

# Regional News

Issue 252  
November 9, 2025





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## News

### Life in Lycra



Suit and saddle up for the ride of a lifetime: the team behind one of New Zealand’s most successful plays of all time, *MAMIL* (*Middle Aged Man in Lycra*), are pedalling into The Opera House with their tour de force sequel *GOMIL* (*Grumpy Old Man in Lycra*).

Starring legend Mark Hadlow ONZM (*King Kong*, *The Hobbit*, *SNAG*) and written and directed by Gregory Cooper (*MAMIL*, *That Bloody Woman*), the critically acclaimed one-man production that sold out its Christchurch debut will make Pōneke the first pitstop on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September at The Opera House. The 70,000 fans who saw *MAMIL* during its eight-year run can expect the same fast-paced fun in a story that shifts gears from Bryan to Wayne, the founder and team leader of a men’s cycling group.

A lot has happened to Wayne over the last 10 years. He has retired, his son has moved to London with his grandchildren, and Maggie, his wife of 49 years, passed away suddenly a year ago. His family and his work were everything. They were the source of his pleasure and purpose and now Wayne has to cope with the loss of both.

The only thing left is cycling, but when Wayne has a panic attack and a catastrophic crash mid-ride, he experiences a crisis of confidence while grappling with the inability to do the one thing he loves. A relentlessly positive Scottish counsellor, a philosophical Romanian personal trainer, a new archenemy in the form of an ‘ocker’ Aussie retirement village owner, and even a Pinarello – the Italian bike of Bryan and Wayne’s nightmares – all help him get back in the saddle and realise he still has a purpose.

Join the peloton alongside Wayne as he pedals the ups and downs of the winding road of life to discover what is truly important in *GOMIL*.

### The ol’ razzle dazzle



**Billie Bountiful. Photo by Angie LC.**

Bringing song to the stage of The Fringe Bar on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, *Sing & Fling* is a one in a million, diamond a dozen burlesque show with live singers to serenade. JoJo Bellini’s soirée of sauce and song will stun, stupefy, and stagger audiences willing to spend their Saturday evening with shimmy shaking stars.

“With so many amazing burlesque performers that also have amazing voices I just had to bring the show back to showcase their talents,” producer and MC JoJo Bellini says. “It will be a night of glitz, glamour, and hit numbers spanning the early 1900s to now.”

Harking back to the glamour of vaudeville with a modern twist, *Sing & Fling* will tease and delight with velvety voices and divine costumes dripping in sequins and silks. Entertaining and amusing for the evening are a serious and silly, saucy and sparkly group of performers from Pōneke and beyond.

Ms Weeds is a retro weird singing darling who boasts the titles of bassist and cellist on their extensive résumé. Tāmaki Makaurau-based burlesque performer Billie Bountiful is dreamy and ready to shimmy. Victor Victorious is Wellington’s one-man variety riot bringing cabaret strangeness to the stage. Introverted exhibitionist Hester Hawthorne has performed childhood-ruining burlesque from Ōtautahi to Oslo. Breathless La Belle grew up singing country, blues, and bluegrass in Nashville – getting her first taste of burlesque in Las Vegas, she turns heads in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Lily von Tryx is always ready to cavort and seduce. Sexy Scot and award-winning producer and drag king Willy SmacknTush joins the fandango, while the Velma Cherry on top is like a packet of pop rocks with an infectious grin.

Treat your troupe to the timeless, tantalising to-do that is *Sing & Fling*.

**Cover: *Trinculo in The Tempest*, Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand.**

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

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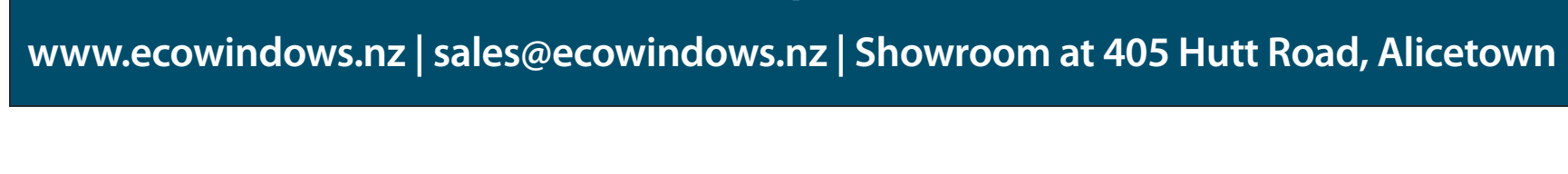
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## As they Will like it



48 rangatahi from across Aotearoa will converge in Wellington this September for an unforgettable nine-day immersion in Shakespeare, culminating in two public performances that showcase their talent, growth, and creativity. From most arriving nervous, even anxious, they quickly relax into the course, departing shedding copious tears as the ‘bittersweet’ farewells are enriched with new lifelong whānau and a wealth of newfound knowledge and experiences.

Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand National Shakespeare Schools Production (SGCNZ NSSP) is a golden opportunity for 46 young actors and student-directors chosen from the 24 Regional and National SGCNZ Victoria University of Wellington Regional and National Shakespeare Festivals (SGCNZ VUW RNSF). They are joined by a winner of the SGCNZ/Dawn Sanders Shakespeare Costume Design Competition as student costumier and SGCNZ/Morrison Music Trust Shakespeare Music Composition Competition as student composer.

This residential intensive week at St Patrick’s College, Silverstream from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September comprises talks, tours, workshops, and rehearsals, with culminating public performances at 7pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September at Wellington High School Hall and 7:30pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September in the VUW Memorial Theatre.

The students are divided judiciously into three groups to work on 40 minutes of scenes from *The Tempest*, *Julius Caesar*, and *As You Like It*, directed by Jade Eriksen, Jacqueline Coats, and David O’Donnell respectively, and performed after only five half-days of rehearsals.

“We are extremely grateful to Victoria University for having picked up the significant sponsorship of our SGCNZ Shakespeare Festivals which flow into our sought-after selection for our annual SGCNZ NSSP course”, SGCNZ CEO Dawn Sanders says.

“From this, 24 are chosen to form SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company 2026.”

What the rangatahi attending this course will learn will give them a head start as they squeeze out the transferable skills they absorb, ranging from educational to professional environments, so acquiring their affectionate nomenclature of ‘Shakey Sponges’. They will gain deeply personal new appreciation of their own strengths and capabilities, through the mentoring and general enhancement of their life skills.

## All will be revealed



*Secrets* is the next revealing chapter in Orchestra Wellington’s 2025 season *The Dictator’s Shadow*, exploring music that defied censorship and survival under political pressure. The concert will whisper, ripple, and resound through Michael Fowler Centre on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September at 7:30pm.

This bold programme opens with *House of the Faun*, a brand-new commission from Te Whanganui-a-Tara composer William Philipson, created especially for Orchestra Wellington and Arohanui Strings+. Inspired by the grandeur and silent stillness of Pompeii’s ancient House of the Faun, this immersive orchestral journey transports listeners through architectural soundscapes – from the impluvium’s reflective rainwater to the peristyle gardens’ hushed expanses.

Next, we turn to Mozart’s radiant Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat major, K. 364, a luminous work that exemplifies graceful partnership between violin and viola. Benjamin Baker and Yura Lee intertwine their voices with poetic intimacy – moving from grace and longing in the slow movement to exhilarating virtuosic play in the finale, tracing both tribute and joy.

The concert climaxes with Shostakovich’s monumental Symphony No. 4 in C minor, Op. 43 – a symphony deemed too dangerous under Stalin and withdrawn before its premiere. Its vast orchestral forces, Mahler-inflected textures, and dramatic contrasts give voice to suppressed defiance and relentless power. From the machine-like terror of the first movement to the ghostly percussion motifs and haunting solos, the work emerges as a profound testament to creative courage.

*Secrets* is a concert of hidden truths and daring expression – music that once had to conceal itself now boldly claims the stage. Join Orchestra Wellington for an evening of revealing artistry and resilience in the face of silence.

Unveil more intel at [www.orchestrawellington.co.nz](http://www.orchestrawellington.co.nz)

## SNIPS

### Videos live

In a new initiative, Wellington local election candidates have answered some of the big questions in short videos that are available to view online at [wellington.govt.nz/candidates](http://wellington.govt.nz/candidates). 47 of the 50 candidates have answered questions about their skills and strengths, decision-making for their community, and key challenges and opportunities for the city.

### All Blacks game

Metlink is putting on bigger buses and more trains to get fans to and from the All Blacks vs South Africa game at 7:05pm on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September at Sky Stadium, with increased capacity beforehand and extra services afterwards.

### \$2.25 million fine

Jetstar has been handed one of the largest fines ever issued under New Zealand’s Fair Trading Act (FTA). The airline admitted to multiple breaches of the FTA after misleading passengers about their rights to make claims and seek compensation when flights were delayed or cancelled for reasons within Jetstar’s control.

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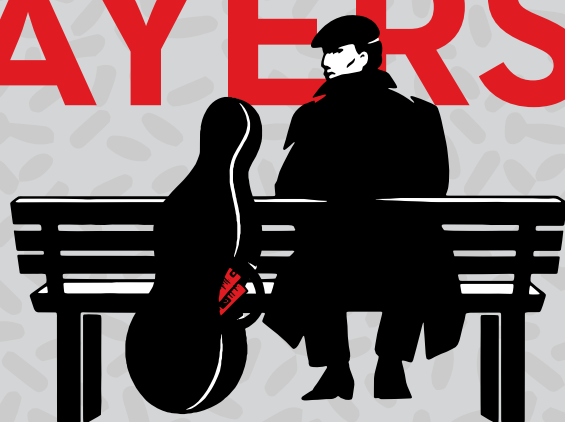


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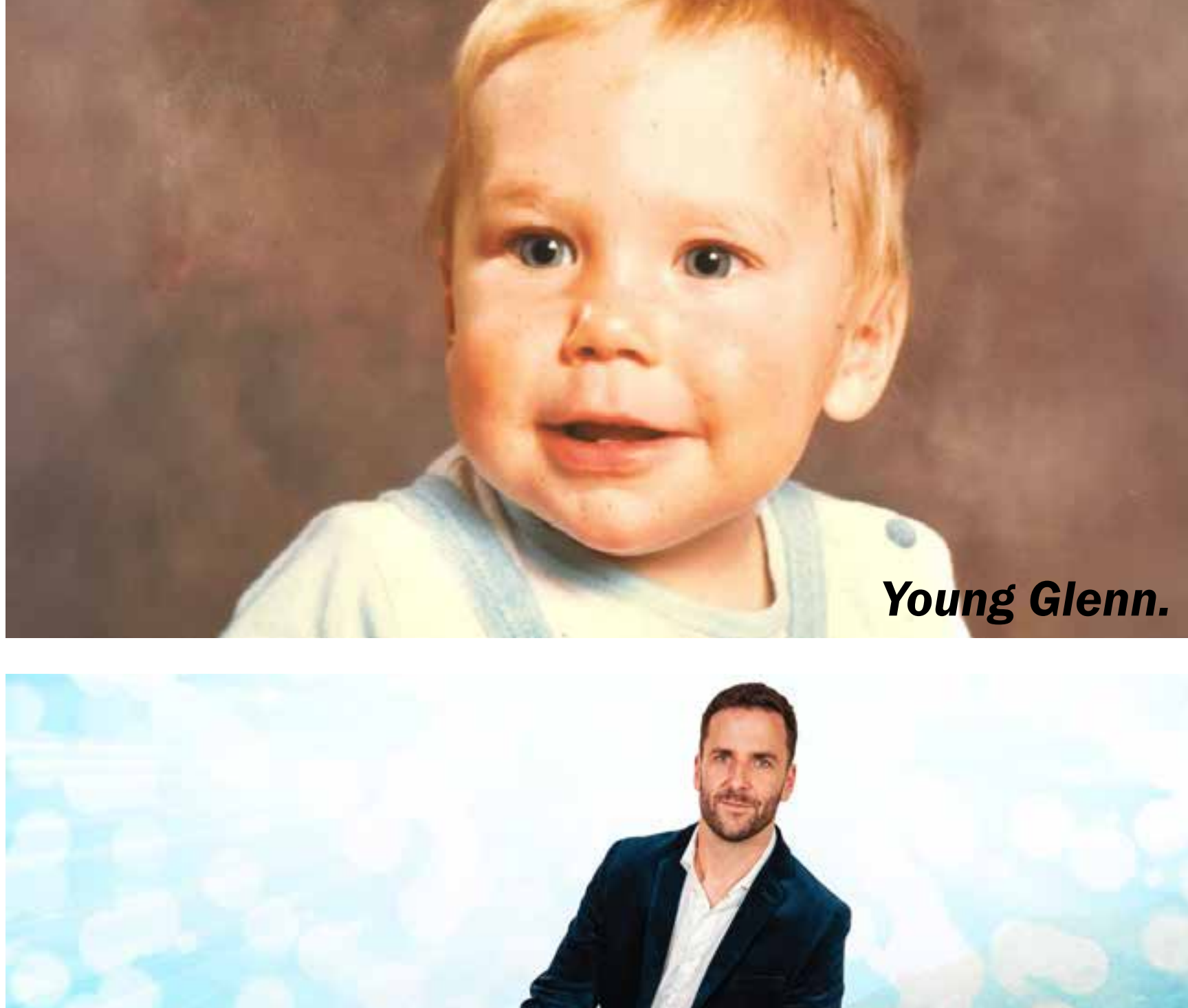
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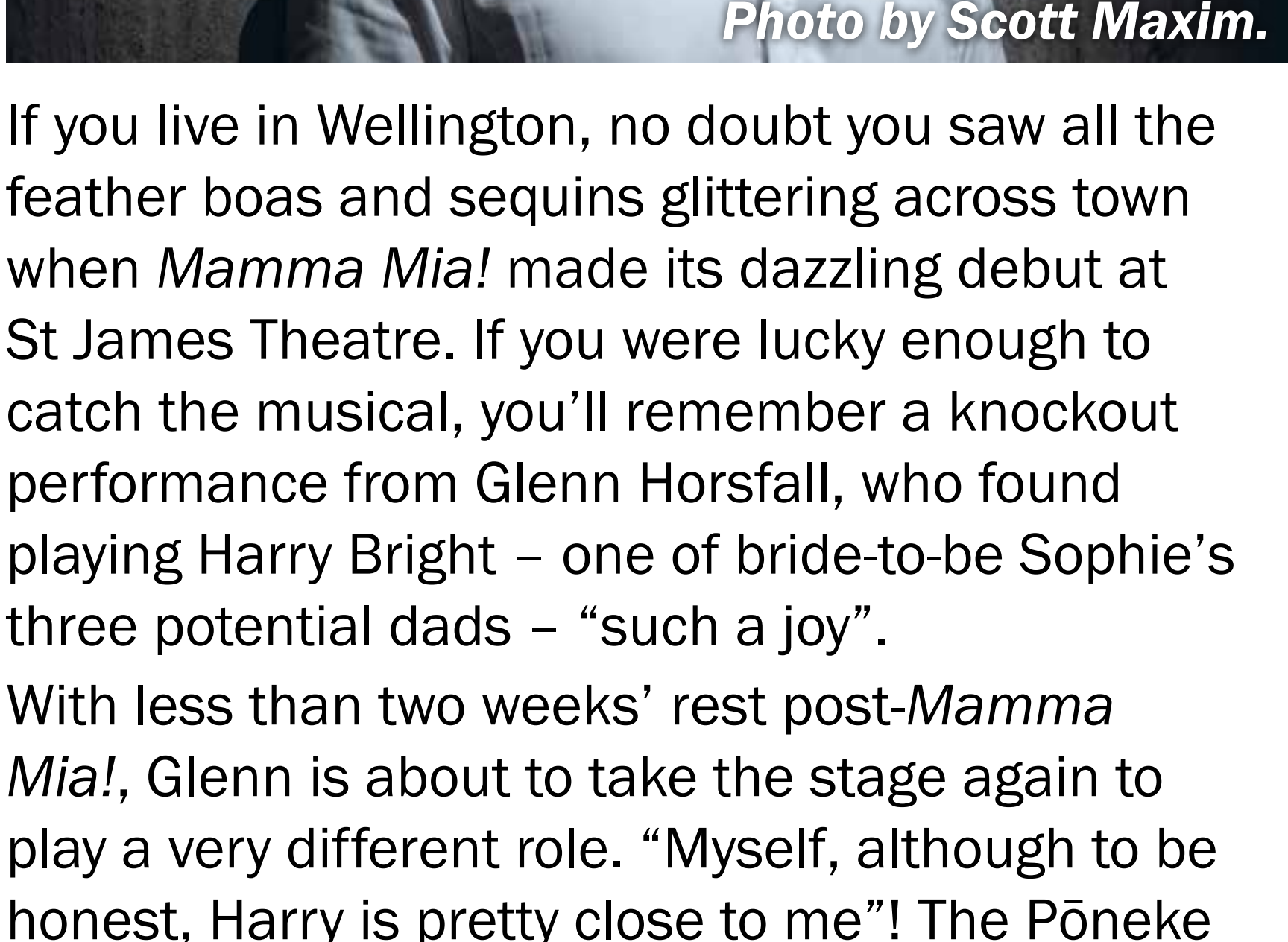
## Here he goes again *by Madelaine Empson*



**Young Glenn.**



**Glenn in Mamma Mia!**



**Photo by Scott Maxim.**

If you live in Wellington, no doubt you saw all the feather boas and sequins glittering across town when *Mamma Mia!* made its dazzling debut at St James Theatre. If you were lucky enough to catch the musical, you'll remember a knockout performance from Glenn Horsfall, who found playing Harry Bright – one of bride-to-be Sophie's three potential dads – “such a joy”.

With less than two weeks' rest post-*Mamma Mia!*, Glenn is about to take the stage again to play a very different role. “Myself, although to be honest, Harry is pretty close to me”! The Pōneke singer and actor will revive his one-man show *This Wasn't the Plan: A Musical Theatre Cabaret* for the TAH: New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance at The Hannah for one night only on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September.

***I can imagine performing This Wasn't the Plan is quite the tone and vibe shift!***

On the surface they look very different. *Mamma Mia!* is a big, joyful musical, and *This Wasn't the Plan* is me on stage telling my own story. But at their core they share something in common. *Mamma Mia!* is about how Donna's life did not go to plan, and that is the thread running through my cabaret as well. The struggles, the detours, the pain, and the humour all resonate with me too. The difference is that instead of ABBA songs carrying the story, I use musical theatre numbers to help bring my own story to life. I feel so grateful that the show has taken on a life of its own and that it has been received with such warmth.

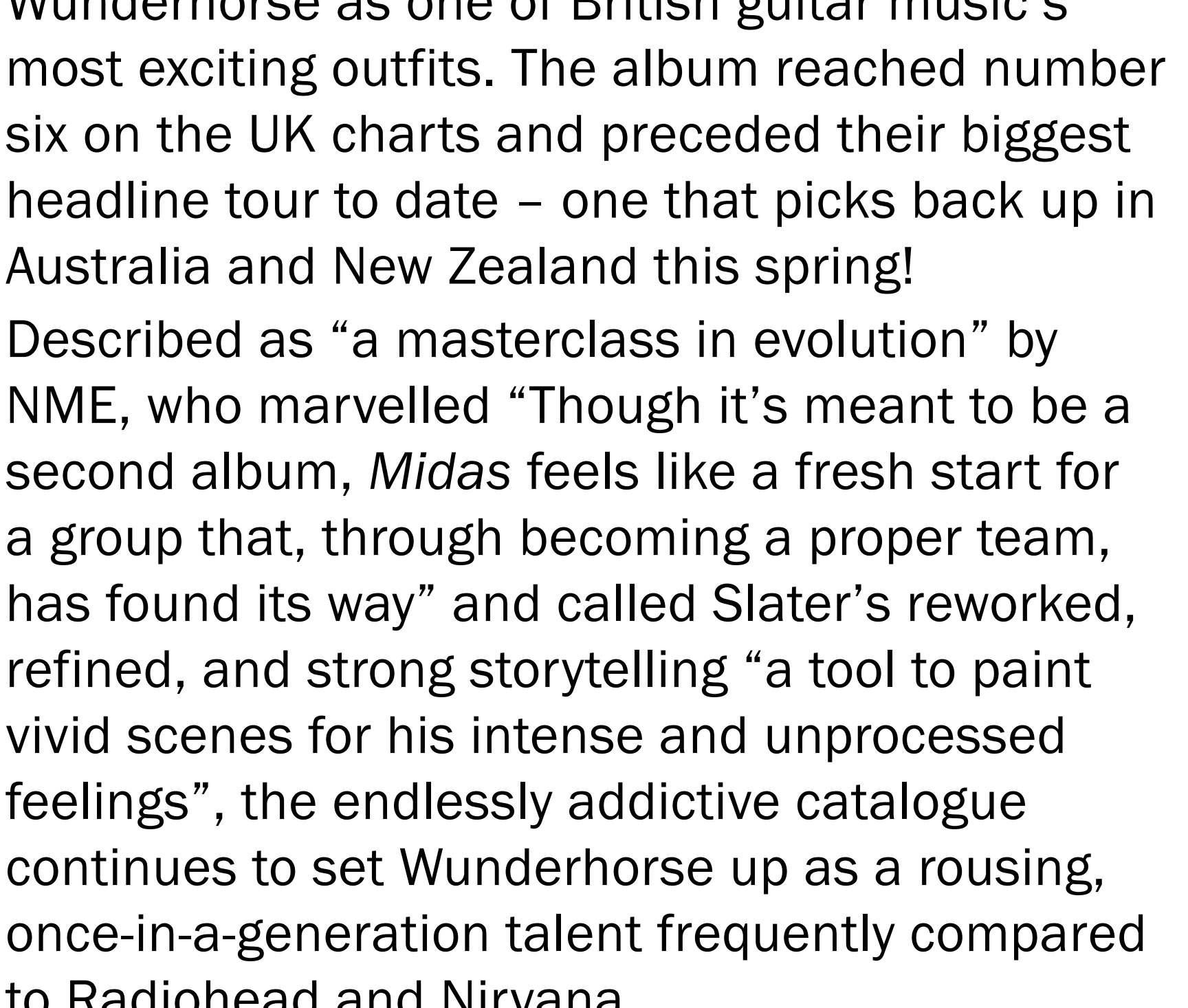
***How did it go last time and what feedback resonated with you the most?***

The response [at the 2025 New Zealand Fringe Festival] was overwhelming. Winning Outstanding Solo Show was an honour, but what really stayed with me were the people who said they saw themselves in my story. They recognised the messy parts, the resilience, the uncertainty, and the successes. I had thought the people who knew me would connect the most, and that it would be an interesting show for friends to hear about my life. What surprised me was that the strongest feedback came from strangers, who found their own reflections in what I shared. It might not be the same memory, but it often sparks the same feeling. That sense of recognition and connection was the most rewarding part.

***What impact are you hoping to have on audiences this time around?***

I hope people leave entertained, but also feeling like they have been part of something real. Life is not always glamorous or straightforward. Sometimes it is hard, sometimes it is funny, and sometimes it is both at once. By sharing both the highs and the lows, I want audiences to feel seen in their own stories too. If they leave smiling but also carrying a spark of recognition or encouragement to be less afraid, then I will feel like I have done my job.

## Rousing and raucous



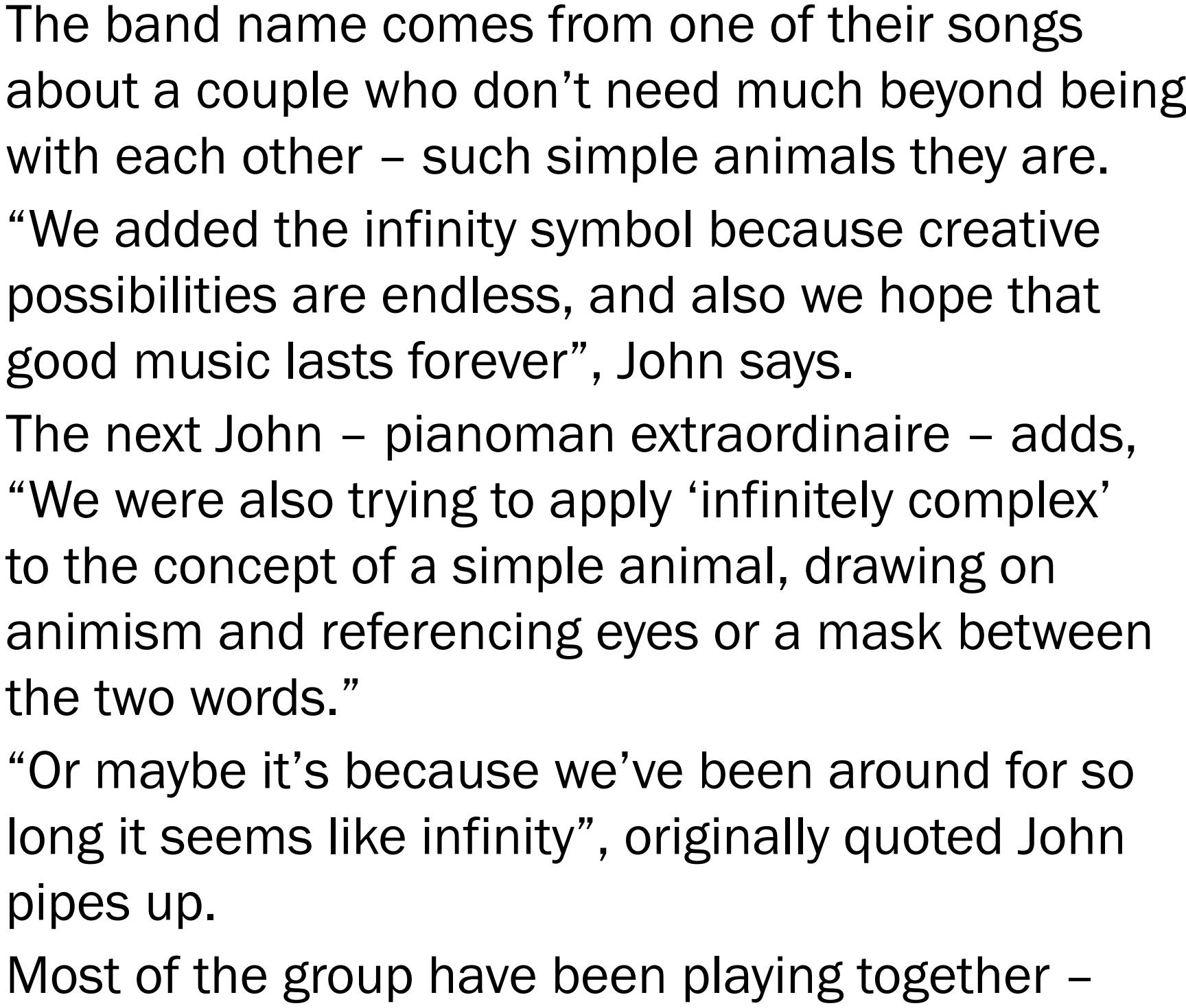
Wunderhorse wanted their latest album *Midas* to sound “like your face is pressed up against the amp,” frontman Jacob Slater says. “No frills, no polish – just pure, uncut rock ‘n’ roll.”

Released in 2024 following the rock band's acclaimed 2022 debut *Cub*, which saw them graduate from ear-splitting basement gigs to show-stealing support tours with the likes of Fontaines D.C. and Pixies, *Midas* established Wunderhorse as one of British guitar music's most exciting outfits. The album reached number six on the UK charts and preceded their biggest headline tour to date – one that picks back up in Australia and New Zealand this spring!

Described as “a masterclass in evolution” by NME, who marvelled “Though it's meant to be a second album, *Midas* feels like a fresh start for a group that, through becoming a proper team, has found its way” and called Slater's reworked, refined, and strong storytelling “a tool to paint vivid scenes for his intense and unprocessed feelings”, the endlessly addictive catalogue continues to set Wunderhorse up as a rousing, once-in-a-generation talent frequently compared to Radiohead and Nirvana.

Filled with rugged hooks, unfiltered noise, and fierce melodic sensitivity, *Midas* captures the raw power and visceral atmosphere of the band's live performances. For melodies that stay in your head and riffs that shoot through your soul, catch Wunderhorse at Meow Nui on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

## Wide, wild lives *by Madelaine Empson*



simple ∞ animal is fronted by singer-songwriter John McDougall along with powerhouse singer Annie Ruddock, guitarist Steve Jessup, keyboardist John Niland, drummer Tim Robinson, and bassman Murray Costello.

The band name comes from one of their songs about a couple who don't need much beyond being with each other – such simple animals they are. “We added the infinity symbol because creative possibilities are endless, and also we hope that good music lasts forever”, John says.

The next John – pianoman extraordinaire – adds, “We were also trying to apply ‘infinitely complex’ to the concept of a simple animal, drawing on animism and referencing eyes or a mask between the two words.”

“Or maybe it's because we've been around for so long it seems like infinity”, originally quoted John pipes up.

Most of the group have been playing together – on and off in various bands – since they were in high school, while front John's songs have been recorded by The Hulamen and the Holidaymakers, who had a number one hit in *Sweet Lovers*.

“These have been songs of heartache, protest, love, and some really silly songs. Songs that reflect the wide, wild, and weird lives we live”, John says.

Bassman Murray loves the variety of John's tracks, saying “they can be soulful or funky and fun, and are always creative. And playing with the other super experienced and artistic musicians is always a blast!”

simple ∞ animal will have audiences dancing along to new ditties like *Things Are Looking Up*, *Hate Is The Question – Love Is The Answer*, and *I Love Whisky (And Whisky Loves Me)* as part of the run-up to recording their next album later in the month.

Get grooving at Vogelmorn Upstairs on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September.

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## Christmas with the tezzas



With boundless energy and exuberance, New South Wales *Skate Pop* sensations The Terrys are kickflipping back to Aotearoa to greet the spring sun. Exploding out of the coast town of Gerringong at the dawn of this decade, the band has always been one for the people: laid-back, genuine, and refreshingly down-to-earth. What started in backyards and surf town pubs has made its way to pumping festivals and stages across Australia, New Zealand, the UK, and Europe, but that hasn't changed who they are. There's no ego, no industry gloss – just five good mates making music they love and bringing everyone along for the ride.

Perhaps no one can sum that up better than The Terrys themselves, who released their third self-titled, soul-stirring album in July and dropped further surprise tracks without fanfare in August. In a much-liked Instagram post four weeks ago, they wrote “hey guys we just casually leaking 6 unreleased tracks on here cos we don't give a f\*\*k and nobody does it like the tezzas”. Fans rejoiced, with one commenting “Didn't realise it was Christmas”.

*The Terrys* topped the ARIA Charts, continuing the mega ramp trajectory of their sophomore album *Skate Pop* (2024), which debuted at number two and landed them a coveted triple j Feature Album spot. With a true north that's always been to stay positive, take it one day at a time, and look towards the horizon, join The Terrys – bevvie in hand – at Meow on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September.

## Edits you'd never expect



Wellington-based MESSIE, aka Tessa Hills, is the latest DJ to take Aotearoa's electronic dance music scene to filthy new levels. And she's rapidly becoming one of the most exciting new names to watch after opening for one of the UK's most coveted DJs, Fred Again, to a crowd of 35,000 people in Perth and releasing a remix of his song *places to be* that has more than 2.8 million streams on Spotify alone.

But as *Rolling Stone Australia* puts it, MESSIE's success isn't about luck – it's about being ready for opportunities. With a degree in music technology, the Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa – Massey University graduate has spent countless nights honing her skills and cutting her *TEETH* over her decks in uni halls, local venues like San Fran, and underground clubs like b.space.

A former drummer, MESSIE's passion for rhythm and beats was the pipeline for her falling in love with garage, breakbeat, and jungle – all genres she effortlessly blends into her ever-expanding sound today. Guaranteed to be bootleg heavy, her high-energy sets will keep you guessing with what will come next, with baile funk and ghetto tech meeting girl-boss anthems and juke, Afrobeats and Jersey club mixing and melding with rap, grime, and queer music licks.

From Wellington to Glastonbury and back again with a string of international dates under her belt, MESSIE will bring the *TEETH Tour* to San Fran twice this September – once in a sold-out show on the 20<sup>th</sup> and now with an additional *All Night Long* date on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Electrifying elegance



Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* tells of fate's fickle hand, the pleasures and sorrows of life, and the unstoppable energy of human passion. Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* bursts with rhythmic vitality and heartfelt spirituality. These two beloved and recognisable masterpieces will come together under one programme at *O Fortuna!* – a momentous concert featuring the earth-shattering sound of 300 voices joining forces with a full brass band.

Performing the concert on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September at the Michael Fowler Centre under conductor Brent Stewart are Orpheus Choir Wellington and Auckland Choral, New Zealand's largest city choirs, alongside Wellington Brass Band. Meanwhile, soloists include soprano Emma Pearson, countertenor Coco Diaz [pictured], and baritone James Harrison, alongside acclaimed pianists Jian Liu and Diedre Irons.

“This performance will be mighty in scale,” Orpheus Choir musical director Brent Stewart says, with Auckland Choral music director Uwe Grodd following up that “the power and majesty of these combined forces will deliver a polished, visceral, and unforgettable experience”.

True to his style, Stewart says the famous “dying swan” scene of *Carmina Burana* won't just be sung, it will be experienced. In this darkly comic moment, a once-elegant swan laments its fall from grace while being roasted for the feast.

“It's a pivotal point in the drama,” Stewart continues. “So we're making the most of our countertenor's return home – and their willingness to throw themselves, swan-like, into the role.”

## Locked and loaded



**Photo by Nikki Parlane.**

After 25 years, Pamela Browne has finally managed to get the gang back together again. The four of them were best friends in high school and now they'll be reunited. How fun! What could possibly go wrong?

Kay is first to arrive, now a chocoholic gun-toting funeral director, she makes Pamela begin to question her meticulously planned weekend. Add Sandy, a nun, and Dianne, a mother of eight sons and wife to the school nerd to the mix and things start to derail fast. Rachel, a runaway teenager on a mission to dig up some dirt on her mother, and Shaun, the greasy motel janitor who ends up in a compromising position in the ladies' wardrobe, only add fuel to the fire of a powder-keg weekend. But boy does it all trigger some memories!

*Crazy Ladies*, a play written by Tauranga author Devon Williamson, will light up the Gryphon Theatre stage at 7:30pm between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September – with a matinee on the 20<sup>th</sup> and an SPCA fundraising show on the 24<sup>th</sup> – for an explosive show from New Players Theatre Company. Directed by long-standing actor and legend Maria Schrader, who returned to New Players Theatre Company last year, *Crazy Ladies* stars a cast of all ages from across the region.

Locked and loaded with guns and gags, cuffs and crucifixes, sleazeballs and slander, pizza and pinot in tow, it's

a weekend for the books with *Crazy Ladies*. Visit [www.newplayers.org.nz](http://www.newplayers.org.nz) for more.



## Our collective mess



“Past audiences have started laughing, gone through some frustrated confusion, wept quietly into their sleeve, and then come out the other side with a renewed sense of hope and compassion,” fearless performer and stage maverick Eliza Sanders says of her award-winning show *Manage Your Expectations*. “I like to make people laugh in order to open up their hearts so they can cry.”

A revolutionary fusion of contemporary dance, cine-theatre, and whimsical humour that comes to Circa Theatre from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of September as part of TAHI: New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance, *Manage Your Expectations* addresses the universal concept of human relationships with our partners, children, ancestors, self, and death.

Beginning in the style of comic performance lecture before ceding to clownish antics and personal storytelling in the second half, the show is evocative and hypnotic with its simple setup: one performer, a camera, a screen, and you – the audience.

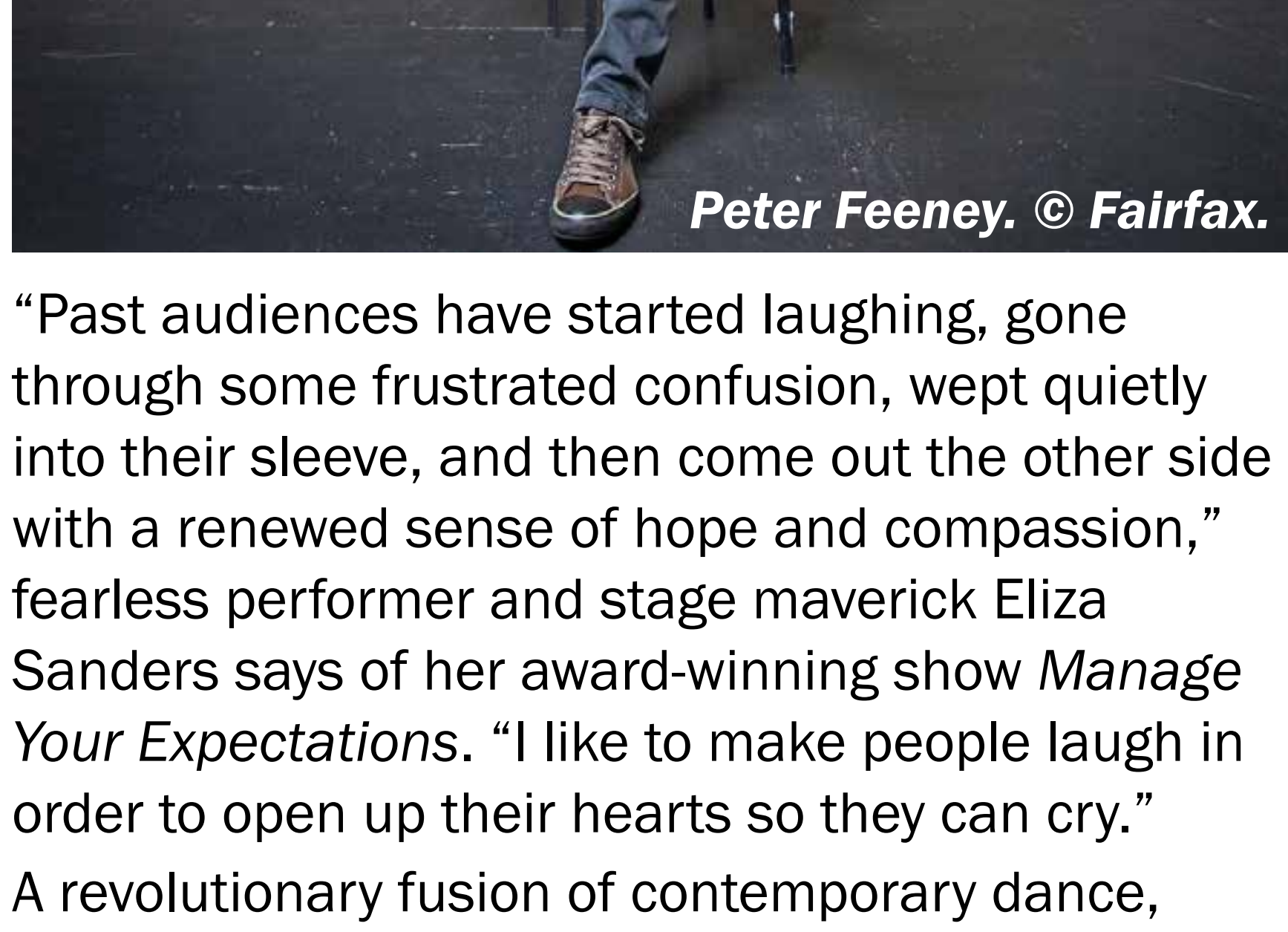
“This is Eliza’s most sophisticated and nuanced piece of choreography and image-making”, director, co-artistic director of production company House of Sand, and Eliza’s sister Charley Allana says. “It’s about finding joy and humour in complexity, and in our endless inability to really understand ourselves and each other.”

Through movement and multimedia, the show examines the impossibility of perfect communication, musing on the influence of context, identity, and personal history to craft something beautiful from what Eliza and Charley call “our collective mess”.

“I hope audiences, especially ADHD and Autistic audience members, feel seen,” Eliza says of her last ever Pōneke season of *Manage Your Expectations*. “I hope by revealing my chaotic, complex inner dialogue, people will see the profundity and nonsense of how hard it is to truly understand ourselves and each other.”

## A spine-chilling spooktacle

by **Madelaine Empson**



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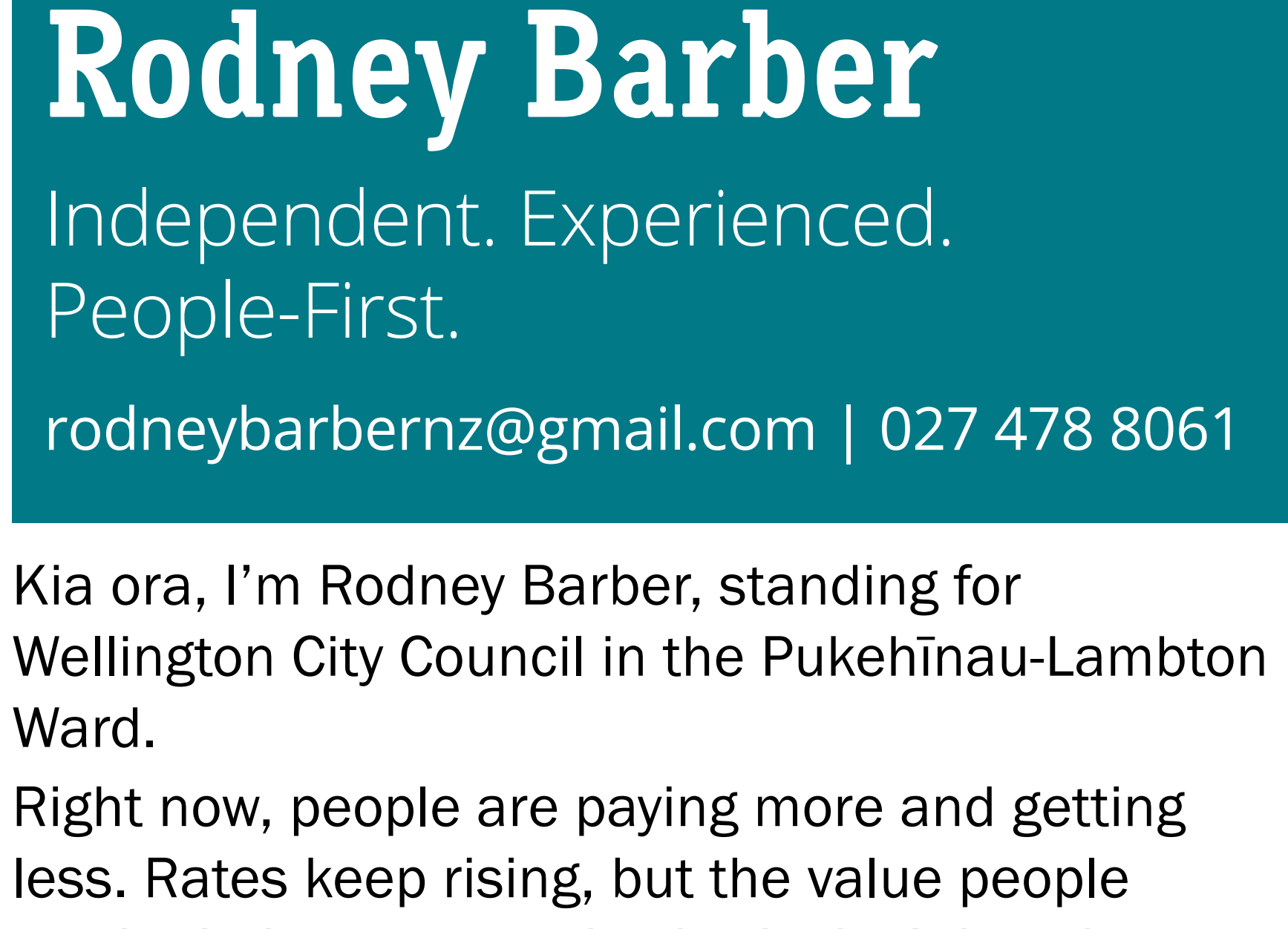
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## Rodney Barber – My vision for Wellington City



### Rodney Barber

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Kia ora, I’m Rodney Barber, standing for Wellington City Council in the Pukehīnau-Lambton Ward.

Right now, people are paying more and getting less. Rates keep rising, but the value people see in their streets and suburbs isn’t keeping pace. It seems that local voices are too often an afterthought. That’s created a trust gap between Council and the people it serves, and it must change.

I’ve spent decades helping governments at Treasury and the IMF make smarter investment decisions that delivered real results that people could see. But I also know real change doesn’t start in council offices. It starts when Council listens early and works with communities to test what really works. In Newlands, I helped neighbours build a grassroots resilience group, showing that when communities connect, they not only build safer, stronger streets and are ready for the unexpected, but they also thrive when they have a voice in shaping what really matters.

That’s the model I’ll bring to Council: piloting ideas with communities in Wellington, proving what works and then pitching them to Council to deliver at scale. Because when decisions start with people, they don’t just look good on paper, they add real value to everyday life in our suburbs.

I’m standing for Council because Wellington needs stronger communities and smarter decisions, especially in the city’s political, economic and cultural heart. I’ve worked in the Pukehīnau-Lambton Ward for 33 years.

As a former Treasury official, and currently an IMF expert, I’ve spent decades helping governments invest wisely. But what matters most is every decision delivers real value to the communities it affects.

But I’m not just about systems, I’m about people.

As Chair of the Aotearoa Community Resilience Network trust and the Newlands Resilience Group, I’m working to build grassroots resilience, helping people connect, and be able to speak into decision making. Now I want to bring that same approach to Wellington.

I bring a public value approach: one that puts people first, stabilises rates over time, and ensures neighbourhood voices are genuinely heard.

Here’s what I stand for:

1. Stronger communities where people look out for each other
2. Safer, better-prepared neighbourhoods
3. Smarter decisions that reflect your voice
4. Rates that reflect real value to you.

If elected, I’ll focus on listening, connecting communities, and making sure big projects reflect local voices, not just top-down plans.

Authorised by Rodney Barber.



## Rising stars



**An Pham. Photo by Thuong Nguyen.**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, the Michael Fowler Centre will resound with the extraordinary talent of some of the finest young musicians in Aotearoa. Performing live alongside the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) and led by conductor Hamish McKeich, six young soloists and 18 young musicians present *Emerging Artists*.

An Pham will play the third movement of Mendelssohn's lyrical Violin Concerto. At age 10, An is deputy concertmaster of the Wellington Youth Sinfonietta.

Flautist Ella Zhang, who performs Cécile Chaminade's enchanting Flute Concertino, is a winner of multiple scholarships and competition accolades.

David Zhu, who performs with the NZSO National Youth Orchestra and Auckland Philharmonia, will play the third movement of Strauss' Oboe Concerto.

Leo Liu has performed at the iconic Carnegie Hall and will play the first movement of Mozart's renowned Piano Concerto No. 23.

Juilliard Pre-College student and Stulberg International String Competition medallist Oliver Mar (cello) will interpret Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme*.

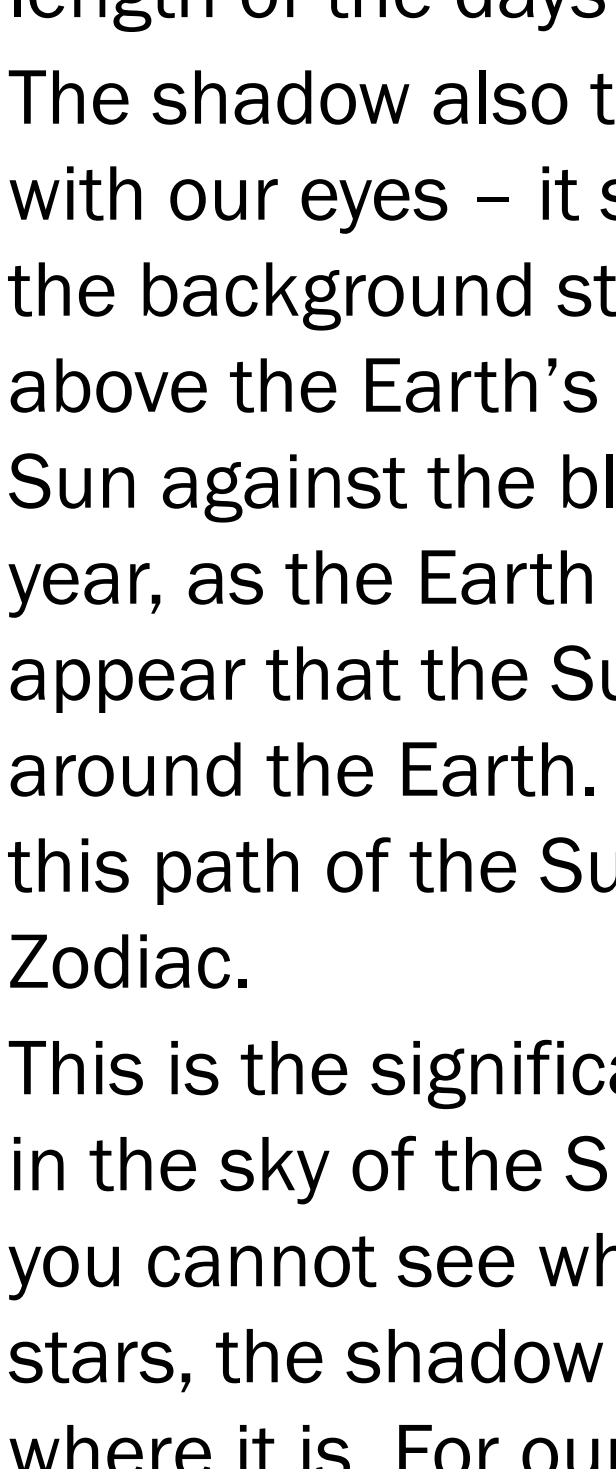
A winner of the Dunedin Concerto Competition, pianist Ozan Biner-McGrath will play the first movement of Robert Schumann's acclaimed Piano Concerto.

The 18 young musicians playing with the orchestra will also perform young Kiwi composer Cameron Monteath's *La veille* and the fourth movement of Dvořák's Ninth Symphony *From the New World*.

## Cosmic conversations

### The Zodiac

**by Richard Hall, astronomical communicator**



Near the centre of Stonehenge Aotearoa is a five-metre tall needle of stone called an obelisk. Near noon on a sunny day it casts a shadow on a structure on the ground called an Analemma. The point of the shadow tells us the date and the true length of the day, which

varies throughout the year. This variation is the reason we use 'mean time', which is the average length of the days throughout the year.

The shadow also tells us something we cannot see with our eyes – it shows where the Sun is against the background stars. If you were in space, just above the Earth's atmosphere, you would see our Sun against the blackness of space. And, over a year, as the Earth orbits around the Sun, it would appear that the Sun was moving in a great circle around the Earth. The background stars along this path of the Sun form the constellations of the Zodiac.

This is the significance of the Zodiac. It is the path in the sky of the Sun, Moon, and planets. Although you cannot see where the Sun is amongst the stars, the shadow of the obelisk shows you exactly where it is. For our ancestors, this knowledge provided vital information on timekeeping and allowed them to foretell seasonal changes.

If people know anything about the stars, it is their astrological star sign. And, traditionally, your star sign is the constellation the Sun was in at the time of your birth. If your star sign is Gemini, for example, this means that the Sun – the life-giving powers of the Sun – was in Gemini when you were born.

It comes as a shock to many visitors to Stonehenge when they discover they are not the star sign that they thought they were.

For centuries, publishing the Zodiac and astrology was banned. When this law was repealed, which wasn't until 1910 in England, one Western newspaper decided to publish the star signs.

Problem was, unbeknown to the publisher, the date upon which a star sign begins slowly changes over time due to a wobble on the Earth's axis.

Consequently, the star sign dates given in Western newspapers and magazines? 2000 years out of date!

## Musical musings



**Wilma Smith. Photo by Agatha Yim.**

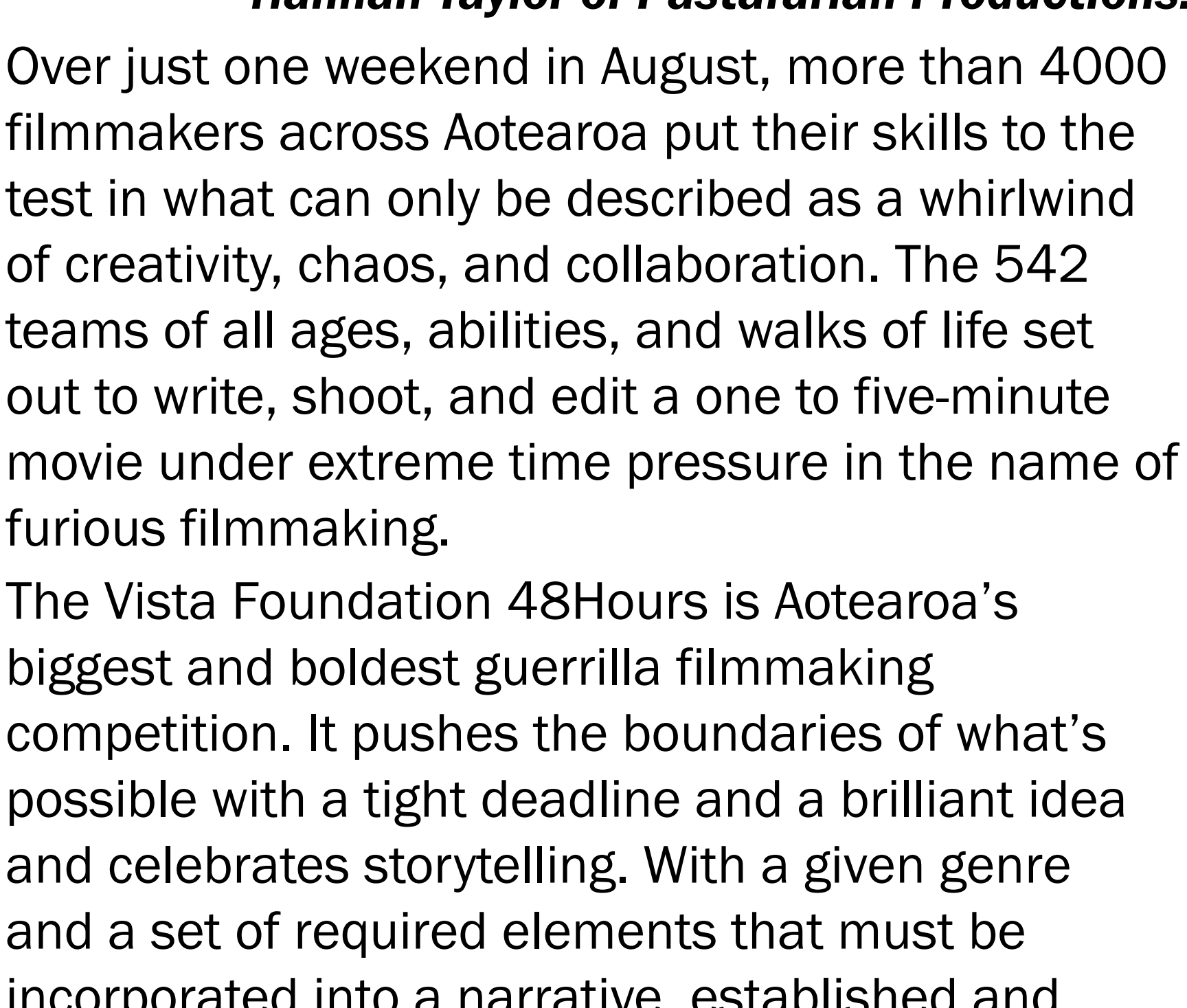
This year's Martinborough Music Festival programme is one of cross-cultural connection. For the 9<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of chamber music, artists from around the world will join forces with New Zealand musicians between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September in Martinborough Town Hall.

Artistic directors and violinists Wilma Smith and Donald Armstrong will be joined in different combinations by London-based violinist Natalia Lomeiko and violinist/violist Yuri Zhislin, Melbourne-based violist Caroline Henbest, cellists Matthias Balzat (Germany) and Ashley Brown, concert pianist Jian Liu, and classical saxophonist Simon Brew. For the first time, the artists will be resident in Martinborough for a week of rehearsals before tuning in for four concerts over three days.

The first concert at 7:30pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> will feature music by Australians Russell Peterson and Barry Cockcroft, Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály, and Ernest Chausson of France. Saturday's harmonies kick off at 2pm with a concert showcasing the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and American Amy Beach and concludes with a 7:30pm programme featuring Poland's Grażyna Bacewicz, Russia's Dmitri Shostakovich, and Czechia's Antonín Dvořák.

Sunday's 2pm concert will serve as a coda to the 2025 Martinborough Music Festival and celebrate Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Argentina's Astor Piazzolla, and a newly commissioned work from renowned New Zealand composer Louise Webster, who will give a pre-show talk about her music and its connections with Wairarapa.

## Frantic filmmaking fun



**Hannah Taylor of Pastafarian Productions.**

Over just one weekend in August, more than 4000 filmmakers across Aotearoa put their skills to the test in what can only be described as a whirlwind of creativity, chaos, and collaboration. The 542 teams of all ages, abilities, and walks of life set out to write, shoot, and edit a one to five-minute movie under extreme time pressure in the name of furious filmmaking.

The Vista Foundation 48Hours is Aotearoa's biggest and boldest guerrilla filmmaking competition. It pushes the boundaries of what's possible with a tight deadline and a brilliant idea and celebrates storytelling. With a given genre and a set of required elements that must be incorporated into a narrative, established and emerging talents alike push at the confines of creativity to craft the extraordinary in under 48 hours.

In 2025, Te Whanganui-a-Tara took the lead with 173 teams, the best of which will have their film screened at the Embassy Theatre on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September for the Regional Finals. Here, they will vie for a spot in the Grand National Final on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October in Pōneke at the Embassy Theatre, where the ultimate champion will be crowned.

"The Regional Finals are a fantastic opportunity for the public to see the incredible talent that exists right here in their own community,"

48Hours national manager Vanessa Patea says. "Every year, we are blown away by the creativity, ingenuity, and sheer determination of these filmmakers. It's a testament to the resilient filmmaking culture in New Zealand."



# Close-up

by **Madelaine Empson**

## Tearing it up



**Photo by Travis Shinn.**

Pixies – formed in Boston Massachusetts in 1986 – have changed the course of alternative rock. Influencing the likes of Nirvana and Radiohead, Smashing Pumpkins and Weezer, their first two albums *Surfer Rosa* (1988) and the platinum-certified *Doolittle* (1989) yielded cult classics like *Here Comes Your Man*, *Debaser*, and *Where Is My Mind* – which featured in the David Fincher film *Fight Club* – and earned high praise from one of their influences, U2’s Bono, who said they’d made “just about the most compelling music of the entire 80s”.

In the early 90s before they broke up in 1993, Pixies released albums number three and four: *Bossanova* (1990), featuring the singles *Velouria* and *Dig for Fire* and peaking at number three in the UK, and *Trompe le Monde* (1991), which Michael Bonner of *Lime Lizard* described as “one of the best albums that you may very well ever hear” and “a strong contender for best album of the 20<sup>th</sup> century”.

Reuniting in 2004 on a tour that sold out within minutes and included a celebrated reformation concert at Coachella, Pixies are deep into their second act and in the midst of a creative purple patch. Their latest album *The Night the Zombies Came* (2024) prompted *DIY Magazine* to state, “Four decades in and Pixies remain one of the most consistent, influential bands on the planet.”

Earning a huge fanbase over in our corner of the world, Kiwis can rejoice as Pixies play not one, but two back-to-back concerts in both Auckland and Wellington at St James Theatre. Night one on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November will see the band smash out *Bossanova* and *Trompe le Monde* in their entirety, while night two on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> features a cross-catalogue set and songs from *The Night the Zombies Came*.

I was lucky enough to catch up with Pixies founding member and guitarist Joey Santiago, who says the “fact that we’re going to be halfway around the world is psychologically thrilling. We’re just lucky – that we can play over there, that they understand us. Not many bands can really do this. We’re very thankful for that.”

***So excited that you’re coming back to New Zealand. I wanted to start by asking about the unique concept of the tour – where did it come from?***

Bands have done it, and I actually witnessed a band do it – Steely Dan with *Aja*, they did a front-to-back of that album. It was quite entertaining. I knew what I was gonna get, and I got it [chuckles]. The second night [of our tour] will just be a general set – two nights in every city is good for me! It gives me extra time to explore.

***What’s on the agenda when you get to Welly?***

I tend to walk around, see the sights, look at the architecture, eat good food. I basically hang out like a local. Have my coffee somewhere, look around, maybe go to a record shop. I’ve done that tramp up the hill once.

***Does Mount Victoria ring a bell?***

It does! Very nice!

***In concert, does stacking Bossanova and Trompe le Monde up against The Night the Zombies Came highlight evolution in your sound?***

Hopefully, if you do go to the second night or listen to the records, you’ll see musical growth. And also that we have retained that Pixies signature in there – a little DNA, even though it has evolved.

When playing *Bossanova* and *Trompe le Monde*, speaking for myself and in general, the songs are wacky. My guitar playing – I could appreciate how unique it was. It still is. In the new album, it translates the same way. There are weird moments there also. But revisiting *Bossanova* and *Trompe le Monde*, it’s weird! There are moments where I remember coming up with some of those parts.

***I went to see you in Auckland about 15 years ago and the energy in the mosh pit at the arena was colossal. There must be nothing like the feeling of playing up there. Do some shows stand out?***

Definitely some shows stand out. And it’s really the vibe of the venue and the audience. That’s very important. I appreciate how ready I am these days. I prioritise the show more than anything. I don’t do much before the show, I make sure I’m prepared and well rested and ready. It’s more professional.

***Is that different to past shows – has your routine changed?***

Yeah, I mean back then, pre-breakup, I was tearing it up [laughs]. Rolling into the venue just like [grunts], why did I eat that brownie!

***I don’t know if you have the same term, but over here we call it ‘being a bit dusty’, if you’re perhaps not feeling your best.***

Definitely, there were too many gigs where there are cobwebs.

***I read a quote about the new album from MOJO that called Pixies ‘the most thrillingly deathly of bands’. How do you feel about those descriptors – accurate?***

Deathly, you said? Huh. I suppose the title *Zombies* would harken that. Beheaded like in *Chicken*. I could see that [nods]. And I like it!

***Do you have a song that you feel best captures your life at the moment?***

Yeah! It’s by Eric Burdon & the Animals and it’s called *Poem By The Sea*. It’s going to blow you away. That’s basically where I’m at, where my head is. The whole song is about feeling small in the universe. Man, I’m going to sound like I’m going to be riding on a unicorn, but just feeling small and humbled by the grand scheme of things. I can’t wait for you to listen to it!

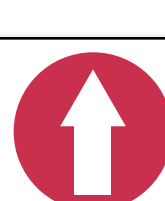
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# Local body elections 2025

Don't forget to vote! Voting closes

at 12 noon on 11 October 2025.

## Kapiti Coast



**JANET HOLBOROW**

**VOTE 1 FOR MAYOR**

*Keep Kāpiti moving forward*

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Infrastructure and Business  
Finance  
Environment

[www.janetholborow.co.nz](http://www.janetholborow.co.nz)  
Authorized by Janet Holborow [janetholborow4mayor@gmail.com](mailto:janetholborow4mayor@gmail.com)

## Moving forward

As mayor of Kapiti for the last three years, Janet Holborow has fostered positive relationships and collaboration to build a community that is thriving, resilient, and financially solid. Thanks to the strong teamwork between the councillors and staff acting during her term, the council was able to deliver their long-term plan, which builds a resilient future for a growing community!

Over the next three years, Janet has identified key focus points. At the forefront is fostering a sense of community by ensuring residents have places to call home, have access to better health services, and feel supported artistically, creatively, and socially.

Janet also wants to ensure infrastructure is prepared for the present and future, with several projects underway.

Under her current leadership, she has worked hard to be fiscally responsible and aims to maintain a financial plan that keeps everything on track while finding external funding options.

Finally, Janet wants to continue keeping the environment front of mind by retaining the climate and environment committee, reducing emissions, working with iwi, and developing strategies of sustainability.

It's been her honour to serve as mayor, and she looks forward to doing it for another three years!

## Paekawakawa/Southern General Ward



**Elections Candidate Mayor wlgtn.**

**Donald McDonald**

newt or Mac, done waiting. vote1 Donald, mayor wlgtn \* South ward25. Go to heaven do the God Commands. Jesus coming soon. You mite get his reward. The last great disaster equake. New cov'nt Passover protect.

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## County ignore and say log fixes resolved

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Noisy means lose hearing.

Don stand for Logjob. Cmnty. Fix Answer. Do the right, honest timely. succinct.

Proper sign off (senior.) But nothing. Didnt do our job. no fix, council never clear answer. All LOIA 8565. log fixes no resolve.

Donald Strait talk. don't assume. Undone.

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Petrol electric All end.

The roads be wipe out pedxns. Too N cars population.

Ph allowance. For Age 16- Great talk text data.

Participate. Democracy.

The current calendar is stupid. So child easy.

>Donald 5 wks x 6 days. 11\*30+36. 366-6/ 8th year. Easier 30 days sync. appmt easi. Sync 800 Gregn. No Thurs again. wed-Fri satur Sun

All Sunday #1, satur 6\* 12,18,24.

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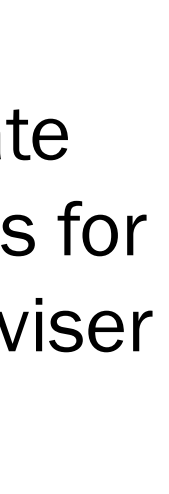
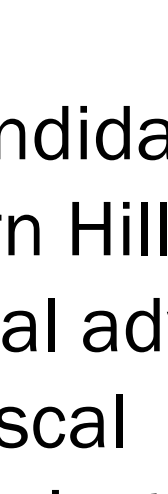

## Western Ward

**VOTE ROBBIE SCHNEIDER**  
**AS YOUR WESTERN WARD COUNCILLOR**

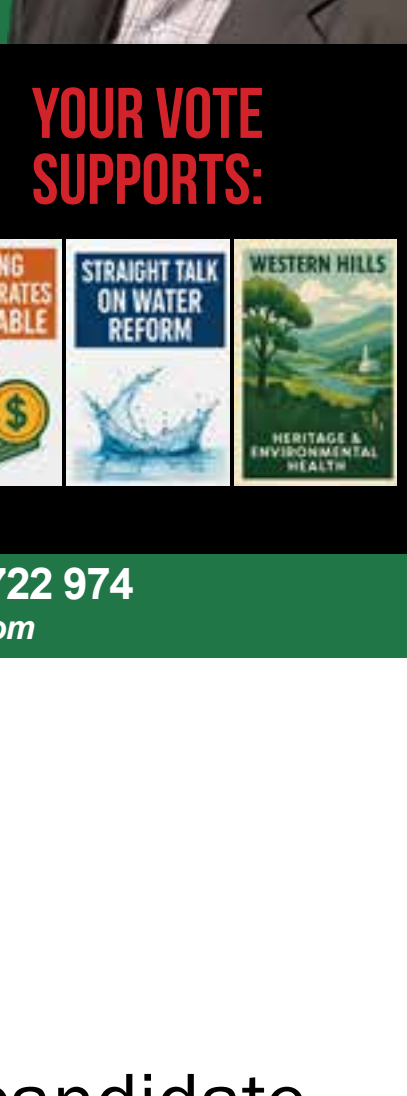
I've lived in the Western Hills for over 20 years. As an independent financial advisor since 2003, I bring a track record in fiscal accountability, budgeting, and keeping projects on target.

*"Independent. Accountable. Focused on results for our community."*

**THREE CORE PRIORITIES:**  
**1. Can You Afford Rates Increases?**  
We need an urgent review of council spending.  
**2. Water Reform. What Is Being Proposed?**  
What Will it Cost You? Clear communication and full transparency on what's proposed for our water sustainability  
**3. Protect Our Western Hills**  
Ensure our special character is preserved for future generations.

**YOUR VOTE SUPPORTS:**  


[Email: robbieschneider77@gmail.com](mailto:robbieschneider77@gmail.com) | [Phone: 021 722 974](tel:021722974)  
Authorized by Robbie Schneider - [robbieschneider77@gmail.com](mailto:robbieschneider77@gmail.com)



## Accountable and focused

Lower Hutt City Council Western Ward candidate Robbie Schneider has lived in the Western Hills for over 20 years. As an independent financial adviser since 2003, he brings a track record in fiscal accountability, budgeting, and keeping projects on target.

"I am deeply concerned about wasteful spending and the lack of clarity on water reform," he says.

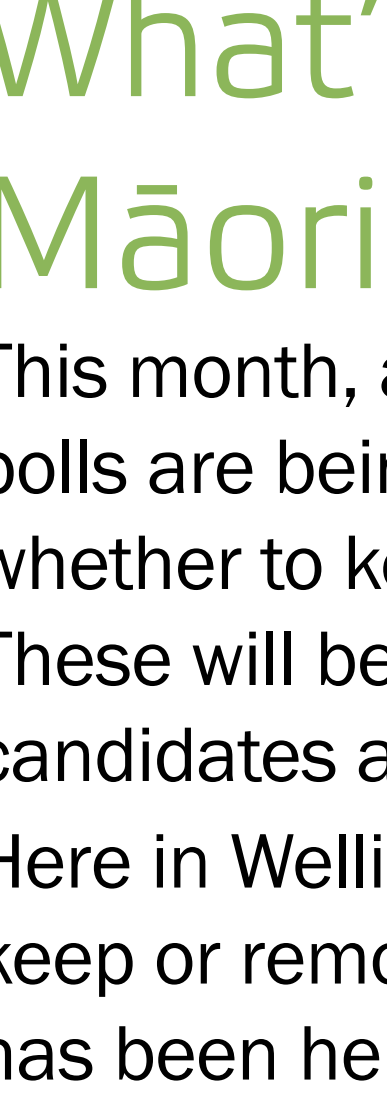
"We need an urgent review of council priorities to protect ratepayers."

His campaign is underpinned by three core priorities: an urgent review on council spending to keep rates affordable, clear communication and full transparency on what's proposed for water sustainability, and protection of Western Hills and its special character to ensure it's preserved for future generations.

Independent, accountable, and focused on results, Robbie is a valued and involved member of his community. He has been a board member on the Jackson Street Programme for over 10 years, sat on the board of trustees at Hutt Intermediate, and been a chair and member of the National Financial Advisers Association. He is familiar with the systems and processes of government and is dedicated to achieving financial discipline, smarter budgeting, and transparent communication as part of Lower Hutt City Council.

## Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward

**MĀORI WARDS**



**VOTE KEEP**

**TE TIRITI IS US**

**Māori Wards**

- Build Representative Democracy
- Deliver Better Decisions
- Support Fairness & Inclusion

**WE ♥ MĀORI WARDS**

[Authorised by tetiritiisus@gmail.com](mailto:tetiritiisus@gmail.com) | [www.honourthetreaty.org.nz](http://www.honourthetreaty.org.nz)

**What's all this about Māori wards?**

This month, a coalition deal means that binding polls are being run around the country to decide whether to keep Māori wards or remove them. These will be held alongside voting for local body candidates and mayors.

Here in Wellington, voters will decide whether to keep or remove Te Whanganui-a-Tara ward, which has been here since 2021. That's all voters, not just those on the Māori roll.

Māori wards must get 51 percent of all votes to be kept. Rural wards or multiple voting by property owners are not being put to this kind of poll.

Most councillors support and see the importance of Māori wards. They do not want these divisive polls, which are an intrusion by central government into local decision-making and an extra cost burden to ratepayers.

Te Tiriti is Us agrees. We believe that these binding polls are unwanted, unnecessary, costly, and a big step backwards. We strongly urge everyone to vote in the local elections to keep the Māori ward on your local council and keep Māori constituencies on your regional council.

Voting is easy! When your papers arrive in the mail, simply vote to keep Māori wards and post back your voting papers in the prepaid envelope.

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# Family – retirement – school holidays



*Cinderella, The Pantoloons.*

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# Family

## Our fluffy, feathered friends



KidzStuff Theatre for Children has brought a *Box of Birds* to town! Lifting the lid at the Tararua Tramping Club in Mount Victoria from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, this magical puppet show from Birdlife Productions teaches youngsters about our precious native birds and the importance of connecting with nature.

Hailed as “the cutest little show in Aotearoa” at the 2024 Hamilton Arts Festival | Toi Ora ki Kirikiriroa and designed especially for four to nine-year-olds, *Box of Birds* features interactive songs, projections, and, of course, exquisite puppetry. The story follows Peter, who has gone to stay with Nanna in the school holidays – much to his dismay! Nanna lives in the country, you see, and doesn’t even have a TV. What the heck? But Nanna loves the forest and its manu, and finds ways to get Peter involved when they build a nesting box for ruru together.

Amalia Calder of KidzStuff says the theatre company has a real respect for Birdlife as both creators and puppeteers.

“Their puppets are beautiful with such mastery in their technique. They specialise in children’s puppetry and they really know their audience.”

KidzStuff is chuffed they can give further exposure to such talented local theatre makers and aspires to build an ongoing relationship with Birdlife.

Amalia hopes that *Box of Birds* will have the same effect it had on KidzStuff when they first saw Birdlife perform – that audiences, young and grown alike, will respond with “wow”, “so clever”, and “aww, cute!”

## Lucky Loons



Glass slippers, royal balls, and a Fairy Godmother who’s still on her learner’s licence... what could possibly go wrong?

The Pantaloons are in their 13<sup>th</sup> year of performing children’s fairy tales and classic stories across Greater Wellington. Each written by founder and director Amanda Stone, the wonderfully loopy pantomimes aim to leave every audience member “feeling just a little bit more joyful than when they came in”, says Molly Weaver, who plays Khloe, “the more goooooorgeous half of the terrible sister duo” in the upcoming production of... you guessed it, *Cinderella*!

“When I’m not fighting with my sister Courtney about who’s the fairest of them all, you’ll probably find me scheming up ways to make a rich, successful Prince (or honestly, just any man at this point) fall madly in love with me”, Molly delights of the character, adding that all of the Loons are so lucky “to be part of this wild, talented collective”.

Running at Little Theatre Lower Hutt on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and at Wairarapa Events Centre on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, this is *Cinderella* with a twist, a tune, and a whole lotta sparkle!

Grownup kids can let their inner children out, while for the tamariki, “we want it to be a magical first taste of theatre and storytelling. Something that sparks their imagination and shows them how exciting, silly, and immersive live performance can be”, Molly exclaims. “There’s nothing better than a room full of people giggling, singing, and clapping along together for an hour.”





# The next big adventure



Catriona Tipene and Ryan Cundy of multi-award-winning theatre company Horse With No Name write plays for tamariki and their whānau because they “love investigating, creating, and witnessing the nature of joy”.

“The joy as we write a script comes through reflecting on what our own families did for us, and with us, to spark our sense of curiosity and wonder”, Ryan says.

“As we write, we write the impossible things into our plays: from kangaroos on aeroplanes, to trees that talk and glowworms that like to party. We then turn to our actors and designers and ask them to make these impossibilities possible. Every time, they do it!”

These school holidays, the impossible will be made possible when Kiwi goes on his first big trip from Aotearoa across to the golden sands and sparkling shores of Brisbane! With a trusty backpack, a pocketful of worms, and a head full of dreams, Kiwi’s world will stretch from the home he knows to the great big beyond in *Kiwi’s Big Hararei*, directed by Catriona and running from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October at Circa Theatre.

Featuring stunning costume designs by the highly decorated GRIDLEY by Victoria and fresh waiata by New Zealand singer-songwriter Benny Tipene, this is a wonderful story about spreading your wings and flying into the unknown. Ryan hopes “the whole whānau leave *Kiwi’s Big Hararei* feeling ready to take on that next adventure, and reflecting on how wide their chosen family ranges”.

## Sweet school holiday fun



ChoctoberFest kicks off on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, making Porirua the most delicious destination for the spring school holidays. During this four-week annual celebration of Whittaker’s chocolate, 32 Porirua cafés will be serving up 28 unique chocolate drinks, vying for the title of Top of the Chocs. Sweet teeth will also have until the 5<sup>th</sup> of October to try 18 delicious baked treats in the Whittaker’s Bake Off.

With hot and cold drinks, decadent baked creations, vegan and gluten-free options, and even cocktails packed full of Whittaker’s chocolate, the biggest chocoholics will be satisfied! Little and big kiwis alike can sample everything from banoffee to Biscoff, berries to nuts, coffee to cocoa, cakes to croissants, bars to babka and bundts in eateries across the centre city, suburbs, and beyond. Once you’ve tasted, vote for your favourites, then see who comes out on top.

You can also win great prizes throughout the month, including a Whittaker’s Factory Tour, invites to an exclusive Whittaker’s x Peppermill Café event, and café vouchers to use across Porirua. To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Whittaker’s Peanut Slab, someone will take home 100 of these Kiwi classics.

Find out more about the participating eateries and tasty prizes, how to rate the delicious delights, and plan your choctacular trip to Porirua’s

ChoctoberFest at

[www.porirua.govt.nz/choctoberfest](http://www.porirua.govt.nz/choctoberfest)



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# Make your visit last a whole year!



## Family memberships just \$99

Let the kids run wild - visit as often as you like for a whole year!

### Check out [visitzealandia.com](http://visitzealandia.com)

Family membership includes 2 adults + 3 kids.

Ts and Cs apply. See website for details. Add additional adults to a family membership for just \$32 and additional kids for just \$15. Family members must reside in the same household.

Photo by Judi Lapsley Miller

**ZEALANDIA**  
TE MĀRA A TĀNE



## Family

# Wild fun for the whole whānau at Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne



*Tīeke/Saddleback. Photo by Ian Thomas.*



*Photo by Judi Lapsley Miller.*

School holidays can feel like a marathon when you're trying to keep the kids entertained without spending a small fortune. Just five minutes from central Wellington, Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne offers the kind of outing that ticks all the boxes: it's fun, affordable, and gives the whole family a chance to get out into nature together.

What makes it even better is the family membership. For \$99, two adults and up to three kids can enjoy unlimited general admission for a whole year. These days it's rare to find activities for a family of five for under 100 dollars, and unlike a one-off day out, a membership means you can return again and again! Whether it's for a quick weekend wander or a whole afternoon adventure, get the family out in the fresh air and let the kids run wild!

The sanctuary itself feels like stepping into another world. With its predator-exclusion fence keeping native wildlife safe, kākā whistle and 'skrark' from the treetops, tuatara bathe in the sun, and tīeke/saddleback call from the forest floor with their distinctive raucous chatter. For many Wellington parents, an abundance of birdlife is still something to marvel at, while our kids have grown up with tūī singing in the backyard. Watching them make those connections with the natural world is one of the real joys of a family visit.

Over the school holidays, the team at Zealandia have turned things up a notch with activities especially for younger visitors. Kids can get stuck into craft projects making their own Bird of the Year merch to take home, or settle in for one of the energetic puppet shows by the talented Stringbean Puppets: *Once In a Full Moon* sees a sweet lonely kiwi mistake the full moon for an egg, while *The Tree Friends* follows best friends Kererū and Millie, who must work together to protect a baby kohekohe tree from invasive weeds. Or explore the sanctuary with the Whānau Activity Book and learn new nature-themed words in te reo Māori! It's the kind of wholesome entertainment that sparks curiosity while giving parents a breather, or a chance to join in the fun.

After exploring the tracks or racing around the valley, everyone's bound to be hungry. Luckily, Rātā Café is right there with cabinet treats, hearty lunches, and great L'affare coffee to restore the grownups. Sitting out on the deck with a muffin while the kids relive their favourite wildlife-spotting moments is a great way to end the outing.

A day at Zealandia offers more than just a way to fill in the holidays. It's a chance to get outside, enjoy some fresh air, and share experiences that will stay with your kids long after the holidays are over. And with a family membership in your back pocket, you've got a whole year of adventures waiting right here in the heart of the city.



# Family – education

## Sustainable textiles



The textiles studio at the Dunedin School of Art is a hive of activity with students embracing sustainable, tactile, and renewable materials. Working alongside the print studio, first-year students in the Bachelor of Visual Arts programme are currently exploring materiality and the impact of the pop art movement through screenprinting and embroidery.

The resurgence of textiles in contemporary art reflects a renewed appreciation for craft, materiality, and the tactile qualities of fabric. Historically relegated to the realm of decorative arts or domestic work, textiles are now being acknowledged as a powerful medium for artistic expression. Students can gain skills in traditional weaving, embroidery, felting, knitting, crochet, and fabric manipulation techniques, transforming them into statements that address identity, culture, and social issues. Textiles, often recycled or repurposed, carry inherent histories, offering a rich medium for storytelling and commentary on consumption, labour, and memory.

The tactile nature of fabric engages viewers in a sensory experience that contrasts with our increasing digital encounters. As a result, textiles in art are celebrated for their ability to convey complex narratives and embody cultural, social, and environmental concerns in a physical and immersive way.

The Dunedin School of Art has a range of programmes, including certificate, undergraduate degrees, and postgraduate degree qualifications, that offer access to the hands-on textiles studio as well as seven other dedicated studio facilities.

## Breaking barriers



Not sharing a common language can be a huge barrier in communication. However, engaging a professional interpreter gives you the opportunity to fully express yourself. The interpreter plays a crucial role in facilitating direct communication between individuals who speak different languages, empowering them to convey their thoughts effectively.

Interpreters' skills involve a deep understanding of technical vocabulary, cultural practices, ethical issues, and knowledge of local institutions. The risks associated with untrained bilingual speakers include the omission or distortion of information. While it is encouraged to have a family member or friend as a support person, it is important to involve a trained interpreter. They are professionals who take a proactive approach to ensure the precise delivery of your message.

Ensure that your message remains intact and unaltered by working with a trained interpreter who upholds a strict code of ethics, accuracy, impartiality, and confidentiality so you can rest assured that nothing disclosed will be shared elsewhere.

## Hero horses



Hutt Valley Riding for the Disabled (HVRDA) provides interaction with horses and improves health and wellbeing outcomes for people experiencing disabilities or who have specific challenges or needs. The coaches, volunteers, and amazing horses work together to enable and support Hutt Valley locals to achieve good lives that include meaningful participation in, and contribution to, important life activities and roles in their community.

The therapy programme focuses on high-needs riders, aiming to improve core strength, coordination, and more. The education programme places emphasis on social skills by assisting with numeracy, literacy, and social connections. The sport and recreation programme imparts comprehensive riding skills.

The HVRDA ethos focuses on providing a flexible and tailored approach based on each rider's day-to-day needs. The coaches and volunteers adapt to how each child is feeling, offering shorter rides or even alternative activities to ensure every session generates a positive interaction.

HVRDA embraces each child's unique potential through compassionate care.

## Dunedin School of Art

Creating inspired artists

Discover your potential and creativity with study at the Dunedin School of Art. Gain the skills and knowledge in specialist studios for a wide range of creative careers. We offer a suite of certificates, diplomas, undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications.

info@op.ac.nz  
op.ac.nz/art

Image: Eva Ding  
BVA Honours, 2024

## Hutt Valley Group

New Zealand Riding for the Disabled

### Transforming Lives

Our aim is to enable and support riders to achieve good lives including meaningful participation in, and contribution to, important life activities and roles in their community. **We welcome volunteers!**

For more info on Hutt Valley Riding for the Disabled and how to volunteer with us please call Bronwyn on 04 527 8360 or email her at [bronwyn@hvrda.org.nz](mailto:bronwyn@hvrda.org.nz) | [www.hvrda.org.nz](http://www.hvrda.org.nz)

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Website: [www.interpret.org.nz](http://www.interpret.org.nz)

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## Bite-sized science



Keep curious minds learning during the school holidays with STEM skill-building experiences at Wellington's space science museum Space Place.

At Science Bites, Space Place's edible science workshop, ages eight to 12 learn through hands-on experiments making gummy worms, glow-in-the-dark jelly, and rainbow chocolate. The four-hour workshops take place each Tuesday and Thursday of the school holidays and wrap up with a planetarium show. Sessions are limited and booking is essential.

General visits to Space Place just got sweeter too. The Take a Red Rocket to Space combo will include 20 percent off return Wellington Cable Car trips, 20 percent off entry to Space Place and – just for the school holidays – two-for-one kids' pizzas at Cable Top Eatery. Terms and conditions apply.

Your Space Place visit can also include a planetarium film. Space Place has a special planetarium schedule for the school holidays with more whānau-friendly films. The popular Star Trail is also back; pick up a space-questionnaire from the front desk and see if you can find all the answers hidden throughout the galleries.

As part of Space Week celebrations, Space Place will host a free outdoor bottle rocket demonstration on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Drop by to launch water rockets into the sky from 10am to 4pm. The event is open to all ages, with no bookings required and koha appreciated.

Check the schedule and book into Science Bites at [spaceplace.nz](http://spaceplace.nz)

## Holiday fun for less



On a budget these holidays but still want to get out and explore? Cable Car Museum, Wellington Museum, and Nōku te Ao Capital E have you covered for budget-friendly school holidays without skimping on the fun.

Wellington Cable Car is offering discounted rides every Sunday in spring. From now until the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, adult and child tickets are \$2 one way and \$4 return. As you disembark from the Kelburn terminal, pop into the free-entry Cable Car Museum. Learn about the rail system that has been transporting Wellingtonians for over 120 years and get up close to the original grip cars. At Wellington Museum, situated on Queens Wharf, tamariki go on a “paw-some animal hunt” with the Discovery Trail. Grab a \$2 trail map from the museum front desk any day of the school holidays. Best suits ages five to 12.

Just across from the museum you'll find Nōku te Ao Capital E's PlayHQ, a free indoor play space for ages zero to five. Supported by The Capital Kiwi Project, the current play activation Ngā Tūrua Kiwi is inspired by the lives and homes of our national bird. Tamariki are invited to scratch, sniff, and burrow like a western brown kiwi. They can wriggle and crawl through burrows, discover surprises of the forest floor, and slide down the towering tree. It's a hands-on sensory adventure.

PlayHQ is open Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 3:30pm and located on Queens Wharf in the Wellington CBD.

Plan your visit at [ntace.nz](http://ntace.nz)





# Family – school holidays – Hawke's Bay



**Par2 Minigolf**

Minigolf has been a staple of Napier's Marine Parade since the 1940s. What began simply as a large putting green has developed into Par2 Minigolf, guaranteed fun for you and the kids. Located adjacent to the local isite, you'll enjoy panoramic views of the coast of Hawke's Bay while you compete on one of two courses: Pacific Pro-Am or Deco Drive. The former is a quintessential minigolf course, full of wacky angles, tricky water hazards, and tree obstacles. Deco Drive is a complex course with organic curves and harsh slopes.



**MTG Hawke's Bay**

There is always something new and exciting to discover at the MTG Hawke's Bay. This award-winning museum is made up of three distinct buildings – an art deco masterpiece, a modernist gem, and a light-filled gallery that looks out across the Pacific Ocean. The museum's collections tell historic stories of the region and beyond, including the 1931 earthquake that devastated the region and the legacy of art deco architecture that is still celebrated today. Their fabulous shop also sells a range of beautiful cards, gifts, books, and mementos.



**Faraday Museum of Technology**

Ignite your imagination at the Faraday Museum of Technology, where hands-on adventures await visitors of all ages! Discover interactive exhibits where you can touch, play, and explore the wonders of science, technology, and history in exciting ways. From historic appliances and engines to energy sources and games, there's so much to see and uncover. A magical place where history comes to life anew, the Faraday Museum of Technology offers an experience you won't forget that's perfect for families and anyone with a curious mind!



**The National Aquarium of NZ**

The National Aquarium of New Zealand is home to saltwater, freshwater, and land animal exhibits from New Zealand and around the world. The 1.5-million-litre Oceanarium, which you can experience with a walk through an underwater viewing tunnel, showcases the variety of aquatic species that exist in Hawke's Bay, including stingrays, kingfish, hāpuku, snapper, and more. Watch the famous little penguins feed and play in the Penguin Cove, and connect with native wildlife like tuatara and kiwi. **Photo by Molly Rose Nilsson.**



**Book your adventure with our Hawke's Bay experts today!**

Our team can book accommodation, popular activities, bike hire and more. Trusted advice with no booking fees.

Call 0800 84 74 88 or visit [napiernz.com](http://napiernz.com)

**i site**

Visitor Information

**NAPIER**



# Family – school holidays – Hawke's Bay



**Kennedy Park**

Located near the heart of Napier, Kennedy Park is an accommodation option that's fun for the whole whānau. There is so much to do onsite that you'll be tempted to spend entire days on the premises. Kids and adults will love the heated swimming complex, basketball half court, and giant outdoor chess board. Stroll the gardens or relax at the café while the tamariki let loose at the adventure playground and on the colourful jumping pillow. Spend time in the games room playing pool, table-top games, or air hockey together as a family.



**Hawke's Bay Farmyard Zoo**

Known for its unique atmosphere, Hawke's Bay Farmyard Zoo provides a safe, clean environment with informative signage, limestone walkways, and a picnic area to accommodate large groups such as birthday parties and work functions. The animals at the zoo include pigs, sheep and calves, ostriches, alpacas, turtles, peacocks, and many more, and kids will have the opportunity to get up close and feed some of them. With a playground, train rides, and pony rides available, the hardest part will be getting the family back into the car.



**Napier Aquatic Centre**

You don't have to wait for hot summer days to enjoy a day in the water. Napier Aquatic Centre is open year-round for water-based exercise and fun. Three pools means everyone can jump in – choose from the five-lane 25-metre lap pool for walking and lane swimming, the disability-friendly six-lane Ivan Wilson Pool, or the learners' pool complete with toddler pool and mini waterfall. The complex also features waterslides, a spray park open from October to March, a beautiful outdoor area, and relaxing spas. Jump in and have fun!



**Ocean Spa**

Ocean Spa is Napier's premier heated pool and fitness complex located on Marine Parade. Boasting open-air, heated, and chlorinated pools and spas with panoramic ocean views, visitors can enjoy a range of options from the toddler pool to therapeutic pools with water fountains and pool jets. Visitors can unwind in spacious outdoor spa pools and refuel with a coffee or bite to eat at Bach Café. Centrally located, Ocean Spa is the perfect spot to relax and re-energise, rain or shine.

**two 18 hole courses**

**PUTT, PLAY AND ENJOY THE VIEW!**

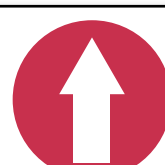
Challenge your **FAMILY AND FRIENDS** **GIVE IT A GO!**

**PAR<sup>2</sup> MINIGOLF MARINE PARADE**

Open 7 days | 9:30am - 4.00pm  
[www.par2golf.co.nz](http://www.par2golf.co.nz) | 06 834 0248

By the Soundshell, by the sea | Marine Parade, Napier

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# Family – Rotorua

## Inside your imagination



A little secret about Rotorua is that from this Kiwi town you can travel through time and space, around the world and to places unknown... photographically, that is! 3D Trick Art Gallery is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and features over 50 life-size, realistic 2D paintings that come alive through your camera and your poses, changing them to 3D imagery. All you have to do is jump in to create epic pictures and fun memories. There are five themed sections in the gallery. In Classic Art, visitors can step inside famous paintings. Kiwi Life is inspired by New Zealand culture and history. Visitors can explore glaciers and outer space while putting their creativity to the test in the Challenge section. Create your own mythical story in the Fantasy area. Grand Nature celebrates New Zealand's natural landscape. Escape from the jaws of a giant crocodile, make a break from a great white shark, or leap from the clutches of a goliath octopus. Scale mountains and traverse waterfalls. Fancy a trip to the Moon? Or perhaps you'd prefer to explore Venice, a glacier, or fly away in a hot air balloon. Talk about an Instagram-worthy vacation!

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

## A taste of Kiwi heritage



Much of New Zealand's history is tied to farming and agriculture. These industries were instrumental in the early years of our nation and remain a huge part of Kiwi life to this day. Our fertile soil, abundant rain, and gentle rolling hills make our country perfect for growing tasty fruit and veggies and raising animals for produce or food.

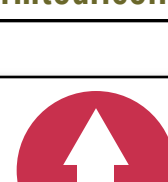
If you'd like to experience life on the farm, see what many Kiwis do on a day-to-day basis, and learn about where our food comes from, hop on The Farm Tour in Rotorua.

Rotorua Heritage Farm is located just outside the town centre alongside the famous 3D Trick Art Gallery. Established in the 1930s, the working farm first started hosting tours in the 1930s to show visitors what life in Aotearoa was like, and has recently started them up again, using the iconic red covered trailer towed by a tractor to guide people all the way around the farm.

During the one-hour guided experience, visitors will hear stories about life on the farm and be introduced to all kinds of farm animals, including sheep, cattle, deer, ostrich, and alpaca. Not only will you be allowed to get up close to all the creatures, but you'll get to pat and feed them too! As a working farm, Rotorua Heritage Farm is open regardless of weather – so pull on your gumboots and roll up your sleeves to get stuck in on The Farm Tour.

<b>3D TRICK ART GALLERY</b>			<b>THE FARM TOUR</b> Rotorua Heritage Farm	
<b>FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY</b> <i>An experience you will never forget</i>			<b>EXPERIENCE</b> <i>what a typical New Zealand working farm is like</i>	
	<b>IMMERSE YOURSELF</b> <i>An activity for all ages and abilities</i>			<b>GUIDED 1 HOUR TOUR</b> <i>with educational information about the farm</i>
<b>THE PERFECT PHOTO-OP!</b> <i>Get ready to step into the picture-perfect world</i>			<b>SEE</b> <i>a wide variety of native wildlife and hand feed different farm animals</i>	
<b>Great location in the main tourism area of Rotorua</b>				
171 Fairy Springs Rd, Rotorua   Phone 07 349 0920 <a href="http://www.3dtrickart.co.nz">www.3dtrickart.co.nz</a>   <a href="mailto:info@3dtrickart.co.nz">info@3dtrickart.co.nz</a>   <a href="http://www.thefarmtour.co.nz">www.thefarmtour.co.nz</a>   <a href="mailto:info@thefarmtour.co.nz">info@thefarmtour.co.nz</a>				

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# Family – Wairarapa

## Explore the cosmos



In the lunar calendar, the spring equinox marks the date in which the day and the night are equal lengths and signals the beginning of spring, as from here on out, the days will slowly become longer. Celebrate this seasonal event at Stonehenge Aotearoa, where you can learn all about what it meant for our ancestors.

Situated in the heart of Wairarapa, an International Dark Sky Reserve, Stonehenge Aotearoa is a complete and working structure modelled off the ancient European landmark and designed for New Zealand night skies that enables visitors to journey into the cosmos, through time and beyond. Guided and self-guided tours are available Wednesday to Sunday both during the daytime and nighttime, while the events calendar always has something to attend – especially this spring!

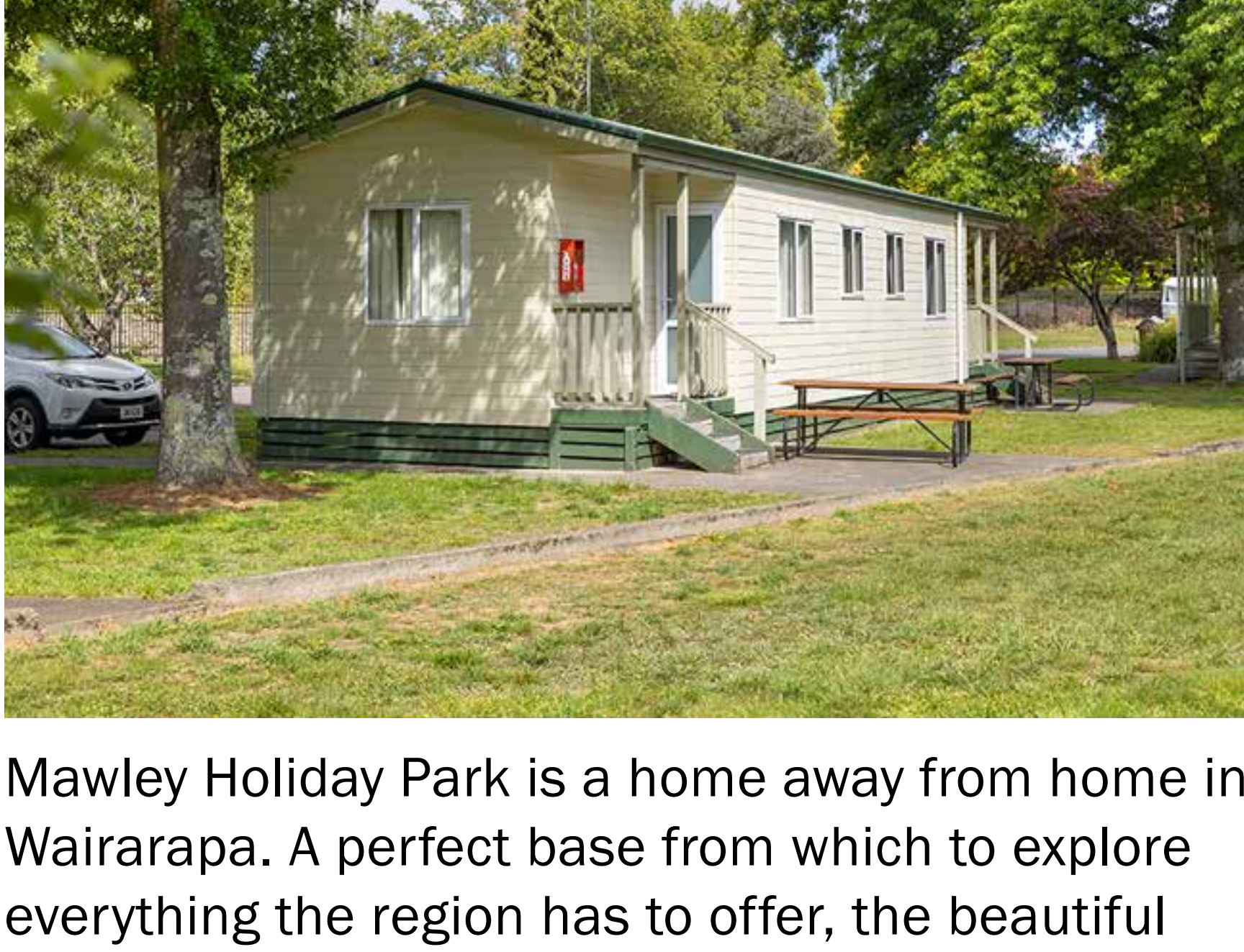
Carterton Space Week runs from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of September and celebrates all things space, science, and dark skies with events, talks, workshop, films, and programmes happening across the town. Visitors will be able to participate in activities and presentations at Stonehenge Aotearoa too and have the opportunity to take part in Ask an Astronomer sessions along each tour.

All kinds of fun happenings will also be available each day at the Henge during World Space from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October.

Spring sees a bustling schedule for Stonehenge Aotearoa, but the centre keeps busy all year round with experiences, tours, and activities happening most days. You can also find regular columns from astronomical communicator Richard Hall of Stonehenge Aotearoa within the pages of *Regional News*. In fact, you'll find his latest on page eight!

For more about the Henge and its upcoming events, head over to [www.stonehenge-aotearoa.nz](http://www.stonehenge-aotearoa.nz)

## On your doorstep



Mawley Holiday Park is a home away from home in Wairarapa. A perfect base from which to explore everything the region has to offer, the beautiful grounds feature a range of accommodation options to suit every traveller.

Nestled in a sheltered, peaceful setting on the banks of the Waipoua River, Mawley Holiday Park is punctuated by specimen trees and wide-open spaces. Guests can enjoy the BBQ area, which sits alongside a communal kitchen featuring ranges, gas hobs, a microwave, fridge/freezer, and power points. There are also plenty of bathrooms and a lounge area offering access to TVs, a library, and dining spaces. The onsite playground provides hours of entertainment for little ones, while the Trust House Recreation Centre just down the road has heated pools, spas, and a hydroslide.

There is room for campervans and tents on both powered and unpowered campsites. Cabins and self-contained units are also available – simply choose how many beds and what facilities you'd like. Enjoy views of the Tararua Ranges and early-morning birdsong throughout.

With heaps to see and do on your doorstep, you'll never want to leave.

**COBBLESTONES museum**

**Living Victorian Village**  
An immersive experience for all ages. Uncover the spirit of Victorian life, heritage, culture, taonga, and stories, then picnic in parklike grounds.

169 Main Street, Greytown  
[www.cobblestonesmuseum.org.nz](http://www.cobblestonesmuseum.org.nz)

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[thelollyjar.co.nz](http://thelollyjar.co.nz)

**Stonehenge Aotearoa**

Take a tour into the past and discover the secrets of lost civilizations  
For opening times and dates please see the website

**Carterton Space Week**  
12-19 September. Come and ask our astronomer a question! Daily activities.

**Spring Equinox**  
Celebrate Spring's rebirth at Stonehenge Aotearoa! Book now!

**World Space Week**  
4-10 October. Daily activities at Stonehenge Aotearoa.  
Read our new space column by Richard Hall. Page 8

Phone (06) 377 1600 | [www.stonehenge-aotearoa.nz](http://www.stonehenge-aotearoa.nz)

**Mawley Holiday Park**

**MAWLEY HOLIDAY PARK & CAMPING GROUND**

The perfect base from which to explore everything Masterton and the Wairarapa has to offer. Nestled in a beautiful park-like setting you'll find quality accommodation, ensuite units, cabins, power/non power sites. A very warm welcome awaits you. Two minutes' easy walk from Mawley Holiday Park are Masterton's recreation precinct, cafes and shops.

**Walking Distance to:**

- Shopping • Markets • Pools • Miniature Train
- Walking Tracks • Queen Elizabeth II Park

**Mention "Park 5810" and get a 10% discount.**

**Mawley Holiday Park 5 Oxford Street, Masterton**  
Phone: 06 378 6454 | Email [info@mawleypark.co.nz](mailto:info@mawleypark.co.nz)  
[www.mawleypark.co.nz](http://www.mawleypark.co.nz)

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# Family – West Coast

## Won't you take me to...



Shantytown Heritage Park is a living, breathing 19<sup>th</sup>-century time capsule that holds the secrets of the West Coast's gold rush history. Surrounded by lush native bush bursting with life in the spring, the park blends educational opportunities with family fun activities, making it the perfect destination these school holidays.

Located just off State Highway 6 between Hokitika and Greymouth, this historically accurate village comprises 30 replicas of vintage buildings, each one based on a building that existed as far back as 1860. The structures contain trinkets and curiosities in the thousands, with the open-air museum holding a collection of roughly 10,000 objects, 2000 photos, and 1000 archives.

Jump on the flying fox, embark on a treasure hunt, and munch on old-fashioned treats. Dress in costume for an old-timey photo, send a postcard with an official postmark, and catch the heritage train to pan for gold!

An adventure for little and big Kiwis alike, Shantytown will put a spring in your holiday.

## You Buller believe it



With spring school holidays on the horizon, now is the best time to explore some of New Zealand's hidden gems and small-town wonders with your whole family.

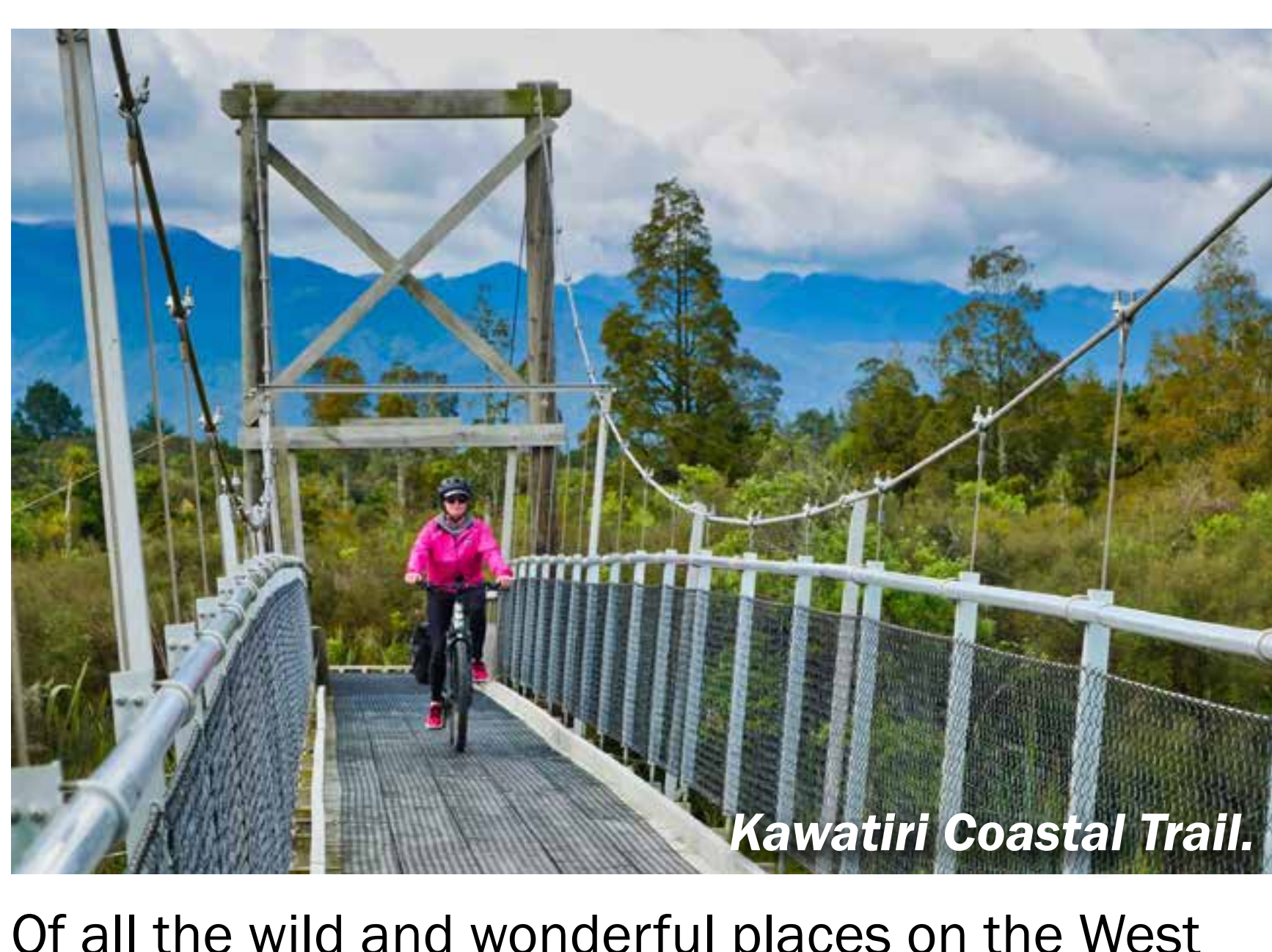
Buller Gorge Swingbridge Adventure and Heritage Park is fun and informative. Learn about the rich mining and natural history of the area, such as the Buller earthquake, while enjoying engaging activities that will keep tamariki and adults entertained.

Begin your visit with a 110-metre stroll across New Zealand's longest swingbridge, 19 metres above the river. Spot the native birds along the many bush walks or try your luck at gold panning.

Experience what *Lonely Planet* dubs the best jet boat ride in the country. Take a 40-minute trip through pink granite and native bush, swim with trout, see the Ariki Falls, and more. The flying fox Comet Line and Supaman Ride measure 160 metres and run across the gorge.

Thrill-seeker or leisure-lover, remember Buller Gorge.

## The wild one



Of all the wild and wonderful places on the West Coast, Westport is one of the most untamed and unexplored. With plenty of history and culture comes a lot of opportunities for adventure.

First a gold town before shifting to coal, the Kawatiri (Westport) Experience Centre offers a peek into what it's like to work underground and much more in an immersive space that celebrates the heritage and endeavour of the people of the Buller District.

If it's outdoor activities you're seeking, then Westport is a great base for adrenaline junkies and nature lovers alike. At Cape Foulwind Seal Colony visitors can have a close encounter with kekeno New Zealand fur seals in their natural habitat.

Hikers and bikers will be thrilled with all the tracks and trails. Check out the Kawatiri Coastal Trail and Old Ghost Road Cycle Trail.

Pack your sense of adventure and head to Westport to explore New Zealand's wild side.

**SHANTYTOWN**  
HERITAGE PARK

CINCH UP YOUR BOWYANGS AND FILL YOUR BOOTS WITH THE TRUE WEST COAST STORY.

OPEN 7 DAYS 9AM – 4PM  
316 RUTHERGLEN ROAD, PAROA.  
P: 0800 742 689 | WWW.SHANTYTOWN.CO.NZ

**Westport Spa Motel**

Stay where the untamed West Coast adventure begins — from Cape Foulwind Seal Colony to epic Kawatiri Coastal Trail & rugged Old Ghost Road Cycle Trail. Westport Spa Motel awaits!

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# Family – heading south

## Making memories



There is no better way to remember your stay in Hokitika than with a carving you've made yourself. Bonz 'N' Stonz Carving Studio offers an all-inclusive experience to craft your own jade, bone, or pāua piece.

Master carvers will help you design your pendant, show you various techniques, guide you through the polishing process, and teach you about the significance of carving in Māori culture. By the end of the workshop, you'll have your very own piece to take home!

Crafting your own memento is a beautiful way to cherish your holiday forever. Each time you see your handmade souvenir, you'll be reminded of a unique experience and the beautiful place in which it happened. Plus, you'll be supporting local craftspeople, practices, and products by choosing Bonz 'N' Stonz.

You can also purchase locally made items crafted from pounamu, aotea, ruby rock, bone, pāua, and other precious stones. Create your very own Hokitika memory.

## Spring awakening



**Naseby Forest.**

Central Otago is in full bloom come springtime. Wildflowers sprout from every nook and cranny, the blue sky and gentle sun show their long-awaited faces once again, and the world re-awakens, as if by magic, in vibrant technicolour.

A vastly untouched wonderland filled with weathered ancient mountains, alpine herb fields, and fast-flowing rivers, Central Otago's scenery is so beautiful in spring, plus mild temperatures make the season ideal for a hike or bike ride. Pedal past river gorges, farmland, old mining settlements, and luxurious wine spots.

Brimming with cafés, boutiques, museums, and art galleries, you can spend many a day strolling in the quaint villages. Alexandra is framed by snow-capped mountains and chocka with parks. Charming Ophir is a living museum filled with restored heritage buildings, including New Zealand's oldest post office. Naseby is full of treasures and tales.

Soothe your soul and brush off the vestiges of winter in Central Otago.

## The cherry on top



Did you know that some of the best cherries in the world come from a slice of heaven in Central Otago? Cherry Tree Farm near Cromwell is owned and operated by Peter and Sharon Brass, who have lived and loved their life in the South Island for decades and whose aim it is to promote sustainability and closer community connections via their business.

Selling seedlings, succulents, fruit, veggies, flowers, and, of course, cherries, Cherry Tree Farm is as authentic a Kiwi family farm as you can get. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful rhythms of life on the farm by staying onsite in either the studio or the guest house. Thoughtfully decorated and appointed, these spaces give visitors the full Central Otago experience.

Cherry Tree Farm's season begins in mid-September and runs until April of 2026, but you can currently preorder cherries online. Enjoy a taste of Central Otago by visiting

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



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Design & carve your own pounamu to take home with the help of our master carvers, plus learn about the significance of carving in Māori culture.

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**[bonznstonzonline@gmail.com](mailto:bonznstonzonline@gmail.com)**









**Cherry Tree Farm**

*Home to the world's best cherries* – pre-order online or pick your own from mid December to January.

*Stay in our cosy studio or guest house* – Soak up the true Central Otago farm experience!

Chat with Sharon for accommodation deals and discounts: **027 390 0127**

Open to public every Thursday, 10am – 6pm (mid-September 2025 - April 2026)  
**422 Ripponvale Road, Cromwell | [www.cherrytreefarm.co.nz](http://www.cherrytreefarm.co.nz)**



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# Family – Otago

## Dunedin's back on track



**Taieri Gorge Train Tour. Photo courtesy of DunedinNZ.**

Standing tall and stately, Dunedin Railway Station is the gateway to endless adventure. From here, families can hop aboard Dunedin Railways and embark on a journey through landscapes that can only be reached by train.

Departing from the grand station's platforms every Thursday through Monday, these scenic train tours pass through gorges, skirt along dramatic cliffs, and skip over rolling hills. As passengers kick back with a treat from the on-board café, the view outside the window will morph and change, offering glimpses of famous landmarks and hidden gems alike.

The Taieri Gorge train takes passengers on a five-hour, round-trip excursion through the gorge – travel across sweeping countryside, traverse towering viaducts, and glide alongside the Taieri River while enjoying stories about Otago's history.

If you're keen for seaside views, then settle into the Seaside. Cruise along the harbour past iconic sights like Deborah Bay, Blueskin Bay, and Pūrākaunui Beach. Here, passengers disembark and go to Arc Brewery or continue on to Merton for the full scenic tour.

Whether you're travelling with Mum and Dad or you're bringing your own young family on their first big train adventure, Dunedin Railways make every trip relaxing and easy for adults, and fun and engaging for tamariki. Sit back with a cuppa while kids marvel at the tunnels and steep cliffs below or keep themselves busy with books and games. Book your school holiday journey at [www.dunedinrailways.co.nz](http://www.dunedinrailways.co.nz)

## Royal backs red-bills



**Photo by Libby Manning.**

The Royal Albatross Centre is proud to announce that we are backing tarāpunga (red-billed gull) as the 2025 Bird of the Year.

“Why back those pesky chip thieves,” you ask? As well as being hilariously cheeky characters, we think that tarāpunga too often get overlooked. They are not ‘just gulls’ but iconic coastal Kiwi icons trying to get by in an increasingly urban world. We can't imagine Aotearoa without them!

However, there is also a more serious reason behind our support. Over the past few decades, tarāpunga numbers have sharply declined, and they are predicted to drop a further 50 to 70 percent over the next 30 years. This can be largely attributed to the decline of primary marine foods (such as krill) and mammalian pests. Tarāpunga are the canary in the coal mine, and their decline signals a larger issue with the health of our marine ecosystems.

Despite these declines, there are some areas where tarāpunga persevere. Over the summer season, there are approximately 6,000 red-billed gulls that breed at Pukekura, and due to predator control efforts and an abundance of natural food, that number has been rising over the years. The Royal Albatross Centre team adore the tarāpunga, and every summer we welcome their cacophonous arrival with open arms.

You can vote tarāpunga for Bird of the Year from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September at [www.birdoftheyear.org.nz](http://www.birdoftheyear.org.nz)

Plan your holiday and book your journey now [dunedinrailways.co.nz](http://dunedinrailways.co.nz)

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# Family – Auckland

## Look up!



Needing to feel a sense of wonder again? Reconnect with the cosmos at Stardome, Auckland's very own planetarium!

Be wowed by the vastness of the universe in Stardome's immersive, presenter-led fulldome planetarium shows where expert astronomers zoom you through the solar system, to the stars, or any point in the known universe! After dark, head outdoors to gaze through courtyard telescopes (weather permitting), learn about seasonal Māori astronomy, or experience the magic of the powerful Zeiss telescope with its roof that opens to reveal the dazzling night sky.

Let your imagination soar with epic planetarium music events featuring Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon*, paired with mind-bending visuals for an out-of-this-world experience.

With an exciting mix of hands-on exhibits and shows for all ages – including special astronomy shows for kids – there's something for every dreamer. For showtimes and holiday opening hours, visit [www.stardome.org.nz](http://www.stardome.org.nz)

## Interactive museum



Discover the wonders of innovation and embark on an unforgettable journey through the past, present, and future at MOTAT – Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology.

Whether you're a science and technology enthusiast or looking to spark curiosity in the innovators of tomorrow, MOTAT is packed with adventure. This hands-on, minds-on museum is a place for the whole whānau to explore, learn, and be inspired. Spread across two sites in central Western Springs – the Aviation Hall and the Great North Road location – MOTAT showcases a captivating blend of history, innovation, and imagination. The Aviation Hall celebrates the story of flight, while the Great North Road site highlights everything from communication technology to classic cars.

Don't miss Te Puawānanga Science and Technology Centre – an immersive space that weaves together the everyday wonders of science, art, technology, and mathematics through interactive exhibits.

With a dynamic mix of permanent displays, rotating exhibitions, and a full calendar of events, MOTAT is a vibrant hub of learning and play perfect for the school holidays.



**Science + Tech + Play**

**DISCOVER MORE**

**TE PUAWĀNANGA**  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

**EXPLORE TODAY**

**MOTAT.NZ**





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[stardome.org.nz](http://stardome.org.nz)

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**STARDOME**

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**Call Sharon to view on 06 370 0662 or visit [enlivencentral.org.nz](http://enlivencentral.org.nz)**



# Family – retirement

## Jet-setting jobs



Once you've booked your plane tickets to distant shores and faraway lands the last thing you're thinking about is your health. It's all parties, adventures, and a lifetime of memories! This is your friendly reminder to look into what travel vaccines you need to get before jetting off into the sunset.

Before you travel, you should check that all your routine vaccinations are up to date. We're fortunate here in New Zealand to have many diseases under control, but there are still some overseas locations that battle them daily.

Apart from the vaccines that are considered routine and are readily available here, there may be a list of unusual vaccines required for your travel destination. These could include vaccines for yellow fever, rabies, cholera, and typhoid. Don't forget, COVID is still present worldwide, so check you're up to date with the latest jab.

It's important to begin receiving your vaccinations at least six to eight weeks before you plan to depart. Some require a double dose while others take time to kick in. The best place to get immunised is your family medical clinic because they have access to your medical records. If you don't have a family practitioner, there will be an after-hours medical clinic in your area you can make an appointment with.

Vaccines on the National Immunisation Schedule are free. Get immunised and be worry free when you take off into the wild blue yonder.

## The full service



Freedom Companion Driving is a pre-booked personal driving service that provides additional support at either end.

Offering a caring, reliable, and affordable alternative to getting around, the ACC-registered service helps seniors, people recovering from illness or injury, those with mobility challenges or disabilities, children needing rides from school, rehab patients, businesspeople, non-drivers, and even those trying to take their pet to the vet get where they need to go in a stress-free and supported way. Some drivers, including in Wellington, even have wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

Freedom Companion Driving prides itself on its personal, caring, reliable, and affordable approach. In addition to providing transport, the friendly local drivers can help you find where you need to be, carry your bags, put shopping away, walk you to your appointment, and so much more. By the time you become a regular Freedom Companion Driving customer, you and your driver will feel like old friends.

Each driver's priority is to enable you to live independently without having to restrict your needs or rely on friends and family, which is why they offer both transportation and companionship. Whether you're off to an important meeting, coming from an appointment, returning home from holiday, or busy juggling day-to-day demands, the last thing you want to be worrying about is how you'll get from point A to point B.

Find out more and pre-book your ride at

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



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# Family – retirement

## Helping your way

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

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

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

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



### New name, same amazing service!

We proudly serve the Wellington areas including the Hutt Valley.

Additionally, we cater to residents from Kapiti Coast up to Otaki.

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

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## Summerset Waikanae Open Day



### Pop along to our Open Day on Thursday 25 September

**Summerset Waikanae** offers a relaxing and low-maintenance, coastal retirement lifestyle, in a vibrant and welcoming village.

There are a limited number of two-bedroom ground-level homes available, ready to move in and make your own\*. The homes feature picturesque bedroom views of native bush, an open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area, and an outdoor patio - perfect for entertaining friends and family.

We know that moving to a retirement village is a big decision. So why not come along to our **Open Day, Thursday 25 September**.

See for yourself why our residents love the Summerset life.

**Love the life you choose.**

### Open Day

**Thursday 25 September, 10am - 2pm**

Summerset Waikanae, 28 Park Avenue, Waikanae  
04 293 0002 | [summerset.co.nz/waikanae](http://summerset.co.nz/waikanae)

**Summerset**  
RETIREMENT VILLAGES

\*Homes sold under licence to occupy, subject to availability. Summerset does not offer rental accommodation. Images are indicative.



# Family – retirement

## A caring gift



It's paramount that everyone has a will that is up to date. Not only will it make sorting out your affairs easier on your loved ones, it will also make it less expensive. It's also your last chance to make a lasting contribution and cement your legacy.

When updating a will, consider a bequest to Mary Potter Hospice. Your gift will help people with life-limiting illnesses live full, comfortable, and dignified lives. Even a small contribution will help provide end-of-life care. The donations enable the hospice to focus on patients' quality of life, and to support their loved ones too. In fact, one in seven Mary Potter Hospice patients wouldn't have received care had it not been for someone making a bequest.

Anyone who bequeaths a gift to Mary Potter Hospice in their will becomes a member of the Camellia Heritage Club, a very special group of valued supporters. Any little bit helps – find out more at [www.marypotter.org.nz](http://www.marypotter.org.nz)

## Feel at home



Wakefield Homestead aims to make a positive difference in people's lives. A welcoming, comfortable, safe, well connected, community minded, and caring rest home just a 20-minute drive from Nelson, it's a lovely place to call home. Catering to a wide range of age groups, Wakefield offers respite, palliative, and primary health funded short-term care, plus day stays and carer support. The team comprises registered nurses, healthcare assistants, an activities coordinator, a physiotherapist, social worker, podiatrist, dietician, spiritual advisor, kaumatua, hairdresser, and pool of kind volunteers.

Meals are homecooked, healthy, and delicious. There are shared lounges for socialising, shops around the corner, a beautiful park next door, and a busy activities and social calendar. Residents can go on group outings every week, get involved in a hobby, learn new skills, play music, dance, participate in games, and so much more.

Wakefield Homestead truly feels like home.

## Stairlift solutions

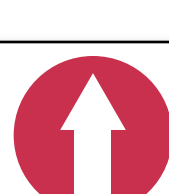


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# Family – Kapiti lifestyle

## Keeping it coastal



Beaches and bush, culture and cuisine, flora and fauna, suburban hubs and scenic hotspots, the Kapiti Coast has everything you could want and some. Long, sandy beaches, cute cafés, creative spaces and boutiques, and an abundance of wildlife and natural beauty all come together to shape a lifestyle that champions quality over quantity and enjoyment of the simple things.

Comprising Paekākāriki, Raumati, Waikanae, and Paraparaumu, Kapiti is just an hour north of Wellington. Despite the short drive, the weather is completely different thanks to the mountain range that traps in temperature and weather to create a beautiful microclimate that's often substantially warmer and sunnier than the capital!

There are endless hiking and biking tracks in the mountains and coastal parks ranging from easy to epic. Check out Whareroa Farm Recreation Reserve, Queen Elizabeth Park, Waikanae River Trail, and the Paekākāriki Escarpment Track, which belongs to the larger Te Araroa Trail. Go quad biking, try horseback riding, jump into paintballing, or spend the day at one of the native wildlife sanctuaries. Kids and grownups alike will love a night walk through the forest to try and spot a kiwi in its natural habitat. When the sun goes down, you can still stay outdoors; park up in one of the public parks for a picnic under the stars.

With a popping events calendar to boot, Kapiti is where nature beckons, art flourishes, and a seaside vibe infuses life.

## Local experts, lasting results



The Kapiti Coast continues to shine as one of New Zealand's most liveable regions thanks to its stunning beaches, relaxed lifestyle, and growing infrastructure. As interest grows, having a True Team on your side has never been more important.

What sets Property Brokers apart is more than market knowledge – it's true local insight. Many of our agents live and work in the community, meaning they understand not only property values but also the people, neighbourhoods, and lifestyle trends shaping the region. Whether you're selling a family home in Paraparaumu or seeking a coastal retreat in Waikanae, our team offers personalised service that goes beyond the transaction.

Right now, there's no better time to act. Listings and buyer demand are both on the rise, and our team is helping clients capitalise on this momentum. This spring, Property Brokers is giving locals even more reason to move. If you book a free appraisal before the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2025, you'll go in the draw to win a \$35,000 Mortgage Holiday. List your property, and you'll double your chances.

In a market that can feel overwhelming, the right realtor is your calm amidst the storm – listening, strategising, and delivering results. If you're thinking of buying, selling, or simply exploring your options, start with a conversation. With Property Brokers, you'll step forward with confidence.

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# Family – Kapiti health

## Another way forward



When it comes to health, many of us feel stuck between long GP waitlists, rushed appointments, and test results that say “everything looks normal” – even when we don’t feel our best.

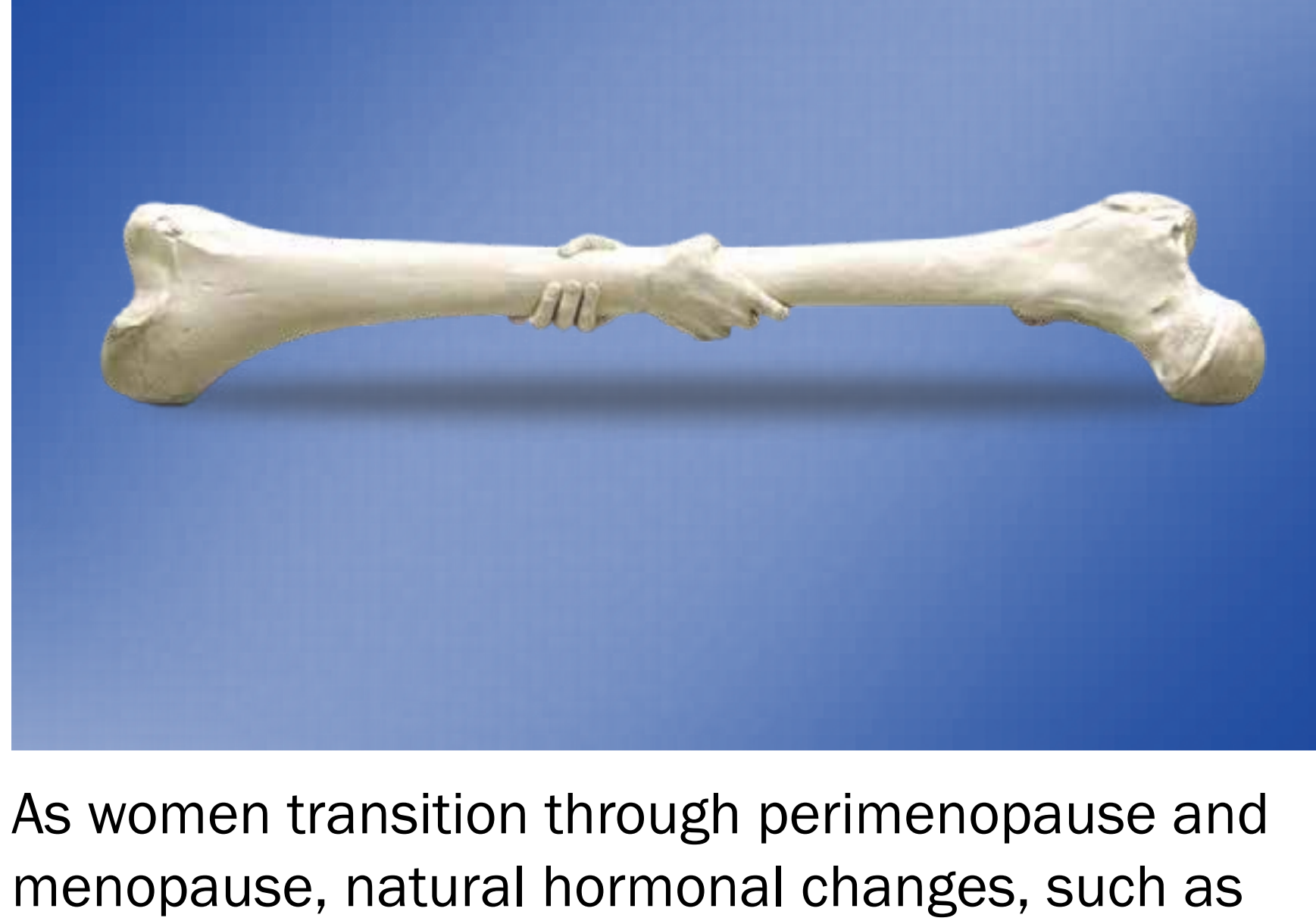
That’s where naturopathy can help. As a naturopath at Happy & Healthy with Caro, I take the time to listen to your full story, explore your symptoms, and connect the dots across all areas of your health. My evidence-based approach is grounded in nutrition and lifestyle, with additional tools such as functional testing and natural medicines to restore balance.

We’re all born with our genetics, which we can’t change, but layered on top are the influences of stress, diet, environment, sleep, hormones, and more. These are the areas we can work on. By addressing the whole picture, rather than just isolated symptoms, naturopathy helps uncover the root causes that may be holding you back.

Importantly, naturopathy sits comfortably alongside conventional medical care. Many of my clients continue their regular check-ups and medications while also working with me to improve energy, digestion, sleep, hormonal balance, and overall resilience. It’s about complementing your healthcare, not replacing it.

Based on the Kapiti Coast and available online across New Zealand, Happy & Healthy with Caro is here to guide you with clarity, care, and practical steps. After all, the goal is simple: to die young, as old as possible. Find out more at [www.happyhealthycaro.nz](http://www.happyhealthycaro.nz)

## Looking after your bones



As women transition through perimenopause and menopause, natural hormonal changes, such as falling oestrogen levels, can contribute to a gradual loss of bone density. This increases the risk of osteoporosis, a condition that can affect mobility, independence, and quality of life.

Bones play a vital role in overall health. They protect organs, store calcium, and support muscles. Understanding bone health and acting early can help maintain strength and vitality as you age.

Sharp Medical Imaging in Paraparaumu offers DEXA bone density scans, which are recognised as the gold standard for assessing bone strength. These quick, non-invasive scans provide accurate insights into bone mineral density,

allowing you and your healthcare provider to make informed decisions about prevention and management. Staying active can also help maintain strong bones for a strong future.

Making simple lifestyle choices like walking, strength training, and eating calcium-rich foods can help protect your bones.

For those wanting a broader picture of their wellbeing, Body Composition Scans are also available. These measure fat and muscle distribution, track changes in muscle mass, and highlight visceral fat levels around vital organs, which is valuable information for supporting healthy lifestyle choices.

With no referral required, Sharp Medical Imaging in Paraparaumu is your partner in bone health and wellbeing.

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### BONE DENSITY SCAN

Assess your bone health and detect osteoporosis early. Recommended for anyone with the following risk factors:

-  Sedentary lifestyle
-  Rheumatoid arthritis
-  Small or thin build
-  Long-term steroid use (3 months+)
-  Vitamin D deficiency
-  Smoking or heavy alcohol use
-  Postmenopausal/Early menopause (before 45)
-  Family history of osteoporosis  
Family history of spine/hip fractures

### BODY COMPOSITION SCAN

Provides a detailed breakdown, enabling you to make informed changes to achieve your health goals and reduce your risk for chronic disease. Measurements include:

-  Body fat percentage
-  Energy requirements (Basal Metabolic Rate)
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-  Muscle mass – density, mass & area
-  Visceral fat
-  Fat distribution



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# Family – travel

## Family-friendly Niue



Looking for somewhere great for family adventures or a place just to escape where you can create memories to last a lifetime? Then you can't beat Niue!

Niue is serviced twice weekly by Air New Zealand via a quick three-and-a-half-hour flight from Auckland and uses the New Zealand dollar.

Visitors have their pick of small private beaches, lagoons, and swimming caves that are great for snorkeling and where the likelihood of someone disturbing you is almost nil. Cave systems and various walks found all over the island can be explored with ease via signposted tracks, and many enjoy well-maintained showers and toilets.

As the world's largest raised coral atoll, Niue has a spectacular reef, which drops to deep ocean just metres from shore, and the clearest visibility in the Pacific – sometimes up to 80 metres. You'll want to jump in for a swim or go game fishing the moment you touch down. Local dive operators offer a range of scuba diving options and daily snorkel tours, often giving visitors a chance to swim with Niue's resident spinner dolphins and humpback whales between July and October. This is one of the only places in the world where you can do this. Niue is also the world's only Dark Sky Nation!

You will arrive as a visitor and leave as a friend.

Warm, safe, and with no traffic or queues, Niue's way of life is how it used to be; how it should be!

Find out more at [www.niueisland.com](http://www.niueisland.com)

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The catalogue is vast and varied, with products to support the mind and body in many different ways. From maximising performance in sports or just in daily life to maintaining endurance, supporting good muscle function to aiding recovery, NZ Natural Formulas offer a gentle and healthy alternative for keeping you in tip top shape. Cramp Stop helps with cramping after exercise and during menstruation. Anti Jet Lag mitigates the effects of disrupted sleep, circulation, and dehydration. Revive helps with mental vitality, while Endurance is for physical exertion. There are even options to help people sleep better and relieve anxiety.

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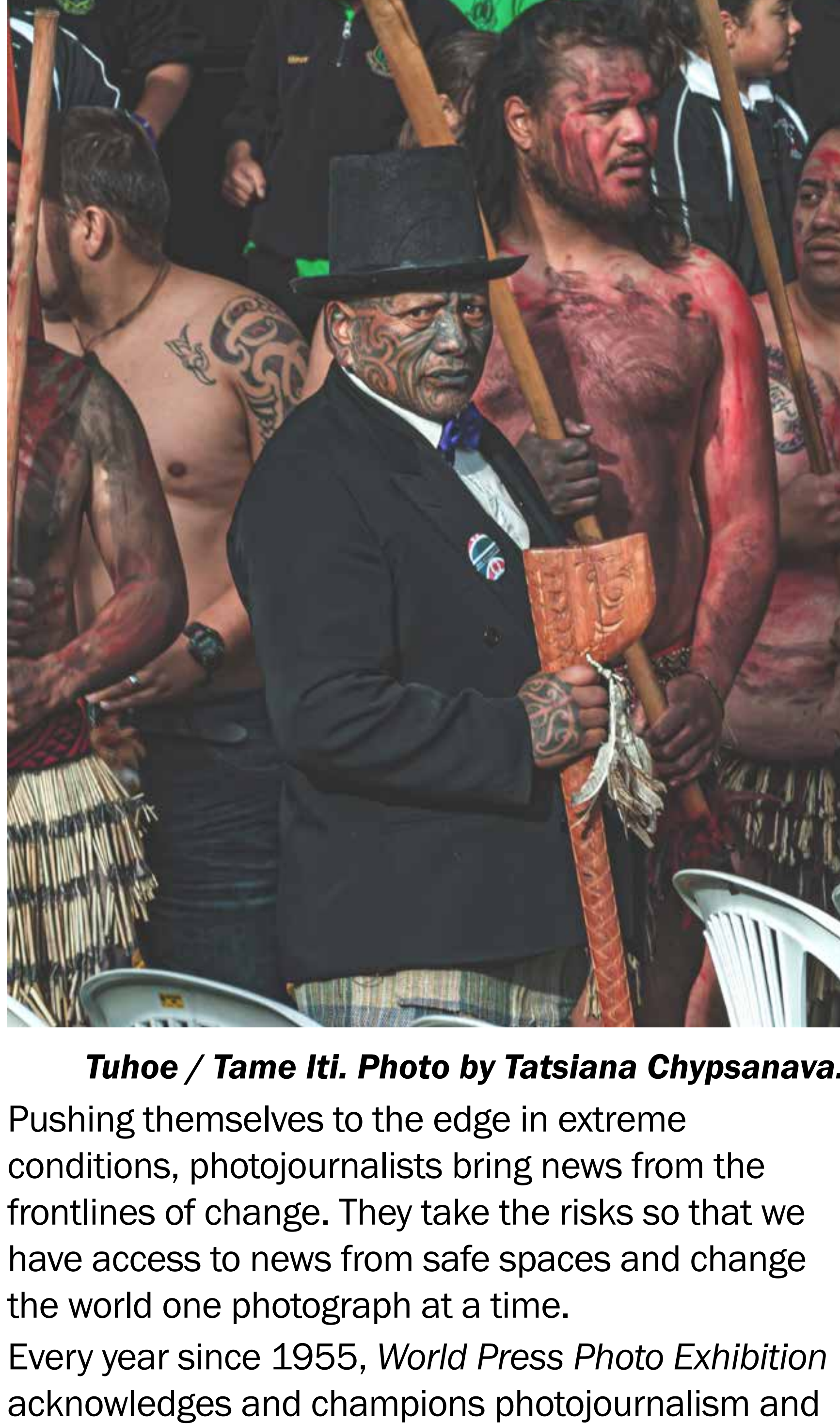
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## Capturing humanity



**Tuhoe / Tame Iti. Photo by Tatsiana Chypanava.**

Pushing themselves to the edge in extreme conditions, photojournalists bring news from the frontlines of change. They take the risks so that we have access to news from safe spaces and change the world one photograph at a time.

Every year since 1955, *World Press Photo Exhibition* acknowledges and champions photojournalism and documentary photography, bringing together award-winning work from photographers and storytellers who capture the pressing social, environmental, and political issues of our time. In 2025, the platform celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an exhibition at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre that runs until the 5<sup>th</sup> of October and features this year’s most powerful, thought-provoking images alongside a retrospective collection, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition of *Photography by Woolf*, a collection of works from The Photographic Society of New Zealand and The Nature Photography Society of NZ, and the Woolf Te Papa Collection, as well as several talks, panel discussions, and educational workshops.

Of the 59,320 entries from 3778 photographers across 141 countries, this year’s *World Press Photo Exhibition* sees 42 winners from 31 countries bringing local and global stories to light and highlighting photography’s role in deepening understanding, promoting dialogue, and inspiring action.

“Photography is definitely an artform that can encapsulate many layers of meaning and emotion in one shot in the hands of an experienced and highly skilled practitioner as we see presented in the *World Press* each year,” World Press Photo Wellington event director John Dow says. “These top-level photographers can provide viewers with new and unique perspectives, sometimes subtle and at other times confronting, which other mediums struggle to match.”

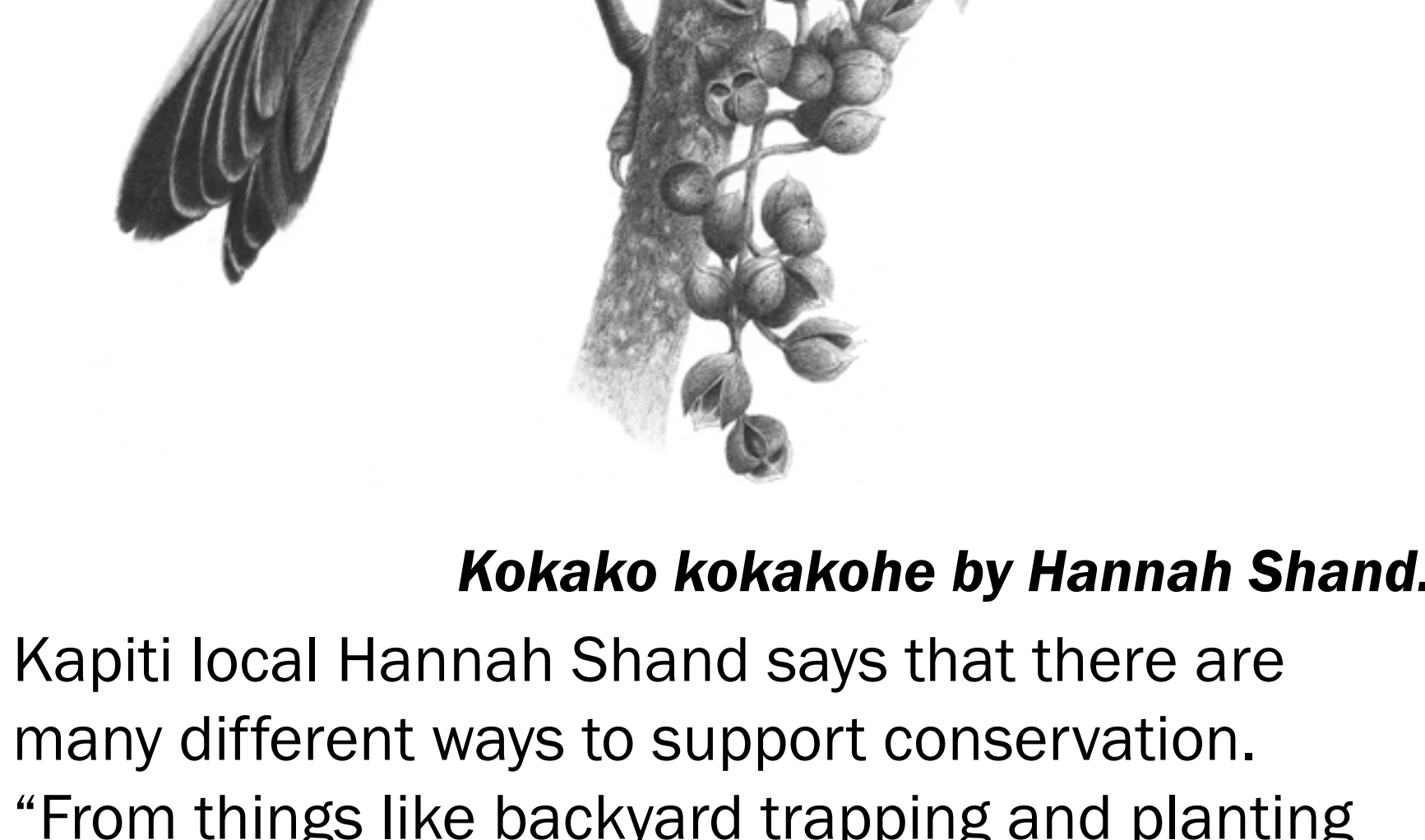
The powerful images go beyond the daily news cycle, inviting exhibition visitors to reflect on pressing issues such as migration, climate change, war, protest, conflict, family, animals, and sport. Contest categories include Singles, which displays individual photographs that capture pivotal moments; Stories, which presents a series of images that delve into narratives; and Long-Term Projects, which highlight photographers who commit years to documenting complex issues. This year’s featured Long-Term Project by Tatsiana Chypanava explores the life, culture, and resurgence of the Ngāi Tuhoe people in New Zealand’s Te Urewera region.

The 70<sup>th</sup> *Anniversary Retrospective* on the other hand “provides context to how we see and interpret world history”, Dow says. “This secondary exhibition allows us to reflect on iconic moments, landmark stories, and the enduring impact of images that make people stop, feel, think, and act”. It offers a historical journey through the evolving art of photojournalism and marks the era that also gave birth to rock ‘n’ roll.

“*World Press Photo* has set the standard for excellence in photojournalism, and its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary gives us a unique opportunity to reflect on the power of visual storytelling,” NZAFA president Wayne Newman says. “We’re thrilled to welcome visitors of all ages to Tākina for this unparalleled cultural experience.”

Engage with history and humanity at the 2025 *World Press Photo Exhibition*.

## Perched in pen



**Kokako kokakohe by Hannah Shand.**

Kapiti local Hannah Shand says that there are many different ways to support conservation. “From things like backyard trapping and planting natives on your property, which feed native birds, to getting involved in your local conservation groups and planting days”, the possibilities are endless.

As an artist, Shand does her part by creating photorealist drawings of native New Zealand birds. Her latest exhibition will perch in the Roderick and Gillian Deane Community Art Space in the Paraparaumu Library foyer from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and showcase a wide range of her fine-tip pen drawings, charcoal pieces, photographs, and printed silk scarves.

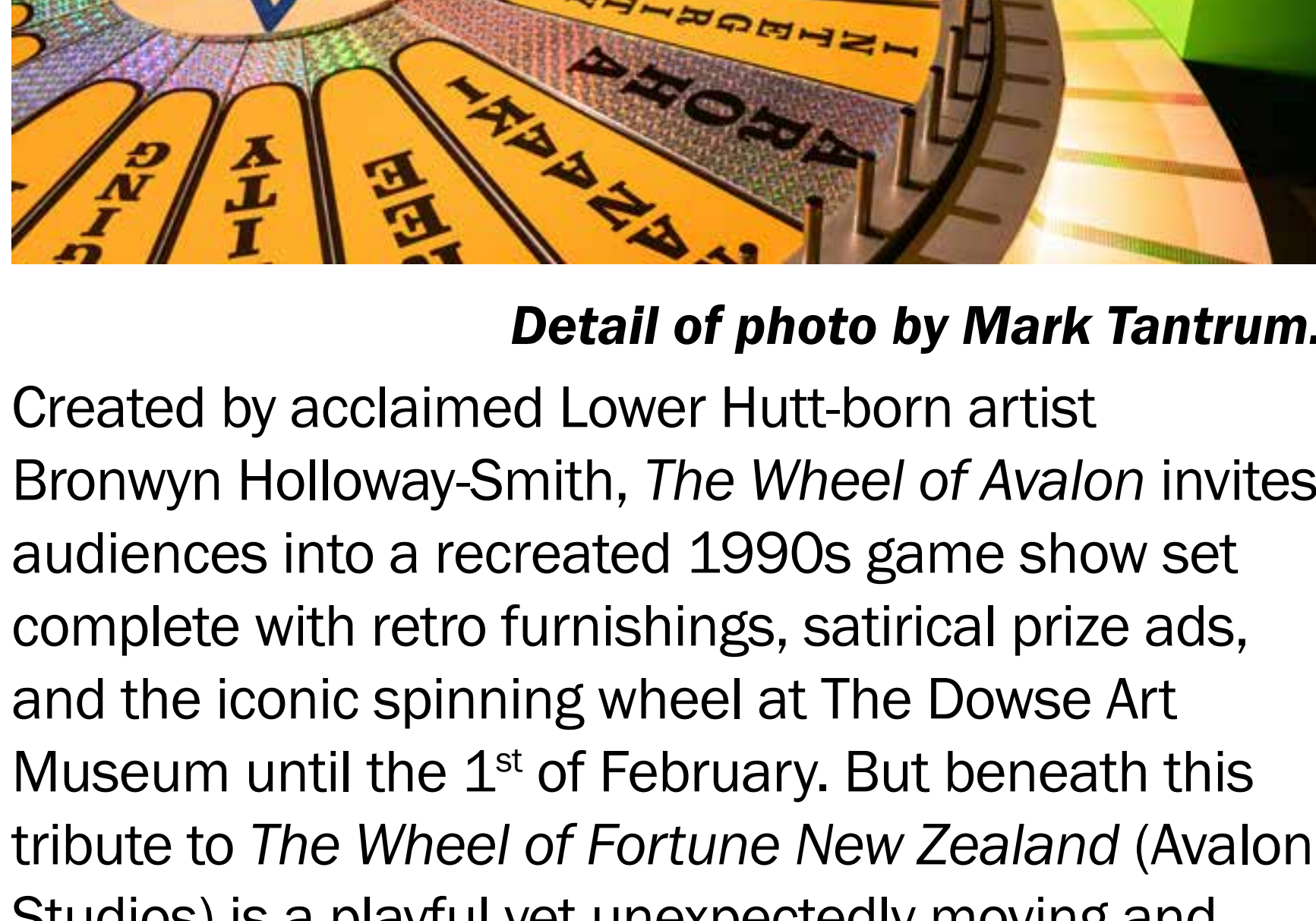
Shand hopes to bring attention to our special native birds and raise awareness and funds for their conservation with her exhibition. She spends upwards of four months creating her intricate drawings – the lengths she goes to for the figurative work are only exceeded by the undertaking of snapping her reference photography. She has travelled the length and breadth of the motu and also collaborates with top photographers to draw birds she hasn’t been able to snap herself.

Once her references are secured, she creates compositions in Photoshop before sketching her favourite in pencil. As any mistakes can mean losing weeks or months of work, she starts with the most difficult features and works outwards, she says.

“My hope for people who see my art is that they learn something new about one of our native birds, and hopefully be inspired to get out into nature, to see the birds in real life”, Shand says. “We’re very spoilt for choice locally”.

Don’t miss her talks and live demonstrations on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

## What are you spinning for?



**Detail of photo by Mark Tantrum.**

Created by acclaimed Lower Hutt-born artist Bronwyn Holloway-Smith, *The Wheel of Avalon* invites audiences into a recreated 1990s game show set complete with retro furnishings, satirical prize ads, and the iconic spinning wheel at The Dowse Art Museum until the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. But beneath this tribute to *The Wheel of Fortune New Zealand* (Avalon Studios) is a playful yet unexpectedly moving and politically urgent exploration of media and memory that transforms nostalgia into critical reflection.

In place of spa pools and steak knives, a new prize wheel now spins for concepts like aroha, empathy, community, and belonging, subverting capitalist notions of success for one reimagined through frameworks such as mātauranga Māori and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

When the show came out, Holloway-Smith was just nine years old. She says she “didn’t clock the consumer indoctrination” she was experiencing because she was more excited to see “favourite local sites being validated” on TV. However, when she began to rewatch old episodes, she noticed that “the shiny new appeal of the products has faded” as the products were things you’d find in op shops today, and that the show mirrored big shifts in our society towards consumerism and away from collective ideals. “This led me to a real interrogation of what is of value outside of cash and material possessions”, she says.

A chance to honour and question the game show’s legacy, *The Wheel of Avalon* challenges conventional notions of success and prosperity in a fun way.

Holloway-Smith probes the tension between local cultural memory and the global corporations that control our media heritage to question what we truly value as a society.

“As a nation, what hopes and aspirations were we spinning for then, and what are we spinning for now”, Holloway-Smith asks.

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# A strange beauty



“We all talked about loving music when we were growing up, and knowing we wanted music to be a big part of our lives,” says Jeanie Pilkington, one-third of Folk Bitch Trio. “But for me at least, when I looked into the future, it was this relatively mysterious thing.”

Joining forces with her friends Gracie Sinclair and Heide Peverelle as a group demystified that future. Formed in 2020 in Naarm Melbourne and swiftly drawing in fans from all round the globe for their “gloriously lush harmonies” (*Beat Magazine*) and vivid, visceral storytelling, described as “half-confession, half-hallucination grounded in complicated heartbreak” by NPR Music, Folk Bitch Trio are a band of three distinct points of view. Pilkington grew up with two musician parents and brings formative memories of watching them perform, listening to Gillian Welch and Lucinda Williams, and her own imagined path as a career musician. With a love for the homegrown, the handmade, and pop music old and new, Peverelle spends their spare time making art and furniture. Sinclair’s taste skews towards the dark and gothic, the baroque and dramatic. Having known each other since high school, the moment they started singing together, “the chemistry of being inspired by each other was evident from the get-go,” Sinclair says.

Released in July this year, Folk Bitch Trio’s debut album *Now Would Be A Good Time* spans dissociative daydreams, galling breakups, sexual fantasies, and media overload, acutely articulated across gnarled Americana, classic rock, and irreverent, clear-eyed balladry. *Now Would Be A Good Time* to see them live at San Fran on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

## Please Please Please




Her name is on everybody’s lips like that me-espresso, her songs garnering the opposite of *Bad Reviews* on airwaves around the globe. Get a *Taste* of the pop princess at *Espress-Hoes PT 2*, an Ivy Bar & Cabaret drag show on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September celebrating the upcoming release of Sabrina Carpenter’s new album *Man’s Best Friend*.


Whether you know her from her Disney Channel days, from her opening acts along Taylor Swift’s *Eras Tour*, or the 67<sup>th</sup> annual GRAMMY® Awards where she picked up six nominations and two wins for Best Pop Vocal Album and Best Pop Solo Performance, Sabrina Carpenter is a formidable force in the pop queen dynasty. She’s a *Busy Woman*, releasing chart-topping singles and smash-hit albums one after the other.


*Please Please Please* join some of Wellington’s shortest and sweetest drag stars in a Sabrina-fied show that offers up everything but *Slim Pickins*. Dressed up in sequins and skirts, corsets and curls of blonde hair are organiser Ness Quick, psychedelic supermodel Blink Bogan, fannypack queen Maria Richman [pictured], and Rising Star of Te-Whanganui-a-Tara 2024 Pita Pocket.

Get caught in a dream, wear something cute, maybe a *Feather* or two, and enjoy a night of *Nonsense* and tomfoolery that will help you forget whatever *Manchild* you’re obsessing over. Whatever your plans on Friday night, the *Espress-Hoes PT 2* performers have *Bed Chem* and are sure to Mountain Dew it for ya.



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## Iron

**Written by Rona Munro**

**Directed by Campbell Wright**

**Gryphon Theatre, 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025**



*Photo by Emily K Brown.*

With the current government's 'tough on crime' stance, *Iron* is a timely work for Stagecraft Theatre to have chosen. Rona Munro's sharply drawn drama about a mother and daughter reconnecting after 15 years apart is given a heavy weight of meaning by being set in a women's prison, where inmates and guards alike are institutionalised by the straitjacket of punishment.

Fay (Karen Anslow) was locked up for killing her husband. This left her daughter Josie (Ivana Palezevic), a child at the time, deeply traumatised and destined to become a successful but lonely adult. Supervising their visits are two guards (James Bayliss and Helen Mackenzie Hughes) whose personal lives and attitudes have been shaped by the work they do far more than they should be.

The cast of this production are excellent. Anslow draws out Fay's complexities and passions with skill and energy. Palezevic is awkward and devastatingly emotional as her troubled daughter who just wants to be able to remember. Their relationship is believable as it deepens and evolves with each visit.

Bayliss imbues his guard George with humour and paternalism over his female charges while he scoffs from Josie's well-meaning fruit baskets. Mackenzie Hughes' guard Sheila is uncomfortably hardened by the overstepping, love-hate relationship she has with Fay.

The traverse set (Neil Wallace) brings the audience close to the stage and involved in the story as the actors occasionally break the fourth wall to include them.

The transformation that moves the action to the prison garden is a lovely moment of creativity. The stark lighting (Jamie Byas) and monochrome wardrobe (Rosie Glover) add to the grimness of the prison setting. I would like to have seen the actors given more dynamic movement to match the quality of their performances, as the static blocking has two characters sitting and talking across a table for long periods of time.

With its topical themes, well-crafted relationships, and engaging performances, *Iron* will leave you with much to mull over.

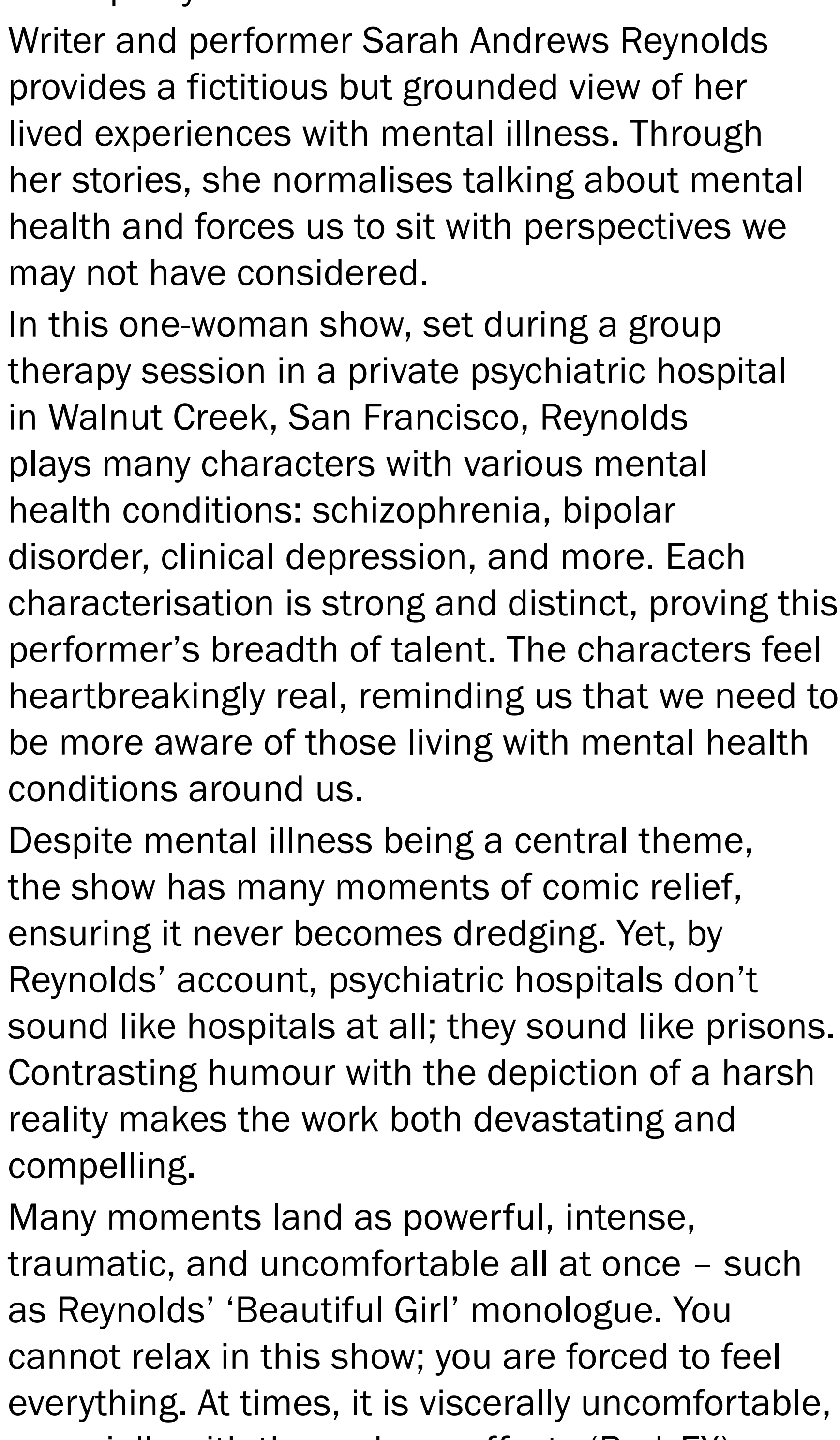
## I N P A T I E N T or How

## I Spent my Summer Vacation

**Created by Sarah Andrews Reynolds**

**BATS Theatre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2025**

**Reviewed by Zac Fitzgibbon**



*Photo and design by William Duignan.*

*Content warning: mental health conditions, self-harm.*

Intimate and confronting, *I N P A T I E N T or How I Spent my Summer Vacation* opens your eyes to serious mental health conditions and makes you face up to your views on them.

Writer and performer Sarah Andrews Reynolds provides a fictitious but grounded view of her lived experiences with mental illness. Through her stories, she normalises talking about mental health and forces us to sit with perspectives we may not have considered.

In this one-woman show, set during a group therapy session in a private psychiatric hospital in Walnut Creek, San Francisco, Reynolds plays many characters with various mental health conditions: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, clinical depression, and more. Each characterisation is strong and distinct, proving this performer's breadth of talent. The characters feel heartbreakingly real, reminding us that we need to be more aware of those living with mental health conditions around us.

Despite mental illness being a central theme, the show has many moments of comic relief, ensuring it never becomes dredging. Yet, by Reynolds' account, psychiatric hospitals don't sound like hospitals at all; they sound like prisons.

Contrasting humour with the depiction of a harsh reality makes the work both devastating and compelling.

Many moments land as powerful, intense, traumatic, and uncomfortable all at once – such as Reynolds' 'Beautiful Girl' monologue. You cannot relax in this show; you are forced to feel everything. At times, it is viscerally uncomfortable, especially with the makeup effects (BodyFX) depicting instances of self-harm.

As Reynolds aptly puts it, it is the end of the beginning when it comes to reframing how we view mental health conditions – not just in Aotearoa, but the world.

This is a necessary piece of theatre, shining a light on struggles that so many endure while many others remain oblivious. Come to The Studio at BATS Theatre and experience all the emotions this moving piece on mental health brings.

## Instant Theatre

**Presented by Instant Theatre**

**BATS Theatre, 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025**

**Reviewed by Tanya Piejus**



*Instant Theatre* is a fully improvised, character-driven performance of real people in real situations. With no scripts, no games, and nothing prepared, three performers (Sarah Ashill, Thomas Bauer, and Tony Yuile) spontaneously create new lives and their stories each night.

With just a prompt from the audience for two emotions – anger and ecstasy – to guide the direction of the narrative, these talented actors created the simple but beautiful story of a couple experiencing the 13-year itch and trying to rekindle the flames of romance on a dream vacation at a tropical resort. The wife, Angie, is keen for adventure and excitement while husband Tom just wants to do what they usually do on holiday – sit by the pool and drink cocktails. Jealousy raises its ugly head when Angie goes for surfing lessons with a hunky instructor, but these classes save the day when Tom finally decides to venture outside his comfort zone and steps into the waves alongside his wife. Angie's best friend Janice also enters the picture secretly occupying the room next door, while Tom makes friends with the mysterious Charlie over drinks and chess.

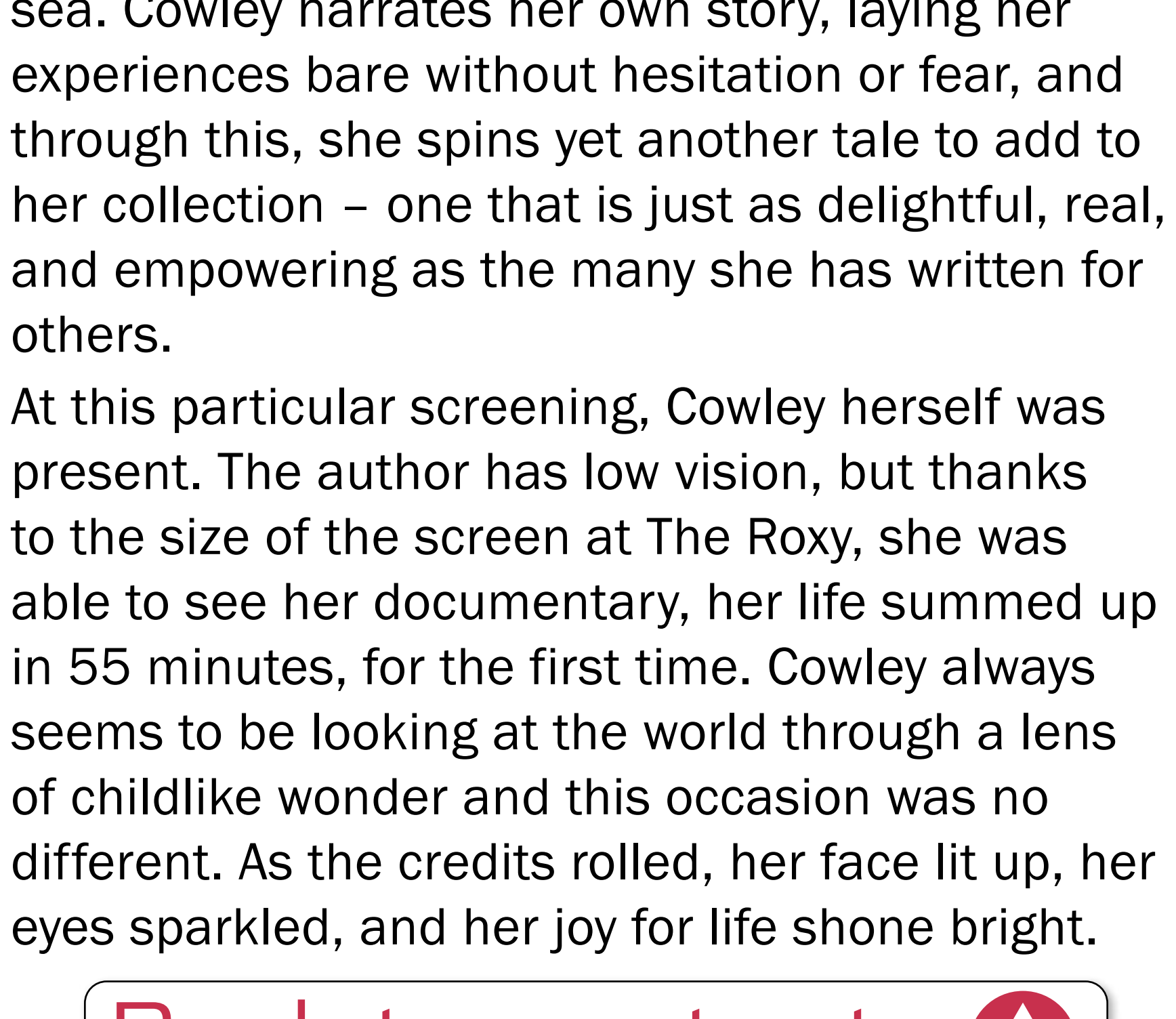
Unlike other improv troupes, these actors don't employ random props or silly hats to tell their tale. Their stories come from the heart with just four stools to provide some physical variations and well-timed blackouts from coach Ben Zolno on the lighting desk to shift the scene. This sparseness of staging provides for authenticity, and audible 'aahs' from the audience accompanied the most heartfelt moments.

Like all good character-driven stories, I was left wanting more. Why did Angie feel the need to bring her bestie on a supposedly romantic getaway? Who is Charlie exactly and why does he come to this resort every year? Will the brief encounter between these two lead to anything? Of course, with limited time and a spontaneous story, these questions can never be answered, but it's a testament to the rich layering these improvisers can achieve that I even considered such questions.

## Joy, Full & Fearless

**55 minutes**

**Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera**



I am pleased to announce that New Zealand children's book author Joy Cowley is not only a national treasure, but an absolute icon. Oh, you already knew? Well, as someone who grew up overseas, I was not acquainted with this incredible woman until I saw the new documentary *Joy, Full & Fearless* and I have since decided that when I grow up, I would like to be like her: joyful and fearless.

Over the years, Cowley has had several opportunities to film a documentary about her life, always turning down the offer until *Joy, Full & Fearless* director Clare Burgess came along.

Wise and wonderfully mystifying, Cowley must have somehow known that Burgess would handle the task with care and compassion, unrolling her trauma and triumphs out like a map through which to discover both her thousands of books and the great tale that is her life.

Her story is thoughtfully stitched by Burgess, editor Simon Price, and executive producer Pietra Brett Kelly, who weave moments of her life together with excerpts from her beloved books to create a tapestry that is complicated and complete, lived and learned to the fullest.

Presenting her life in a non-linear way allows Cowley to paint her own portrait. Past interviews, family videos, and animations of her stories juxtapose intimately captured moments from the present day to showcase not just where she is now but the river she sailed to arrive at the sea.

Cowley narrates her own story, laying her experiences bare without hesitation or fear, and through this, she spins yet another tale to add to her collection – one that is just as delightful, real, and empowering as the many she has written for others.

At this particular screening, Cowley herself was present. The author has low vision, but thanks to the size of the screen at The Roxy, she was able to see her documentary, her life summed up in 55 minutes, for the first time. Cowley always seems to be looking at the world through a lens of childlike wonder and this occasion was no different. As the credits rolled, her face lit up, her eyes sparkled, and her joy for life shone bright.



## Side-splitting smorgasbord

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



**Jenice the Menace and Emma Jean.**

If you're keen for a comedy caper that's community-driven, then *Laughs on Draughts* is the perfect pick 'n' mix of food and fun, pints and performance. The curated comedy show at Baylands Brewery and Taproom provides a platform for emerging and established talents alike, making it perfect for audiences who want to take a bite out of a smorgasbord of sundry styles.

"I decided I wanted to produce a show that was a safe space for both the audience and performers to just have a great time," organiser Emma Jean of Flash of Jeanius Productions says. "We want people to have a great evening and leave with a thirst for more local Wellington comedy."

This ethos is at the heart of *Laughs on Draughts*, which often sees crowds bantering with comedians onstage and enjoying one-on-one chats with their favourite act after the show. Plus, each gig features a different and diverse lineup of jokesters, gagsters, and farceurs.

"On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, our MC is very talented Oliver Pol, and our headliner is Billy T nominee Lesa MacLeod-Whiting," Emma beams. "Joining the lineup is Aggie Leighton, Ivan Fadjukoff, Mave, Sanch, Trent H Baumann, Callum Wagstaff, Morgan Hunter-Bell, and our very own Jenice the Menace."

Serving up entertainment with a side of community spirit, wash down an evening of *Laughs on Draughts* with a cold one and a heaping dose of cackles.

## Side-splitting smorgasbord

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



Buds burst forth from branches. Sunlight streams into dark spaces. The Southern Hemisphere is preparing for spring's grand entrance and Wellington will host a series of events and exhibitions, activations and activities at Te Wā o te Kōanga – Spring Festival 2025 throughout the whole month of September.

Two exhibitions will be held throughout the festival at Botanic Garden ki Paekākā. Running all the way through the month, *Botanical Art Worldwide* showcases artwork from across Aotearoa and the world. *The Art of Ikebana* at the Begonia House on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> explores Japanese flower arranging. From the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, the spring floral display isn't quite an exhibition in the traditional sense, but visitors will marvel at the tapestry nestled within the garden beds. The 20<sup>th</sup> sees a day of hands-on learning about how plants and pollinators interact at Te Āhua o te Haenga | Pollination in Motion.

Rā Tūwhera ki Ōtari – Ōtari Open Day celebrates New Zealand's only public botanic garden dedicated to native plants with a range of tours on the 13<sup>th</sup> at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush. Don't miss Kaiwhakaataata Māra – Garden Performers on the 27<sup>th</sup>, when pop-up shows and roving creatives will occupy both Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and the Botanic Garden ki Paekākā.

Government House will also be hosting tours of the private grounds throughout the month, while Friends Garden Walks provide free guided experiences of Botanic Garden ki Paekākā to show off the green spaces in full bloom.

## Regional News staff at Cringeworthy: The 90s





# What's on



**16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Sep. Two Painters and a Potter:** *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro.* Painters Fee Thompson and Sam Walker and ceramicist Aimée McLeod come together for a show that features their vast and varied works. All Ngaio residents, the three artists have varying styles, mediums, and methods, yet their work weaves a tapestry of their vibrant and creative neighbourhood. **L-R Aimée McLeod, Sam Walker, and Fee Thompson.**



**20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Sep. Hutt Valley Horticultural Society Spring Show:** *Lower Hutt Events Centre, Laings Road, Lower Hutt – 12pm; 10am.* Check out the spring blooms, plus floral artwork and bonsai. All nature lovers, plant parents, and green thumbs – both amateurs and aficionados alike – are invited to celebrate the magic of spring at a show dedicated to all things floral and green!



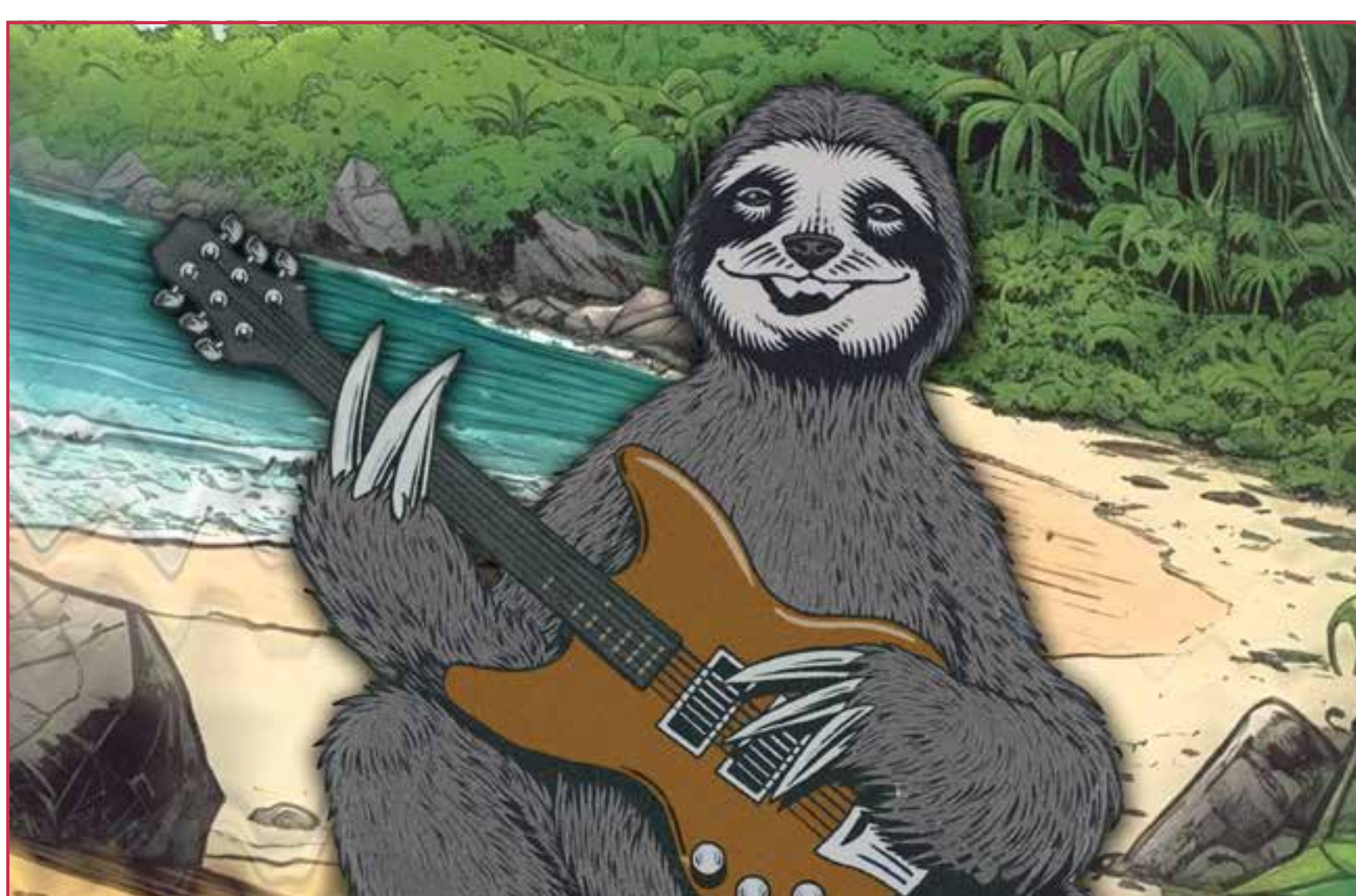
**20<sup>th</sup> Sep. Hogsnoth Bulldogs Goodtime Band:** *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu – 7:30pm.* Skiffle-pop and jug music is the name of the game for this band ready to have a rootin' tootin' good time. Supported by Andrew and Kristen London, the all-star ensemble will play hits from the 60s and 70s, plus popular blues and standard songs.



**24<sup>th</sup> Sep. John Butler:** *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro – 7pm.* John Butler's new album *Prism* reclaims his classic groove-laden force, and is brimming with fierce guitars, robust percussion, and meteoric choruses. His Wellington concert will feature new songs alongside favourites, flipping between genres that range from country to instrumental, anthemic to signature stylings. **Photo by Kane Hibberd.**



**20<sup>th</sup> Sep. Friday Laughs with Lesa MacLeod-Whiting and El Jaguar:** *The Royal Hotel, Revans Street, Featherston – 7:30pm.* MC Lesa MacLeod-Whiting hosts a two-hour comedy showcase featuring headliner El Jaguar – a Canadian comedian making a name for himself on the Kiwi comedy scene using only his fast wits, tight lycra, and the legacy of Mexican luchadores. **El Jaguar.**



**12<sup>th</sup> Sep. Seaside Sloths Social September Soirée:** *The Raumati Social Club, Poplar Avenue, Raumati South – 8pm.* Sick beats, cool instruments, ample refreshments, and an unmatched vibe collide at what Seaside Sloths are calling their September Soufflé. The sloth-themed, cartoon, hip-hop dance band give a portion of their profits from every gig to conservation. **Artwork by Josh Parata (Riddim Cartel).**



# What's on Wairarapa

**12<sup>th</sup> Sep. Drag Bingo:** *The Royal Hotel, Revans Street, Featherston* – 6pm. Drag queen Rhubarb Rouge is rounding up rascals for some raucous revelry at this bingo event that's fun, fabulous, and a little bit naughty.

**12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Sep. Wai Art Show:** *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 9am.

Featuring a huge variety of mediums and styles, this exhibition showcases artists from across the region.

**14<sup>th</sup> Sep. Carterton Daffodil Day:** *Various locations and times in Carterton.* Take the train to Carterton, enjoy the fields of daffodils, peruse the High Street market, marvel at performances, and get involved in all sorts of fun spring activities.

**19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Sep. Martinborough Music Festival:** *Martinborough Town Hall, Texas Street, Martinborough* – various times. Four concerts over three days celebrate chamber music and cross-cultural connections.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sep. Spring Equinox:** *Stonehenge Aotearoa, Ahiaruhe Road, Carterton* – 4:30pm. Celebrate the Spring Equinox – when the night and day are equal lengths – and learn about how our ancestors studied and used the heavens.

## Kapiti

**13<sup>th</sup> Sep. Candyland 2025:** *Te Raukura ki Kapiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – 6:30pm. Enjoy a family-friendly display from the TCA Kids Aerial students that showcases aerial hoop and hammock performances.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sep. Ōtaki Spiritual Fair:** *Ōtaki Memorial Hall, Main Street, Ōtaki* – 10am. Indulge, nurture, and spoil yourself with divine energies, card readings, healing modalities, and treats aplenty.

## Events

**Until 28<sup>th</sup> Sep. Blossom Valley:** *Aston Norwood Gardens, State Highway 2, Kaitoke* – various times. Witness hundreds of pastel pink cherry trees blooming. Choose from day or nighttime experiences.

**18<sup>th</sup> Sep. Vista Foundation 48Hours Wellington City Finals:** *Embassy Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 7pm. Watch the Wellington finalist films from the 2025 Vista Foundation 48Hours competition. Each film was made in less than 48 hours over one weekend.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sep. Mean Market:** *Mean Doses Taproom, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 1pm. Arcade games, pool tables, throwback 80s tunes, wintery drinks, and a killer lineup of local makers and creative stalls converge at this fun-filled market.

**26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Sep. Japanese Film Festival:** *The Roxy Cinema, Park Road, Miramar* – various times. Explore the culture and traditions of Japan through contemporary cinema.

## Music

**13<sup>th</sup> Sep. Tudor Consort Presents: Monteverdi Vespers:** *St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. This immense and groundbreaking work juxtaposes Renaissance melodies with the virtuosity and colour of the Baroque orchestra while featuring intimate solos with vast choral-orchestral textures.

**13<sup>th</sup> Sep. simple ∞ animal:** *Vogelmorn Upstairs, Mornington Road, Brooklyn* – 7:30pm. Every simple ∞ animal gig has songs of raw emotion that can pull at your heartstrings, and also catchy tunes and funky rhythms to get you grooving.

**14<sup>th</sup> Sep. Yury Gezentsvey Plays Kreisler – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recital:** *St Hilda's Anglican Church, The Parade, Island Bay* – 4:30pm. Played by the renowned violinist Yury Gezentsvey and accompanied by Kirsten Robertson (née Simpson) on piano, this recital features a short work by violinist Fritz Kreisler.

**17<sup>th</sup> Sep. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Emerging Artists:** *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. New Zealand's brightest young musicians perform as soloists and side by side with the NZSO in a concert celebrating the next generation of performers.

**18<sup>th</sup> Sep. Exit the Chrysalis:** *The Cavern Club, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Settle into strange music written for fugitives from the suffocating hands of normalcy, and for those who wish to break apart the fortified chrysalides around themselves, slowly dry out their wings, and fly.

**18<sup>th</sup> Sep. Wunderhorse:** *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Jacob Slater, Harry Fowler, Peter Woodin, and Jamie Staples deliver pure, uncut rock 'n' roll with rugged hooks, unfiltered noise, and fierce melodic sensitivity.

**19<sup>th</sup> Sep. Dani Josie:** *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Dani Josie is rising up the pop-punk ranks with her bangin' anthems, high energy, and happy and sad tears. Catch her new album *SUCKERPUNCH* live.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sep. Wellington Community Choir 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert:** *Wesley Methodist Church, Taranaki Street, Te Aro* – 5pm. Tuck into a celebratory feast of world music for anyone who has been moved by a melody or found home in harmony.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sep. Orchestra Wellington Presents: Secrets:** *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. This moving programme features the work of Shostakovich, Mozart, and Wellingtonian William Philipson.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sep. MESSIE:** *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. DJ MESSIE is taking electronic dance music to filthy new levels. As a former drummer, her passion for percussion was the pipeline for falling in love with genres like garage, breakbeat, and jungle.

**26<sup>th</sup> Sep. The Terrys:** *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Playing favourites and new bangers alike, The Terrys present their signature Aussie surf sound.

**27<sup>th</sup> Sep. Folk Bitch Trio:** *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. *Now Would Be A Good Time*, the debut album by Folk Bitch Trio, tells vivid, visceral stories.

**27<sup>th</sup> Sep. Orpheus Choir Presents: O Fortuna!** *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Orpheus Choir Wellington and Auckland Choral, New Zealand's largest city choirs, alongside Wellington Brass Band, perform masterpieces *Carmina Burana* and *Chichester Psalms*.

## Performance

**12<sup>th</sup> Sep. This Wasn't the Plan: A Musical Theatre Cabaret:** *The Hannah, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Winner of Outstanding Solo Show and nominee for Best in Fringe at the 2025 New Zealand Fringe Festival, Glenn Horsfall's TAHI show reflects on what happens when life doesn't go to plan.

**12<sup>th</sup> Sep. Espress-Hoes PT 2:** *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. Please, please, please join a gaggle of beautiful blondes in celebrating the release of Sabrina Carpenter's new album *Man's Best Friend*. Featuring local stars Pita Pocket, Blink Bogan, Maria Richman, and Ness Quick, this drag show *Go Go Juice*.

**12<sup>th</sup> Sep-11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2:22 A Ghost Story:** *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. In a rapidly gentrifying part of London, a married couple renovate their new home. But something strange and frightening can be heard at the same time every night. What forces have they disturbed?

**16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Sep. Manage Your Expectations:** *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. This genre-defying work of dance, theatre, live film, clown, and absurd philosophising staged as part of TAHI takes the idea of the trigger warning to its extreme to question how informed consent can really be.

**19<sup>th</sup>; 20<sup>th</sup>; 24<sup>th</sup> Sep. MAMIL 2: GOMIL:** *The Opera House, Te Aro; Wairarapa Events Centre, Carterton; Te Raukura ki Kapiti Coastlands Theatre, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. GOMIL (Grumpy Old Man in Lycra), the long-awaited sequel to the wildly successful New Zealand play *MAMIL (Middle Aged Man in Lycra)*, makes a pitstop in Pōneke for one night only.

**20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Sep. KidzStuff Theatre Presents: Box of Birds:** *Tararua Tramping Club, Moncrieff Street, Mount Victoria* – 10am. When Peter stays with his nanna in the country over the school holidays, he discovers a whole new world and meets a whole flock of feathered friends in this Birdlife Productions show.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sep-4<sup>th</sup> Oct. Kiwi's Big Hararei:** *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. Kiwi is going on his first big holiday from Aotearoa across to the golden shores of Brisbane in this tale of connection for tamariki.

**26<sup>th</sup>; 27<sup>th</sup> Sep. Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand Presents: National Shakespeare Schools Production 2025:** *Wellington High School, Te Aro; Victoria University of Wellington Memorial Theatre, Kelburn* – 7pm; 7:30pm. Revel in 40-minute performances of *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*, and *Julius Caesar* from the 46 SGCNZ Regional and National Shakespeare Festival winners.

**27<sup>th</sup> Sep. Sing & Fling:** *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Harking back to the glamour of vaudeville with a modern twist, this evening of burlesque and live song will tease and delight you with voices dripping in velvet!

**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. The Pantaloons Present: Cinderella:** *Little Theatre, Lower Hutt; Wairarapa Events Centre, Carterton* – various times. Glass slippers, royal balls, and a Fairy Godmother who's still on her learner's licence – what could possibly go wrong in this zany reimagining of the classic tale?

## Galleries

**Until 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. The Wheel of Avalon:** *The Dowse Art Museum, Dowse Drive, Lower Hutt.* Step onto the dazzling set of *The Wheel of Avalon*, Bronwyn Holloway-Smith's bold new installation that reimagines the iconic 1990s game show *Wheel of Fortune New Zealand*.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sep-5<sup>th</sup> Oct. World Press Photo Exhibition 2025:** *Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro.* Experience the world through the lens of award-winning photojournalists with 42 images that reflect on issues such as migration, climate change, war, protest, conflict, family, animals, and sport.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sep-2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. NZ Birds:** *Roderick and Gillian Deane Community Art Space, Paraparaumu Library, Paraparaumu.* In the name of conservation, Hannah Shand's exhibition will showcase a wide range of her fine-tip pen drawings, charcoal pieces, photographs, and printed silk scarves depicting native Aotearoa birds.

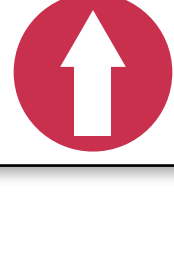
## Festivals

**Until-30<sup>th</sup> Sep. Te Wā o te Kōanga – Spring Festival:** *Various locations and times in Wellington.* Celebrate the arrival of spring with events at beautiful public gardens, bush reserves, and private grounds in Wellington.

**10<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Sep. TAHI: New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance:** *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – various times. 16 shows, 20 solo performances, one powerful celebration of storytelling nurturing bold perspectives and new work.

**26<sup>th</sup> Sep-4<sup>th</sup> Oct. New Zealand Improv Festival:** *Various locations and times in Wellington.* Featuring a dizzying variety of shows, workshops, mixers, conference sessions, and social events, NZIF showcases the best of improv from Aotearoa, Australasia, and beyond.

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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 16 September.**

**To the best of our knowledge, the information provided to us regarding the above events was correct at the time of press. Our company accepts no liability for events postponed, cancelled, sold out, or otherwise adapted.**

## Regional News

*Connecting Wellington*



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### Hutt Valley Horticultural Society

## Spring Show

featuring Bonsai and Floral Art

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Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 10am – 3:30pm

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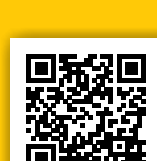
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As a Wellington-based home organiser and decluttering coach for the past five years, Alaina knows all of the best tips and tricks to keep a home clutter free. She helps you decide what to keep and give away, and how to keep things manageable moving forward. Plus, she'll take unwanted items away and donate them for you, so you don't have to worry. That doesn't mean your home should be impractical and picture-perfect! Her focus is to find a solution and a system that works for you and your lifestyle.

Alaina uses a hands-on, friendly, and non-judgemental approach to help you refresh your home and keep it organised and clutter free. Book your free consultation at [www.tidylifesolutions.co.nz](http://www.tidylifesolutions.co.nz)

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**Email entries to: [admin@regionalnews.kiwi](mailto:admin@regionalnews.kiwi) or post to: Competition, PO Box 15163, Miramar 6243.**

*Entries close Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025.*

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**WED 15 OCT** | SAN FRAN



**SAMARA  
JOY** [USA]

**THU 16 OCT** | ST JAMES



**AOTEAROA  
JAZZ  
ORCHESTRA**

**THU 16 OCT** | MEOW NUI



**GREGORY  
PORTER** [USA]

**FRI 17 OCT** | ST JAMES



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