestra can be in New Zealand. I would like the orchestra to represent the specificity – and I need New Zealanders to help me with, 'What is the specificity of New Zealand?' I think I captured the specificity of Brittany in my orchestra. The Bretons are very down to earth, very direct, very proud of themselves. They don't fancy themselves as terribly 100 percent French. They're a little quirky, and they love their traditional music and their jazz. They love their place in the world. I think I was able to, after a number of years there, bring together the orchestra around what Brittany was. I'd really like to be, more than just a symphony orchestra in New Zealand, but New Zealand's symphony orchestra.

**The 2026 season has just been announced, and you compared it beautifully to a classical haven?**

If we're going to take our audience – our loyal audience and hopefully new audiences – and start a journey, you have to have a home base. If you set out from Wellington with no harbour to come home to, you're not anchored in a sense of place. So this season is our sense of place. Of musical place, with so many great blockbuster, classical, romantic, Baroque, contemporary pieces. These are the pieces that everybody should know and love. I call it the permanent collection, like of a museum. That's where we're going to be starting from: the New World Symphony, Beethoven's Ninth, Rachmaninoff, some Wagner, some Sibelius. Some of those big pieces, so it's almost a gift to the public before we embark.

**Do you have a favourite piece of classical music, and does that change when you shift modes from a musician to a listener to a director?**

When I was a performer, I would get into contemporary music because it was such an incredible challenge. I played these crazy pieces by Stockhausen. I loved playing a Puccini opera to the point where you're practically crying while playing. I loved those really intense moments as a musician. In terms of pieces, I'm a big fan of Stravinsky and Shostakovich, that period Ravel and Debussy from the late 1900s, early 20<sup>th</sup> century. I love to programme those pieces because they tell stories. They stretch into what will become modern. In terms of programming, when you start getting into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, people are like, 'That's contemporary, right? That's Bartók, that's difficult for me.' Actually, those are the transitions to today, and they hark back to so many different things. Those composers and those musicians were in the middle of a transitional phase for the world. I think we're in another one right now in terms of arts. That period up until about World War II has some of the most incredibly strong, powerful, emotional pieces. They're not romantically beautiful. They test our emotions, they test our ears, they test us. *The Rite of Spring* was one that changed the world. Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra changed the world. *Daphnis and Chloe*, *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, Piano Concerto in G by Ravel, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Paris and New York were among the most creative places in the world from about 1920 to 1940. Between jazz, classical, the painting scene, the theatre scene – those were *the* two places for the arts. The pieces that I enjoy the most have that confluence and collision. *Cantus Arcticus* by Rautavaara mixes birdsong from the arctic and his music, which is glacial and spatial. He's using science, and he's using art. It's stunning. Those are the things that speak to me the most. And I hope they'll speak to the audience, because we might get to a few of them [chuckles].

By F. Scott Fitzgerald  
Adapted for the stage by Ken Duncan

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# Experience counts in real estate

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Buying or selling a property is one of the most significant transactions you will make in your life. Whether you're buying the home where you're planning to start a family or are selling the house you've raised children and made memories in, purchasing a holiday home or switching out an investment property on your portfolio, the process is lengthy, involved, and can be stressful. That's why choosing the right real estate agent is the most important choice.

Not only can the right agent make the process stress-free and seamless, but they can also save or earn you hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's important to choose someone experienced, with a proven track record, local knowledge, and happy clients, not only for your current property goals but for future ones as well.

An agent's portfolio speaks volumes about their capabilities. Someone with years of experience will have strong marketing techniques and a good idea of the current market, meaning they're well placed to get the best outcomes for all parties. It's also helpful to meet an agent in person before you make a decision. Someone who understands your requirements and preferences and suits your communication style is best.

Below are some local agents who have been in the industry for over nine years and are guaranteed to exceed your expectations.

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Chrissy Wood of Collective First National thinks that the relationship between clients and real estate agents is the most important factor in achieving success. To make this happen, she takes time to really listen to your requirements and preferences and keeps your vision front of mind throughout the entire process.

Straightforward and professional when she gets down to business, Chrissy also has a bubbly personality and great sense of humour. She is genuinely friendly, and truly cares about your experience, which is why she works hard to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible from first meeting all the way to key handover.

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Coming up on a decade in the industry, Lou Macdonald brings more than just experience to the table – she brings a genuine desire to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. With a background as a property lawyer and a law degree to back it up, Lou seamlessly blends legal expertise with practical, people-first real estate service.

Her service is personal, her advice is transparent, and her commitment is unwavering. Every property and every client is unique, and Lou tailors her approach to reflect that, because for her, it's about trust, empathy, and helping people move forward with confidence.

### Levin

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**31 years in real estate**

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Donna Everton of Harcourts Levin has lived in the district for over 50 years and has been helping people buy and sell homes there for 30. With a proven track record of happy clients and a real estate portfolio to match, she is as passionate, dedicated, and professional as they come.

Aside from recently being awarded a \$340 million sales pin, in 2025 she was the number one agent of Harcourts Levin and Top Exclusive Lister, and a Top Individual Consultant. She achieved all this by maintaining a people-focused approach that puts clients first. She has a knack for matching the right person to the right property, ensuring buyers and sellers get exactly what they want.

### Wellington

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When it comes to selling your biggest asset, you need an agent with proven experience and the ability to navigate any situation. That's where Lance Williams stands out. With years in the industry, Lance has truly been there, done that, and seen it all. His expertise means he knows how to position your property to achieve the best result, while guiding you confidently through the process. With Lance, you're not just getting an agent – you're getting a trusted professional who understands the market and works tirelessly for his clients. Don't risk it with anyone else – choose experience, choose Lance Williams.

### Wairarapa

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**Bill McLinden**  
021 262 4519  
bill.mclinden@raywhite.com

Ray White Leaders Masterton REAA 2008

Excellence comes with experience, something Jude Clark and Bill McLinden of Ray White have in droves. With 34 years of combined experience, they pride themselves on offering stress-free solutions.

Bill believes clients should be treated like family, which is why he focuses on clear communication to help match them with the property or buyer that will achieve the best results for everyone involved. Jude works hard to ensure buying or selling runs smoothly, which is why she always keeps everyone in the loop and on the same page. If you're thinking of buying or selling, think SoldOn Jude and Bill.

### Porirua

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Born and raised in Porirua, Josh Tararo is more than just a Collective First National agent – he's a proud local who cares deeply about his community. With over 11 years' experience, Josh has earned a reputation for his strong work ethic, friendly approach, and proven results. He combines energy, professionalism, and commitment with a calm, practical style that makes the buying and selling process stress-free.

Approachable and attentive, Josh takes time to understand each client's needs, always focusing on helping people achieve their goals while making the journey smooth and rewarding.

### Waikanae

**Harcourts** **Waikanae**

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**Moira Simpson**  
Licensed Real Estate Consultant  
M **027 222 2804**  
moira.simpson@harcourts.co.nz

**24 years in real estate**

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harcourts.net/nz/office/waikanae/people/moira-simpson

Moira Simpson of Harcourts is passionate about guiding her clients through what is one of the most significant life experiences. With Moira, buying and selling – which at first may seem stressful and daunting – become streamlined, smooth, and even enjoyable!

Having been in the industry since 2001, Moira knows her way around any kind of real estate transaction. She is honest and clear from the start, taking time to listen and understand her clients' requests and concerns. With awards aplenty under her wings, she is the consummate professional, has excellent negotiation skills, and knows the property market inside and out.

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# Unbridled imagination



If Pōneke is the creative capital of Aotearoa, Te Auaha is the city's own hub, where innovative artistic pursuits brew all year round, coming to a boil every October at E/Merge Festival of Creativity.

With a jam-packed programme running from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the festival features performances, exhibitions, and events from Whitireia and WelTec students. In 2025, highlights include cabarets to short plays, digital exhibitions to concerts, and more. Explore game design, motion graphics, animation, screen production, and graphic design at the *E/Merge Digital Media, Design and Animation Exhibition*. Watch five-minute films spanning everything from drama to documentary.

Musical theatre and cabaret solos – including *Wanted!*, *CTRL\_ALT\_DEL*, *Noir*, *Make A Splash!*, and Musical Theatre solos – invite audiences into a world of dark, bold, and playful storytelling. *Stage & Screen D.I.Ys*, *Ego: Albeit*, and *You, The Garden & The Grave* traverse love and loss, adventure and self-discovery. *Commercial Dance* and *Bedtime Stories* blend movement, storytelling, and audience engagement in an immersive experience.

“E/Merge is such an exciting opportunity to share my work with a live audience”, student Sean Leamy says. “This year, I’ve been working on creating a physical pare (a traditional Māori carved lintel) that incorporates augmented reality to enhance its storytelling, and it’s incredible to see it come to life in the exhibition”.

Step into a world of unbridled imagination at E/Merge.

# Death, love, and monsters



*Photo by Julie Zhu.*

Trick of the Light Theatre are bringing their award-winning show *The Griegol* to The Hannah from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Last on our shores in 2022, when it scooped Production of the Year at the Wellington Theatre Awards before being picked for the Performing Arts Global Exchange and touring to the US in 2023, this moving and inventive work tells a tale without words about a child who starts to see a smoky, shapeshifting demon after losing their granny.

Conjuring magic out of silhouettes and shadows, puppetry and projections, and live music and animation, *The Griegol* pushes the boundaries even for a theatre company known for their onstage innovations.

“Essentially we’ve built the world’s most absurdly high-tech overhead projector,” director and Trick of the Light co-founder Hannah Smith says. “We’ve shifted things that usually take place out of sight to form part of the onstage action, so that audiences see both the visual effects and the ways in which they’ve been created.”

Co-founder Ralph McCubbin Howell says alongside the inventive staging and technical design, “we also poured a lot of heart” into *The Griegol*, which explores grief in a cross-generational way that audiences can respond more freely to.

“Adults are given licence to laugh at the jokes, to feel the feels, and engage more in the fantasy, and kids have someone to hold their hand through the scary bits. One of the things we love about theatre is that it’s a safe place to explore what’s scary or sad, and laugh or cry together.”

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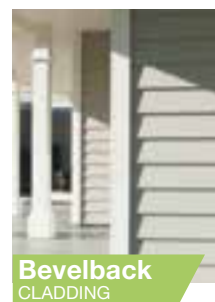
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# Buy – build – renovate

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With winter melting away to sunny spring days and a new summer silly season on the horizon, give your home a makeover with Texturite. Whether you're thinking of refreshing your family home, or you're in the market for a new build, the professional team can help you achieve the finish you've always dreamed of.

Based in Kapiti and servicing Greater Wellington, Texturite is family owned and operated and specialises in solid plastering and cladding systems for new home builds and home remodelling. Plus, they also perform repairs on existing monolithic cladding. Helmed by managing director Steve Mackfall, the team are dedicated to providing superior service and making the process as straightforward as possible. They have a wealth of knowledge under their toolbelts, maintain an open line of communication throughout the project, and always keep their finger on the pulse of new technology and information.

The Texturite team are always happy to offer advice or provide a breakdown of their services. From plastering and cladding to repairs and repaints, they can make your home look great while ensuring it's protected from weather and the elements.

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Metalcraft also specialises in manufacturing and supplying insulated panels and they even offer a nationwide PV solar supply and installation service. This well-established service means they can provide a competitive solution for any domestic, commercial, or off-grid property. This could include PV solar modules, PV solar laminates, mounting solutions, and inverters.

Their Wellington-based branch has recently undergone some major improvements, resulting in greater manufacturing capacity and increased efficiencies. Metalcraft Roofing is known for providing unparalleled coverage. All their products are backed by solid manufacturing and installation warranties, offering you a simply unbeatable level of satisfaction and peace of mind.

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With over 60 years of combined experience, LHG Roofing comprises a team of 17 that includes founder Joseph Junior Gray and four go-getting apprentices. The rest of the crew are hard-working, dedicated professionals who turn up to any job with a smile on their face and a wealth of knowledge under their toolbelts. They'll guide you through your project, ensuring you're on the same page and know what's going on every step of the way. LHG Roofing operates across Wellington, the Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, and the Kapiti Coast, sometimes venturing as far north as Levin.

The LHG Roofing team provide repair and replacement services for returning and new clients alike. Whether your roof has been damaged by weather, hit by a falling tree branch, or simply reached the end of its lifespan, the crew can repair tiles and roofing iron, perform treatments for waterproofing, and, if necessary, replace the whole structure.

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# Buy – build – renovate

## Something special



Form, function, and flair collide at LucyforLouie – a Kiwi-owned boutique company designing and handcrafting glass-fibre reinforced concrete (GRC) furniture built for Aotearoa's ever-changing climate. GRC is a high-strength composite stone made from cement mortar reinforced with alkali-resistant glass fibres. Lisa, the Kiwi girl behind LucyforLouie, uses this material to create curated collections and bespoke pieces tailored to New Zealand conditions and lifestyles. Each design is carefully constructed and hand-finished to ensure authenticity, individuality, and lasting quality.

With an exceptional range comprising everything from coffee tables to consoles, dining tables to TV stands, bench seating to bar leaners – and even ping pong tables to entertain family and visitors – the LucyforLouie style combines clean lines with a relaxed, timeless aesthetic that stands out while fitting seamlessly into homes, apartments, businesses, and holiday houses.

Available in limestone, concrete, and charcoal tones, each piece can suitably live indoors or outdoors.

Thanks to the nature of GRC, the furniture is lightweight enough to reposition (with a minimum two-person lift) yet remains an ideal outdoor option by being stable enough to withstand high-wind areas. If required, Lisa also offers custom sizing options to ensure the perfect fit for your space.

Handcrafting beautiful furniture for our beautiful country, discover something truly special at LucyforLouie.

## On the hunt 24/7



The motto at rummages is seek and you shall find. Whether you're a contractor or a weekend DIYer, property developer or homeowner crafting your dream house, rummages offers an easy and exciting way to shop for new and graded second-hand building materials and more online, 24/7.

rummages is especially great if you're looking for something hard to find. Whether you're restoring a heritage villa or updating your home to reflect who you are, the team is happy to help you find what you need. From cabinets and chairs to single and French doors, windows and fixtures to electronics and everything in between, rummages is constantly adding more stock.

Not only are you getting the best deals when purchasing second-hand or new products, but the loyalty programme leads to great discounts, ensuring unwanted materials are repurposed and reused, reducing landfill waste.

If you've located the perfect piece, rummages' sister company City Strippers – Carterton's paint stripping and restoration specialists – can refinish it for you. Protecting you from harmful lead-based products, the team will have paint stripped, prepared to timber finish, and primed or painted for you to finish or install upon completion. They have restored everything from antique prams and furniture to horse and train carriages, planes, boats, ship galleys, cars, motorbikes, houses, and buildings since 1985.

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# WORKWEAR RECYCLED

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## Transform Your Waste Into a Sustainable Future with Workwear Recycled

Did you know that 92 million tonnes of textile waste are produced every year, and a staggering 85% of it ends up in landfills or is incinerated? With only 20% being reused or recycled, the future of our environment is at risk. But it doesn't have to be that way.

**Workwear Recycled** is changing the game. By offering a smart, sustainable solution for businesses to reduce textile waste and carbon emissions, they are helping organizations make a real difference—one garment at a time.

### How Does It Work?

Workwear Recycled makes sustainability simple. Their streamlined process begins with a thorough audit to determine your specific recycling needs. Once that's done, they provide you with everything you need to start the journey: wheelie bins, boxes, and bags of various sizes for used textiles, clothing, and PPE.

Once full, simply call Workwear Recycled, and they'll come to collect your materials. Your garments will be assessed, sorted, and processed through their secure recycling facilities. Textiles are de-hardened and shredded, with 100% of the materials being recycled—nothing goes to the landfill. Plus, you'll receive a **certificate of destruction** for added peace of mind and brand protection.

### Innovative Recycling That Saves the Planet

Workwear Recycled is on a mission to tackle textile waste head-on by transforming old garments into new, useful products. Here's how:

- **PVC Recycling:** Used gumboots are repurposed into new footwear or even playground matting, helping to reduce PVC waste.
- **Textile Upcycling:** Cotton is turned into cellulose, which can be used in everything from textile production to pharmaceuticals. Polyester and

polycotton materials are reused to create products like home insulation, pet beds, and even acoustic panels.

- **Advanced Fabric Recycling:** Even complex mixed fabrics—such as wool, elastane, spandex, rayon, silk, lyocell, and viscose—are recycled into new products, proving that almost anything can be repurposed.
- **Plastics Recycling:** The team are also able to help in recycling a variety of PPE products such as hard hats, safety glasses, road cones, and Bata gumboots.

### Sustainability That Pays Off

By partnering with Workwear Recycled, your business can reduce waste, cut carbon emissions, and make a meaningful contribution to the circular economy. They've already made waves in the sustainability space, winning the prestigious **Environment Canterbury Sustainability and Environmental Award** at the 2024 Business & Community Excellence Awards.

But it's not just about the environment—by recycling and repurposing materials, Workwear Recycled helps companies optimize textile resources and lower their overall impact. Plus, there are several membership and partnership packages available to suit businesses of all sizes.

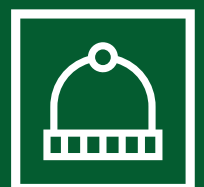
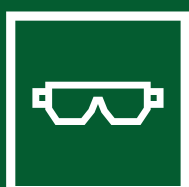
### Partners

Workwear Recycled Ltd, are working directly with a number of partners, to provide options for the recycling of as many different materials as possible. We are also working with several R&D programs to develop new technology for the disposal of end of life materials currently not easily reused or repurposed.

### Ready to Make a Difference?

Join the movement and take a stand against textile waste.

Visit [www.workwearrecycled.co.nz](http://www.workwearrecycled.co.nz) today to find out how your business can get involved. Together, we can transform waste into valuable resources and build a more sustainable future.





# Buy – build – renovate – gardens

## Palmers Garden News

### Growing together: Communities in Bloom

by the **Palmers Plimmerton** team

Just over a year ago, our family became the proud owners of Palmers Plimmerton – and as we reflect on that journey, we’re deeply grateful for the warm support we’ve received from our wonderful community. It’s a reminder that gardening is for everyone – a way to connect not just with nature, but with neighbours, friends, and ourselves.

This year, National Gardening Week (from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2025) carries the inspiring theme Communities in Bloom – a celebration of how gardens, big or small, help bring communities alive with colour, life, connection, and wellbeing. Gardening is a journey, not a destination. There’s always something new to learn – whether it’s which plants thrive in your soil, how to deal with pests, or what blooms best in the shade. We know this firsthand, because we’re still learning too! Every season brings its own lessons, surprises, and little wins – and that’s part of what makes gardening so rewarding.

Whether you’re dreaming of a vibrant flower display, growing herbs on your windowsill, or planting a few pots to brighten your space, gardening offers a place to unwind and reconnect with nature. And it’s especially welcoming for beginners – you don’t need a big backyard or green thumbs to get started.

At Palmers Plimmerton, we’re here to help. Our team is always happy to offer advice, recommend beginner-friendly plants, or just have a good yarn about what’s happening in the garden. So as National Gardening Week approaches, pop in, see what’s on in-store, and join us in growing something great – together. And while you’re at it, why not check out one of the local garden tours happening in the area? It’s a great way to get inspired, connect with other garden lovers, and see what’s blooming in our community.



## Bloomin’ beautiful



Winter showers bring spring flowers, and with the season well and truly blooming across the region, take the opportunity to visit some of the beautiful private gardens along the Plimmerton Rotary Garden Tour. Taking place over the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, the tour provides access to 10 gardens around Pāuatahanui Harbour.

From bijou suburban hideaways to lifestyle blocks, heritage cottage gardens to modern-designed gems, the gardens making up this year’s tour are vast and varied, yet each one is a testament to its owner’s skill, dedication, and care. Don’t forget to vote for your favourite!

Okataina Road is quirky and full of surprises, while Seaview Road features a waterfall, a pond, and sweeping views. Brown’s Cottage on Oak Avenue has been crafted over generations, and Barque Crescent has been a labour of love for over 40 years. Windswept and wonderful, The Crowsnest and St Ives Drive have been crafted in tune with their surroundings. Latitude Close is a riot of flowers, while both Moonshine Road and Penryn Drive have been completely transformed into something magical.

The heritage rose garden nestled into the Pauatahanui Burial Ground beside St Alban’s Church also joins the garden map. Many of the roses were brought by early settlers as memories from home.

Net proceeds will be donated to Gillies McIndoe Research Institute and North Wellington Life Education Trust – plan your trip in advance and find out more at [www.plimmertonrotary.org.nz](http://www.plimmertonrotary.org.nz)

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## Concrete Slabs: A Floor for All Seasons

When you're building a new home, one of the first decisions is what rests under your feet. Across New Zealand, concrete ground floors - also known as slab-on-grade or slab-on-ground - have become the overwhelming choice for new residential builds.

In fact, BRANZ data shows that over 95% of new homes use concrete ground floors. And with benefits ranging from comfort and energy efficiency to resilience and style, it's easy to see why.

A concrete slab isn't just a structural base - it's the smart foundation for modern living.

### Year-Round Comfort

Concrete's thermal mass makes it effective at moderating indoor temperatures. In summer, an exposed slab can absorb excess heat during the day and release it when the evening cools. In winter, it captures warmth from the sun and radiates it back slowly.

As part of a passive solar design - north-facing windows, good insulation and natural ventilation - this storage and release of heat can reduce energy use. For homeowners, that means lower bills, fewer draughts and a home that feels consistently comfortable.

### Sustainable and Low-Carbon

The concrete industry is actively working to reduce its carbon footprint, with a clear Roadmap to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Already, low-carbon concretes are available for residential slabs, giving homeowners a sustainable choice without sacrificing performance.

This ongoing innovation is helping ensure New Zealand homes are built to last - not just physically, but environmentally too.

### Safe and Resilient

Concrete is naturally fire-resistant. It doesn't burn or release toxic smoke, and typically retains its strength in a fire event. That means more time for safe evacuation and often the ability to repair, not replace, after a fire.

It's also resilient in the face of flooding. Where alternatives can warp or rot, a concrete slab can usually be dried and reused. In a country where extreme weather is becoming more common, that resilience offers real peace of mind.

### Quiet and Durable

Concrete floors don't creak or groan. Instead, they provide a solid, stable foundation

that stays quiet no matter how much the home is lived in. A concrete slab remains dependable for decades, giving homeowners reassurance that their floor won't develop irritating squeaks.

And in terms of durability, concrete performs exceptionally well. It resists denting and warping, as well as normal household wear and tear. With basic care - an occasional sweep and mop - a slab will last the lifetime of the home.

### Healthier Homes

A concrete slab also contributes to healthier living. By smoothing out temperature swings, it reduces the damp conditions where mould and dust mites can thrive. It doesn't trap allergens or emit harmful chemicals. Its inorganic nature means pests and fungi have nowhere to settle.

For families with asthma, allergies or respiratory sensitivities, that can make a real difference.

### Style and Flexibility

Concrete floors aren't just practical - they can be beautiful. Polished concrete is increasingly popular for its sleek, modern look. But the design options go much further: colours, stamping, grinding or decorative aggregates, including glass or shell.

And if homeowners prefer carpet, tiles or timber, concrete makes the ideal base. The point is concrete doesn't limit choice - it enhances it.

### Value for Money

On price, concrete slabs are competitive with other floor systems. Over time, the long-term value becomes clear.

Energy savings, low maintenance and resilience against fire and flood combine to make a concrete slab one of the best investments in any home.

### A Smart Foundation

Concrete ground floors are already the preferred choice in New Zealand homes. The reasons are compelling: year-round comfort, resilience, durability, design freedom and long-term value.

In short, concrete slabs provide peace of mind underfoot - a foundation designed to meet the needs of homes today and into the future.

## Roadmap to Net-Zero Carbon

The New Zealand concrete industry is committed to reducing emissions, guided by its *Roadmap to Net-Zero Carbon 2050*. The plan sets an interim target of a 44% emissions reduction by 2030 - to be achieved through reducing fossil fuels in manufacturing, increasing the use of low-carbon cement replacements and creating efficiencies in concrete production - on the pathway to net-zero emissions by 2050. Already, low-carbon concretes are available for residential slabs, letting homeowners make sustainable choices today. Aligned with the *Zero Carbon Act* and *Paris Agreement*, the Roadmap shows how concrete can remain strong, reliable and environmentally responsible.



## Concrete NZ Plant Audit Scheme



Behind every slab supplied by a Concrete NZ member is an assurance of material quality. The Plant Audit Scheme is a nationally recognised certification programme for member ready mixed concrete companies. Through regular audits, the Scheme confirms compliance with construction Standards and in turn the *New Zealand Building Code*, covering everything from equipment calibration and material testing to production processes and staff training. This monitoring helps ensure that concrete meets expected performance and durability. For homeowners, builders and engineers, the Scheme provides confidence that Concrete NZ member plants consistently deliver concrete you can trust.



# Celebrating concrete

## Tried and true



For nigh on 60 years, Gray Bros Contractors have been keeping the wider Wairarapa region stocked and serviced with certified ready-mix concrete and potable water. With such a reputable legacy to uphold, you can rest assured that their excellent service will continue for decades to come too.

Based in Greytown, Gray Bros provide a range of solutions across residential, commercial, and public sectors. Precise and practised, they navigate even the most complex jobs with a professionalism that delivers optimal results. From driveways to patios, building foundations to carparks, and everything in between, the team are happy to offer their expert knowledge to help you lay the groundwork for your project. They work with construction companies across the region on everything from major projects to small repairs.

Gray Bros work with premium quality materials and can recommend which product is best suited for your project. From developing the best range of products to mapping out logistics and advising on concrete supply, the team provide expert advice and solutions that last. Choosing the right product to suit your needs can be difficult, but Gray Bros can save you time and money by walking you through the entire process.

Laying the foundations for whatever project you have on the go or helping you get your next one started, Gray Bros are as versatile as they are trusted by locals across the region and beyond.

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## Concrete creations



Deco Precasters provide fast solutions when you need them most. Supplying Wairarapa and Wellington with precast, high-quality concrete products at affordable prices for over 35 years, they're one of the most trusted names in the business.

Established in 1990 by the Merrin family, Deco Precasters have been independently owned and operated by Graham McClymont since 2007, who has been a self-employed businessman since he was 26 years old. Plus, Steven and Marcus Merrin of the original team are still a part of the crew today. Speaking of, the Deco Precasters experts think outside of the box, providing innovative solutions across commercial, residential, and agricultural spheres.

Whether your project has just started or is reaching the final stages, Deco Precasters offer a comprehensive precast concrete product range for construction, plumbing, farming, landscaping, and beyond. From septic tanks to water troughs, benchtops to garden pavers, retaining walls to bridge slabs, and everything in between, they can design and manufacture a solution for whatever project you have on the go.

Long lasting, customisable, and affordable, concrete can be tailored to suit your individual needs and requirements. Deco Precasters craft both custom and pre-made products, meeting clients' needs whether they require a solution right away or have time to get it just right.

Swing by their Masterton location to chat with the team – they're friendly, passionate, knowledgeable, and always happy to lend a hand when it comes to concrete solutions.

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# Celebrating concrete

## Practical and personal



Hamish of HWA Architecture has built a reputation on creating homes where concrete is more than a building material, it's part of the architecture's identity.

With over 20 years of experience in the field and an impressive and varied portfolio to show for it, Hamish says concrete has been a favourite building material throughout his career, whether it be working with lightweight concrete, in-situ pours, precast, or structural insulated panels both in residential and commercial projects.

Concrete offers a rare combination of strength, permanence, and beauty. Designed well, it helps create warm, light-filled interiors, sculptural forms, and enduring resilience against New Zealand's varied climate. Hamish designs with these outcomes in mind, ensuring every project blends lifestyle needs with the performance benefits that only concrete can provide.

Clients working with HWA Architecture can expect homes and buildings that balance comfort and efficiency with striking design. Spaces that feel grounded, timeless, and are expected to last for generations are front of mind throughout every design process. By tailoring each design to the site and the people who will live there, Hamish ensures concrete is not just practical, but personal. His bespoke approach ensures every project complements the property owner's lifestyle.

Whether it's a bold contemporary home or a commercial project, HWA Architecture leverages concrete to elevate a design from the everyday into something lasting and remarkable.



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## Easing the load



When you have concrete on your property that has to go, there is no one more prompt, precise, and professional than Priority Demolition. Alongside their comprehensive demolition services, they specialise in concrete cutting for projects of all shapes and sizes.

Using state-of-the-art equipment and relying on over 50 years of combined experience, the family-owned and operated business delivers efficient and effective results with minimal disruption. Aside from controlled concrete demolition, they also offer concrete sawing for when horizontal, vertical, or angled cuts are required for openings and modifications; concrete drilling for creating circular holes for things like plumbing and electrical; and concrete grinding for when rough surfaces need to be smoothed or coatings removed.

Priority Demolition has successfully completed thousands of projects across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. From removing asbestos to small and large-scale earthworks, demolition jobs to concrete services, they take pride in delivering a job that exceeds client expectations. Their reputation has taken years to build, and they continue to foster their legacy of excellence with every job.

Whether you're renovating, rebuilding, or clearing a site, they can do the heavy lifting. Priority Demolition's mission has been the same since day dot: provide the highest standard of demolition services while ensuring the safety of clients, the team, and the environment. Get in touch and find out more at [www.prioritydemolition.co.nz](http://www.prioritydemolition.co.nz)



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# Celebrating concrete

## Tailored to you



Self-made and hardworking, the Hawken Concrete Services team have an outstanding reputation for quality workmanship and tailored solutions.

Established in 2021 by Jeremy Hawken, the business has grown from strength to strength over the last few years. Starting off on his own with nearly two decades of experience under his belt, Jeremy now helms a highly skilled full-time team. “I fell into it in 2004 and have just been doing it ever since,” Jeremy says. “I enjoy the satisfaction of the finished product and the physical labour.” He and the team pride themselves on crafting long-lasting, aesthetically pleasing structures that are the perfect balance of form and function.

Hawken Concrete Services provide a range of solutions across residential, commercial, and public sector projects. By adopting a customised approach to every job, Jeremy and the crew can tailor their services to meet the vision you have in mind. Precise and practised, they navigate even the most complex jobs with a professionalism that delivers optimal results.

From driveways to patios, paths to exposed areas, and everything in between, the team are happy to offer their expert knowledge to help bring your ideas to life. Hawken Concrete Services work with premium-quality materials and can recommend which product is best suited for your project. They can advise on the optimal strength or help you choose the right colour. For any concrete services from Wellington to Palmerston North, get in touch with Jeremy for tailor-made results.

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## Concrete crushers



Everiss Civil are excavation specialists. They are a one-stop shop for demolition and earthworks, drainage and foundations, retaining walls and roading, but did you know they also recycle concrete?

“The concept of the company was to provide the whole earthworks package in civil engineering, from start to finish on the job,” managing director Bill Long says. “From that we generated E-Cycle Aggregates.” As E-Cycle Aggregates, the team take demolition material that would normally go to landfills and transform it into optimal-grade concrete with the Keestrack R3 – a massive crusher. “We’re collecting concrete from other contractors in the Wellington area, crushing it, and producing reusable aggregates for all of our projects,” Bill continues.

The Keestrack R3 emits little dust thanks to the internal sprinkler system, and compared to other machines, it is significantly quieter, which means it can be used to crush materials almost anywhere. It can process roughly 2000 tonnes of material per day.

“One of the things we’re most proud about is how much concrete we’re recycling and keeping out of our tip sites,” director Steve Long says. “In Wellington, we’re running out of places to dump and it’s quite cool that we can recycle and reuse the product.”

They don’t only use the certified and tested aggregate on their own jobs, but the recycled product is also available to contractors and the public for all kinds of projects. Find out more at [www.everiss.nz](http://www.everiss.nz)



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# Celebrating concrete

## Careful craftsmanship



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From beginning to end, they work with you to ensure everyone is always on the same page. This way, the project will run on time and within budget with ABC Masonry still exceeding client expectations upon completion. The crew's top priority is to maintain a level of excellence by using the highest-calibre products, implementing both cutting-edge techniques and tried-and-tested methods, paying close attention to details, and thinking outside the box.

No project is too big or too small for ABC Masonry. Home renovations and retaining walls are treated with just as much care as a small repair or decorative feature project. Get in touch today to discuss your project so the ABC Masonry team can make your vision reality starting tomorrow.

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Based in Foxton, Mastermix delivers just what Steve set out to achieve over two decades ago and has now become the leading name in Kiwi concrete, whether that's for sewer repairs, manhole installation, slab pouring, or fireproofing. The team are still just as committed to innovation too, with new products constantly being developed.

Mastermix has a strong focus on offering a complete service to customers. From developing the best range of products to solve whatever problem you may have, to staff fully trained to advise you about concrete supply, the team provide expert advice and solutions that last. Choosing the right product to suit your project's needs can be difficult, but Mastermix is here to save you time and money by walking you through the entire selection process.

The company offers everything from premix concrete to coating and repair systems, waterproof mortar mixes to traffic management solutions. They work with construction companies across the country on everything from major projects to small repairs and their projects can be found across the motu.

If you're in the market for high-quality trade solutions from a dedicated and passionate team, look no further than Mastermix.

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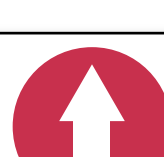
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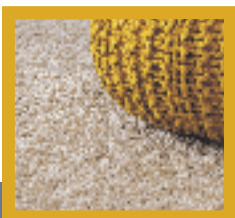
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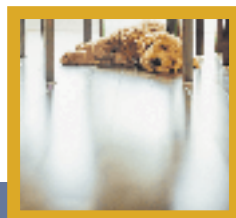
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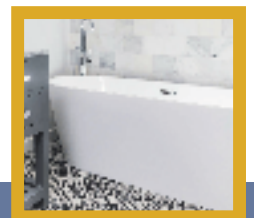
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# Top services – Kapiti

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Locals here depend on one another and support each other's businesses. Plenty of Kapiti Coast businesses have excellent reputations, not only because they are skilled at providing their services, but also because they go the extra mile to ensure their neighbours are happy with a job well done.

Many of the local businesses have been serving their community for decades. As more professionals start to see the area's potential it will only continue to grow. Whether it's a local boutique or service provider, chain retailer or independent company, many have successfully found their niche and with it a loyal customer base. You'd be hard-pressed to name a product or service you can't find in this beautiful and bountiful district, often offered by family businesses that are truly passionate about giving back. Their service goes above and beyond because they wouldn't have it any other way.

The Kapiti Coast has it all. No matter what you need, service is delivered with a smile. Each town is unique, yet they all share professionals that are high in skill and in spirit, deservedly proud of their thriving businesses.

## The real in real estate



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"I thrive off connecting with people and helping them through every stage of their property journey," Sharalyn says. "That's why I fell in love with real estate".

Whether you're buying or selling, the team's top priority is to help you navigate your journey in a straightforward and streamlined way. The agency's portfolio is vast and varied, with something for every buyer, plus, they work, play, and live locally.

What truly sets Sharalyn Fraser Agency apart, however, is the feedback they consistently hear from their clients: integrity and professionalism. These values shine through in every interaction, reinforcing the agency's reputation for trust, reliability, and exceptional service.

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# Buy, build, relocate – Manawatū

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Whether you have your slice of paradise where you want to build your home or you're interested in Hill Construction's house and land packages, get in touch at [www.hillconstruction.builders](http://www.hillconstruction.builders)

## Flocking to Feilding



*Farmers' market.*

Cute, quaint, and chocka with character, Feilding is just a hop, skip, and a jump away from Wellington in the heart of Manawatū. The centre features beautiful old buildings filled with boutiques, bakeries, bars, and more, plus a weekly Friday farmers' market with stalls selling the fresh local produce grown in the area.

Primarily an agricultural community, Feilding is tightknit and safe. Everyone knows each other and neighbours are greeted with a friendly wave. With a bustling town centre, several great schools to choose from, and extracurriculars aplenty – not to mention social and hobby groups for adults too, with a library, eateries, and community spaces dotted throughout the town – it's no wonder young families and empty-nesters alike are flocking to Feilding.

While some neighbourhoods are made up of heritage buildings, others are brand-new, with properties for sale in the centre of town and on lifestyle blocks in Feilding's surrounds.

## Find your fit



Brimming with cosy cafés, eclectic galleries, charming towns, and breathtaking natural wonders, Manawatū is a vast and varied district perfect for all kinds of travellers. Palmerston North is its main hub and has seen a huge uptick of new residents making the move to enjoy the city-meets-country lifestyle.

Palmerston North is a fantastic place to raise the family, with safe neighbourhoods, a plethora of after-school activities, and no shortage of fun locations including parks, nature reserves, sports fields, minigolf, bowling, theatres, cinemas, and more.

With a thriving arts scene and events calendar, Palmerston North is also a great fit for retirees. Get out and about in the walkable town centre, where you'll find great shopping and cafés. For young professionals, it offers business opportunities, plenty of entertainment, and is only a stone's throw from the capital.

Whether you're looking for a lifestyle block, a heritage family home, or a cosy flat, Palmy has it all.

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## Winged kaitiaki



### ***Better To Jump Than Hesitate* by Gareth Barlow.**

Working in both acrylic paint and charcoal, Wellington-born artist Gareth Barlow says his practice is grounded by “colour, energy, and that raw sense of connection to people, land, and culture”.

This kaupapa is threaded through his newest collection *Connection Songs*, on display at Exhibitions Gallery from the 9<sup>th</sup> of October until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Depicting New Zealand birds on a large scale in order to spotlight their subtle details and complexities, the show explores themes that are familiar to many Kiwis and Antipodeans in general, Barlow says.

“We all carry aspects of whakapapa, Māori and Pākehā alike, and are shaped by the places and cultures that have nurtured us. Through birds, which appear throughout my work as symbols, messengers, and companions, I hope people see something of their own story reflected. And see them as not just images, but symbolic figures that endure across generations and traditions. I’d like visitors to leave feeling that the stories behind these works don’t just belong to me, but that they can also be claimed as their own.”

In *Connection Songs*, birds represent identity, guardianship, and memory – bridging cultures and identities, the physical and spiritual realm.

“Birds were largely Aotearoa’s only inhabitants, guardians of these islands long before humans arrived”, Barlow says. “Some have been lost, but many remain – adapting, enduring, and sharing their world with us. They remind us of what we can hold in common: respect for the past, reverence for the present, and hope for the future”.

## The everyday, intimate, and undefined



### ***Lewis Vivian Cosgrave.***

“There is so much beauty in the smaller, passing moments – they carry a quiet intimacy that can so quickly fade. We spend much of our lives in between big moments, milestones, and grandiose happenings – it can be easy to forget to slow down,” Wellington creative Lewis Vivian Cosgrave (Ngāti Pūkenga) says. “Capturing these trivial, everyday moments lets me pause and reflect on how I move through the world. Working with them artistically in turn allows me to shift them from ordinary to something more layered and open ended.”

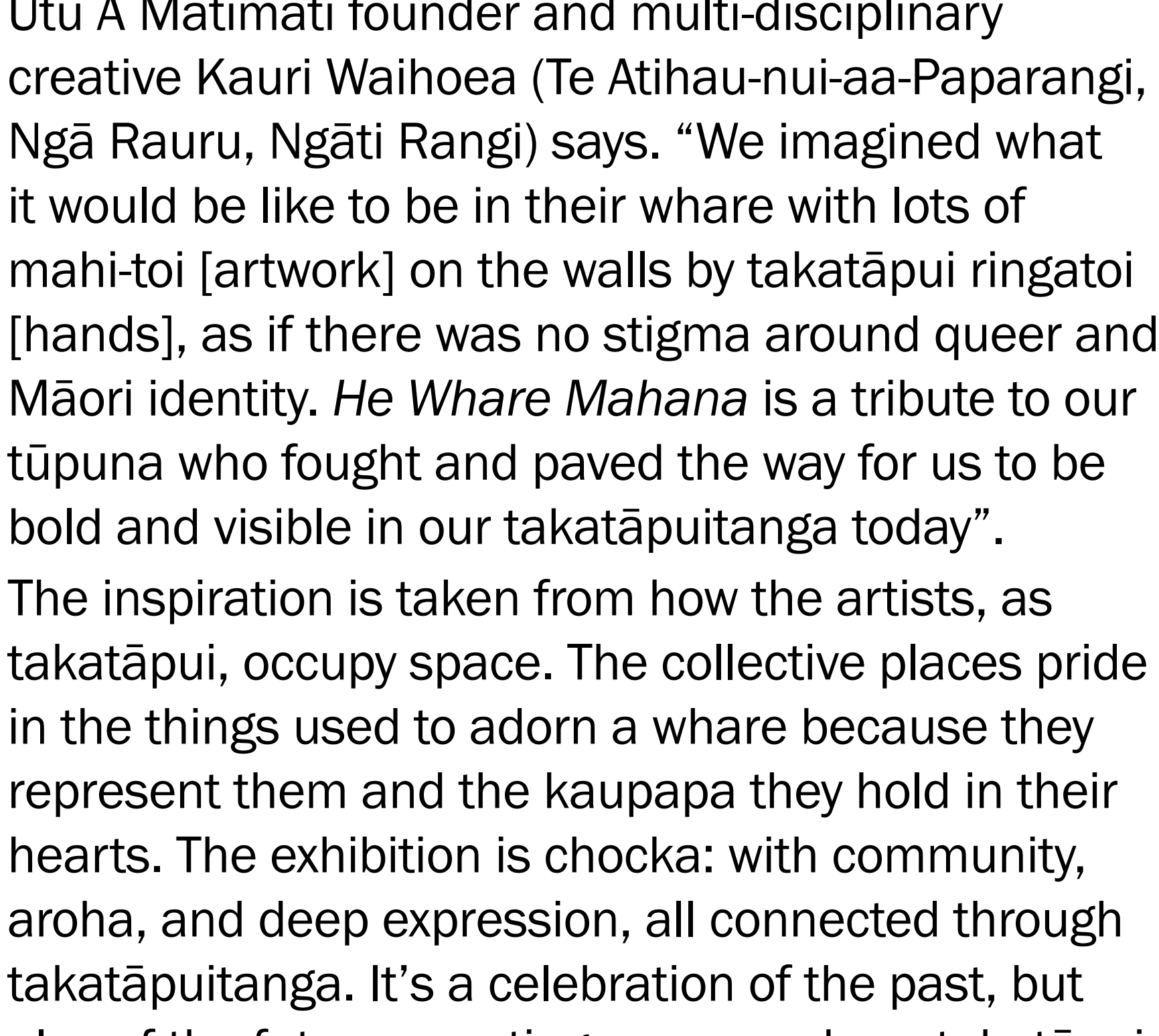
With this philosophy front of mind, Cosgrave presents *Having Heard a Glow* at Twentysix Gallery until the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. The collection captures transitory moments and blends painting, drawing, and photographic practices. Through a refined sense of surface and a delicate use of colour, Cosgrave brings an intentional reticence to his work.

“I have always been drawn to painting because it demands a slower pace – it encourages you to stay with an image or feeling and give it some more thought. While painting is my entry point into art making, my practice continues to shift and change. I’m hesitant to call myself a painter.”

Focusing on the experiences of the quotidian, *Having Heard a Glow* depicts the everyday, the intimate, undefined.

“I’d like for visitors to feel the shared nature of passing moments – that our lives overlap in these fleeting scenes. We move through the same light, the same streets – and noticing that a sense of optimism can suddenly make everyday life feel more vivid.”

## Nau mai, haere mai



A warm house, a full house, a cosy kainga to nurture your dreams and the infinite queer possibilities.

This is *He Whare Mahana*, a 19-strong group exhibition at Toi Pōneke Arts Centre until the 17<sup>th</sup> of October curated by Utu Ā Matimati (a takatāpui art collective), but also a whare (house) where queer

kaumatua, gay aunties, and takatāpui tuākana welcome visitors with a cuppa, a warm blanket, endless understanding, and aroha.

“*He Whare Mahana* was conceptualised when thinking about queer tūpuna (ancestors) and what it would be like today visiting your ‘gay nan’s house,’” Utu Ā Matimati founder and multi-disciplinary creative Kauri Waihoea (Te Atihau-nui-aa-Paparangi, Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Rangi) says. “We imagined what it would be like to be in their whare with lots of mahi-toi [artwork] on the walls by takatāpui ringatoi [hands], as if there was no stigma around queer and Māori identity. *He Whare Mahana* is a tribute to our tūpuna who fought and paved the way for us to be bold and visible in our takatāpuitanga today”.

The inspiration is taken from how the artists, as takatāpui, occupy space. The collective places pride in the things used to adorn a whare because they represent them and the kaupapa they hold in their hearts. The exhibition is chocka: with community, aroha, and deep expression, all connected through takatāpuitanga. It’s a celebration of the past, but also of the future, creating a space where takatāpui can see themselves.

“*He Whare Mahana* is an interactive gallery space where you can come and sit down and read through our selection of books, journal, reflect, and play taonga pūoro”, Waihoea says. “We hope whoever comes through, but especially any takatāpui, leaves with a feeling of warmth, and knowing that they aren’t alone. We hope they leave recognising that our strength lies in our differences, and that differences are normal. Love is love and everyone deserves to experience love regardless of gender, beliefs, and identity”.

## Flecks of life



### ***More by Kate Stevens West.***

The holdfast of rimurapa (bull kelp) binds it to rock, so the tipu (stalk) can move with the current. But if it breaks free, it has another strategy: it floats, in rafts that drift with winds and water, carrying itself and many other forms of life over oceans, to distant shores.

*Holdfast*, an exhibition from Kate Stevens West (Kāi Tahu, Pākehā) at Bowen Galleries until the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, channels the tension between holding on and drifting free.

“Hold fast to your children, your grandchildren, your stories, your rock,” Stevens West says. “And if, and when, you must let go, let it be to drift in the spectacular flow of whakapapa: mammalian, botanical, ancient, slippery, wet, and unknowable.”

In her practice as a whole and in this collection in particular, the Ōtepoti-based artist imagines a dynamic integration of past, present, and future; a place where different generations collide in a series of transformative encounters, trailing talismanic objects, detritus, and ideas. She paints whakapapa in an expansive sense.

“I’m trying to make sense of the world and my place in it. The paintings entwine human life with other creatures and plants,” Stevens West says, adding that in her recent work tagging pakake (sea lions), she had a moment of connection. “Each animal feels different,” she continues, “they’re individuals like us”. Watching them “reminded me again and again: we’re these flecks of life, beings in different skin. Connected, and not so very different from each other”.

But the whakapapa stretches wider still, she says. “It’s a very comforting thing – to be so small. To be a fleck in a giant soup of life, stretching out in all directions through time”.

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# Spring in the south

## Rev your engine



Tucked away in the quaint town of Geraldine in South Canterbury is one of the finest collections of vintage vehicles and machinery in the Southern Hemisphere. Comprising a huge number of cars, motorcycles, tractors, models, and various gizmos and gadgets, the Geraldine Vintage Car & Machinery Museum is fun for all ages!

First established by Jack Morrison in the late 1960s, The Geraldine Vintage Car & Machinery Museum started first as a club. They stored their vehicles in a warehouse known as the Morrison building. Though it unfortunately burnt down on New Year's Eve of 1970, destroying all but three vehicles, the building was reopened in 1979, and the collection has continued to grow ever since.

One of the best days to visit the museum is on a 'Crank Up' day. Many of the vehicles will be started up, meaning you'll see some of the mean machines in action. Catch the next one on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October to get your engine revving.

## Carnival craze



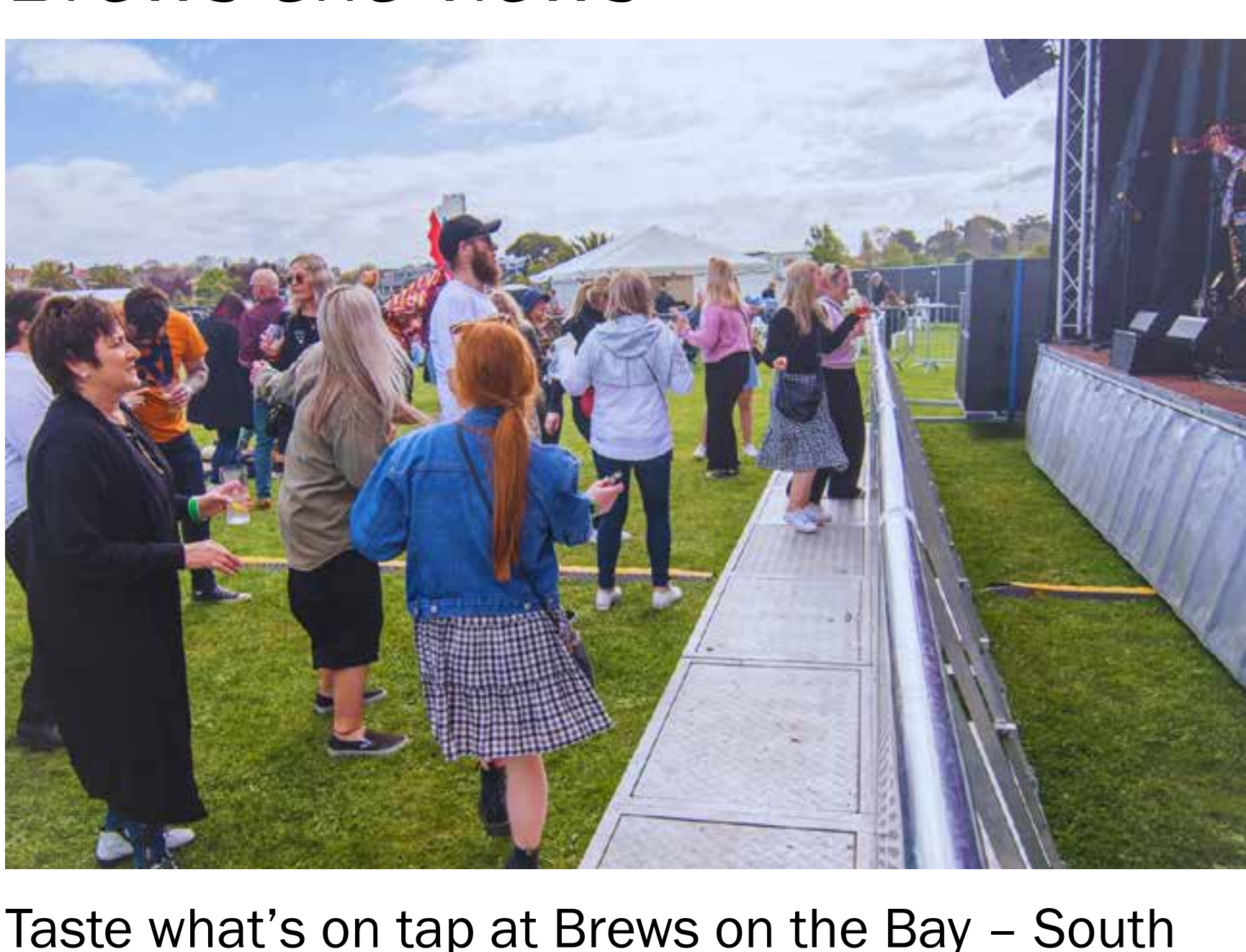
Fancy some fun in the Timaru sun? Caroline Bay Carnival, which has been entertaining Kiwis of all ages for over 100 summers and some, is just the place!

Featuring rides, sideshow games, free concerts, and competitions all with a retro flair – plus a spectacular firework display on New Year's Eve – over a 17-day period between the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 and the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2026, the Caroline Bay Carnival is a South Canterbury institution.

The Ashley Communication Talent Quest is one of the most anticipated events of the festival. This year, the organisers have engineered a fresh new format based on performance categories to promote a more dynamic and inclusive competition. In 2026, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of January, participants aged five to 105 will battle it out across dance, singing, and band/music categories.

Whether you want to get stuck into a competition or simply enjoy the fun, spend your silly season at the Caroline Bay Carnival.

## Brews and views



Taste what's on tap at Brews on the Bay – South Canterbury's beer and cider festival at Caroline Bay.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, Caroline Bay will be pumping with live music as festivalgoers dance and drink to their hearts' content. Alongside tasty eats and treats from Empire Chicken, Hungry Potato, Bombay Street Feast, Wildwood Pizza, The Smokin' Que, Kung Fu Dumplings, ALT Kitchen, and Donut Den, breweries and distilleries will be pouring Ship Hop Brewing, Crimson Badger Brewing, Speight's, b.effect Brewing Co., Canyon Brewing, Humdinger Gin, Wilderness Brewing, Straight 8 Estate, Renaissance Brewing, Funk Estate, DB Breweries, Scotts Brewing Co, Rudd House Brewing, Resurrection Distillery, Alchemist Mixology, Maggie's Mobile Bar, BEERS by Bacon Bros, Ground Up Brewing, Wānaka Beerworks, Fruzo cocktails, and Pimm's.

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BOXING DAY TO JANUARY 11TH 2026 | FOR FULL PROGRAMME DETAILS CHECK OUT WWW.CAROLINEBAY.CO.NZ



# Spring in the south – Otago

## Venture forth



As plants don their verdant cloaks and bedeck themselves in flowers come spring, Central Otago's dramatic landscape is transformed into a natural paradise begging to be explored. The best way to get out and about in the season's mild weather is via the extensive network of cycle trails. Whether you're after bike rentals, accessories, a workshop space, or tours, Bike It Now! has got you covered.

If you've always dreamed of riding the Lake Dunstan Trail, Otago Central Rail Trail, Roxburgh Gorge Trail, Clutha Gold Trail, or various combinations of them all, Bike It Now! has a range of self-guided and supported tour options to suit all levels, timeframes, and interests. You can bring your own cycle or rent a bicycle or e-bike for the duration of your holiday. Options include short single-day trips, two-day adventures, three to five-day excursions, and six to 10-day experiences.

Bike It Now! has locations in Wanaka, Clyde, and Cromwell, offering door-to-door pickups from Queenstown and drop-offs leaving Clyde each day, which gives the passionate staff the opportunity to recount the area's history.

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## Perfectly positioned



Carrick Lodge Motel is located in a slice of New Zealand so special that former owners Andrew and Kylie Tait couldn't help but repurchase it in April 2025 after a four-year stint in Australia. Having run the property between 2017 and 2021, they're thrilled to be back, saying they've missed all their wonderful guests – both returning and new – and are excited to welcome them back!

The motel itself has 16 self-contained units, which range from studio rooms to family units. All of them are clean, quiet, and spacious with king or queen beds, free Wi-Fi, heat pumps, over 50 Sky channels, and well-equipped kitchens, plus some even have spa baths. With thoughtful décor and all the amenities you need, Carrick Lodge Motel feels like a home away from home.

Snuggly situated in the heart of Cromwell, Carrick Lodge Motel makes exploration easy. The local mall is just over the road, putting a wealth of shops and restaurants within walking distance, while the heritage centre lined with historic buildings is just a hop, skip, and jump away. It's also perfectly positioned as a base from which to explore beautiful Central Otago, with golf courses, award-winning wineries, crystal-clear lakes, tracks and trails for hiking and biking, scenic viewpoints, and so much more within arm's reach.

Andrew and Kylie know the area like the back of their hands and are always keen to give travellers tips on what to see and do.

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Roxburgh Gorge Trail. Photo by Will Nelson.



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[info@bikeitnow.co.nz](http://info@bikeitnow.co.nz) | [www.bikeitnow.co.nz](http://www.bikeitnow.co.nz)

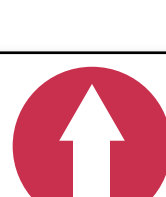




Lake Dunstan Trail. Photo by Will Nelson.



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# Spring in the south

## Fairlie



**MacKenzie MOTELS**

*Stay with us and discover Fairlie and Mackenzie Country!*

PHONE 0800 883 344 | 12 School Road, Fairlie  
 stay@mackenziemotels.co.nz  
[www.mackenziemotels.co.nz](http://www.mackenziemotels.co.nz)

Lake Tekapo and the Aoraki Mackenzie Dark Sky Reserve – the largest dark sky reserve in the world – are just a short drive away from MacKenzie Motels in Fairlie. The beautifully decorated suites and warm Kiwi hospitality from the owner Erin Thomson are simply the best after a day of non-stop adventures.

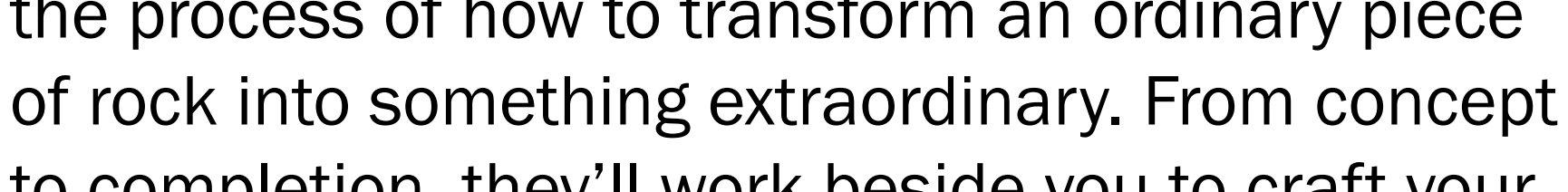
With four studio units, a two-bedroom apartment, and two cabin units, travellers on all types of holidays can enjoy a cosy night's sleep. The all-women team are happy to help with any requests and are passionate about giving guests an enjoyable experience, plus, as locals, they have the best tips for making the most of the beautiful region!

## Motueka

**GREENSTONE and CRYSTALS**

**THE ROCK FELLA**

10 KING EDWARD STREET, PORT MOTUEKA  
 Phone: 022 137 4574  
 f The Rock Fella  
[www.rockfella.nz](http://www.rockfella.nz)



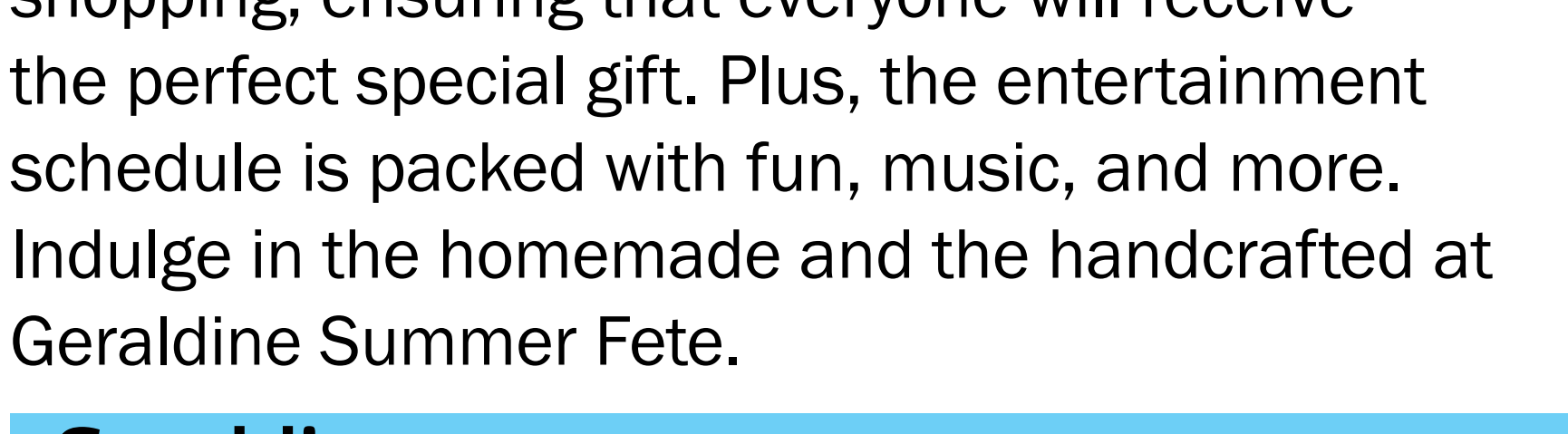
The friendly faces at The Rock Fella in Motueka see rocks as gifts from the Earth, as treasures. The rockwork artisans handcraft beautiful jewellery, carvings, headstones, sculptures, and more out of a variety of stones. But they also help you bring your own ideas to life.

As the team likes to say, “if you can imagine it in stone, together we can make it happen”. From their onsite workshop, the artisans will take you through the process of how to transform an ordinary piece of rock into something extraordinary. From concept to completion, they'll work beside you to craft your vision – the only limit is your creativity.

## Geraldine

**TREAT YOURSELF TO A DAY OF INDULGENCE**

**THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 9:30AM-4PM**  
**TICKETS: ADULTS \$20 ONLINE OR \$25 ON THE DAY, CHILDREN UNDER 15 FREE**



Fill your car with your friends and enjoy the trip to **Stover Farm, 220 Main North Road, SH79, Geraldine**




Geraldine  
 Summer  
**FÊTE**

[www.geraldinesummerfete.co.nz](http://www.geraldinesummerfete.co.nz)

Celebrate the coming of warmer weather and longer days at the Geraldine Summer Fete. Taking place in the sprawling, tree-dotted Stover Farm on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, it's the perfect opportunity to enjoy the spoils of the season!

Visitors can peruse over 200 stalls, selling everything from homewares to garden supplies, lifestyle items to clothes, works of art to tasty treats, and so much more. Get started on your Christmas shopping, ensuring that everyone will receive the perfect special gift. Plus, the entertainment schedule is packed with fun, music, and more. Indulge in the homemade and the handcrafted at Geraldine Summer Fete.

## Geraldine



**The Cottage Pantry**

The home of your baking ingredients, handmade chocolates, Kiwi favourites, and gifts galore.



**BUSINESS FOR SALE!**

For more info, contact Pauline 0272 472 863

**24 Wilson Street, Geraldine**

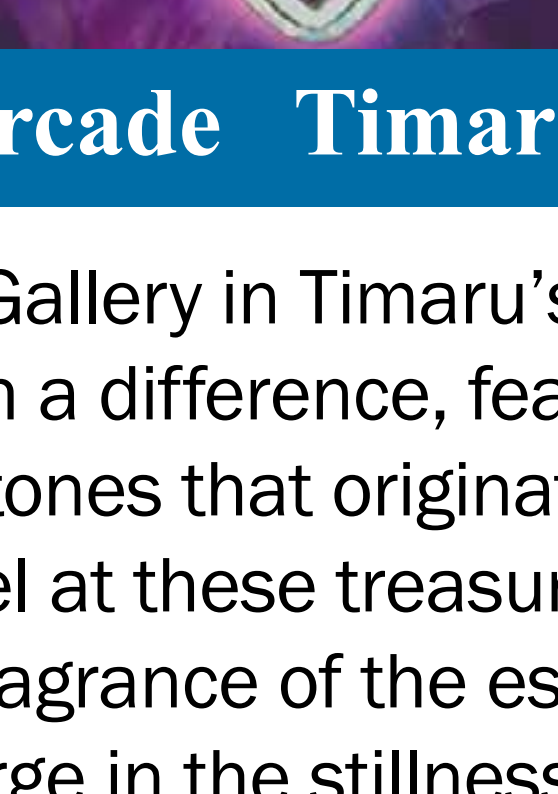


[www.cottagepantry.co.nz](http://www.cottagepantry.co.nz)

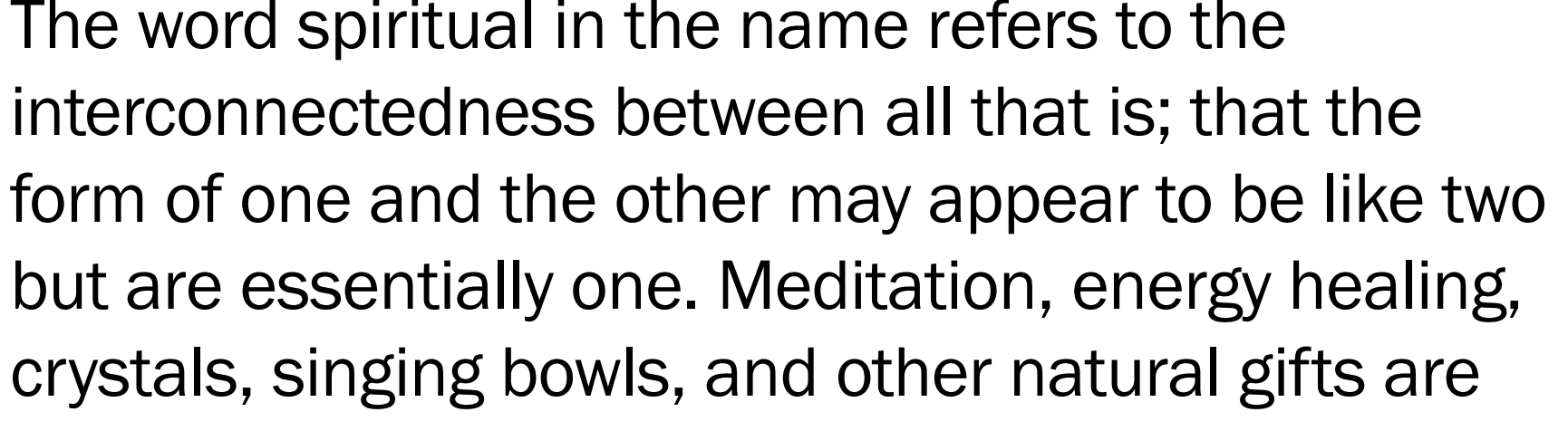
Tucked into one of Geraldine's historic 1870s buildings is The Cottage Pantry & Gallery. Most of the house is still in its original layout, with low ceilings and little rooms that have been home to art, giftware, baking supplies, sweets, and treats since 2012. Before that it was home to former mayor Douglas McKechnie!

Behind the counter, packing your purchases into little brown bags like they did back in the day, is Pauline, who has owned and operated the business herself since 2014. With a smile on her face, she's always keen for a natter and happy to help you find whatever you're looking for or order anything you may need.

## Timaru



**ASURE ASHLEY MOTOR LODGE**



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**95-99 King Street, Timaru**

[www.ashleymotorlodge.co.nz](http://www.ashleymotorlodge.co.nz)

Whether you're in Timaru for a family getaway, a couple's 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.

## Timaru

**Artma Spiritual Gallery**  
*The Positive Power of Meditation & Natural Gems*  
**Crystals**  
 Since 2007



**12 Royal Arcade Timaru 03 686 9878**

Artma Spiritual Gallery in Timaru's Royal Arcade is a crystal store with a difference, featuring a selection of natural gemstones that originate from around the world. Marvel at these treasures from the earth, breathe in the fragrance of the essential oils and incenses, recharge in the stillness of the healing room, and attend a meditation session.

The word spiritual in the name refers to the interconnectedness between all that is; that the form of one and the other may appear to be like two but are essentially one. Meditation, energy healing, crystals, singing bowls, and other natural gifts are tools to enhance our growing awareness about the essence of who we are.

## Timaru

*Gather the gals*  
 Timaru District is calling you!



Coastal trails | Drinks at the Bay Hill | Luxury stay at Ngā Whare Mānau | Hunding Gin cocktails | Shopping

**TIMARU**  
 We love Timaru

## Timaru

**TIMARU FESTIVAL of ROSES**  
 6-7th DECEMBER 2025

**SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC**  
**AUTOMATIC 80'S & SUPPORT**  
**FOOD MARKET**

**SUNDAY MARKET**  
**LIVE MUSIC GARDENING DEMOS**  
**MARKET STALLS KIDS ZONE**  
**FASHION**

Timaru welcomes in summer with the Festival of Roses on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

Saturday will see the new Beats & Eats twilight food market pop up from 4:30pm at Caroline Bay (beside Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden) with a fantastic concert headlined by Automatic 80s and featuring The Artefacts and Nakeisha Austin and Ellie Fraser – bring your dancing shoes!

On Sunday, the much-loved market will return from 10:30am with 100-plus stalls, gardening demos, a fashion revue, a kids' entertainment zone, and music from The Falveys, Brad Staley Trio, and Black & Gold. Bring the whole family for a great day out! Visit [www.festivalofroses.co.nz](http://www.festivalofroses.co.nz) for details.

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# Spring in the north

## Adventure awaits



Offering single and multi-day mountain bike adventures for all ages and abilities, Mountain Bike Station will take you off the beaten track to a world of wild beauty.

Explore the Ruapehu and Whanganui regions along self-guided tours that traverse a huge range of landscapes. Whether you're in a big group or flying solo, have all your gear in tow or want to hire everything you may need, the friendly and knowledgeable team are happy to offer advice and help you construct a tailored itinerary to take you where you want to go.

Ohakune Mountain Road – Turoa Downhill Madness descends 1000 metres in 17 kilometres, passing spectacular Tongariro National Park views along the way. Ohakune Old Coach Road is much gentler – the 15km one-way track is suitable for the whole family, plus it traverses swathes of native bush, offers viaduct views, and is dotted with signboards. The Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail is one of the most popular options... and for good reason! Starting at the Turoa Ski Field and winding its way to the Tasman Sea, this two to five-day adventure takes cyclists past volcanic slopes, along the mighty Whanganui River, and to the black sands of the western coastline.

Gaining a reputation as one of the North Island's best one-day rides, the Bridge to Nowhere track is paired with a jet boat ride and features some of New Zealand's most spectacular scenery.

There's a reason Mountain Bike Station are rated number one on Tripadvisor!

## Country carnival



With spring in full swing, now is the perfect time to enjoy the spoils of the countryside. A&P shows across the country bring communities together by bridging the gap between rural and urban neighbourhoods. Dedicated to Kiwi country living, the Manawatū A&P Show honours New Zealand's farming roots and celebrates our continuing agricultural excellence.

Now in its 139<sup>th</sup> year, the Manawatū A&P Show will take up residence in Manfeild Park in Feilding from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, providing all the anticipated excitement, revelry, and *shear* joy of a family-friendly day out.

2025 festival highlights include trade stalls aplenty, dog agility demonstrations, equestrian events, beef and dairy sections, egg exhibits accompanied by poultry and egg care workshops, and a New Zealand-first Ouessant sheep display, plus the beloved Farmworld exhibition featuring alpacas, pigs, sheep, and more.

The Manawatū Tractor Pull on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November is shaping up to be a highly anticipated event.

Enter your tractor for a chance to win the Battle of the Brands trophy. There will be strongman and strongwoman competitions too.

Fun Solutions will return in 2025 with a whole host of amazing rides and activities in tow, including mini jeeps, a Ferris wheel, the chair-o-plane, little flick fire truck, a mechanical bull and surfboard, and an inflatable bouncy castle and obstacle course. Don't forget to grab a treat from one of the food trucks to keep your energy as high as your spirits!

**Stop into our café in the heart of Tūrangi Town Centre**  
**to recharge yourselves while fulfilling Tongariro – Tūrangi – Taupo journeys!**

**35 Tūrangi Town Centre, Tūrangi**  
**Ph: 07 217 8888 | Open 7 days 8am-3.30pm**

## Manawatu A&P Show 2025

### Manfeild Park Feilding

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Gates open at 9am**

- Beef
- Dairy
- Pigs
- Equestrian
- Farm world/Petting Zoo
- Dog Agility displays
- Boys & Girls Calf & Lamb
- Food sites
- Trade sites
- Alpacas
- Sheep
- Alpaca Obstacle Course and more!!!

More information at [www.manawatushow.co.nz](http://www.manawatushow.co.nz) or [f ManawatuAandP](https://www.facebook.com/ManawatuAandP)

Choose the Mountain Bike Station for your Mountains to Sea Adventure! Ride from the ski field on Mt Ruapehu through the forest and Whanganui National Park, down to the Tasman Sea in Whanganui, over 3, 4, or 5 days. Let our team plan your trip for you - all you need to do is bike! We arrange your accommodation, meals, transport, and on-water transfers.

Raetihi Holiday Park, 10 Parapara Road, Raetihi | 06 3854 176 | [www.mountainbikestation.co.nz](http://www.mountainbikestation.co.nz) | E: [info@mountainbikestation.co.nz](mailto:info@mountainbikestation.co.nz)

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# Will you make it out alive?

by **Madelaine Empson**



Chris Viggers is a huge fan of spooky season and “any sort of horror film really, especially the more surreal ones such as *Weapons*, *Mandy*, and *Midsommar*”. A composer of horror scores for games himself, he loves the escape scary movies offer from the formulaic, saying “it adds so much tension when you realise that your fav character might not make it to the end of the movie alive!” As the drummer for The Crypt Kickers – the only metal band in Wellington that specialises in horror and sci-fi movie-themed shows – and a long-time attendee of the nationwide Terror-Fi Film Festival (which offers exactly what its name suggests), Viggers came to a no-brainer of a conclusion three years back: to put the two together. After all, heavy metal and horror go hand in hand – or Thing in Thing!

And thus, a killer event was born: Heavy Halloween Havok. For its third iteration on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at Valhalla, Viggers has lined up DJ Beware and three great Kiwi bands – The Crypt Kickers, AwareWolves, and Planet of the Dead – to showcase remixed film tunes, once again teaming up with Terror-Fi to bring audiences exclusive film trailers ahead of the festering fest later in the month. Best costumes win Terror-Fi film tickets, so dress up like your lives depend on it!

The first two Heavy Halloween Havoks were smash successes.

“I think the best feedback has been from people who have come along who maybe would not normally have gone to see a metal gig at Valhalla. They’ve embraced the fun, had a great time, and seen that the crowd are really inclusive and love to dress up and rock out!”

## The Butler Did It



There’s been a murder at the theatre and everybody’s a suspect! But never fear, for renowned detectives Didit and Dunnit are back and on the case, this time to figure out who killed their boss right before their eyes.

In *The Butler Did It*, Wellington’s best detective (and the other one) will break out the ol’ magnifying glass and red string to untangle the story of the chief’s death between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> of October at BATS Theatre. T.B Didit (Dylan Hutton) is sure to forge a path through the web of lies, while Hugh Dunnit (David Bowers-Mason) probably won’t even be able to unravel himself from the red string straitjacket he got himself stuck in... but boy, is he great moral support!

Completing the Duct Taped On cast list is Ethan Cranefield as Basil Peacock and Ruby Kemp as Angie McEwan, while in the writer and director chairs are company co-founders Isabella Murray and Revena Correll Trnka, who crafted *The Butler Did It* based on work by Murray and Kelsey Aldersley.

With hit projects like the interactive experience *Sonder* and the critically acclaimed *Love and Plastic Roses*, plus the hands-on Dungeons and Dragons-inspired shows making up their repertoire, Duct Taped On’s fast-paced *The Butler Did It* has a joke for everyone. Help tie up loose ends at this anti-cop murder mystery with even more twists, quips, and jabs at Lower Hutt than ever before.

**Kapiti Stump**  
Grinding Services

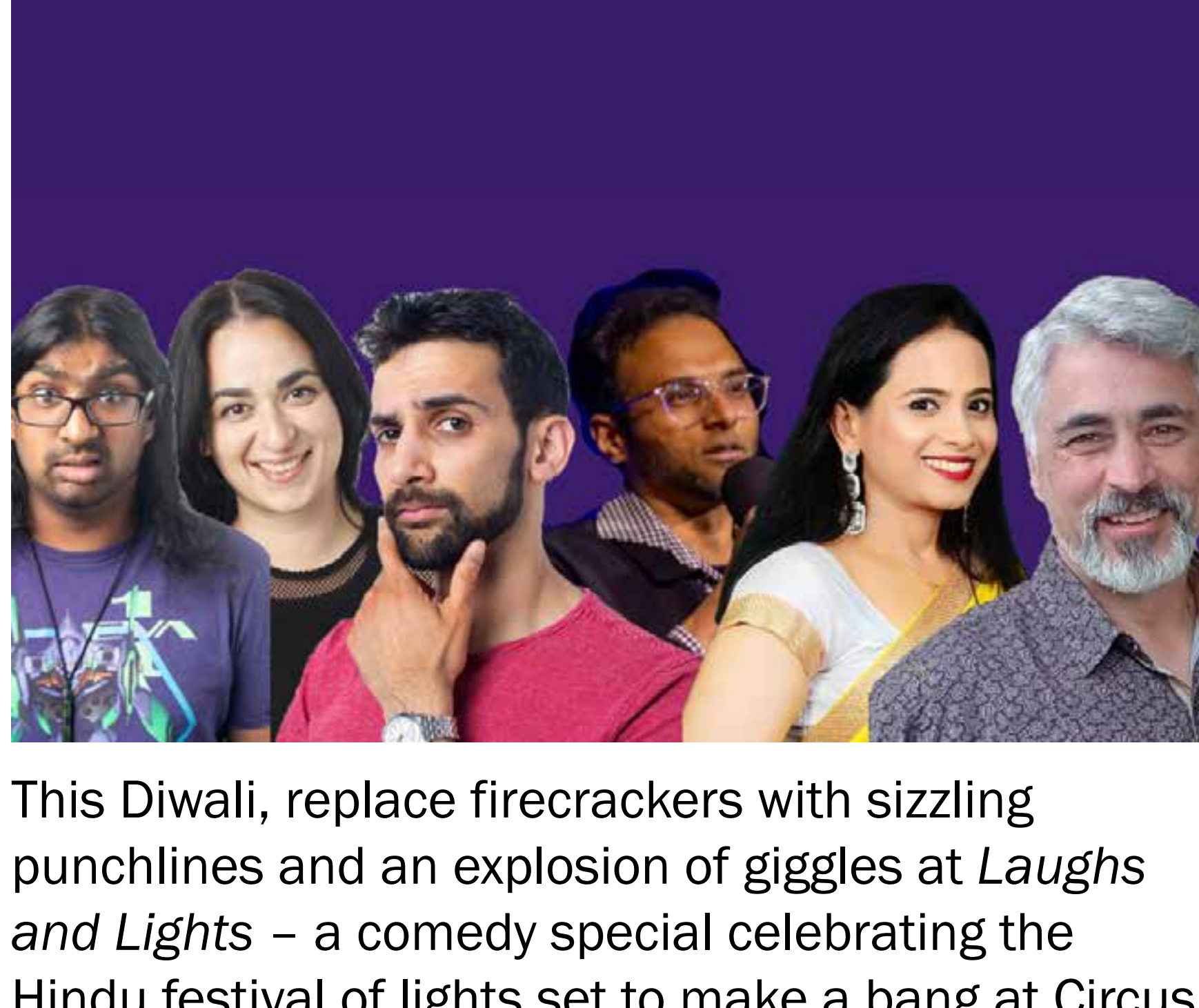
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## A Diwali comedy dhamaka



This Diwali, replace firecrackers with sizzling punchlines and an explosion of giggles at *Laughs and Lights* – a comedy special celebrating the Hindu festival of lights set to make a bang at Circus Bar on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October.

An all-Indian lineup of local comedians provides an “opportunity to foster cross-cultural understanding and dive into the vibrant tapestry of Kiwi-Indian humour”, organiser Jenice Jean Goveas says. “It will break stereotypes while laughing at and with each other”.

Goveas, also known as Jenice the Menace when on stage, is 2025’s Wellington RAW Comedy Quest semi-finalist who claims to be Pōneke’s shortest comedian. She’ll bring her big presence to the stage as the *Laughs and Lights* host.

Joining her at Circus Bar are Sanjay Parbhu, a second-generation Kiwi who has performed for global audiences; multi-award-winner Clarissa Chandrachud, a comedian of Fijian-Indian and Irish Pākehā heritage who is a regular at Edinburgh Festival Fringe and on London lineups; Ganesh Cherian, an author and artist with quirky observational humour; actuary and 2024 Billy T-nominee Advait Kirtikar, known as the ‘super dry’ comedian; and fellow RAW Comedy Quest semi-finalist Sampath Varma, a superhero comedian performing as the Indian Spiderman.

*Laughs and Lights* is the perfect masala mix of Diwali festivities and bright punchlines from fire-cracking comedians letting off hot takes on being Indian, Kiwi, and everything in between.

## A defining voice



Photo by Erik Umphery.

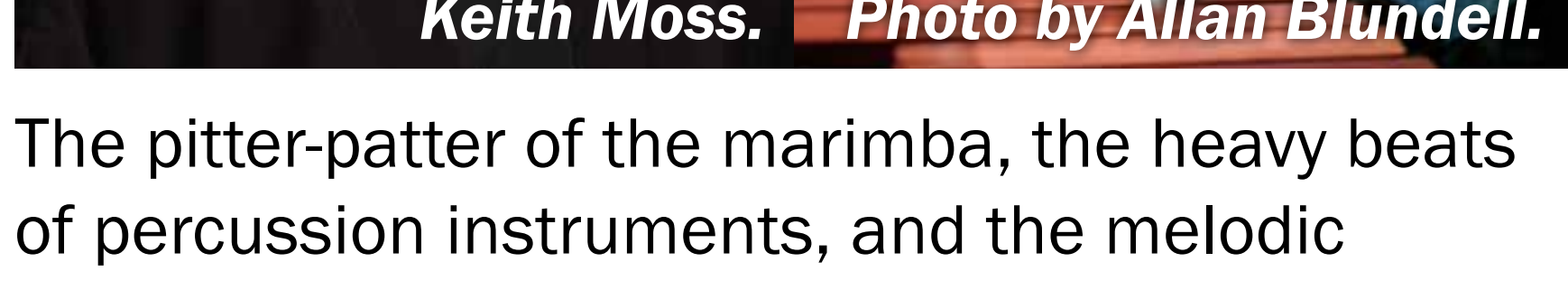
Inspired by Bakersfield Southern gospel and his mother’s Nat King Cole record collection, Gregory Porter blends jazz, soul, and gospel to craft a sound that has made him one of the most influential and dynamic artists of his generation.

As a defining voice in contemporary jazz, Porter has been dubbed “A jazz singer of thrilling presence, a booming baritone with a gift for earthy refinement and soaring uplift” by *The New York Times*. Already at the start of his career in 2013, he was deemed “America’s next great jazz singer” by *NPR* following the release of his breakout Blue Note debut *Liquid Spirit*, which quickly grew into the global phenomenon that earned him his first GRAMMY®.

By that point he already had two albums in his repertoire – *Water* (2010) and *Be Good* (2012) – and would continue to build it up with his 2016, GRAMMY-winning *Take Me To The Alley* and the 2017 tribute *Nat King Cole & Me*. 2020 and 2021 saw the birth of the uplifting *All Rise* and *Still Rising*, a collection of new songs, covers, duets, and a selection of his favourite songs.

The two-time GRAMMY-winning jazz vocalist, composer, and bandleader will appear in Aotearoa for the first time at St James Theatre on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October as part of the Wellington Jazz Festival. Experience his liquid gold vocals, warmth, and magnetic stage presence that commands attention from the very first note.

## A multi-hued dance



Keith Moss.

Naoto Segawa.

Photo by Allan Blundell.

The pitter-patter of the marimba, the heavy beats of percussion instruments, and the melodic grumblings of a reed quintet collide at *Chamber Dances*, a concert from Wellington-based composer Keith Moss in which he will premiere his newest orchestral work.

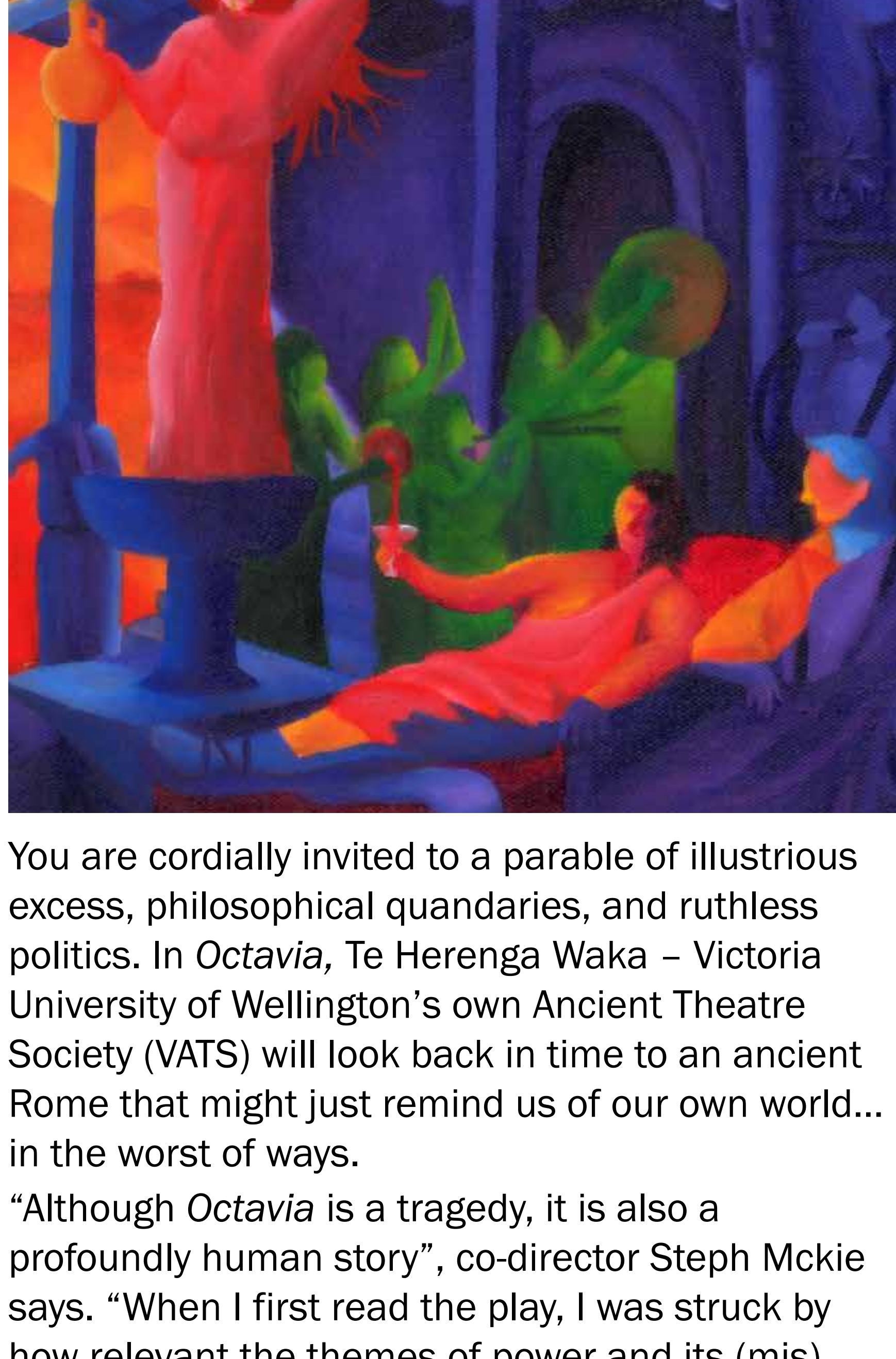
The titular work, praised as multi-hued following its delivery by Orchestra Wellington (OW) and Arohanui Strings, features seven musicians and marks Moss’ return to a tonal vocabulary that is both approachable and emotionally resonant for audiences. It also brings two of Moss’ personal wishes to life: to compose a work in collaboration with marimba virtuoso Naoto Segawa, and to create a reed quintet inspired by close friends in Belgium. *Chamber Dances* does both at St Peter’s on Willis on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October at 6:30pm and again at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

The 80-minute programme also includes solo marimba works by Peter Klatzow, a marimba duo by Akira Yuyama, and a newly arranged reed quintet version of Edvard Grieg’s *Holberg Suite*. Keith’s fresh take on this beloved classic draws from both Grieg’s original piano score and the composer’s own string arrangement, distilling the spirit of the suite into a sparkling new form for reed quintet.

Performing these remarkable works are marimba specialist and OW principal percussionist Segawa alongside fellow OW musicians and NZSO sub-principal Sam Rich, who brings a vibrant palette of exotic percussion to the performance.

Get swept off your feet at *Chamber Dances*.

## Humanity wins



You are cordially invited to a parable of illustrious excess, philosophical quandaries, and ruthless politics. In *Octavia*, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington’s own Ancient Theatre Society (VATS) will look back in time to an ancient Rome that might just remind us of our own world... in the worst of ways.

“Although *Octavia* is a tragedy, it is also a profoundly human story”, co-director Steph Mckie says. “When I first read the play, I was struck by how relevant the themes of power and its (mis) use still feel today. This makes it a timely show for VATS, and I think, for everyone.”

Set in Rome about historical events (rather than the mythic or comic we’ve come to expect from Latin plays), *Octavia* is a treatise on the dangers of unchecked power and passions told through the divorce and hardships of the titular character Claudia Octavia – the first wife of Emperor Nero.

Nero was famously known for his despotism and allegedly lighting the city of Rome aflame (an event that takes place after the events of this play). But it’s not all bad. “Overall,” Mckie continues, “*Octavia* shows us that while resisting tyranny may seem futile, humanity wins out over power.”

The student-led VATS puts on one ancient play per annum, with *Octavia* marking its 11<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Carpe diem and redeem your invitation to the divorce of Octavia at Victoria University’s Memorial Theatre from Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> till Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October at 7:30pm.



# Split Bill: Friends to the End & The Lighthouse

**Presented by Wiremu Tuhiwai & Brendon Bennetts and PROTEA Impro**  
**BATS Theatre, 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2025**  
**Reviewed by Tanya Piejus**



Two compact improvised performances come together as part of the New Zealand Improv Festival for a touching and entertaining hour of contrasting entertainment on the broad theme of friendship.

Created by PROTEA Impro from Tasmania and directed here by Jim Fishwick, Brenna Dixon and Benny Marama take the stage first for *The Lighthouse*, a charming and gentle tale of two lighthouse keepers who unintentionally find themselves sharing duties for 24 days when they were each looking forward to solitude. After an awkward introduction, they delicately explore each other's personalities and dreams through deceptively simple questions about pets, kids, and favourite travel destinations. A mouse named Erik (with a K) who nests under the Weetabix becomes a cherished pet that binds them together when Chaffer eventually leaves.

The two performers are endearing and create beautiful existential portraits of two lost souls who find companionship and meaning. Beautifully simple mime and theatre tricks create their tight world, and the overall performance is deeply affecting to the extent it made the person sitting next to me cry.

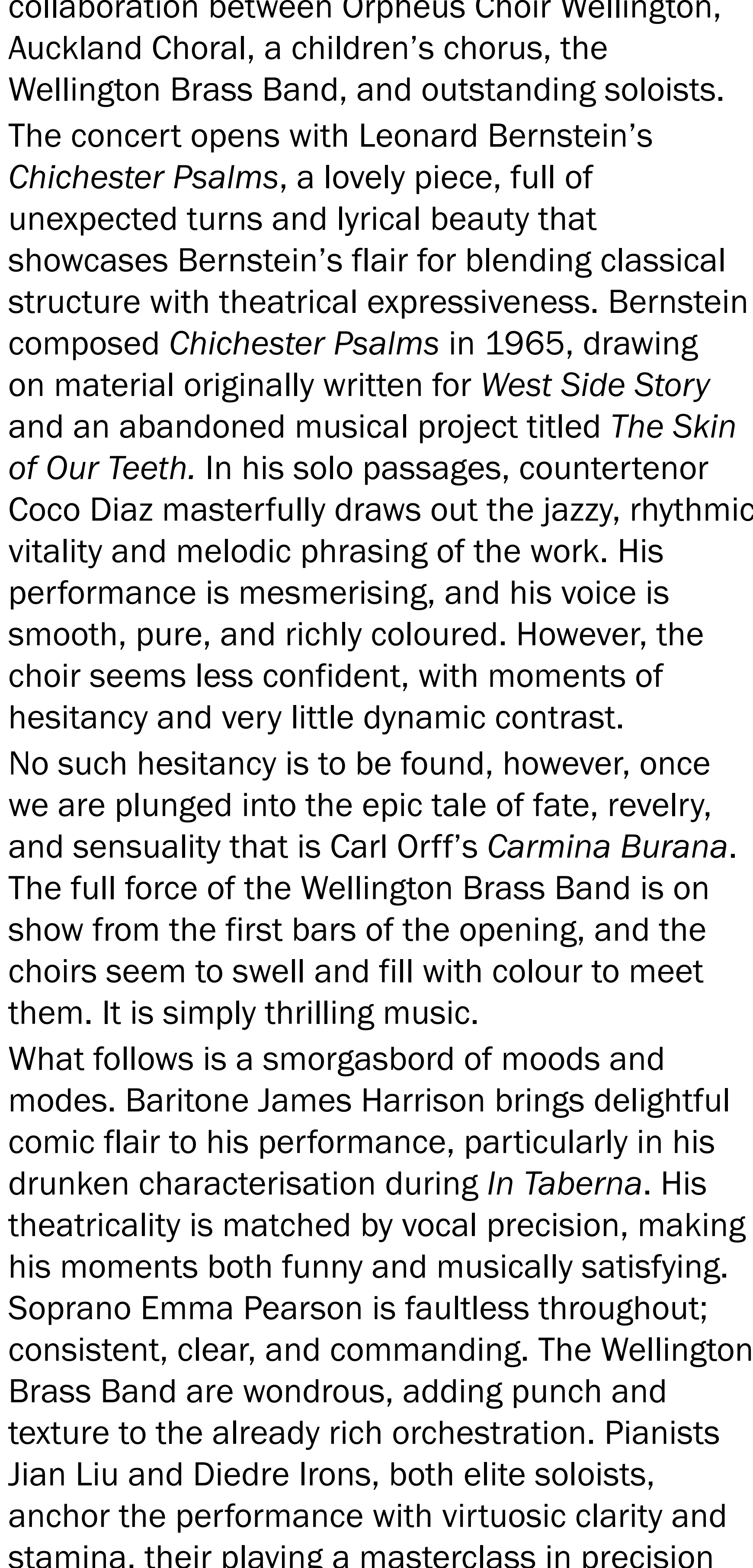
Upping the energy and taking a more classic improvisational approach, Wiremu Tuhiwai and Brendon Bennetts bounce onto the stage with a *Shaun of the Dead*-inspired apocalypse story, *Friends to the End*. The audience-derived childhood-best-friends activity of playing with walkie-talkies, the Spice Girls' song *2 Become 1*, and an origami paper game selection of 'reptiles evolve' provided the parameters of the story. From there, they developed a hilarious narrative about BFFs Aaron and George dealing with the end of the world as lizards become sentient, lasso human hosts, and trample Godzilla-like over life as we know it.

Tuhiwai and Bennetts have great chemistry and their ability to create an instant story is whip-smart. The injection of a sub-plot about George sleeping with Aaron's ex who then becomes the lizard queen is brilliant.

Accompanying both tales are Beans Wright on violin and Criss Grueber on keys, who provide appropriately lyrical and exciting music to support the diverse and equally enjoyable narratives.

## O Fortuna

**Presented by Orpheus Choir Wellington & Auckland Choral**  
**Conducted by Brent Stewart**  
**Michael Fowler Centre, 28<sup>th</sup> Sep 2025**  
**Reviewed by Ruth Corkill**



Nearly 300 performers take the stage for this epic collaboration between Orpheus Choir Wellington, Auckland Choral, a children's chorus, the Wellington Brass Band, and outstanding soloists. The concert opens with Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, a lovely piece, full of unexpected turns and lyrical beauty that showcases Bernstein's flair for blending classical structure with theatrical expressiveness. Bernstein composed *Chichester Psalms* in 1965, drawing on material originally written for *West Side Story* and an abandoned musical project titled *The Skin of Our Teeth*. In his solo passages, countertenor Coco Diaz masterfully draws out the jazzy, rhythmic vitality and melodic phrasing of the work. His performance is mesmerising, and his voice is smooth, pure, and richly coloured. However, the choir seems less confident, with moments of hesitancy and very little dynamic contrast.

No such hesitancy is to be found, however, once we are plunged into the epic tale of fate, revelry, and sensuality that is Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. The full force of the Wellington Brass Band is on show from the first bars of the opening, and the choirs seem to swell and fill with colour to meet them. It is simply thrilling music.

What follows is a smorgasbord of moods and modes. Baritone James Harrison brings delightful comic flair to his performance, particularly in his drunken characterisation during *In Taberna*. His theatricality is matched by vocal precision, making his moments both funny and musically satisfying. Soprano Emma Pearson is flawless throughout; consistent, clear, and commanding. The Wellington Brass Band are wondrous, adding punch and texture to the already rich orchestration. Pianists Jian Liu and Diedre Irons, both elite soloists, anchor the performance with virtuosic clarity and stamina, their playing a masterclass in precision and expression. It feels like an extraordinarily rare treat to have two such exceptional pianists on stage at once. The heft and drama of the closing movement is hard to beat; monumental, visceral, and utterly absorbing.

## A Big Bold Beautiful Journey

**109 minutes**  
**M**  
**★★★**

**Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera**



In the light of day, *A Big Bold Beautiful Journey* feels like a fever dream, but in the moment, in the darkness of the cinema, it feels like a portal to a world where reality is brighter, better, and unbound by the laws of physics.

Written by Seth Reiss (*The Menu*) and directed by esteemed film analyst and essayist Kogonada, *A Big Bold Beautiful Journey* begins unassumingly at The Car Rental Agency, where David (Colin Farrell) is renting a 1994 Saturn SL to get to a wedding hundreds of miles away. A rather persistent Phoebe Waller-Bridge and philosophical Kevin Kline strongly suggest he get the GPS. After meeting Sarah (Margot Robbie) at the wedding, then again at a burger joint, and again when her rented 1994 Saturn SL won't start and his GPS instructs him to pick her up, they embark on a roadtrip through magical doors that lead to defining moments from their pasts.

Propped up by the consummate professionals that are Farrell and Robbie, the film is rich in symbolism, though it's at times hard to grasp. Katie Byron's production design is intricate, ethereal, enchanting, the cinematography (Benjamin Loeb) so vivid and alive it feels like you could reach out and grab the door handles yourself. Costume designer Arjun Bhasin's colour choices definitely indicate something too, but I can't quite put my finger on what.

I'd like to disclaim that when it came to the very divisive *La La Land*, I was in the 'huge fan' camp. I say this because I foresee *A Big Bold Beautiful Journey* experiencing a similar reception: either you love it, or you hate it. Why? Because it wades through the messy parts of life without balancing them out with redeeming character arcs or full-circle moments. It is firmly nestled into magical realism insofar that simultaneously nothing and everything happens; it seems to lead up to a big revelation and yet the story hardly progresses outside of pitstops and detours. If, in the paraphrased words of David, you hope to come to some grand conclusion about your life, you won't like the movie, because, at the end, you're left with very little except perhaps the feeling that you've just experienced something big, bold, and beautiful.

## Over and Out

**Written by Jackson Burling**  
**Directed by Simon Leary**  
**BATS Theatre, 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 2025**  
**Reviewed by Tanya Piejus**



Jackson Burling was told one thing: never become a truck driver. In *Over and Out*, part of the TAHL: New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance, he digs into the why of not following in his dad's footsteps through an interview with diehard trucker Murphy, bringing us along for a joyous ride of emotional discovery.

Verbatim theatre has become an increasingly popular form in recent years for bringing authentic voices to the stage. Through Murphy, "a real guy being real", we understand the hard and often-underappreciated life of New Zealand's long-distance drivers. The hours are brutal, you're always away from home and miss time with your kids, you subsist on junk food and V, you have to sleep in the back of your cab... There are many reasons not to choose this career, but it's clear by the end of this 50-minute performance that those who do choose it love it with a passion that transcends the drudgery.

Burling is a superbly talented and highly engaging writer and performer. Under the expert guidance of director Simon Leary and with a stellar lineup of tech support, his tale goes far beyond the mere replaying of Murphy's on-the-road interview. He jumps effortlessly between himself and Murphy with nothing more than a trucker's cap as a prop. He also interacts with a projection screen (design by Rebekah de Roo and videography by Jacob Bowling) and perfectly timed sound effects (Oliver Devlin) to tell his own story of choosing performance over driving. I won't spoil the surprise of what a very clever lighting effect (Jacob Banks) does to represent his dad. Even Burling's cell phone is part of the multimedia brilliance.

All of this could have been self-indulgent, but it's entirely not. At the core of *Over and Out* is the relationship between Burling's junior and senior and it's one that is beautifully revealed over the course of a warmly funny and innovatively produced show about taking your own path in life.

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# Show Me Shorts

## 20 years of Show Me Shorts



*Wednesdays with Gramps*  
by Chris Copeland and Justin Copeland.



*Ace* by Ray Edwards.

83 short films across 11 themed collections converge on New Zealand's UNESCO City of Film between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of October at Light House Cuba for the Show Me Shorts (SMS) Film Festival. The Academy Award, BAFTA, and Goya-qualifying festival ranks in the top 20 short film festivals globally and will be, fittingly, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this October.

"Show Me Shorts has been a labour of love from the beginning. What started as a small hobby project between a group of friends has blossomed into an internationally renowned beacon for movie lovers", SMS director Gina Dellabarca says. "During the last two decades I've seen tens of thousands of brain-tingling stories, from the hearts and minds of talented creatives".

To mark the massive milestone, this year's programme will feature a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrospective collection that will showcase shorts from iconic Kiwi filmmakers on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. This provides film fans and fresh faces alike with the opportunity to revisit or discover shorts from acclaimed Kiwi creatives, including Jackie van Beek (*Uphill*), Sima Urale (*Coffee & Allah*), Hamish Bennett (*Ross & Beth*), and more.

15 world premieres will also be celebrated during the festival, plus the New Zealand premiere of Ray Edwards' Kiwi coming-of-age story *Ace*. Be among the first to see *转人工 (Representative, Please)* (China), *Farm* (NZ), *Flagfall* (NZ), *Regarding Our Previous Conversation* (NZ), *Toad in the Hole* (United Kingdom), *Temporal* (NZ), *The Charm of the Magpies* (NZ), and all eight of the Day One Shorts collection.

Each year, SMS chooses a country of focus, with 2025 presenting a creative collection of Chinese shorts. Several filmmakers will visit for screenings and discussions.

Speaking of discussions, aspiring filmmakers and cinephiles can partake in Wellington's on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October. Meet and hear stories from Kiwi Mīria George (*Open Looks*), Te Whanganui-a-Tara-based creative Tom Field (*monster & me*), and China's Haojun Huang (*End of Summer*).

There are plenty of other collections too, including The Sampler, showcasing this year's highlights; Aotearoa, chocka with Kiwi-made gems; Whānau Friendly, aimed at tamariki and their families; Love At All Costs, exploring matters of the heart; Lucid Dreams, featuring filmmakers with bold visions; Our Planet and Place, connecting us with the Earth and ancestral spirits; My Kind, focusing on selfhood and belonging; and Nightlife, embracing change and harnessing power.

Innovative and inclusive, SMS also provides collections with audio descriptions and closed captions both in cinemas and through their online platforms. In fact, a three-day online festival will be available at Show Me Shorts On Demand over Labour Weekend.

Sink into and soak up stories of the spectacular, surreal, simple, sensual, sincere, sour, and soulful at Show Me Shorts.

## A smorgasbord of stories



***Regarding Our Previous Conversation***  
by Thomas Sainsbury and Paul Scantlebury.

A boxing nun, a morally conflicted robot, an overwhelmed albeit dedicated teacher, and a Palestinian man trying to return home all step into frame in The Sampler, a Show Me Shorts Film Festival session that shines a spotlight on this year's highlights.

Kiwi stars Marlon Williams and Thomas Sainsbury join the programme, with the Māori musician challenging the saying 'we're all in this boat together' in his music video *Aua Atu Rā – Marlon Williams*, and the beloved comedian appearing in the hilarious Kiwi comedy *Regarding Our Previous Conversation*. Silver screen heavyweights Hugh Bonneville (*A Sisyphean Task*) and Alison Bruce (*Sister Josephine*) also join the twinkling lineup.

A suburban dad on a family day at the beach becomes stranded under the shade of an ice cream cart where the vendor charges rent for shelter in *Oasis*, while *A Sisyphean Task* offers a bright yet unflinching glimpse into the British school system. In *Allez Ma Fille (My Little Girl)* a divorced dad accompanies his teen daughter to a twirling competition, and a nun confronts a young boy in rough-house boxing lessons in *Sister Josephine*.

Set in a small town in the future, a military robot is transformed into a human service robot in the animated *Help Me Tom*, while in Qaher a man returns to Palestine after years away to surprise his sister, rediscovering the true meaning of Palestinian identity along the way.

Smash-cutting into Light House Cuba on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October at 5:30pm, The Sampler is a smorgasbord of stories serving up adventure and introspection, comedy and drama in equally tasty morsels.

## Traditions of innovation



***Farm* by Kate McGill.**

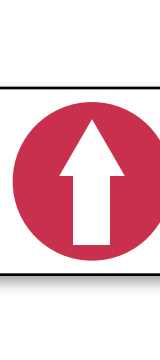
Magical realism and science fiction worlds creep into the New Zealand cinematic lexicon in Show Me Shorts Film Festival's Aotearoa session. Showcasing the classic Kiwi coming-of-age stories, lush landscapes, and rich cultural traditions New Zealand films are known for, the programme also celebrates innovation and bold, original ideas at Light House Cuba on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October.

Explore faraway worlds in *Temporal*, which follows a lonely spaceman searching for his missing co-pilot in an alien world, and *Hold Me – Vallé*, a music video set in the highlands of Papua New Guinea where a new form of warfare is emerging. Realities shift in *Farm* and *Chrysanthemum*. In the former, Jeanie begins to believe a cow on the farm she is moving away from is the reincarnation of her late husband, while in the latter a gardener develops an unhealthy relationship with a plant after her daughter mysteriously vanishes in a garden centre.

In the coming-of-age category, *Hifi Ulu* follows Luka, who prepares for a significant Niuean rite of passage in a ceremony that becomes a catalyst for cultural expectations and unspoken conflicts. Riding along with his imaginary daredevil friend, six-year-old Jimmy sets out on an epic quest to save his parents' marriage in *Ace*.

Two emotional films make up the drama department. A boy from a broken home steals a peach from his neighbour's tree, setting off a clash that will change him forever in *Pītiti (Peaches)*, while *Are You Still There* follows a young emergency dispatcher who forms a bond with an elderly widower, reminding her of the fragile beauty of life and human connection.

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# What's on



## **11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Oct. Wellington Orchid Society**

**Presents: Magic of Orchids:** *Walter Nash Stadium, Tocker Street, Lower Hutt – 10am.*

The Wellington Orchid Society are thrilled to present their spring show featuring beautiful displays of orchids, plus supplies from local and commercial growers. Come get tips and tricks from expert growers at one of the five potting demonstrations.



## **12<sup>th</sup> Oct. Diwali Festival of Lights:** *TSB*

*Arena, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront – 2pm.*

Step into the vibrant world of India and Southeast Asia at this year's Diwali Festival of Lights. From stalls selling clothes and crafts to a food court chocka with traditional delicacies, dance and music galore to fireworks at dusk, you'll be transported to a whole new world from right here in Wellington.



## **20<sup>th</sup> Oct. Freak Slug:** *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro – 7:30pm.*

The name 'Freak Slug' encapsulates Xenya Genovese's artistic world perversely and perfectly. Known for following the beat of her own drum, the Manchester-based artist's style is nostalgic, 90s influenced, and dreamy as well as eccentric and experimental. Enter her indie pop world in Welly this spring.



## **11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Wellington Wizards Picnic:** *Frank*

*Kitts Park, Jervois Quay, Wellington Waterfront – 11am.*

Welcome to a world of wonder and whimsy where wizards and witches picnic in the park. Get dressed up in your most wonderful wizard attire, cook up some potions and spells for lunch, and fly down to the waterfront on your blanket for the most magical picnic in all the realm.



## **11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Lip Sync Assassins: A Drag Show**

**Smackdown:** *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro – 9:30pm.*

Get ready for a drag showdown like no other as Wellington's Lip Sync Assassins hit the stage with high drama, higher heels, and killer performances that'll leave you gagging for more! These fierce queens and kings are ready to slay the stage in a lip-sync battle to the death (drop).



## **11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Saturday Laughs with Michael**

**Macaulay and Lana Walters:** *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro – 8pm.*

Michael Macaulay emcees for headliner Lana Walters [pictured], plus Gabby Anderson, Ralph Hilaga, and more at this two-hour comedy showcase. A Billy T Award-winner, Walters is a fabulous standup comedian, television writer, and improviser with a style all her own.



# What's on

## Wairarapa

**11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Oktoberfest:** *Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park, High Street, Masterton* – 6pm.

Celebrate Oktoberfest in true Bavarian style with bands and beer, dirndl and dancing.

**11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Harvest Moon:** *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 7:30pm.

This six-person Wellington-based band featuring a dazzling array of country genre instruments including pedal steel, mandolin, guitars, banjo, accordion, and dobro, play a diverse collection of Americana music.

**15<sup>th</sup> Oct. Only Bones:** *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 7:30pm. Explore the universe in this intimate and mesmerising physical theatre voyage with jelly-like performer Daniel Nodder.

## Kapiti

**Until 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Coasters Musical Theatre**

**Presents: Legally Blonde The Musical:**

*Southward Theatre, Otaihangā Road, Paraparaumu* – various times. Based on the beloved hit movie starring Reese Witherspoon, this musical performance delivers an empowering message about believing in yourself, breaking stereotypes, and discovering your own strength and intelligence.

**10<sup>th</sup> Oct. Davey Griffiths & Celine Filbee:** *The Raumati Social Club, Poplar Ave, Raumati* – 7pm.

Davey and Celine have crafted their diverse set around a shared love of the blues, a funky groove, and beautiful ballads.

**11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Kapiti Caledonian Society Presents:**

**Highland Ball:** *Waikanae Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa Street, Waikanae* – 7pm. Get dressed up in your kilts and tartan for a beautiful ball featuring Scottish music and dancing.

## Events

**12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. Sci-Fi Sundays:** *Space Place at Carter Observatory, Salamanca Road, Kelburn* – 6pm.

In *Dune: Part 2* on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Paul Atreides unites with the Fremen while on a warpath of revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family. A lonely janitor forms a unique relationship with an amphibious creature in *The Shape of Water*.

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Summit to Sea: Wellington 4x4 Camp and Outdoor Show:** *Brewtown, Blenheim Street, Upper Hutt* – 10am. Meet the biggest names in the game, experience live demos, find cutting-edge gear, get exclusive deals to transform your camping set-up, and enjoy live music and food trucks at this outdoor expo.

## Music

**10<sup>th</sup> Oct. Pumpkinhead:** *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pumpkinhead's debut album *Sloth*, a head-spinning whirlpool of fierce punky rock, powerful pop, and tempo-hopping metal.

**10<sup>th</sup> Oct. Hail Meteor!:** *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 8:30pm. The post-punk, death-pop band from Wellington presents their new album *Nearer* alongside Welder Inc. and Deaf Edge.

**10<sup>th</sup>; 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Chamber Dances:** *St Peter's on Willis, Wellington; Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Paraparaumu* – 6:30pm; 7:30pm. Naoto Segawa, joined by members of Orchestra Wellington, presents works by Gareth Farr and arrangements by Keith Moss of Grieg's Holberg Suite.

**12<sup>th</sup> Oct. Katelyn Henshall:** *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 5:30pm. Fusing pop, R&B, and soul into something uniquely her own, emerging Wellington talent Katelyn Henshall will be joined by Danica Bryant and Dillon Jo.

**16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Lord Rochester:** *Abandoned Taproom Petone, Fitzherbert Street, Petone* – 7pm.

Scottish rock 'n' rollers Lord Rochester embrace artists like Bo Diddley, Chuck Berry, and Jimmy Reed to create a stripped-back and rhythmic sound.

**16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Come Together: Led Zeppelin II:** *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. In this immersive experience, Kiwi legends pour their hearts and souls into recreating one of Led Zeppelin's albums cover to cover, with a smattering of deep cuts and favourites thrown in for good measure.

**17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Ryan Adams:** *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Multi-GRAMMY®-nominated singer-songwriter Ryan Adams celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his breakthrough debut album *Heartbreaker*.

**17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Heavy Halloween Havok III:** *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Planet of the Dead, The Crypt Kickers, and AwareWolves join forces with Terror-Fi Film Festival for a night of Samhain-themed shenanigans.

**17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Salty Lizard Productions Present:**

**Noye's Fludde:** *Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Molesworth Street, Thorndon* – 7pm; 3pm.

Benjamin Britten's beloved opera *Noye's Fludde* is a retelling of the biblical story of Noah's Ark.

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Terrace Dynamics:** *St Andrew's on The Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 3pm. Renowned Kiwi organist Kemp English and violin virtuoso Yuka Eguchi perform an exuberant programme for organ and violin.

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Orchestra Wellington Presents: Enemy of the State:** *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Following *Next Planet* by Kiwi John Psathas, violinist Benjamin Baker will deliver Alexander Glazunov's Concerto for Violin op. 82 in A minor, and soprano Madeleine Pierard will perform Dmitri Shostakovich's excerpts from the opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*.

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Eureka Presents: GroundWerk:** *Moon, Riddiford Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. This genre-bending dance experience features Cee, Doobie, Missthanxou, and UNWINWORLD.

## Performance

**9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Victoria Ancient Theatre Society**

**Presents: Octavia:** *Victoria University Memorial Theatre, Student Union Building, Kelburn* – 7:30pm. *Octavia* is a hard tragedy depicting the divorce and hardships of the titular Octavia—the first wife of Emperor Nero.

**10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Cori Gonzalez-Macuer:** *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. Cori Gonzalez-Macuer of *What We Do in the Shadows* fame presents an hour of new(ish) comedy in this work-in-progress show.

**10<sup>th</sup> Oct-8<sup>th</sup> Nov. Kavanah Productions & BRAVE Theatre Present: Monument:** *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. Edith Aldridge is the youngest woman to be elected leader of her country. In a lush presidential suite, she has just 90 minutes to get ready for the most monumental day of her life. But things are not going to plan.

**11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Laughs and Lights:** *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Swap firecrackers for fire quips at this all-Indian comedy show celebrating Diwali.

**14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Duct Taped On Presents: The Butler Did It:** *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. There's been a murder at the theatre and everybody is a suspect! But never fear, for detectives Didit and Durnit are back and on the case, this time to figure out who killed their boss.

**14<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Oct. EBKM Presents: Heartbreak Hotel:** *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. *Heartbreak Hotel* tracks a woman's broken heart in a wrenching and relatable journey that's studded with classic break-up songs and razor-sharp observations on the physiology of love.

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Footnote New Zealand Dance Presents: Revelry:** *New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, Lady Elizabeth Lane, Wellington Waterfront* – 7pm. Footnote New Zealand Dance are celebrating 40 years of daring, world-class, trailblazing contemporary dance. Join them for a night of boisterous merrymaking.

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Rory Lowe:** *Abandoned Taproom Petone, Fitzherbert Street, Petone* – 8pm. From getting arrested for terrorism to snitching on a meth head, getting married to failing miserably at quitting the party life, comedian Rory Lowe's real-life tales are as ridiculous as they are hilarious.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Paul Douglas:** *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Award-winning stand-up comedian Paul Douglas navigates life as someone who wants to live fast but can't quite keep up in his new comedy hour.

**23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Oct. Trick of the Light Theatre Presents: The Griegol:** *Hannah Playhouse, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – 7pm. After their grandmother passes away, a child suspects they are being pursued by the smoke demon shapeshifter of the old woman's stories.

## Galleries

**7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Oct. Erosion is a Soft Force:** *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro*. Cerys Wiles' and Frankie Matchitt-Millar's practices reflect light back at each other, eroding the boundaries of individual artmaking to a collective, ongoing discussion under the curatorship of Kieran Trainor.

**Until 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. He Whare Mahana – A Takatāpui Exhibition:** *Toi Pōneke Ats Centre, Abel Smith Street, Te Aro*. This group exhibition is curated by Utu ā Matimati – a takatāpui art collective – to celebrate takatāpui futures, remember tuākana journeys, and reflect on hauora takatāpui.

**Until 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Holdfast:** *Bowen Galleries, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro*. *Holdfast*, an exhibition from Kate Stevens West (Kāi Tahu, Pākehā), channels the tension between holding on and drifting free.

**Until 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Having Heard a Glow:** *Twentysix Gallery, Constable Street, Newtown*. Lewis Vivian Cosgrave (Ngāti Pūkenga) primarily focuses on the experience of the quotidian and capturing transitory moments.

**Until 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. Connection Songs:** *Exhibitions Gallery, Brandon Street, Te Aro*. Gareth Barlow presents a collection of detailed and life-like paintings of native manu (birds).

## Festivals

**Until 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. E/Merge Festival of Creativity:** *Te Auaha, Dixon Street, Te Aro* – various times. This arts festival is a creative celebration of the next generation of emerging talent and the merging of nine different creative disciplines, including dance, music, creative writing, film, stage production, creative technology, musical theatre, and more.

**10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Oct. Show Me Shorts Film Festival:** *Light House Cuba, Wigan Street, Te Aro* – various times. In the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary retrospective celebration of this Academy Awards® and BAFTA-accredited festival, enjoy short films from across the country and the globe.

**15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Oct. Wellington Jazz Festival:** *Various locations and times in Wellington*. Celebrate the sounds of soul, funk, jazz, fusion, rhythm, and blues with over 200 events happening across the city during the 2025 Wellington Jazz Festival.

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct-9<sup>th</sup> Nov. Wellington Heritage Festival:** *Various locations and times in Greater Wellington*. Experience the people, places, and stories of Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui with over 140 cultural and heritage-themed events.

**24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Oct. Wellington Folk Festival:** *Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre, Moores Valley Road, Wainuiomata* – various times. Join the multi-day music experience featuring local, national, and international artists celebrating 60 years of Wellyfest.

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**For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: [whatson@regionalnews.kiwi](mailto:whatson@regionalnews.kiwi). Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 14 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*

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This Labour weekend come to the 60<sup>th</sup> Wellington Folk Festival at the beautiful bush-clad Brookfield Camp in Moores Valley - just 40 minutes from central Wellington. Camp out for the whole festival or come for the day. Whatever the weather, we have you covered.

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**Tickets at [humanitix.com](https://humanitix.com)**  
**For more information: [wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz](https://wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz)**  
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**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 8:30am-6:15pm**

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# Regional News

*Eyes on Wellington*



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