

Region News

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Issue 253

September 23, 2025



Music news 5 Vote for it 10

Local body elections 2025 12

Bayleys real estate 14

School holidays 16 Family – retirement 17-25

Products and services 18-19

International Day of Older Persons 20-25

Buy – build – renovate 26 Gallery news 27

Whanganui lifestyle 28 Taranaki 29-31

Reviews 34 Wellington Jazz Festival 35

Events and hospitality stars 36 What’s on 37-39

Top picks – products and services 40

News

Seek the inner Hyde *by Tanya Piejus*



Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic Gothic horror novella is given new life in KAT Theatre’s production of *Jekyll and Hyde*. British playwright Neil Bartlett’s 2022 version unusually depicts the male world from the perspectives of three very different women, while leaning heavily into the structure and inherent misogyny of the original story. This inventive and brilliantly theatrical adaptation cuts right to the heart of Stevenson’s darkly fascinating tale of male violence, guilt, and privilege.

Playing both the wealthy and highly respected Dr Henry Jekyll and his alter ego, the violent and unprincipled Mr Edward Hyde, is Floyd Norman [pictured]. He’s relishing the challenge of embodying these two very disparate and different characters.

“With Hyde, he’s outlined as being ape-like,” Norman says. “There are a few passages in the book where he’s very orangutan. Stevenson never used that word, but it’s the shape he gives Hyde. Jekyll, on the other hand, is always upright physically and morally, but what he fails to understand is that as a human being, we all fall. It’s a part of life. He gives in to the naughtiness of Hyde and ultimately becomes addicted to the drug of being him.”

Despite playing the two title roles, Norman is on stage the least of the ensemble of nine actors during the first act of *Jekyll and Hyde*.

“Act two is Me Central! I don’t think I stop talking at all until the end and that’s kind of brutal,” he says.

“I’ve never been in a performance before, even as a lead, where I just go. Being on stage relatively little in act one means I have the grace of being able to save all my energy for the end and it’s a marathon. But it’s fun, so much fun. Come watch it and be creeped out!”

Discover your own dark inner secrets from the 2nd to the 5th and 9th to the 11th of October at Cochran Hall.

Crane your neck



“Hilarious”, *The Mirror* says.
“Naturally funny”, *The Times* proclaims.
“Lights up the stage with his magnetic personality (not to mention the dazzle from his teeth)”, *Mail On Sunday* beams.

The man, the myth, the legend is none other than UK comedian Rob Beckett, who will pull into St James Theatre on the 18th of October along his Aotearoa roady.

“This is gonna be a big old tour, it’ll be tough being away from the family for a while,” Beckett says.

“Don’t get me wrong I love my children/podcast content providers, but I do also enjoy a lie-in and a hotel buffet breakfast. So, I’m sure I’ll cope. I expect to put on about three stone from takeaways and drinking after the shows”.

Bursting onto the comedy circuit over 15 years ago, Beckett is now a familiar face on literally all the top-rated UK comedy shows, a *Sunday Times* bestselling author, and host of his very own BBC Radio 2 show, Sky’s *Rob & Romesh Vs...* and upcoming *Rob Beckett’s Smart TV*, and the highly successful podcast *Parenting Hell* with Josh Widdicombe.

With over 250 million downloads, the podcast sees Beckett and Widdicombe interviewing fellow parents on their successes (and failures), with a guest list including George Foreman, Katherine Ryan, Jonathan Ross, Jack Dee, and many more.

Beckett’s touring show *Giraffe* will see him using his signature, relatable, and honest brand of comedy to ensure folks across the motu laugh and forget about their problems for a couple of hours.

Cover: Samara Joy. Wellington Jazz Festival. Photo by AB+DM.

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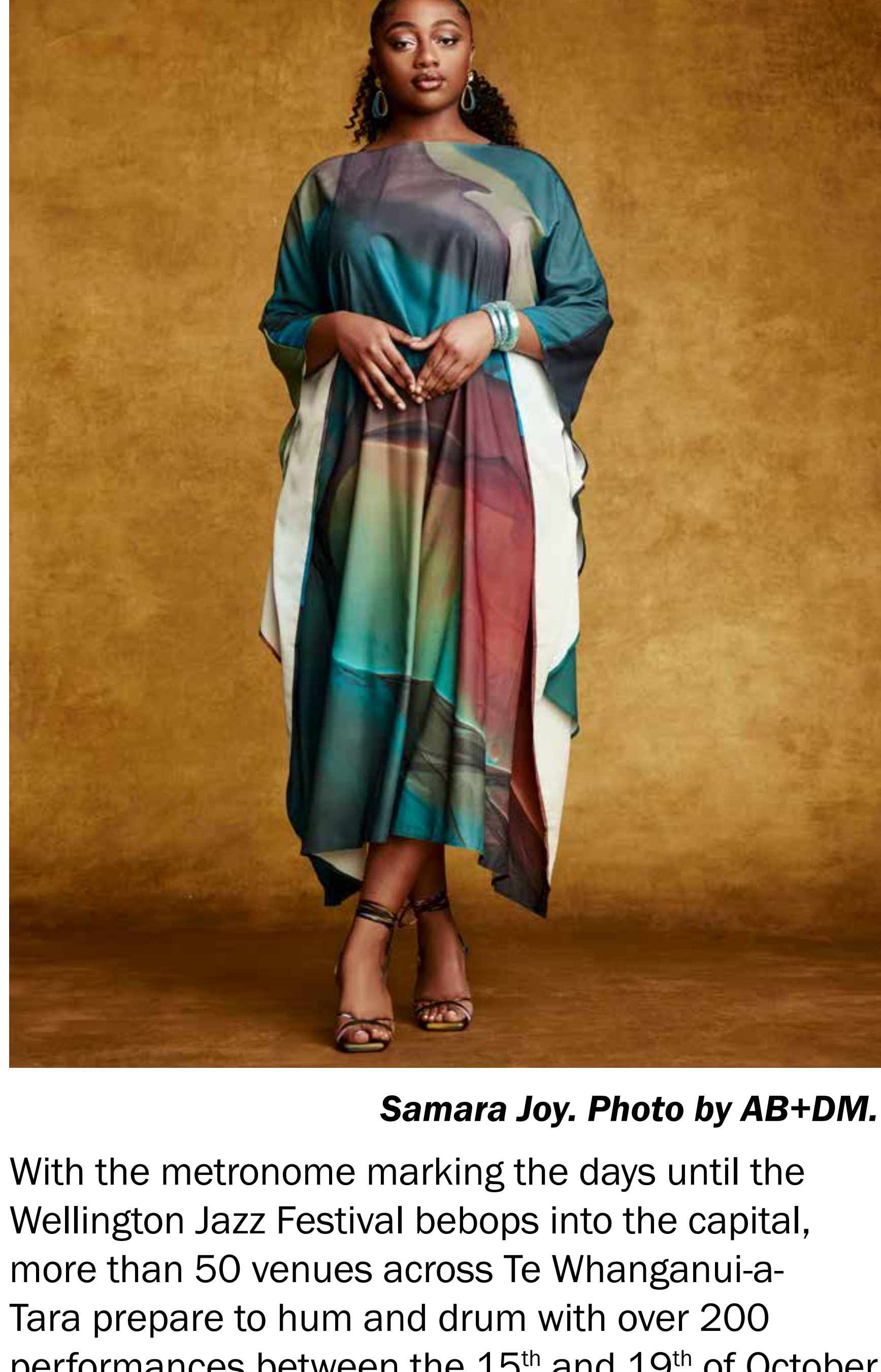
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A rhythmic, resounding heartbeat



Samara Joy. Photo by AB+DM.

With the metronome marking the days until the Wellington Jazz Festival bebops into the capital, more than 50 venues across Te Whanganui-a-Tara prepare to hum and drum with over 200 performances between the 15th and 19th of October. More than a music festival, the Wellington Jazz Festival is a catalyst for culture in the creative heart of Aotearoa, WellingtonNZ CE Mark Oldershaw says. This year’s programme is bold, diverse, and buzzing, with several free events giving audiences of all kinds the opportunity to get amongst the energy.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to present the biggest city lineup in more than 10 years,” festival co-director Dolina Wehipeihana says. “It’s a testament to the vibrancy and resilience of the jazz community here in Pōneke. This festival not only connects audiences with international stars but also celebrates our local legends and rising voices.”

From swing to soul, jazzhop to electronic, funk to fusion, audiences can expect five days of world-class music spilling across every corner of the city. This year’s festival is a monumental celebration of jazz in all its forms, with an exciting mix of homegrown talent and internationally acclaimed artists making their Aotearoa debuts. One such legend is none other than our cover star five-time GRAMMY®-winning American vocalist Samara Joy. At just 25 years old, Joy has become a breakout jazz sensation, redefining 21st-century jazz with her rich tone, refined phrasing, and love and understanding of the Great American Songbook. She has earned herself a spot on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list and sold out events at Carnegie Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Centre. In Pōneke, she will perform music from her critically acclaimed new album *Portrait* alongside selections from her back catalogue at St James Theatre on the 16th of October.

Other internationals joining the jive are American vocalist, composer, and bandleader Gregory Porter, Noongar vocalist Bumpy, Wellington-raised drummer Myele Manzanza with his international supergroup Ivdf, and former Santana lead singer Tony Lindsay. Spearheading the national contingent are the Rodger Fox Big Band and the Aotearoa Jazz Orchestra, plus Zoe Moon, Seth Boy, Romi Wrights and LEAO, TOI, Yoko-Zuna, and so many more.

Boogie-woogie into the chaos to sync up with Wellington Jazz Festival’s rhythmic, resounding collective heartbeat.

Leading with her heart

by Madelaine Empson

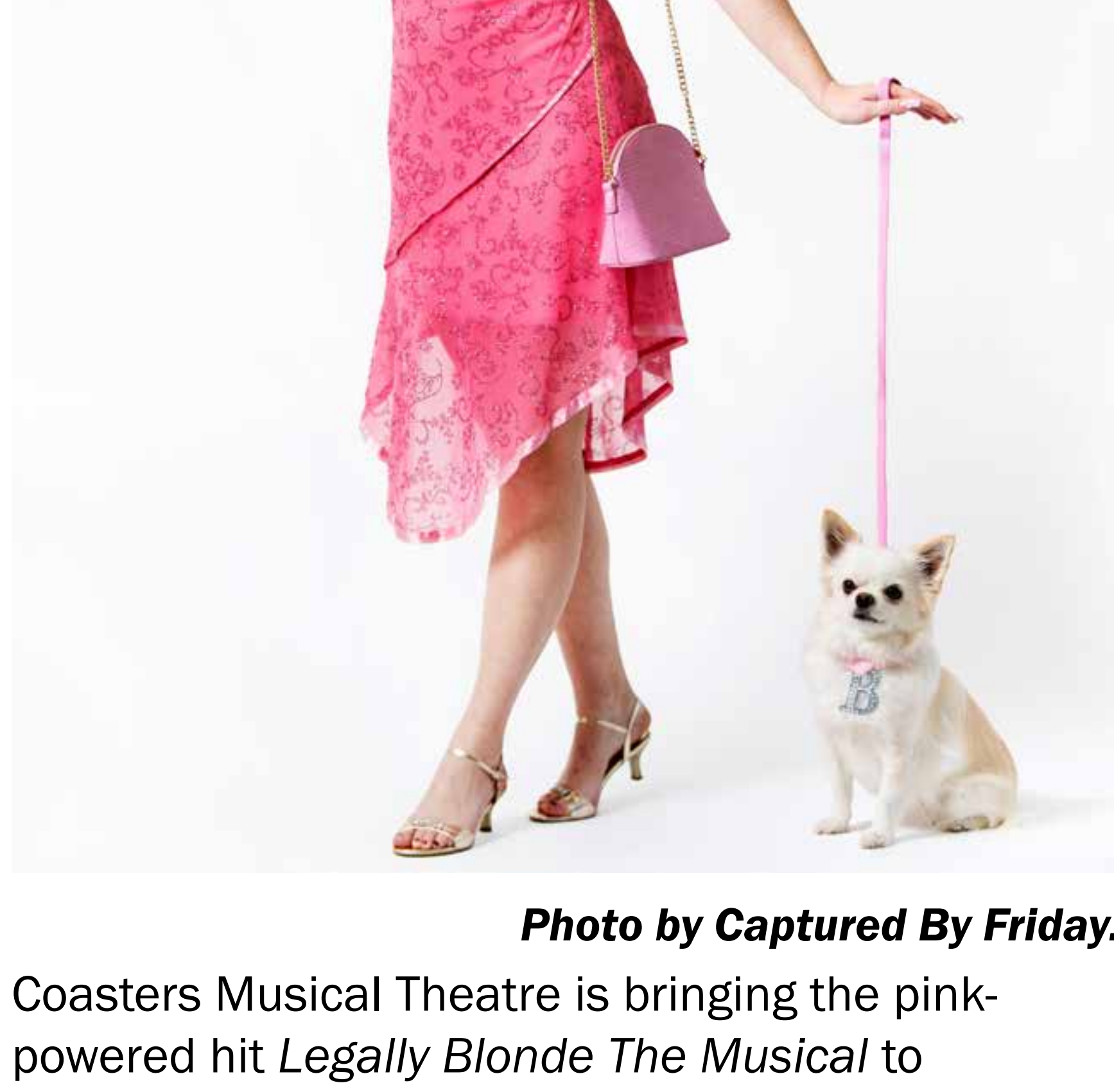


Photo by Captured By Friday.

Coasters Musical Theatre is bringing the pink-powered hit *Legally Blonde The Musical* to Southwards Theatre in Paraparaumu this spring, with performances running from the 2nd to the 11th of October.

This feel-good musical comedy is based on the blockbuster rom com starring Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods, a Gemini vegetarian and fashionable sorority queen who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her bonehead ex-boyfriend, only to bend and snap towards empowerment, smashing stereotypes and discovering her own strength and tenacity along the way.

Directed by Jessica Clough, who previously helmed Coasters’ popular production of *Mary Poppins* in 2021, *Legally Blonde The Musical* introduces Lauren Loghry to Kapiti and Wellington audiences in a role she’s dreamed of playing since she was 13 years old.

“I’ve looked up to Elle Woods ever since I first watched the movie with my mum as a young girl”, Lauren delights. “Her positivity is infectious, and the way she approaches life – with kindness, optimism, and determination – is something I think we could all use more of. She leads with her heart, never compromises her values, and always exudes confidence, even in the toughest moments.”

Let’s not forget her iconic style, adds the actor, who’s been so inspired by Elle’s fashion over the years that many of her costumes for the show are actually pieces from her own wardrobe! Suffice to say, playing Elle marks a full-circle moment for Lauren.

“What I didn’t expect was how much Elle would change me. Through her, I found the strength to leave a toxic relationship and the courage to stand up for who I truly am. She’s reminded me that I don’t have to shrink myself to make others comfortable. That I can be strong and soft, ambitious and compassionate, feminine and powerful.”

With catchy songs, dazzling choreography, and, of course, plenty of pink, production manager Warrick Allan says the cast and crew are “excited to share this incredibly entertaining and inspiring show with our community”.

“Lauren brings wonderful energy to the role, and under Jess’ experienced direction, this promises to be another memorable production for Coasters.” Snaps for Coasters!

SNIPS

Final stages

With practical completion finished, Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library has been blessed with a tohi tāngaengae – a dawn rededication ceremony led by mana whenua tohunga (tikanga experts) – ahead of its official opening in six months. Now it’s time for the library fit out and the books to return.

Major boost

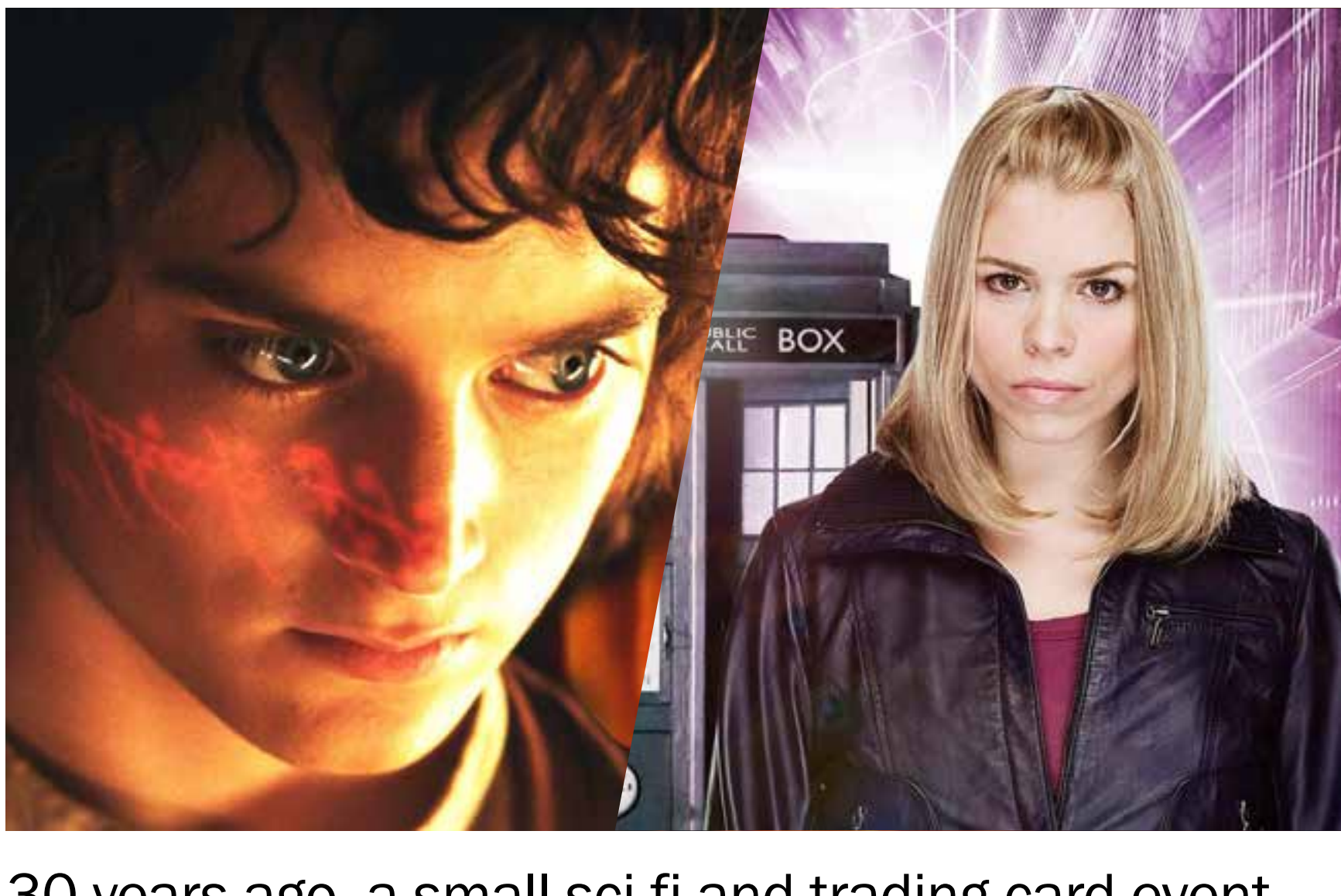
Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Louise Upston has announced that the New Zealand Government will be investing \$70 million into tourism and events attraction. Hospitality NZ’s interim chief executive Nick Keene says, “Large-scale events play a crucial role in supporting New Zealand’s economy, particularly for industries like ours that rely on visitor spending.”

Cash grants

The 2025 Copyright Licensing New Zealand (CLNZ) and New Zealand Society of Authors Te Puni Kaituhi o Aotearoa PEN NZ Inc (NZSA) \$5000 Research Grants have been awarded to four writers in Aotearoa: Rosetta Allan, Taryn Dryfhout, Jacquie McRae, and Pauline (Vaeluaga) Smith.



Don't get FOMA



30 years ago, a small sci-fi and trading card event was held at Auckland's Avondale Racecourse. It was December 1995, and organisers could never have predicted that the event they'd just thrown would turn into New Zealand's most exciting, popular, and largest annual entertainment and pop-culture expo. For its 30th anniversary, Armageddon will take over Auckland Showgrounds with a lineup of international legends that reflects just how far it has come. In what founder Bill Geradts is calling the most epic pop-culture event held in New Zealand since *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* premiere in 2003, the spring extravaganza takes place over Labour Weekend from the 24th to the 27th of October.

So, who's on the bill? *LOTR* lovers will need to duck down to pick their jaws up off the floor, because Elijah Wood, forever Frodo for fans of the franchise with many more lead roles under his belt; Andy Serkis, best known for his groundbreaking performance as Sméagol/Gollum in the trilogy, followed by memorable roles in *The Batman*, *Black Panther*, and *Planet of the Apes*; and Evangeline Lilly, who rose to fame in *Lost* before starring in *The Hobbit* trilogy and Marvel's *Ant-Man* films, are all set to make an appearance. *Star War*-riors can rejoice, too, as John Boyega, who plays Finn, completes the who's who of headliners.

This is just a small sample of the epic roster – plan your visit so you don't suffer from FOMA (Fear of Missing Armageddon) at www.armageddonexpo.com

Such a Night



Slip on your blue suede shoes, Pōneke, it's time to jailhouse rock at *Elvis: An American Trilogy*. Getting Opera House audiences all shook up on the 4th of October, this is a show featuring the sound, the moves, and the charm of the King all combined to create a tribute that you can't help falling in love with.

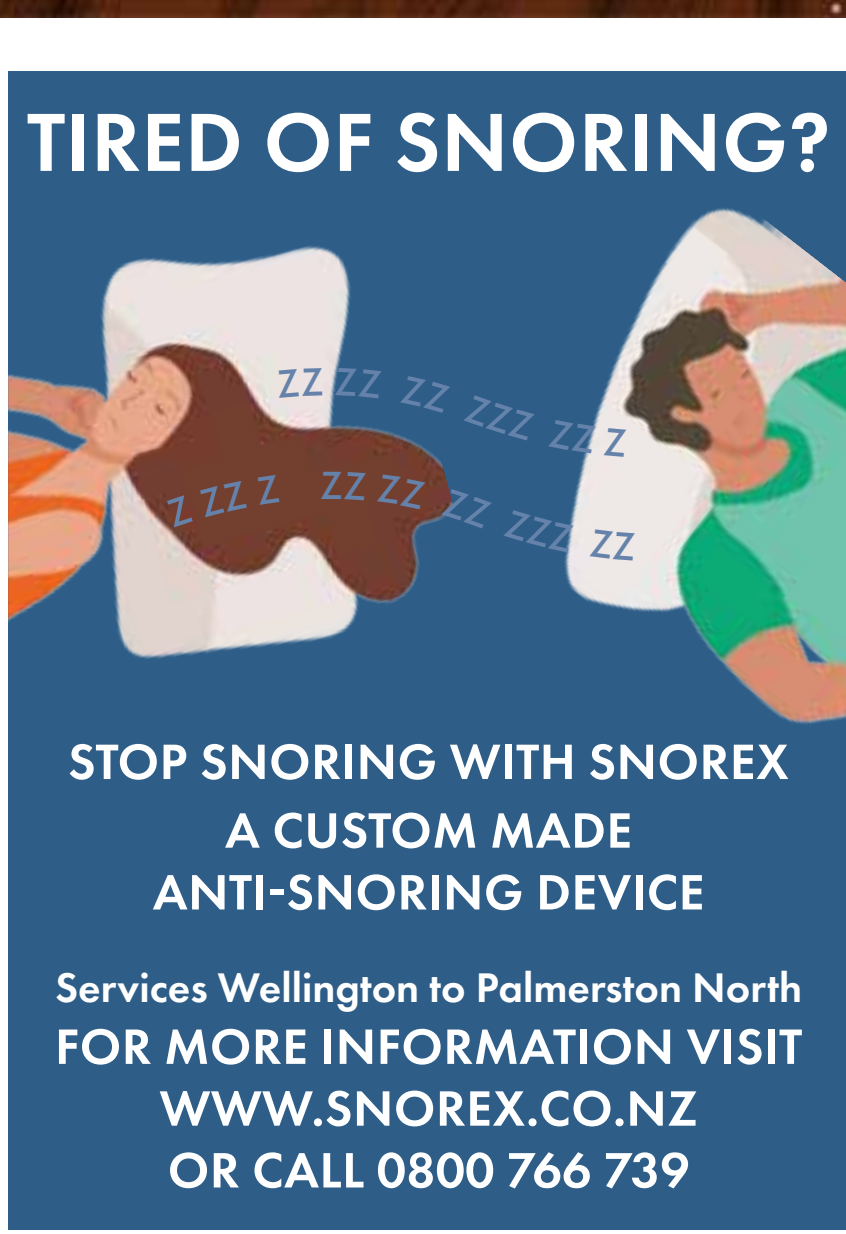
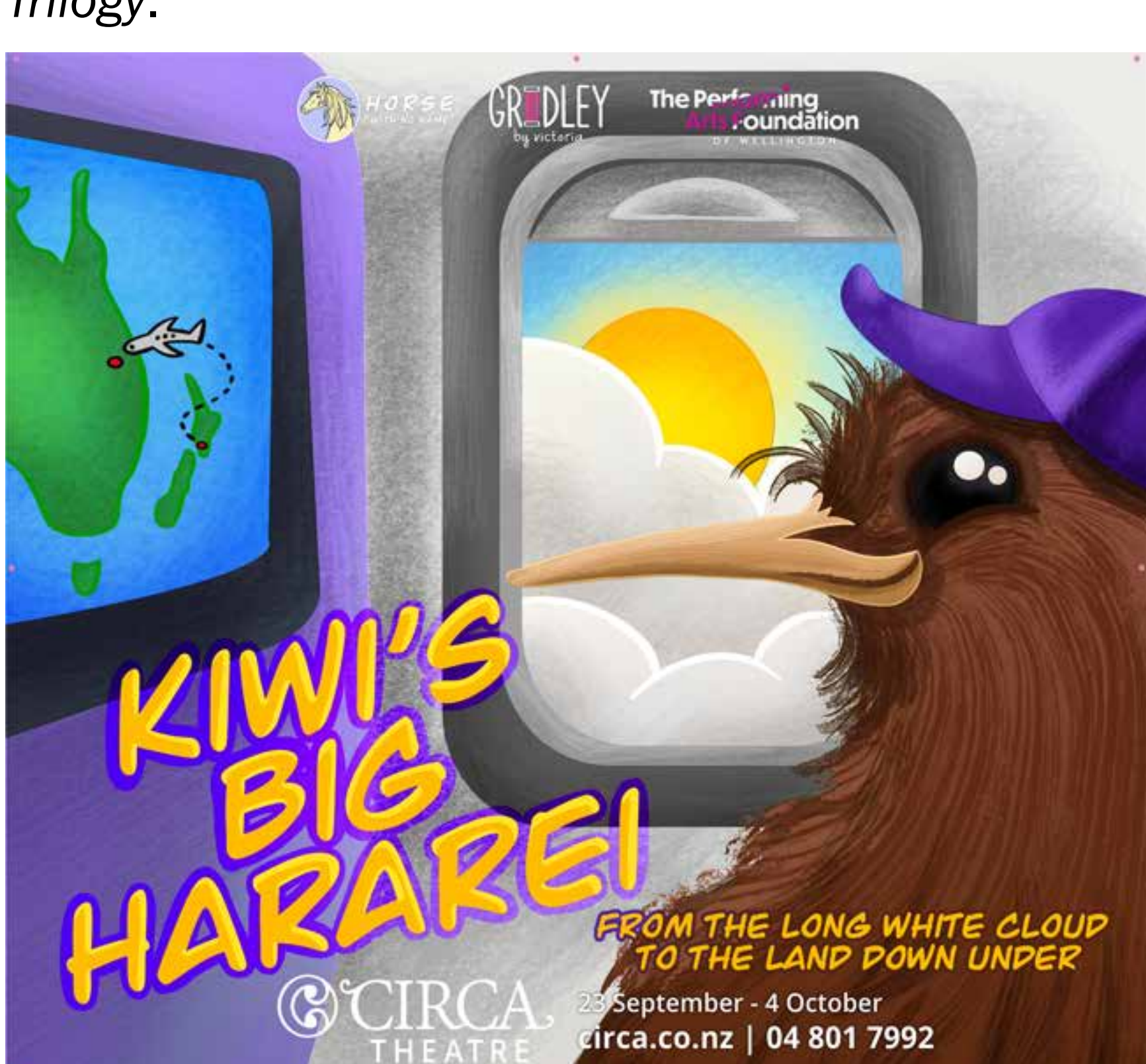
Elvis: An American Trilogy stars not one, not two, but three of the world's best Elvis tribute artists. Coming together under one name for one night only in Wellington, they'll take fans and fresh faces alike down memory lane on a spellbinding journey through three eras of one of the most influential singers in history.

First up is Louis Brown, who will pelvic thrust it back to the 1950s to capture Elvis' early days when his rockabilly sound and signature dance moves made crowds go wild.

Arron Walker takes the mic to recreate Elvis' movie years in the 1960s, effortlessly embodying the famous black leather, straight-out-of-the-army look the King sported in his 1968 comeback special. This era is defined by hit songs and signature sex appeal.

Steve Michaels pays homage to *Aloha from Hawaii* – a famous 1973 concert broadcast across Asia and Oceania – where he dons some of Elvis' most recognisable looks without losing sight of the singer's shy and charming disposition.

It's now or never to get stuck on *Elvis: An American Trilogy*.



The heart and soul of blues



Photo by Colleen Sheldon.

BB & The Bullets have just released an “authentic, powerful, and generous album, which will undoubtedly place among the blues rock revelations of the year” (*Zicazic Magazine*, France).

High Tide is the Whanganui blues band’s 12-track debut, and it’s out not just in Aotearoa, but internationally through iconic French blues label Dixiefrog Records and distributed here via Southbound Records. Brad McMillan (drums), Stu Duncan (bass), and Brian Baker (guitar, vocals) couldn’t be happier, saying, “Working with Dixiefrog and having our record released in Europe, UK, the States, and New Zealand is a dream come true for our little Whanganui band. We hope everybody comes along for the ride!”

Spanning their blues-soaked rendition of The Beatles classic *I Want You (She’s So Heavy)* to originals like their debut single *Something In The Water*, funky and fun focus track *Seven Ways To Sin*, and title track *High Tide*, which made the weekly playlist of *Rolling Stone* magazine in France, this is a solid collection of rocking blues, soulful licks, and heartfelt playing.

Rightly, the tight three-piece have garnered a reputation for their killer live shows. Head to BB & The Bullets’ Welly gig at Capital Blues Inc on the 10th of October at 8pm to see why they’ve incited comparisons to the likes of Stevie Ray Vaughan and Jeff Beck, all while putting their own stamp on the timeless medium that is the blues – a scene that’s alive and drum-kicking on our Antipodean shores.

Kicking ass, taking names

by Madelaine Empson



New York poet and author John S. Hall and guitarist Dogbowl came together as King Missile (Dog Fly Religion) and dominated Aotearoa student radio stations in the early 90s despite never having set foot on our shores as a band. Classic cuts like *Detachable Penis* charted here and appeared on the *Beavis and Butt-Head* show, as did the hyperbolically violent *Martin Scorsese* – both tracks on their 1992 album *Happy Hour*, which is exactly one-hour long.

Avant-garde, weird and wonderful, unmistakable: all descriptors used for this alt rock, beatnik-bantering duo that’s about to perform here for the very first time. The tour kicks off at Meow on the 2nd of October and will see them play some of their hits, deep cuts, and new stuff too, which has historically been appreciated by audiences who were unfamiliar with their repertoire beyond *Detachable*.

“We tend to kick ass and take names”, Hall says of a King Missile (Dog Fly Religion) gig. “If you’re on the fence about coming out, and then you decide to come, you will be glad you did. Basically, I’m saying that we probably won’t suck.”

Hall admires Dogbowl immeasurably, calling him “my favourite songwriter that I know personally” and saying that the two “trust and respect each other a lot”.

With more than 30 years of shared history, their stage chemistry and inside jokes make for shows which are “a lot of fun for everyone, including Dogbowl and me”.

Neon Cowgirl comes home

by Madelaine Empson

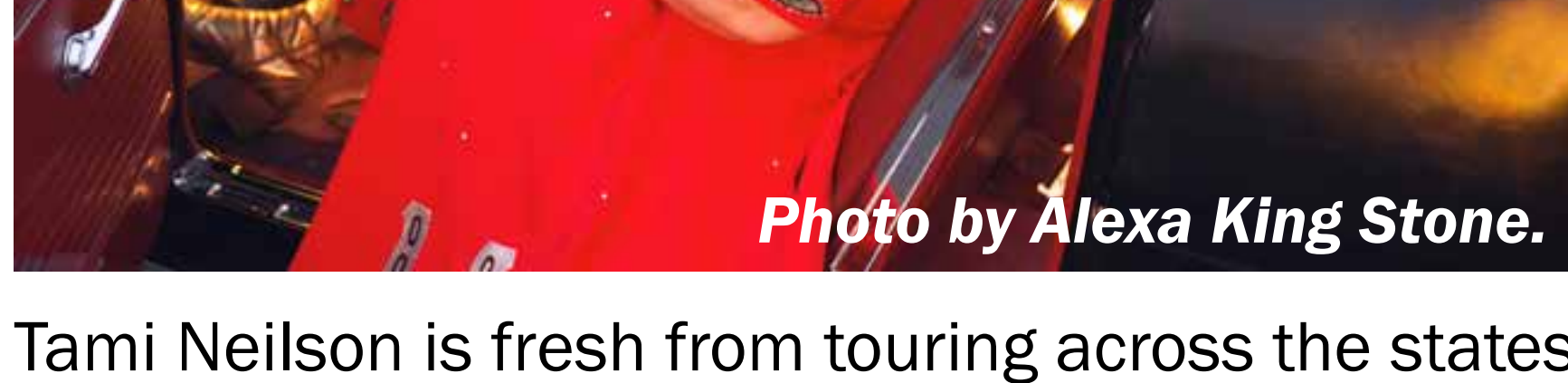


Photo by Alexa King Stone.

Tami Neilson is fresh from touring across the states with Willie Nelson and Bob Dylan – which she describes as one of the most magical experiences of her life and a dream come true.

“I’ve been lucky to have Willie and his family embrace me into their ‘Tribe’ since we recorded our duet *Beyond the Stars* together a few years ago and he is one of the most generous and kind people I’ve had the privilege of knowing. From his band to the stage crew... everyone is a joy to work with and he sets the tone with an open-arms policy.”

In July, the Canadian-born New Zealand country and soul singer-songwriter unveiled her new, rhinestone-bedazzled album.

“*Neon Cowgirl* represents a lifelong dream of chasing Nashville and country music”, Neilson says. “I’ve loved her my whole life, even when she breaks my heart over and over again.”

With *Rolling Stone* writing that on *Neon Cowgirl*, “Tami asserts herself as an authentic, country Calamity Jane”, Neilson says it’s “been so thrilling to watch the beautiful reviews rolling in from around the world from publications like *MOJO* and *Rolling Stone* that I grew up reading and dreaming of being in one day!”

In what will be her first time performing the new songs across the motu, Neilson and her killer band will play The Opera House on the 3rd of October, where local company Artisan Screen Prints will be doing live printing of exclusive t-shirts.

Neilson wants to level with us. “Wellington have the best audiences in NZ and to be completely honest, kicking off a tour at The Opera House can be a bit dangerous because you all raise the bar too high for the shows that follow!”

Dunedin sound in town



The Beatniks.

Surf-grunge intensity meets shoegaze; catchy hooks meet post-punk licks; underground rebellion meets captivating charisma, all wrapped up in that quintessential Dunedin alt-rock sound. The Beatniks and IVY – two rising Ōtepoti bands – are about to blitz a double-header across the motu, pulling up to Meow on October the 9th both with new work in hand.

Formed in 2021 as university students, The Beatniks made headlines for famously – or infamously depending on who you are – holding an underground gig at the abandoned Dunedin music venue Sammy’s. The act was a rebellion against a string of council-regulated venue closures and led to their role as protagonists in the doco series *Tribal: Inside NZ’s underground music scene*. Their 2023 self-produced debut album *Archetype* spent multiple months on NZ student radio charts, while slots at Rhythm & Alps and the Dunedin Craft Beer and Food Festival kept the momentum driving forward. The Beatniks are ecstatic to unveil their new seven-track EP *Today / Tomorrow*, out a handful of days ago on the 19th of September.

IVY formed in 2022 and have cemented themselves as one of Dunedin’s most exciting acts, with music that nestles within the realm of dark and brooding tones, immense choruses, and experimental instrumentation and time signatures. With 300,000 streams, 10,000 ticket sales, and 5000 followers and counting, they’re fast becoming a national force: a fact that will no doubt be cemented by their highly anticipated debut album *HUSH*. Also out mid-September, the band says *HUSH* “moves through personal stories – death, distance, religion, falling in and out of love”. Its release caps a massive few years for IVY and heralds a new chapter as they hit the road for their biggest Aotearoa tour yet.

Four Seasons in spring



Pekka Kuusisto. Photo by Bård Gundersen.

A one-of-a-kind violinist, conductor, and global phenomenon will make his Aotearoa concert debut with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) this spring, performing Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* at Michael Fowler Centre on the 9th of October. In addition to playing one of music's best-loved works, Pekka Kuusisto will lead the NZSO in its first-ever performance of a glorious symphony by pioneering 19th-century composer Louise Farrenc.

Hailed as "fantastically exciting" (*The Times*), Kuusisto became one of the most talked-about violinists in the UK after his debut at the prestigious BBC Proms in 2016. For his encore, he convinced his Royal Albert Hall audience to sing along, prompting *The Guardian* to adorn him "with the assurance of a standup comic"!

Suffice to say, his interpretation of *The Four Seasons* will be both distinct and riveting. Kuusisto will not only play violin throughout the performance, but also direct the NZSO and is acutely aware of audience expectations when it comes to Vivaldi.

Contrary to the "round and soft, gentle" sound people imagine ("Who am I to say that's wrong", Kuusisto asks), he says *The Four Seasons* is "super-active, explosive, aggressive music. Sometimes it needs to be exactly that... I can only play it convincingly the way I think and feel it."

In the *Four Seasons* concert, Kuusisto will take the same approach to Farrenc's rediscovered Third Symphony, now regarded as one of the finest French compositions of the Romantic era.

Cinematic blooms



Detail of still from On-Gaku: Our Sound.

Each year in spring, just as the cherry blossoms begin to bloom, the Embassy of Japan hosts the Japanese Film Festival to encourage the growth of the country's culture in Aotearoa and plant a seed of fascination in the hearts of Wellingtonians.

Running at The Roxy Cinema in Miramar from the 26th to the 28th of September, where most screenings have already sold out, and at Whirinaki Whare Taonga in Upper Hutt on the 11th and 12th of October, the festival's six films with English subtitles present a snapshot of contemporary Japanese film and life.

Kicking off both sessions is *What Did You Eat Yesterday?*, a heartwarming story that blends food and love to explore the quiet rhythms of a middle-aged gay couple.

Next up in the programme is sharp political comedy *Hit Me Anyone One More Time* that follows a bumbling prime minister's journey of self-discovery. *I Am What I Am* is a story about identity and acceptance centred around a young adult discovering their individuality through dance. *The Nighthawk's First Love* captures the quiet yearning and bittersweet emotions of a nighthawk who dares to dream of love beyond their reach. *On-Gaku: Our Sound* follows three high school delinquents who discover a passion for making music. Closing the festival is *Love At Least*, which explores the complexities of love when one partner lives with a severe illness.

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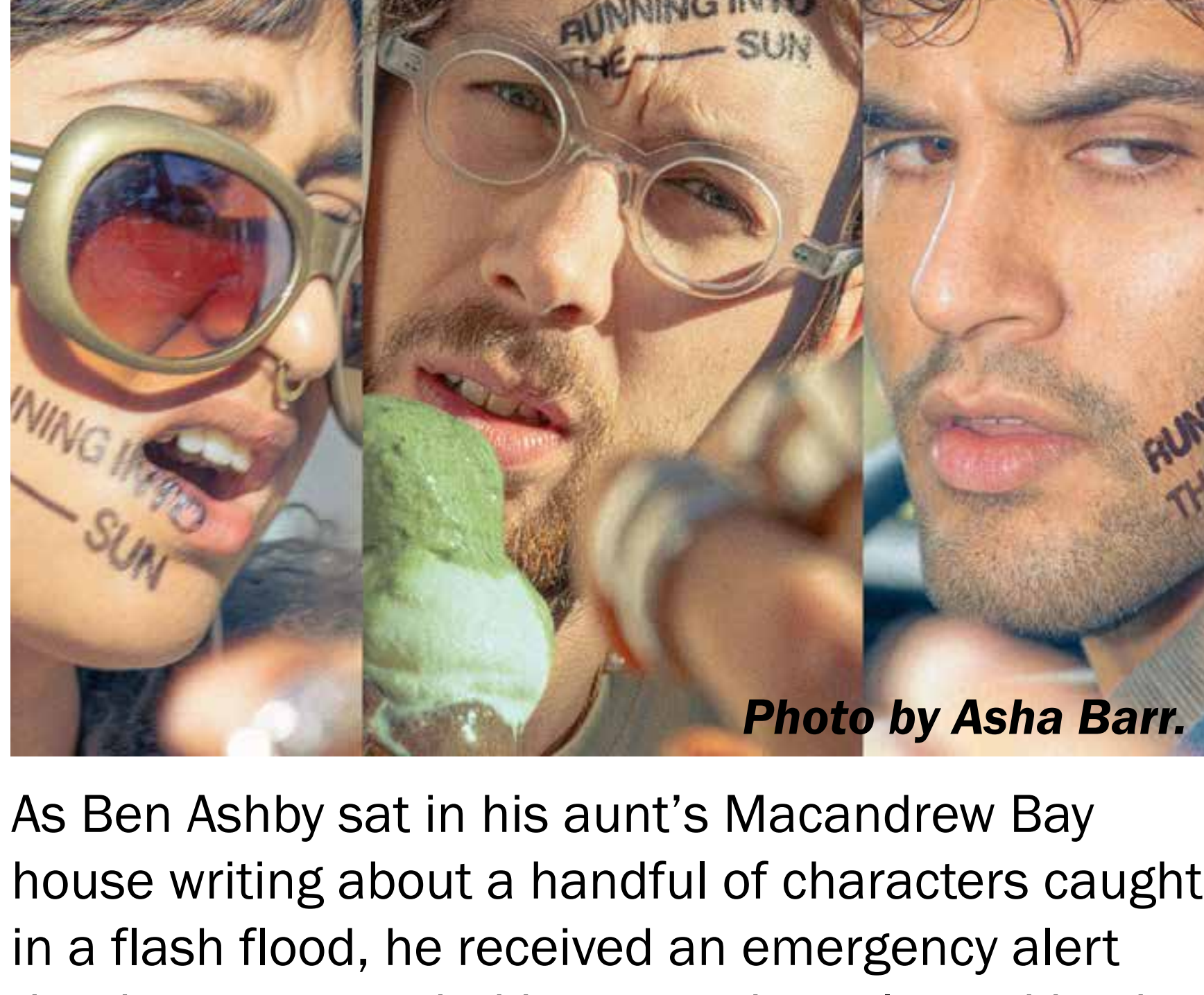
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Torrential tides



As Ben Ashby sat in his aunt's Macandrew Bay house writing about a handful of characters caught in a flash flood, he received an emergency alert that he was stranded because the only road back into Dunedin had been closed due to slips.

"At least I got a lot of writing done that weekend", he beams. "This show could not be more specific to the New Zealand experience".

Ashby would go on to develop *Running into the Sun* with the a2 Company – a Te Whanganui-a-Tara theatre crew he formed with co-founder and choreographer Nadiyah Akbar – and perform it at the 2024 Melbourne Fringe, where it won Best Theatre and Best Emerging Company out of more than 400 Australian and international shows.

This spring, after a whirlwind breakthrough season, *Running into the Sun* returns home to Wellington for a four-day run at Te Auaha. The one-act play features a three-piece jazz band (Toby Leman, Lennox Grootjans, and Seth Boy) and four contemporary dancers (Nadiyah Akbar, Alec Katsourakis, Jasmine Susic, and Luke Romero), plus actors Ashby and Ethan Morse.

A bold and empathetic work exploring what it means to be young and managing personal crises against the increasingly surreal backdrop of international climate disaster, political instability, and live-streamed war, *Running into the Sun* follows Mary (Susic) and Ash (Ashby) as they navigate an unexpected pregnancy and a flash flood at their university graduation house party. Get swept away from the 1st to the 4th of October.

All things bird *by Madelaine Empson*



Seagull comic from Omnibird. © Giselle Clarkson.

Multi-award-winning author, illustrator, and cartoonist Giselle Clarkson (*The Observologist*) has a new book out! Published by Gecko Press, *Omnibird: An Avian Investigator's Handbook* is a guide to the art and science of omnibirding.

What's that, you ask? Well, omni is a combining form meaning 'all: universally, of all things'. Meet the Omnibird, containing the essential birdiness of every bird. It was born from an egg and has feathers, two legs, a beak, a gizzard, perhaps some premium features like spurs or a caruncle... From secret eyelids and hollow bones to two-part brains and feather dresses, birds really are extraordinary. *Omnibird* describes 12 common birds and explores what's remarkable about the ones flitting all around us, feathering out the clues we can all use to become avian investigators along the way.

With the 20th annual Bird of the Year election on now, our eyes are all turning skyward! Clarkson used to be the campaign manager for kōtuku ngutupapa (royal spoonbills) and still has a real fondness for them, so her vote would go to "our only cutlery-themed bird".

Clarkson hopes that *Omnibird* readers take away "a heightened sense of wonder and curiosity when they encounter a bird in their daily life". In an unmissable, free event for bird and nature lovers of any age, the Greytown-based 2023 Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi Laureate and Mallinson Rendel Illustrators Award-winner will be at Tawa Library on Friday the 3rd of October from 10:30am to 11:30am to guide readers through the inner workings of the book and delights and wonders of the avian world. Come one, come all to Explore Omnibirding with Giselle Clarkson!

Rodney Barber – My vision for Wellington City

Kia ora, I'm Rodney Barber, standing for Wellington City Council in the Pukehinau-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 the 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 Pukehinau-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.



Rodney Barber

Independent. Experienced.
People-First.

rodneybarbernz@gmail.com | 027 478 8061

amazing THAILAND



Bangkok - Royal Grand Palace.



Bangkok - Wat Arun Ratchawararam Ratchaworamahawihan.



Bangkok - Wat Paknam Phasi Charoen.

Thailand Beyond the Beaches:

For many New Zealanders, Thailand conjures images of pristine beaches and island escapes like Phuket, Koh Samui, Khao Lak, and Krabi. Yet beyond the sand lies another Thailand — equally captivating and rich in experiences — found in the vibrant contrasts of Bangkok and the cultural treasures of Ayutthaya, and Chiang Mai.

Bangkok, a city with more than two centuries of history, is a destination of remarkable diversity. Travellers can marvel at over 200 ornate Buddhist temples, from the glittering Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew to the reclining Buddha at Wat Pho and the stunning Temple of Dawn or Wat Arun by the river. By night, the city transforms, with rooftop bars offering sweeping skyline views and entertainment districts buzzing with energy. The food scene is just as dynamic: street stalls serve comforting local favourites on every corner, while Michelin-starred restaurants elevate Thai cuisine to new heights. This fusion of old and new gives Kiwi visitors a deeper sense of Thailand's character.



Bangkok - Yaowarat Road-Street Food.



Bangkok - Sanam Chai Canal.



Chiang Mai - Royal Park Rajapruek.



Sukhothai - Sukhothai Historical Park.

Discover Bangkok and Chiang Mai

Bangkok also serves as the gateway to exploring Thailand. Just an hour's drive away lies Ayutthaya, the former Siamese capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, travellers can cycle among centuries-old temple ruins, admire the iconic Buddha head entwined in tree roots at Wat Mahathat, or take a longtail boat ride along the Chao Phraya River to view historic monasteries from the water. A day in Ayutthaya offers an unforgettable glimpse into the country's royal past and cultural heritage.

A short flight north brings travellers to Chiang Mai, often regarded as the cultural capital of the north. The city is home to stunning temples such as Wat Phra Singh and the hilltop Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, along with bustling night markets where arts, crafts, and local flavours come alive. Beyond the city, visitors can trek through lush mountains, explore waterfalls, and visit hill tribe villages that showcase the region's traditions. Chiang Mai offers a unique blend of culture, adventure, and natural beauty unlike anywhere else in Thailand.



Chiang Mai - Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep Ratchaworawihan.



Ayutthaya - Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park.



Chiang Mai - Wat Phra Pan.



Chiang Mai - Wat Luang Khun Win.

Vote for it independent together

- ✓ ZERO RATES INCREASE
- ✓ ACCESS BRINGS BUSINESS
- ✓ BACK TO BASICS
- ✓ A SAFER CITY
- ✓ NO PARTY POLITICS

Southern Ward / Paekawakawa



Paula Muollo

"A sensible voice for Wellington"

VOTE 1

For an Independent voice on Council

PAEKAWAKAWA / SOUTHERN WARD

[f](#) [@](#) [in](#) @paulamuollonz

Authorised by D Shaw, 022 657 3687

Pushing for progress

Born and raised on Wellington's south coast in the Italian community of Island Bay, Paula Muollo and her family have called the capital home for generations. Hailing from the Muollo and Basile families, who have been prominent in the local seafood industry, Paula was brought up to value respect, integrity, honesty, and hard work. Paula began her career at BNZ finance, moving into the tourism and hospitality sector shortly after, managing Hotel Raffaele in Oriental Bay for 13 years. During the last 12 years, she has pursued a successful career in real estate, becoming a top agent at Harcourts where she helps Wellingtonians climb up the property ladder and achieve their dreams of homeownership.

She is passionate about helping her community and investing in the city she calls home. Frustrated with the current city council, she decided to stand in order to invest in the neglected infrastructure, advocate for higher density housing in suitable areas, and make public transport more efficient, frequent, and affordable.

"We can't even rely on council to get the basics done," Paula says. "This needs to change, so I'm standing to bring a positive voice to push for progress for our beautiful city."

Eastern Ward / Motukairangi



Vote 1

KEN AH KUOI

Eastern Ward / Motukairangi

[voteorit.nz](#)

Authorised by Paul Heffernan, 8 Chaffers St, Wellington

[it](#) independent together



Strong and secure

Ken Ah Kuoi is bringing his voice, values, and lived experience to the council table. He believes that Wellington City Council must undergo fundamental changes to become more accessible and accountable to ratepayers and to improve business management.

For the past seven years, Ken and his partner Frances have operated Ah Kuoi Law in Kilbirnie, serving the Eastern Suburbs they call home with dedication and care. Fluent in both Samoan and English, Ken is passionate about Wellington's diversity, rich mix of cultures, vibrant community spirit, outstanding sports facilities, and beautiful coastline where he loves to fish.

Improving infrastructure, water, transport, and roading is paramount for Ken. Ongoing issues around street safety are a top priority, as are the growing challenges associated with increased social housing in the central city, which is why as a councillor, he intends to improve living arrangements for people with mental health or complex needs.

Ken feels that strong, experienced representation is needed to navigate the council's current social, cultural, and economic responsibilities, and he is committed to promoting a healthy, safe, and active community that promotes cultural awareness of the many people that call this city home.

Eastern Ward / Motukairangi

Vote 1

MICHELLE MCGUIRE

Eastern Ward / Motukairangi

2025 LOCAL ELECTION



It's time to step up and take a stand for smarter decision-making in Council.

[it](#) independent together

Practical and passionate

Michelle McGuire believes it's time to take a stand for smarter decision making. True to her party, she is focused on cutting unnecessary costs, reducing operational waste, and working toward a zero rates increase.


"I'm driven by values of accountability, transparency, and integrity and am deeply committed to the Independent Together team's policy direction", she says, adding that she intends to be a strong, unwavering voice for the Motukairangi/Eastern Ward.

Michelle spent 12 years working for a family-owned construction business before she started her own company with her partner Richard. She has also successfully created and run her own distribution company for over 10 years and worked for Pharmac – Te Pātaka Whaioranga for five. She is a dedicated member of the local Miramar Peninsula community where she has worked, lived, and raised her three children for decades.

Advocating for practical, common-sense leadership, Michelle is committed to ensuring the council delivers essential services on which a thriving city depends before funding projects that are non-essential.

"Let's fix our pipes before the nice-to-haves," Michelle says. "It's time to stop treating ratepayers like cash cows and quit the unnecessary spending".

Lambton Ward / Pukehinau



Vote 1

Stuart Wong

Lambton Ward / Pukehinau

Restore stability. Reduce debt.

[voteorit.nz](#)

Authorised by Stuart Wong

[it](#) independent together

Business as usual

Stuart Wong wants to help make Wellington a better place to live, work, and do business through managed change that focuses on core services and reducing spending.

"In the private sector, businesses that spend more than they earn don't survive," Stuart says. "Council should be run like a business, not treat ratepayers like a bottomless ATM."

As a businessman who has been self-employed for over 30 years and worked within the hospitality sector for decades, Stuart understands the challenges local businesses face and wants to create the right conditions for commerce to thrive. Born and raised in the Hutt Valley, Stuart has called Wellington home for 20 years and says in that time he has seen the city regress and the once-thriving hospitality industry struggle. To turn this around, he believes it is paramount that the council reduces debt, reins in operational costs to reduce impact on ratepayers, and cuts back on unaffordable big-ticket projects to focus on essential services like roading, water, and infrastructure.

Stuart is standing for the Lambton Ward for Wellington City Council to help turn the capital around by nurturing stability, taking accountability, and employing a back-to-basics approach.

[Back to contents](#)



Channelling, innovating



Since their breakout hits *Politician*, *Burning*, and *On My Mind*, Kora have fused elements of roots, reggae, funk, rock, dub, and electronic music into a sonic identity that is entirely their own. Their newest album *Fifth Season* matches the vibe without losing sight of innovation, channelling their signature deep sound while pushing into fresh new territory.

The album is heavy, melodic, and grounded in kaupapa Māori. Driven by storytelling and a raw energy, *Fifth Season* showcases Kora's dynamic range. The funky, upbeat rhythms of *Dancing in the Rain* juxtapose the broken-hearted power ballad *Gone*, while *Easy Now (Final Season)* is built on warm basslines, lush guitar layers, and blissed-out grooves. *Falling For You* blends retro funk with soulful modernity. Meanwhile, *Revolution* stands out as a powerful reggae anthem. Bright and breezy standout *U Wanna Give This Up* delivers a cheeky dose of feel-good, sun-soaked, summer energy.

Gracing intimate venues and festival stages alike, Kora's performances bring together heavy bass, soaring vocals, and raw energy, blending musical mastery with raw power to create an immersive experience. The current live ensemble consists of core members Fran and Stu Kora, Dan McGruer, and Richie Allan, alongside new additions Darren Mathiassen, Marika Hodgson, and Karlos Tunks. The *Fifth Season Album Release Tour* sees Kora hitting the road for a run of headline shows across the motu, wrapping up at Meow Nui on the 11th of October.

A mother's love



Victoria Kelly. Photo by Amanda Billing.

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) will perform opera giant Gioachino Rossini's breathtaking *Stabat Mater* for the first time in nearly 40 years alongside an enthralling world premiere in *Rossini Stabat Mater: A mother's love* at Michael Fowler Centre on the 2nd of October at 6:30pm.

Led by renowned Italian conductor Valentina Peleggi in her Aotearoa debut, the concert will feature Rossini's dramatic hour-long choral work. Three extraordinary New Zealand singers – soprano Madison Nonoa, mezzo-soprano Anna Pierard, and tenor Filipe Manu – alongside talented Australian bass-baritone Jeremy Kleeman will band together to create this unforgettable operatic experience.

As an exciting addition, the concert will include a new 21st-century *Stabat Mater* by acclaimed New Zealand composer and musician Victoria Kelly. Joined by the internationally lauded Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir, the singers will also perform during Kelly's new work.

Rossini's *Stabat Mater* is inspired by the 13th-century liturgical text of the same name, written by a priest to describe the sorrow of the Virgin Mary at the crucifixion of her son, Jesus. The liturgy has served as a creative source for numerous composers throughout time, including Kelly, whose NZSO commission is a response to Rossini's interpretation and a contemporary appraisal of Mary, motherhood, and women. Audiences can hear from Kelly about her creative journey in a pre-concert talk at 5:45pm.

Wellington
Thu, 02 Oct, 6.30pm
Michael Fowler Centre

New Zealand
Symphony
Orchestra
Te Tira Pūoro
o Aotearoa

Rossini
STABAT MATER

A mother's love

Valentina Peleggi Conductor
Madison Nonoa Soprano
Anna Pierard Mezzo-soprano
Filipe Manu Tenor
Jeremy Kleeman Bass
Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir

Rossini *Stabat Mater*
Victoria Kelly *Stabat Mater* (WORLD PREMIERE)

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CONDUCTOR VALENTINA PELEGGI APPEARS WITH
SUPPORT FROM THE EMBASSY OF ITALY

TICKETS FROM \$22
BOOK AT **nzso.co.nz**



Local body elections 2025

Don't forget to vote! Voting closes at 12 noon on 11 October 2025.

Hutt City – 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:

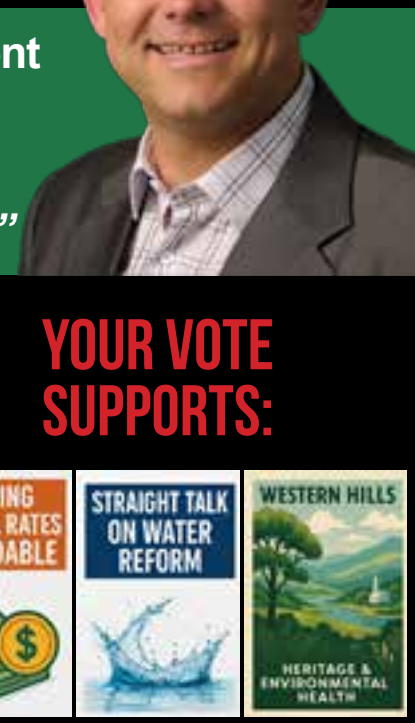
1. Can You Afford Rates Increases?
We need an urgent review of council spending.
2. Water Reform. What Is Being Proposed?
What Will it Cost You? Clear communication and full transparency on what's proposed for our water sustainability
3. Protect Our Western Hills
Ensure our special character is preserved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

YOUR VOTE SUPPORTS:



Email: robbieschneider77@gmail.com | Phone: 021 722 974

Authorized by Robbie Schneider - 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."

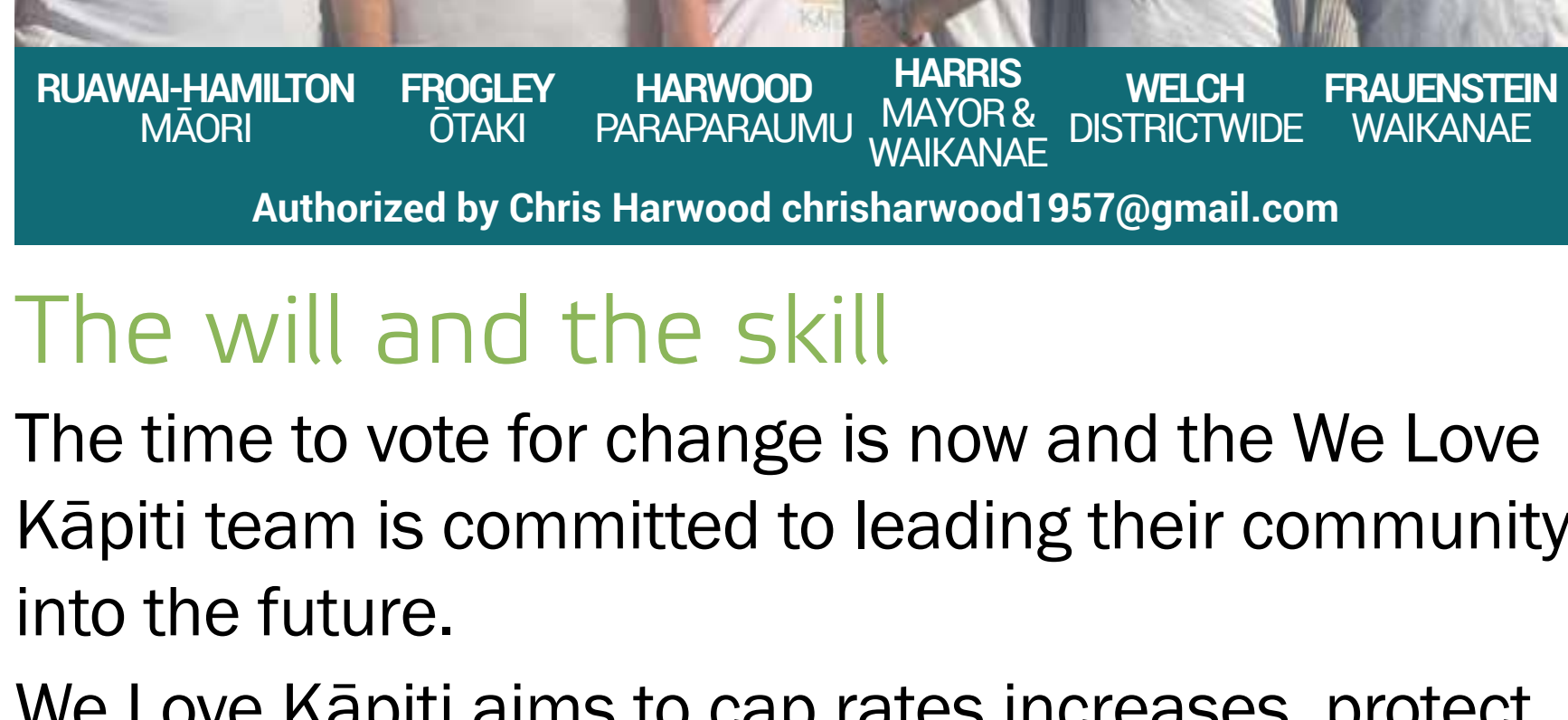
His campaign is underpinned by three core priorities: an urgent review on council spending to keep rates affordable, clear communication and full transparency on what's proposed for water sustainability, and protection of Western Hills and its special character to ensure it's preserved for future generations.

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.

Kapiti Coast



YOUR TEAM FOR CHANGE



RUAWAI-HAMILTON
MĀORI

FROGLEY
ŌTAKI

HARWOOD
PARAPARAUMU

HARRIS
MAYOR &
WAIKANAĒ

WELCH
DISTRICTWIDE

FRAUENSTEIN
WAIKANAĒ

Authorized by Chris Harwood chrisharwood1957@gmail.com

The will and the skill

The time to vote for change is now and the We Love Kāpiti team is committed to leading their community into the future.

We Love Kāpiti aims to cap rates increases, protect property values from unrealistic risk assessments by implementing a realistic coastal hazard policy, make common-sense decisions about how the council should allocate and spend funding, reduce red tape for businesses to promote a healthy economy and bustling community, and improve communication between the council and residents.

"We will lead through some difficult decisions in the near future as we make choices about what our district can and cannot afford to do," the team says.

"Individually and collectively, the We Love Kāpiti team has the will and the skill to do this work with you and for you."

Running for Mayor and Waikanae Ward under the We Love Kāpiti team is Dean Harris, while Joanne Welch runs for District Wide, Brian Ruawai-Hamilton for Māori Ward, Chris Harwood for Paraparaumu Ward, Martin Frauenstein for Waikanae Ward, and Brent Frogley for Ōtaki Ward.

Dedicated to making their community a better place to live, We Love Kāpiti is championing democracy, not bureaucracy. Find out more at

www.welovekapiti.co.nz

Kapiti Coast

JANET HOLBOROW

VOTE 1 FOR MAYOR

Keep Kāpiti moving forward

Community, Health, and Housing

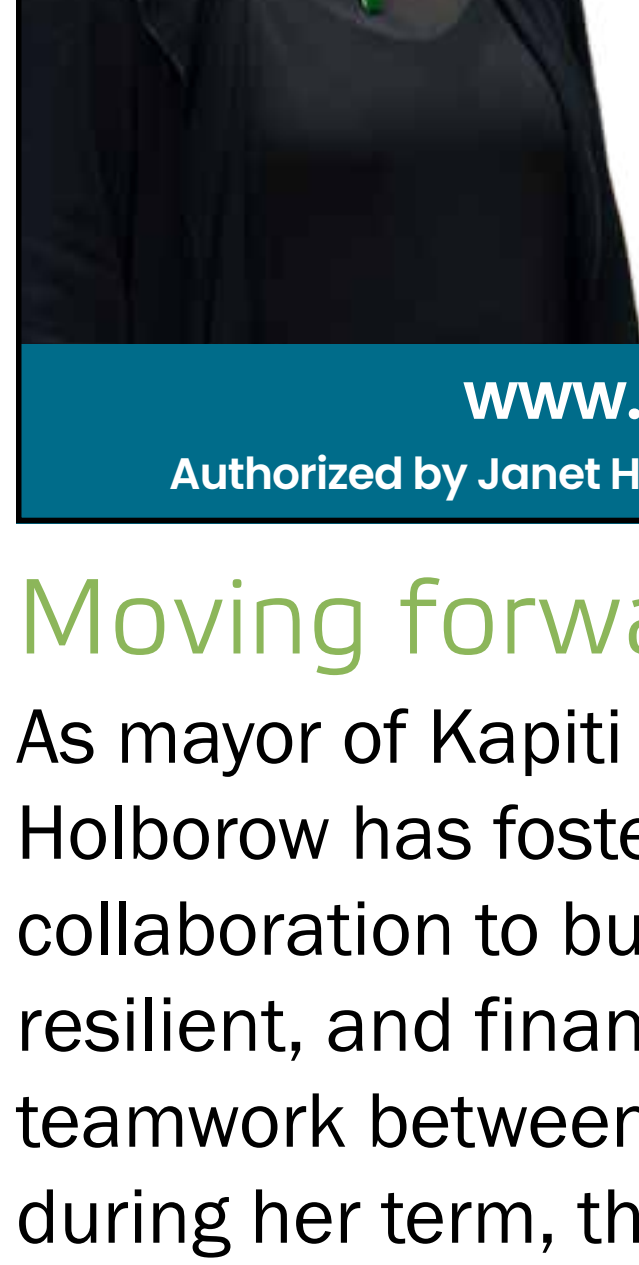
Infrastructure and Business

Finance

Environment

www.janetholborow.co.nz

Authorized by Janet Holborow 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.

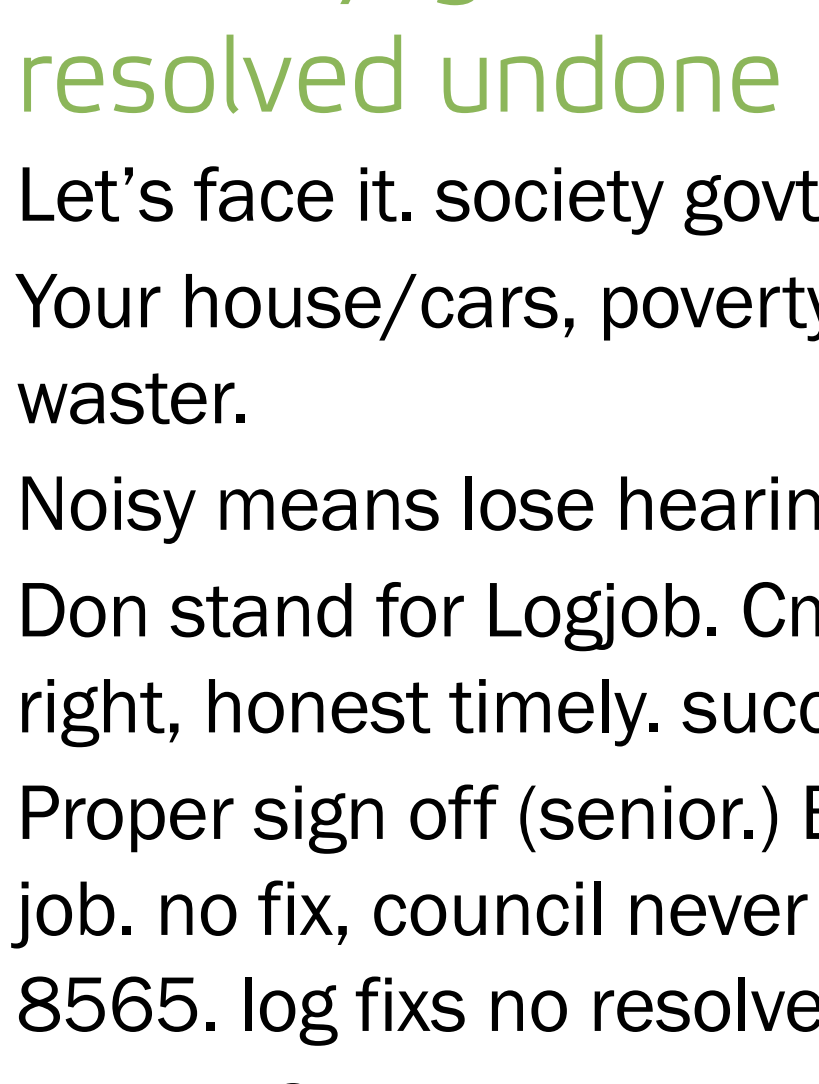
Janet also wants to ensure infrastructure is prepared for the present and future, with several projects underway.

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!

Southern General Ward – Paekawakawa



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.

www.facebook.com/mcdonewt

tw@At_tach

Noisy means lose hearing. movie tainment.

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

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

8565. log fixs no resolve. lazy?

Donald Strait talk. don't assume. Undone.

Don seek seek minus growth, back

Petrol electric All end. decade 10.

The roads be wipe out pedxns. Too N cars

population. half quarter

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

Participate. Democracy. we stand

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 month Sunday #1, satur 6* 12,18,24.

Help, Enuf to live on, Samaritan, comnty centres.

Call me. Authorised go Donald, McDOne* waiting

m. 0277 845.900 until -9pm.

[Back to contents](#)



City life



Wellington Batucada.

As the coolest little capital emerges from the snatches of winter and into the open arms of spring, so too does Eat Drink Play hope to help local bars, cafés, and eateries weather the current economic storm with the Performance Fund, a new initiative designed to breathe life into Wellington's hospitality venues.

The targeted funding available through the Vitalise Wellington programme will grant up to \$1000 to eligible venues across the capital to help them host local performers and musicians that contribute to a lively, welcoming city atmosphere during key event weekends throughout 2025.

"It's been a tough year – venue closures, rising costs, and fewer late-night crowds," Eat Drink Play event manager Brett McCall says. "The Performance Fund is about giving operators and performers a boost when they need it most – and giving Wellingtonians a reason to head back into the city."

To be eligible for the Performance Fund and the full range of promotional support, hospitality businesses must register for Eat Drink Play. Venues will gain access to marketing and promotional support, be featured in official event guides, digital maps, and themed trails, and be connected with a network of local entertainment opportunities.

"Eat Drink Play is more than a campaign – it's a city-wide celebration of what makes Wellington special," McCall says. "We're inviting every venue to be part of something bigger".

Apply online at www.eatdrinkplay.co.nz

Worth a thousand words



Photo by Ebrahim Alipoor.

The New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts has brought the World Press Photo contest winners back to Wellington, but beside the best from global photojournalism on display at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre this month, there are also amazing images from closer to home.

Te Urewera – The Living Ancestors of Tūhoe People is Tatsiana Chypsanava's award-winning photo essay on the Tūhoe people of the Te Urewera region, who have maintained a staunch independence and never lost their connection to their language and cultural identity.

Complementing this is *Te Rangimoaho Iti*, the work of Tame Iti's grandson profiling his grandfather's life, and *Taku Ahikāroa* by Te Wharewaka o Pōneke, presenting historically important images that are a practical expression of manaakitanga.

Other award-winning New Zealand photographers on show include Barry Durrant, Graham Stewart, Peter Bush, and Melanie Burford. The Nature Photography Society of New Zealand and Photographic Society of New Zealand present images from renowned Kiwi photographers.

Images from the famous Spencer Digby/Ronald D Woolf Photographic Collection depict New Zealand between 1934 and 1970, while the *Woolf Photography 90th Anniversary* show presents work by photographers who feature our region.

More displays mark the 70th anniversary of the World Press Photo contest, the UNESCO Memory of the World Aotearoa New Zealand Programme, and a UNICEF project featuring children behind the headlines.



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 - SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER
 TĀKINA WELLINGTON
 DAILY 10am-5pm

New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts
 Absolutely Positively Wellington

Bayleys real estate

Legacy of excellence



Founded on a 50-year legacy of excellence, Bayleys is synonymous with showcasing quality property, offering exemplary customer service, and delivering superior results. This approach started with Pam, Graham, and John Bayley in 1973, and it still lives on today.

There are four business philosophies that underpin Bayleys' leadership in sales, auctions, leasing, marketing, management, research, financial analysis, sponsorship, and public relations.

The first is maintaining a focus on clients. Every Bayleys team member will take the time to get to know you, your property, and your desired outcomes in order to maximise the value of your assets. From here begins a process of collaboration, which is the second foundational value. As you work towards a shared goal, the team use every tool and technology at their disposal, ensuring innovation remains a pillar of their approach. Lastly, the entire nationwide team are committed to accountability and delivering on their promises.

With over 1000 offices across Aotearoa and the Pacific Islands, Bayleys has completed nearly 12,000 sales and leasing transactions – that's over \$13.4 billion in sold or leased property. This in-depth experience, knowledge, and successful track record is reinforced by proactive presence and demonstrated leadership across all property sectors.

As Bayleys has continued to grow over the years, the Kiwi-owned and operated business has remained committed to service and delivering the best results. That's why clients come back time and again, and across generations.

Porirua

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ALTOGETHER BETTER

Ainslie Allen

Residential Sales

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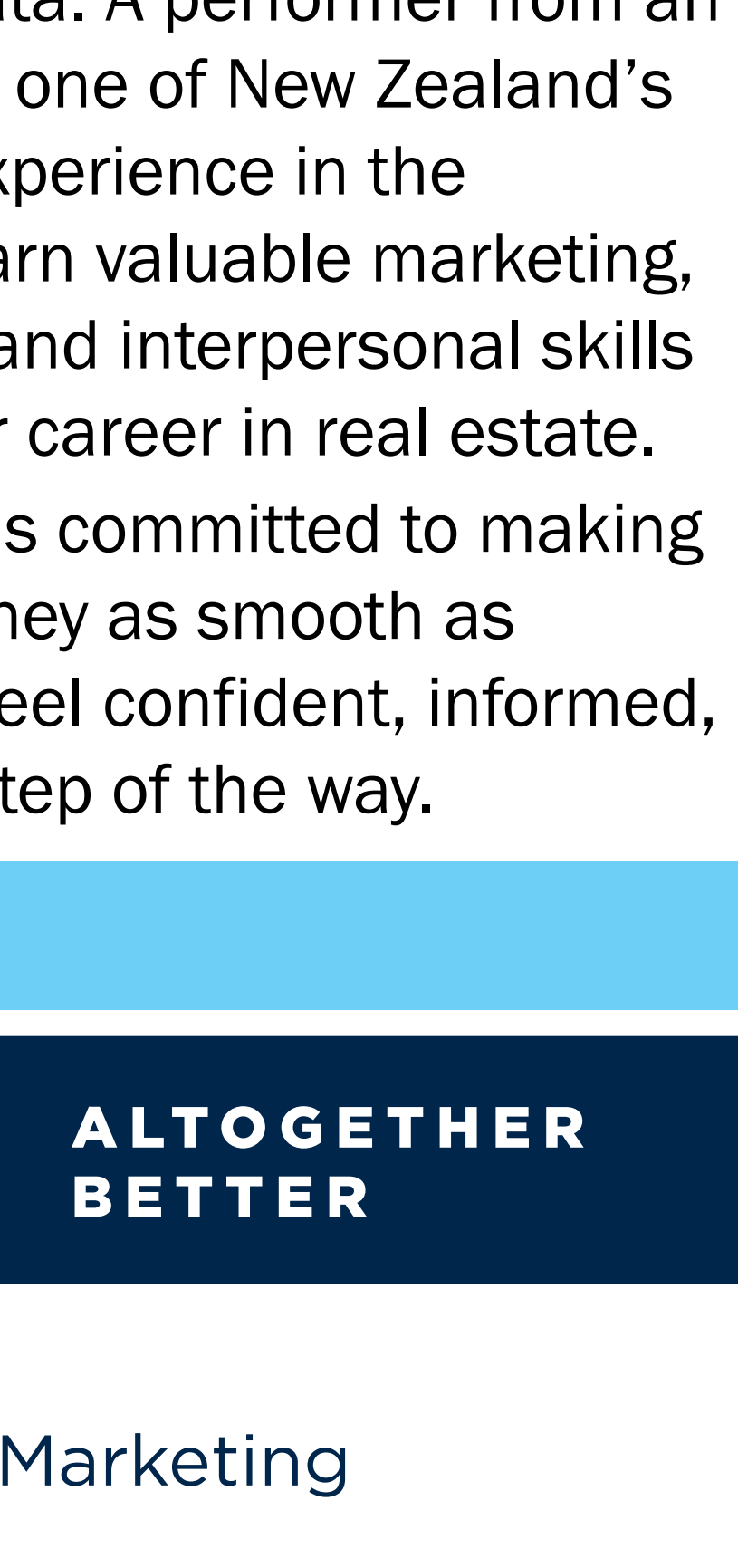
Ainslie is known for her warm, approachable nature, fairness, and meticulous attention to detail.

Request an appraisal

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✉ ainslie.allen@bayleys.co.nz

www.bayleys.co.nz/ainslie-allen



Capital Commercial 2013 Ltd, Bayleys,
Licensed under the REA Act 2008

Ainslie Allen is known across the motu for her accomplishments in music, but she is also a new agent at Bayleys in Paremata. A performer from an early age, she has become one of New Zealand's top country singers. This experience in the industry has helped her learn valuable marketing, presentation, negotiation, and interpersonal skills that she now applies to her career in real estate. Warm and friendly, Ainslie is committed to making the buying and selling journey as smooth as possible, ensuring clients feel confident, informed, and well supported every step of the way.

Lower Hutt

BAYLEYS

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Rob Black

Residential Sales and Marketing

A REPUTATION FOR DELIVERING BETTER-THAN-EXPECTED RESULTS

Rob has a true passion for people and it shows. Helping people to relax and feel at ease is always his goal.

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☎ +64 27 448 2735

✉ rob.black@bayleys.co.nz

www.bayleys.co.nz/rob-black



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Licensed under the REA Act 2008

Born and raised in Lower Hutt, Rob Black of Bayleys likes to work in the area he calls home. Why? Because that way he can help buyers and sellers alike get the best outcome. By living locally, Rob has a keen sense of the market from Eastbourne to Upper Hutt and can guide buyers to the suburbs and properties that will suit their needs.

Rob helps people achieve their goals through innovative problem solving skills and attention to detail. He is level-headed and approaches high-stress situations calmly, navigating them with ease. Most of all, Rob makes it his mission to match buyers with the perfect property.

New Plymouth

BAYLEYS

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Anna Straathof

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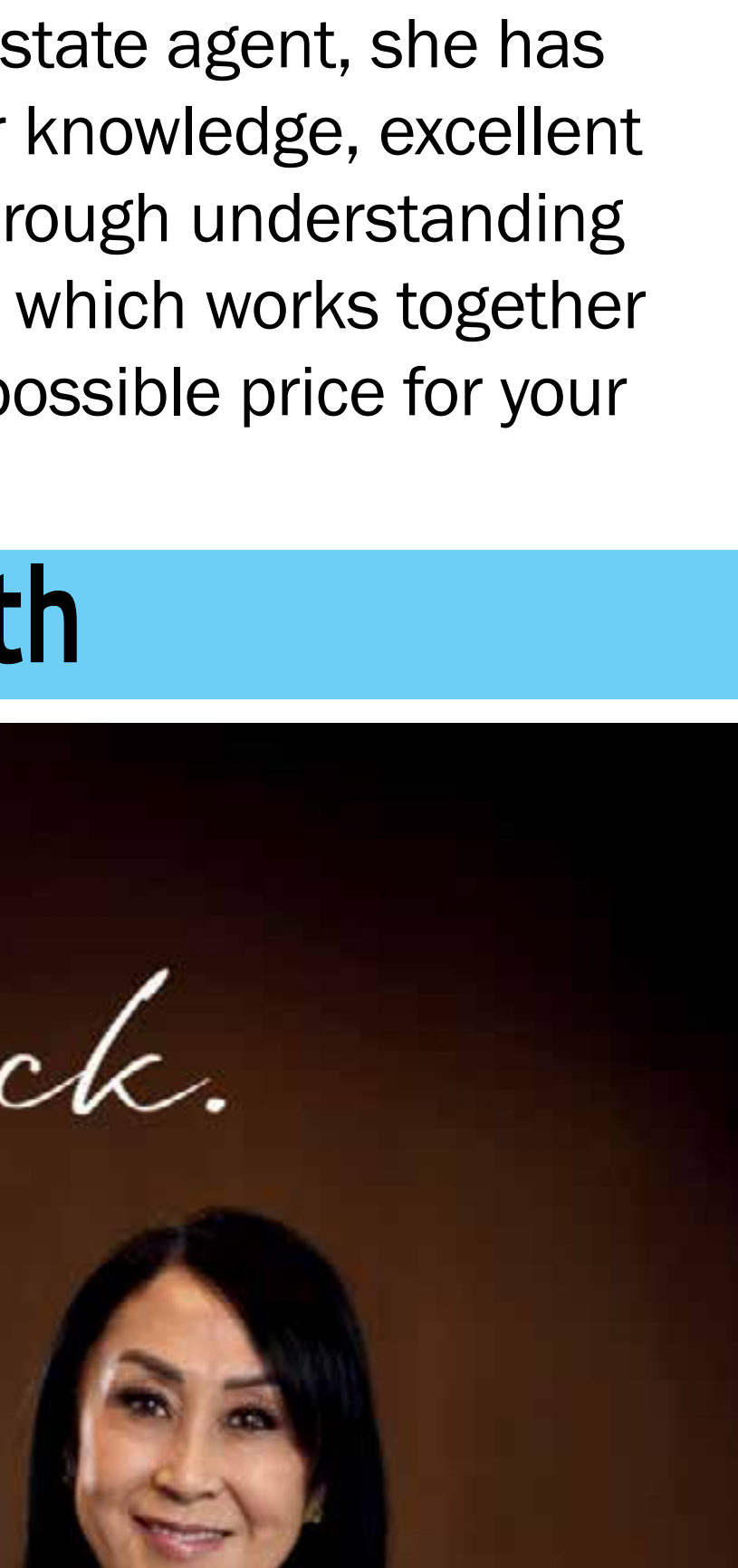
Anna has a proven track record, along with a high level of repeat and referral business.

Request an appraisal

☎ +64 27 200 2009

✉ anna.straathof@bayleys.co.nz

www.bayleys.co.nz/anna-straathof



Success Realty Ltd, Bayleys,
Licensed under the REA Act 2008

Anna Straathof's rise in Taranaki real estate has been remarkable yet unsurprising. With unmatched drive and service, she's built her business on referrals and repeat clients. Holding a degree in hotel management, Anna began her career in luxury hospitality before she moved into real estate over a decade ago.

A mother of three, she is consistently ranked in New Zealand's Top 100 and Taranaki's Top 3 by RateMyAgent. Known for her energy, polish, and proven strategies, Anna leads with precision and a strong team. Her reputation speaks for itself as she delivers exceptional results and redefines local real estate at Bayleys New Plymouth.

Upper Hutt

BAYLEYS

ALTOGETHER BETTER

Justine Lord

Residential Sales and Marketing

RELIABILITY, INTEGRITY, SERVICE.

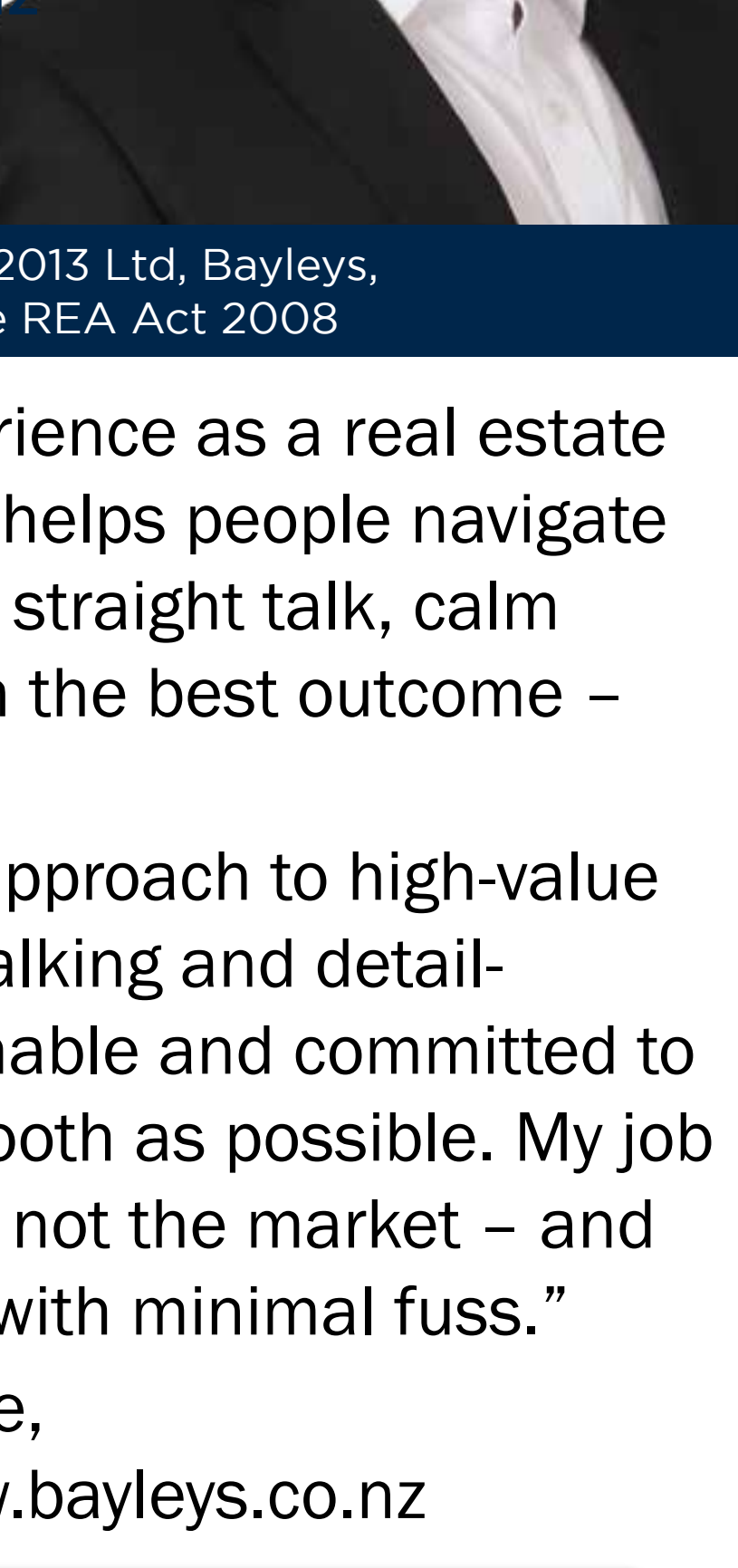
Compassionate and skilled in working with clients in high stress situations, tactfully minimising any stress for all involved.

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✉ justine.lord@bayleys.co.nz

www.bayleys.co.nz/justine-lord



Capital Commercial 2013 Ltd, Bayleys,
Licensed under the REA Act 2008

Reliability, integrity, and stellar service are the cornerstones of Justine Lord's approach. She is results-driven and committed to securing the best price, whether you're buying or selling. Justine is available when you need, working flexible hours to ensure your journey runs as smoothly and stress-free as possible.

Due to her background in veterinary management, Justine is level-headed in high-pressure situations. During her years as a real estate agent, she has acquired a wealth of insider knowledge, excellent negotiation skills, and a thorough understanding of the market climate, all of which works together to ensure you get the best possible price for your home.

Palmerston North

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lily.beck@bayleys.co.nz
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BAYLEYS | *Lily B.*

Buying or selling a home is a big decision, and having the right guidance is essential. Lily Beck is known for her calm professionalism, clear guidance, and results-driven approach, bringing the same dedication to her clients as she does to her community. Spring is always an exciting time for the Manawātū property market, and with OCR cuts, renewed buyer interest is creating strong opportunities for sellers. Families, professionals, and investors are all looking to make the most of the region, making now a great time to explore your options. Lily ensures properties stand out and helps clients make confident, informed decisions as your trusted local expert for buying or selling in Manawātū.

Wellington/Karori

BAYLEYS

ALTOGETHER BETTER

Pete Bell

Residential Sales

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With 15+ years' experience I help people navigate big property decisions with straight talk, calm negotiation, and a focus on the best outcome – with minimum fuss.

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With over 15 years of experience as a real estate agent, Pete Bell of Bayleys helps people navigate big property decisions with straight talk, calm negotiation, and a focus on the best outcome – with minimum fuss.

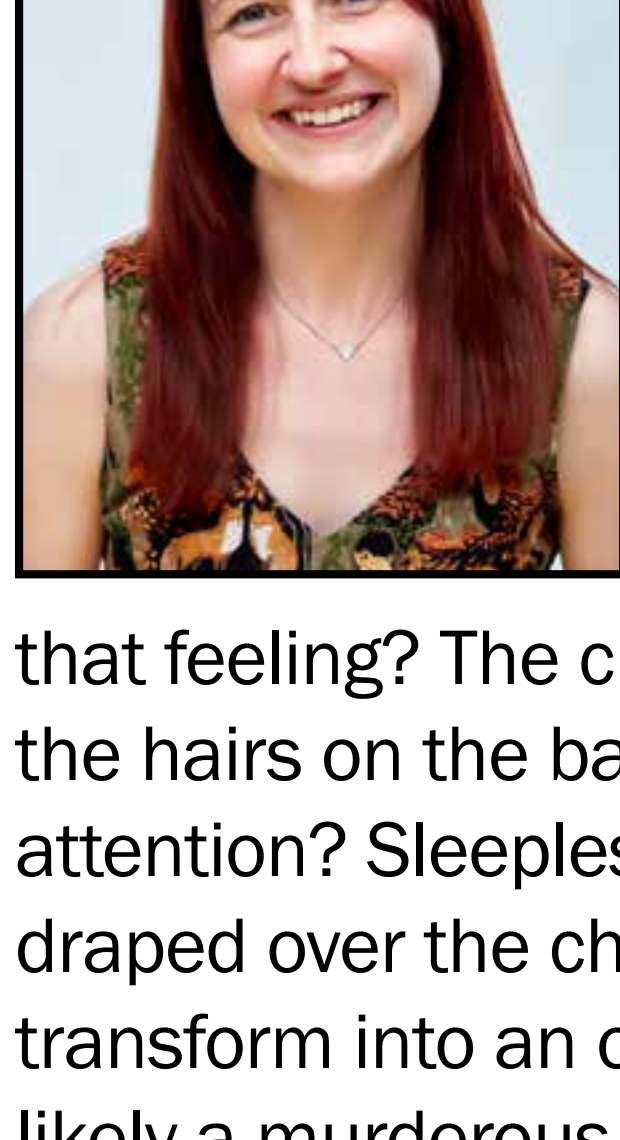
"I bring a calm, confident approach to high-value negotiations. I'm straight-talking and detail-focused, but also approachable and committed to making the process as smooth as possible. My job is simple: to work for you – not the market – and achieve the best outcome with minimal fuss." Get in touch over the phone, in person, or online at www.bayleys.co.nz

[Back to contents](#)

A word from Maddi...

Primal fear

by **Madelaine Empson**



My partner and I are huge fans of horror. We spend hours scrolling through the spookiest of titles, finally choose one, and then usually freak out because it's "too scary". Cue sleeping with the lights on after checking all the doors are locked... twice!

But is there anything better than that feeling? The chills coursing down your spine, the hairs on the back of your neck standing at attention? Sleepless nights spent watching the coat draped over the chair in the corner of your bedroom transform into an ominous figure in the dark? Most likely a murderous demon? What a rush!

Why do we do it to ourselves? It all comes down to hormones. When we get scared, the amygdala (the part of our brain responsible for the famed fight or flight response) causes our adrenal glands to release adrenaline and cortisol. These are stress hormones, but the adrenaline then sets off a rush of dopamine and endorphins – aka the good stuff. Physical processes that don't aid our survival like digestion are suspended. Our pupils dilate so we can see threats in high-def, our blood pressure and heart rates shoot up, we might get cold and clammy (causing goosebumps), and our other senses heighten. This can all hit us in a second, like a bolt of electricity supercharging our primal instincts. So, our brains are hard-wired to enjoy fear, but there's a catch: we have to know we're safe in that fear.

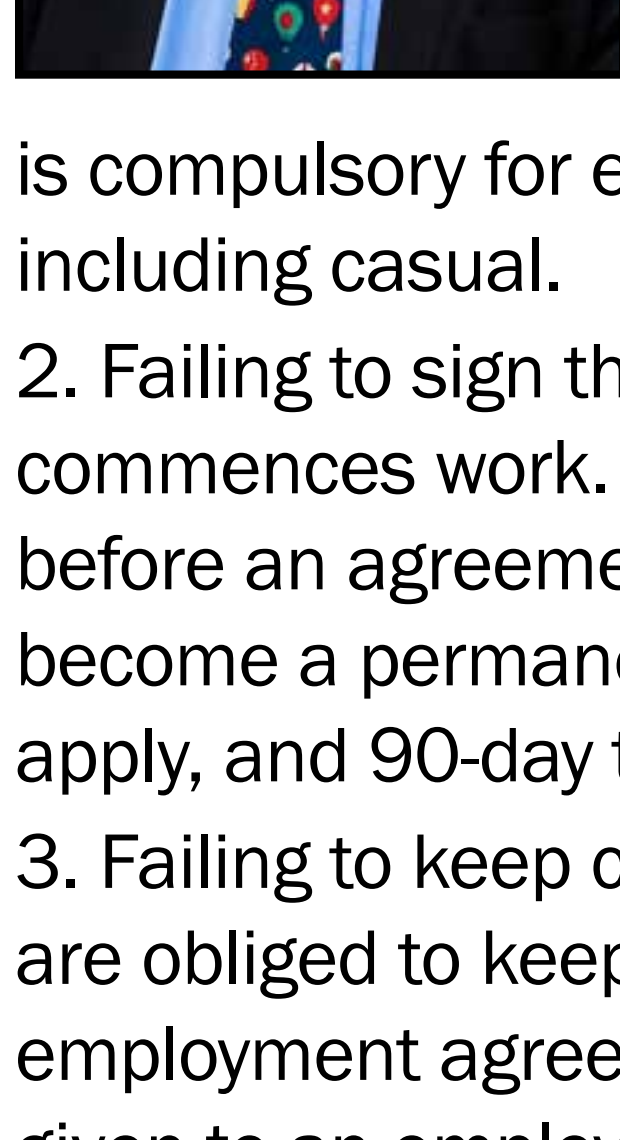
Makes sense! I'll gladly take the adrenaline that'll make me run faster when I'm being chased by a tiger, but I'd prefer not to get eaten afterwards if possible. When we choose to do scary stuff, like ride a rollercoaster or shriek our way through a haunted maze and come out the other side unscathed, we're tricking our brains into producing those tingly chemical reactions without real-world consequences.

I count down to Halloween nearly as diligently as I do my birthday, which was only 32 days ago at the time of writing. Side note: it is still my birthday year if you wanted to get me something. In researching this column, it was nice to learn more about why I like getting scared and why spooky season is my (second) favourite time of the year. I'll be lining up the horror films in earnest, then – as long as I've got a Dan to protect me from the monsters under the bed afterwards!

Advice from Alan

Employment agreement mistakes

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



Employment agreements are the basis of any relationship between employer and employee. From my experience, the seven most common mistakes employers make are:

1. Failing to have an employment agreement. A written employment agreement is compulsory for every employment relationship, including casual.

2. Failing to sign the agreement before the employee commences work. If an employee begins working before an agreement is signed, they automatically become a permanent employee, fixed terms do not apply, and 90-day trial periods do not apply.

3. Failing to keep copies of agreements. Employers are obliged to keep a copy of every signed employment agreement and every draft agreement given to an employee to consider.

4. Failing to sign the correct type of agreement. Is the employee permanent (full time or part time), fixed term, or casual? Treating someone as casual when they have regular hours, or on a fixed term when there is no good reason for a fixed term, is unlawful. True fixed terms are for covering a one-off project, or absences like sickness or parental care leave (maternity leave), not to provide 'disposable' workers when there is ongoing work on a succession of projects.

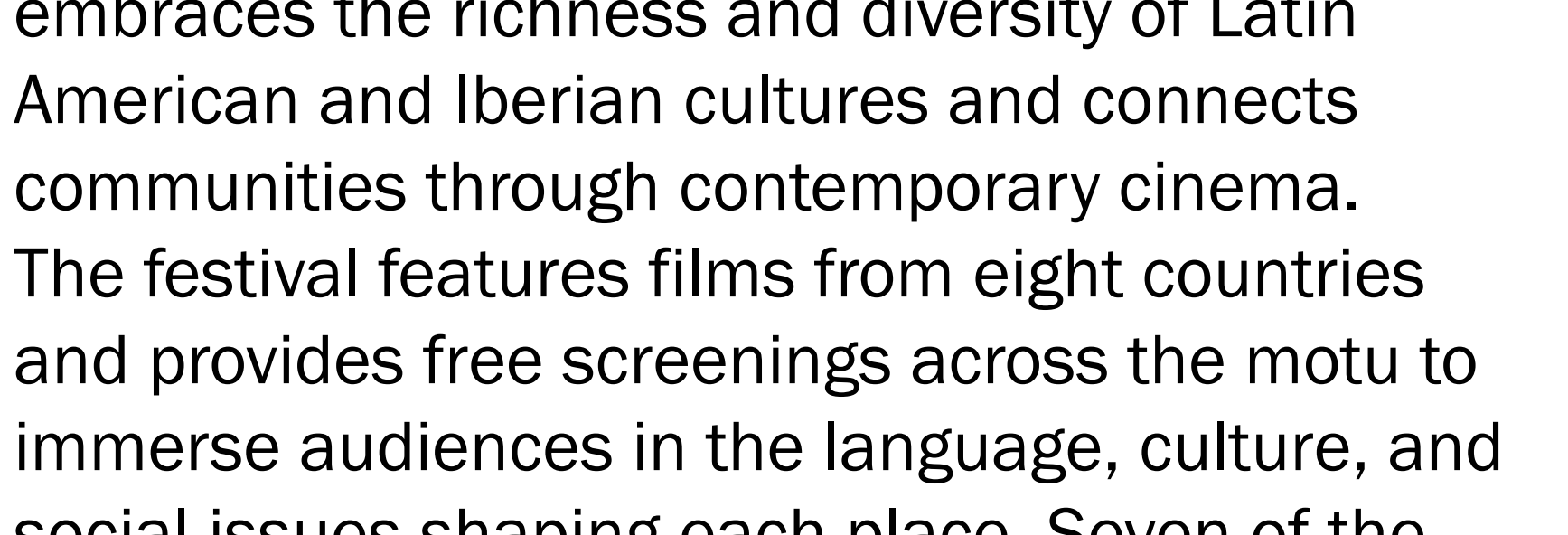
5. Are they an employee or a contractor? There are many steps to deciding if a worker is really a contractor or an employee in disguise. What was the intention of both parties? Are they integrated into the business or are they truly running their own business? Can they work for others? Do they control their own hours etc?

6. Failing to consult before making changes. Employment agreements cannot be unilaterally altered as employee consent is needed after consultation.

7. Failing to have the necessary clauses. You cannot rely on a clause that is not in an agreement, and you cannot try to impose one afterwards. There are also lots of clauses that are mandatory in employment agreements. Some have a particular required wording and will not be valid if that wording is not used.

The importance of having well-written employment agreements, and a reliable process for signing them and retaining copies, cannot be overstated.

A spring samba



Still from *Kobra Auto Retrato*

Tango to the Dominion Museum Building and cha cha into a chair for the Latin America & Spain Film Festival (LASFF), which sambas onto the screen in time for spring.

Celebrating its 23rd edition in 2025, LASFF embraces the richness and diversity of Latin American and Iberian cultures and connects communities through contemporary cinema. The festival features films from eight countries and provides free screenings across the motu to immerse audiences in the language, culture, and social issues shaping each place. Seven of the films will rumba and rumble into the capital in October.

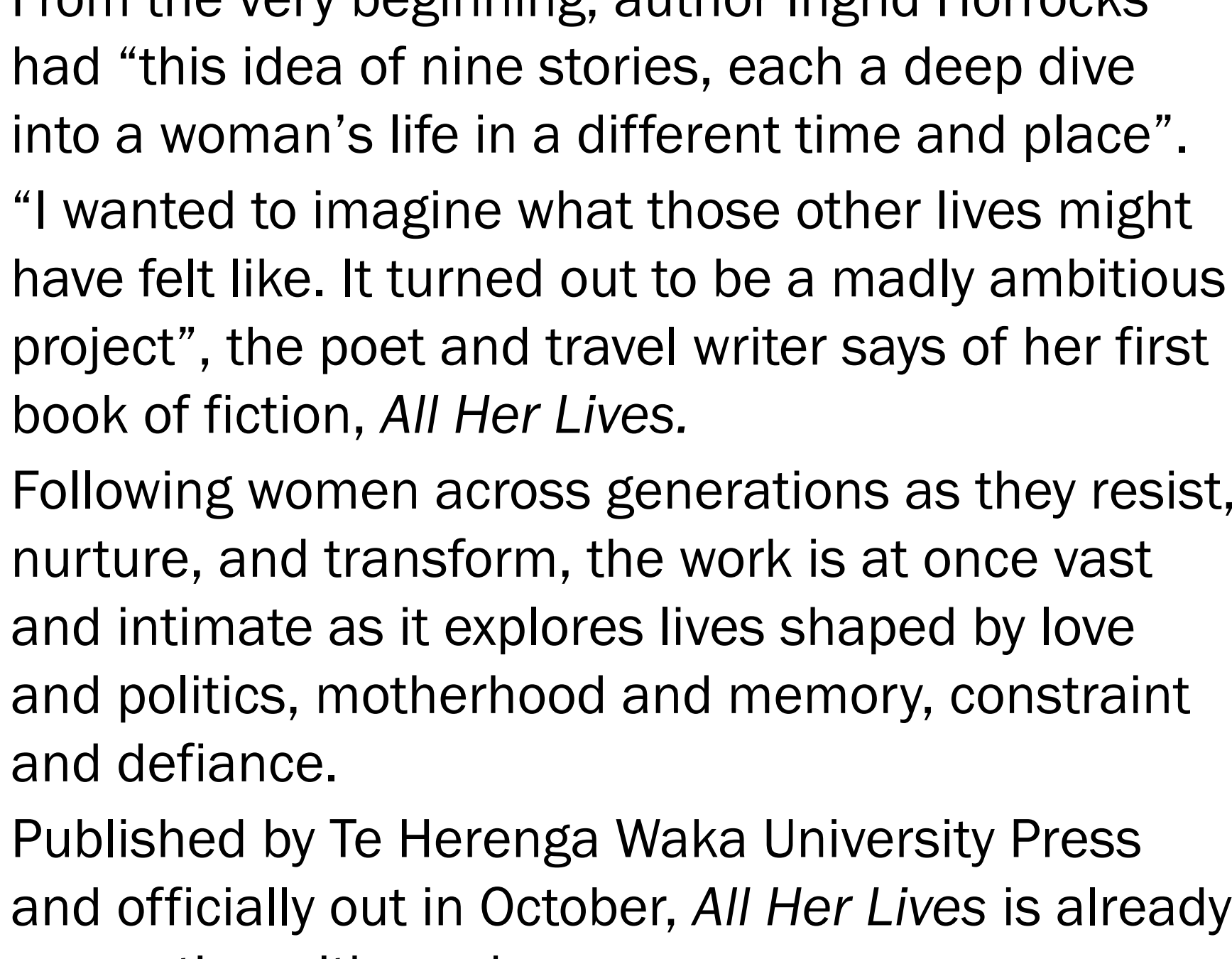
In the Brazilian documentary *Kobra Auto Retrato* (*Kobra Self Portrait*) on the 2nd, Kobra remembers his life, from the poor childhood in São Paulo to the international recognition, while *Estimados Señores* (*Dear Gentlemen*) brings to light the little-known suffragist movement in Colombia on the 3rd.

Cuba's *El mundo de Nelsito* (*The World of Nelsito*) on the 8th introduces us to a 16-year-old autistic boy who runs away from home. Peruvian doco *Hatun Phaqcha, Tierra Sana* (*Hatun Phaqcha: The Healing Land*) highlights the nutritional and cultural importance of the country's native foods on the 9th. In Mexico's *La Promesa* (*The Promise*) on the 10th, a rebellious boy's life is changed thanks to his grandfather and teacher, and to books.

On the 15th, Spain's *Intemperie* (*Out in the Open*) tells of a friendship between a boy fleeing his village's ruthless overseer and a shepherd who lives on the margins of society. 12-year-old Alfonso, three imaginary rabbits, Pancho, and Victoria must save their town in Argentina's *Gigantes: Una aventura extraordinaria* (*Giants of La Mancha*) on the 17th.

A book of quiet force

by **Madelaine Empson**



From the very beginning, author Ingrid Horrocks had "this idea of nine stories, each a deep dive into a woman's life in a different time and place". "I wanted to imagine what those other lives might have felt like. It turned out to be a madly ambitious project", the poet and travel writer says of her first book of fiction, *All Her Lives*.

Following women across generations as they resist, nurture, and transform, the work is at once vast and intimate as it explores lives shaped by love and politics, motherhood and memory, constraint and defiance.

Published by Te Herenga Waka University Press and officially out in October, *All Her Lives* is already resonating with readers.

"It's been amazing how much pleasure people get from seeing their own places walked by fictional characters in other times – 1930s Wellington, post-WWI Wairarapa, 1980s Devonport, 2000s Berlin, and lots of places before and beyond", Horrocks says. "Readers have also really liked the way characters from one story turn up in other stories. That was fun to write. I like this idea of echoes through lives and times."

Award-winning novelist Emily Perkins (*Lioness*) calls *All Her Lives* "a book of quiet force", saying she'll be thinking about it for a long time to come. Perkins will launch the title at Unity Books on Thursday the 9th of October at 6pm in an event that all are welcome to attend.

School holidays

Sweet holiday fun



Calling all chocolate lovers!

ChoctoberFest kicks off on the 20th 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 5th 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! Once you've tasted, vote for your favourites, then see who comes out on top.

There are heaps of prizes to be won during the festival including invitations for two over-18-year-olds to an exclusive Whittaker's x Peppermill Café event in Porirua on the 7th of October and a Whittaker's Factory Tour for you and three friends over 15 years of age. Plus, 100 Whittaker's Peanut Slabs will be up for grabs if you post a review and photo of a ChoctoberFest drink or baked treat on the ChoctoberFest Fan Club Facebook, as well as café vouchers when you follow all the fun on Discover Porirua's social media pages.

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

Adventure awaits



Ahoy, mateys and merfolk! Set sail for adventure these school holidays at Johnsonville Shopping Centre – a realm of magic and merrymaking, mischief and mayhem. With two shows each weekday at 11am and 1pm between the 22nd of September and the 3rd of October, step right up for fun while Mum and Dad are busy with boring.

Splash into an underwater world at the Rainbow Circus bubble show. Bursting with colour, fun, and, of course, bubbles, this all-ages show is as interactive as they come and packed full of surprises, laughter, and tricks aplenty. Help the mermaids on their mission to bring back the colours of the Rainbow Reef and along the way you just might see the mystical fog-filled bubbles, the otherworldly glowing bubbles, and... bubbles inside bubbles!

Zappo the Magical Pirate is recruiting you for a swashbuckling good time chocka with giggles, magic, and pirate mischief. A magician of great renown, Zappo has been delighting kids aged zero to 100 for more than 25 years with his engaging and educational shows featuring songs, movement, and lots of tricks. With his parrot friend, a plumed hat, plenty of tricks up his sleeve, and a bag full of shapeshifting balloons, he'll take tamariki on a trip through the high seas in search of every pirate's folly: treasure.

A trip to the Johnsonville Shopping Centre will put a smile on any kid's face. Dive right in to make a splash these school holidays.

Porirua Choctober Fest™

20 Sept to 19 Oct 2025

Enjoy 46 indulgent drinks and baked treats, all featuring iconic Whittaker's chocolate!

Proudly supported by

porirua.govt.nz/choctoberfest

School holiday fun

Johnsonville Shopping Centre

Mon 22/9 Zappo the Magical Pirate <small>Centre Court</small>	Mon 29/9 Zappo the Magical Pirate <small>Centre Court</small>
Tue 23/9 Rainbow Circus bubble show <small>Food Court entrance</small>	Tue 30/9 Rainbow Circus bubble show <small>Food Court Entrance</small>
Wed 24/9 Zappo the Magical Pirate <small>Centre Court</small>	Wed 1/10 Zappo the Magical Pirate <small>Centre Court</small>
Thur 25/9 Rainbow Circus bubble show <small>Food Court entrance</small>	Thur 2/10 Rainbow Circus bubble show <small>Food Court entrance</small>
Fri 26/9 Zappo the Magical Pirate <small>Centre Court</small>	Fri 3/10 Zappo the Magical Pirate <small>Centre Court</small>

FREE fun for the kids
no bookings required
11am & 1pm weekdays

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[Back to contents](#)



17 Family – retirement



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Products and services

Got something to say?

Add your voice to Grey Power Wellington Central

Grey Power Wellington Central offers inner city seniors a voice advocating for a community where older adults can live in dignity enjoying a rewarding, fair and safe quality life. New members are welcome.



**Wellington Central
Grey Power Inc**

Go to our website greypowerwellington.org.nz/membership and complete the form or call **04 595 6255** (leave a message) or email us on membership@greypowerwellington.org.nz

Have a voice

With an ageing population, New Zealand has a commitment to ensure it is a place where seniors can live in dignity and enjoy a comfortable and sustainable quality of life. Grey Power, an advocacy group that represents those over 50, has a mission to make New Zealand the best country in the world to call home after retirement.

Grey Power began when a group of protesters spoke out against the government's plan to impose a surcharge on superannuation in 1986. As the movement swelled, groups began to crop up across the country. The protest was successful, but that didn't mark the end of what was to be known as Grey Power. Today, there are groups all over New Zealand, including five in Greater Wellington alone. Grey Power Wellington Central offers inner-city seniors a voice and advocates for a community that is safe, comfortable, and accessible for older adults. Our older generation, often on fixed incomes, face numerous challenges, including cost of living pressures, poor access to healthcare, loss of local banking services, availability and affordability of suitable housing, social isolation, and ageism. As local city council elections ramp up, Grey Power Wellington Central is encouraging older people that call the capital home to speak up. They welcome new members at any time, whether you're a senior yourself, a caregiver, or even a relative, and are currently looking for a Mount Victoria representative. Find out how to create a more age-inclusive society at www.greypower.co.nz

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With a tailor-made Acorn Stairlift you can stay right where you are – keep your home, keep your freedom, and retain your independence.

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Our unique rail system means that we can fit an Acorn Stairlift to all types of staircase, and what's more, we can do so within a matter of days rather than weeks. A visit from one of our friendly surveyors will allow you to see what sets Acorn Stairlifts apart from other stairlift companies. After assessing your needs, our surveyor will instantly be able to give you the peace of mind of knowing exactly how affordable an Acorn Stairlift can be and an Acorn Stairlift can be fully fitted for you from as little as \$7000!

Acorn has always been at the forefront of the stairlift industry. We have led the way with our design and innovation and are the first to be awarded the Arthritis Foundation's Ease-of-Use Commendation.

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Kelburn Has a New Place to Shop Mary Potter Hospice Shop

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Your Quality Donations Help Us Turn Second-Hand Goods into First-Class Hospice Care.

Shop. Donate. Support Hospice.

marypotter.org.nz

Donate for good

Whether you're making the move to a retirement village or you're simply empty nesters looking at downsizing to a more manageable space, sorting through years' worth of belongings can be a cathartic process.

Aside from personal treasures that hold memories, you may have perfectly good furniture and household items that you don't want to simply chuck into the landfill. Consider donating your things to the new Mary Potter Hospice shop in Kelburn. Here they can live again, help someone in need, and raise valuable funding for a very worthy cause.

The money collected from Mary Potter Hospice shops helps people with life-limiting illnesses live full, comfortable, and dignified lives. Donations are a cornerstone of the charity's system, and even a small contribution can help provide end-of-life care, including grief and bereavement support for families and loved ones too.

"It costs around \$16 million a year to provide Mary Potter Hospice's services to our patients and their family," chief executive Tony Paine says, adding that while the government supports half of this, the rest is made up through the generosity of others.

"The donations we receive help us not just to support our patients, but to provide great care to their family as well."

From clothes to kitchen items, furniture to household appliances, any of your good quality belongings can go towards helping Mary Potter Hospice achieve their mission. Find out more at www.marypotter.org.nz



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Helping at home

Your home is more than just a roof over your head. It's the place where you have lived your life, been through ups and downs, and made cherished memories with loved ones. As you get older and things around the house become harder to manage, you may be under the impression that the only solution is to pack up and head to a retirement community or a smaller property, but what if that didn't have to be the case?

VK Lawn and Garden Services can pick up where you left off when it comes to keeping your outdoor space spick and span. Think of them as multiservice professionals here to take care of all your garden maintenance needs, plus any odd jobs you may want done outside such as house washing, gutter cleaning, and water blasting. With your vision and their know-how, the friendly and chipper team can help you restore your house to a home.

Wellington based and family operated by Dave and Karen van Kampen, VK are passionate about providing top-quality services to maintain or fully transform a garden. The crew specialise in lawn mowing, weed eating and spraying, hedge trimming, tree pruning, and general section tidy-ups, but they're more than happy to lend their green thumbs and helping hands just about anywhere.

Just because the outside has become a bit out of your scope doesn't mean you have to pick up and move your whole world. Get in touch with VK Lawn and Garden Services for a free quote.

Products and services





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A beautiful tribute

At Tributes Funeral Supplies, the focus is on creating unique, environmentally conscious, and quality crafted products. Their curated collection of coffins, caskets, urns, scatter tubes, and keepsakes is designed to help you say farewell to a loved one in your own special way.

Working with local artists and manufacturers is important to Tributes Funeral Supplies. They complement their catalogue with products from Tributes UK, an innovative company that creates funeral and pet memorial supplies.

The natural wicker willow coffins, caskets, and urns are handmade from sustainably sourced willow saplings, making them an environmentally friendly option. Each coffin can support up to 150 kilograms and comes with fully lined, unbleached calico and sea grass handles. Both coffins and urns are suitable for cremation or burial, and because they're made with non-toxic chemicals, they are 100-percent biodegradable.


The Coastal Urn collection comprises handcrafted wooden cremation ash urns polished with beeswax. Made in Aotearoa, the designs are inspired by the beauty of our landscape.

Scatter Tubes are unique cremation urns designed to scatter ashes. They come in many designs and personalised options and are fully biodegradable.

Honour your loved one and honour our beautiful environment by choosing sustainable, personal, and unique options from Tributes Funeral Supplies. Their products are available in New Zealand from your local funeral home.

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Best of both

Retirement means finally having the time to do the things you love. Whether that's restoring a vintage car or picking up painting, spending a day on the water in your boat or throwing yourself into gardening, travelling to faraway lands through the pages of a good book or exploring your own backyard in a camper or caravan, the days are finally yours to spend how you wish.

Shifting your life to a retirement village or home can give you even more time since you'll no longer have to worry about home maintenance and life administration, but it may also mean you have to downsize and get rid of the cars, boats, and motorhomes you worked so hard to afford. Making the move can seem like a catch-22 where you finally have enough time to do the things you love, but none of the tools you need to do them.

You can have the best of both worlds by finding a place to store your boats and cars, caravans and campervans while you aren't using them. Terry Friedrichs rents out space in his lock-up warehouse in Masterton, enabling retirees to have it all.

Safe and secure in a controlled and monitored warehouse, you can keep vehicles and boats here so that you don't have to sell them on or worry about them being parked on the road when you move into a retirement community.

Give Terry a call or send him an email at terryfriedrichs@gmail.com to enquire about availability. Don't give up the things you love when you finally have the time to enjoy them.

A mighty legacy



Zealandia Te Mārā a Tāne never forgets its origins, some 30 years ago now when a band of determined Wellingtonians pushed to turn the city's former water reservoir into a fully fenced ecosanctuary. Now, we have staff at the sanctuary who grew up in the capital hearing and seeing kākā, kākārīki, and more recently tīeke/saddleback around the city, including in their own backyards. They don't remember when these once abundant manu/birds were absent from our skies and our ngahere/forests. In fact, these remarkable creatures were missing for a century, along with tuatara, the prehistoric reptile that has also found sanctuary within the mammalian predator-exclusion fence that encompasses Zealandia.

It all started in the late 1990s when, in a world-leading effort, 13 species of introduced predators – possums, rats, and weasels through to hedgehogs and feral goats – were removed from the valley. When species such as kiwi pukupuku/little spotted kiwi, kākā, and tuatara were reintroduced to Wellington after being absent for so long, people clearly recognised the sanctuary's value for the city and for their own wellbeing.

All this was only possible because of a clear vision, a stubborn determination, and the expertise and sheer hard work of so many people from our origins through to now. We continue to rely on the generosity of our wonderful supporters: our band of well over 500 passionate volunteers, our 15,000 loyal members, and our many generous donors and those who leave us bequests. Zealandia Te Mārā a Tāne remains a shining example of community spirit. The sanctuary is now a celebrated and, indeed, award-winning destination, which is recognised for its commitment to regenerating the forest and to caring for the wildlife living both within and, increasingly, outside the mammalian predator-exclusion fence.

We have a 500-year vision, but already after its first quarter of a century Zealandia Te Mārā a Tāne has left a mighty legacy. For ways you can help and to leave your legacy on our journey, please visit donate.visitzealandia.com

Regeneration for generations

Kererū. Photo by T M Davidson.

Leave a legacy towards our 500-year journey of restoration. A gift for those who will sit in the shade and bathe in birdsong, long after we're gone.

Get in touch today
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ZEALANDIA
TE MĀRĀ A TĀNE

[Back to contents](#)



Day of Older Persons



CARE, COMMUNITY, AND CONNECTION
Acacia Cove, a country-style village situated on the beautiful Wattle Downs Peninsula has 31 weekly activities.




For those who appreciate the tranquility of an estuary setting Acacia Cove has it all, as well as its own restaurant, heated indoor pool, library, bowling green and gym. Whether you choose to live in a villa or one of our luxurious apartments, you'll have the security of a 24 hour, fully monitored emergency call system built in.

Villas available for
\$640,000-\$1,000,000

Price is for an Occupation Rights Agreement secured by a first-ranking mortgage and in favour of the statutory supervisor on behalf of the residents.

- **Best Ageing Programme at the 2017 Ageing Asia Eldercare Award**
- **Finalist in the Facility of the Year Independent Seniors Living Category**

If you're aged 60 or over, value your independence but want greater security, come and have a look at the superb properties we have to offer. Contact admin@acaciacove.co.nz or phone 09 268 8522

A change of pace – Auckland

Spend your days relaxing rather than stressing and enjoying rather than worrying by joining Acacia Cove, a country-style retirement village that promotes care, community, and connection. Settled comfortably into the Wattle Downs Peninsula, a golf and country club to the east and an estuary teeming with wildlife to the west, Acacia Cove is an idyllic place to call home. Acacia Cove features 217 villas and 15 fully self-contained apartments that offer both independence and access to a vibrant and active community. All architecturally crafted by professional designers, interior decorators, and landscapers, each villa has its own private courtyard, spacious living area, and one to three bedrooms. The two and three-bedroom apartments enjoy a paved courtyard or a spacious deck. What's more, the gardens are fully maintained, even if you choose to add your own personal touches.

The lodge-like community centre is framed by magical sunset views and features plenty of amenities, including a billiard table, gym, spa bath, hairdressing salon, library with computers, nurse's station, and an open fireplace. The purpose-built meeting room is the hub for all kinds of activities – from walking groups to the garden club, there are over 31 weekly activities on the schedule.

On the grounds are also a bowling green, BBQ area, heated indoor pool, and restaurant, which is the perfect place to enjoy the sun and the estuary views in the company of neighbours, friends, and whānau.




We offer residential care, independent living units, and now also full care in our spacious serviced apartments.

Our friendly, caring community has been developing for 30 years. We are still growing and welcoming new members to share our common bonds of independence, friendship, and the simple pleasures in life.

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77 Walnut Ave, Ashburton | www.rosebanklifecare.co.nz

Choose community – Ashburton

Rosebank Lifecare offers a place of tranquillity, security, and care. It encourages residents to find what makes them happy and provides them with the support they need to build the life they want. The goal at Rosebank Lifecare is for all residents to retain their independence while living life to the fullest, regardless of their health or condition. Named Aged Advisor People's Choice Awards for Best Small Retirement or Lifestyle Village in 2019, Rosebank ensures everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Rosebank residents enjoy a sense of community, with the freedom to choose their level of involvement in village life. A centrally located hub provides a space for family members to gather, and for residents to meet and enjoy each other's company. With access to a hospital, rest home facility, and more independent arrangements, as well as palliative, rehabilitative, and convalescent services, there are options available to suit all kinds of circumstances.

27 two and three-bedroom villas and 22 serviced apartments are also available. These studios and one-bedroom suites offer extra support without compromising freedom. Here, residents can live privately while receiving the added benefits of daily meals, laundry, house-keeping assistance, and care options. The villas are large, spacious, and the best of both worlds – independence, with companionship and help just seconds away.

If life is what you make it, Rosebank Lifecare could be the best decision you've ever made.






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Cheerful and supportive – Ōtāhuhu


Choosing The Willows Home & Hospital means you can still be in the heart of the big city and nearby to family and friends while benefiting from all the perks that come with assisted living. Tucked away in the neighbourhood of Ōtāhuhu, The Willows is well connected to everything Auckland has to offer. Shops, malls, parks, places of worship, a beautiful library, and various citizen clubs are just a short bus ride or walk away, ensuring you can continue to be social while enjoying extra support at home.


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

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

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

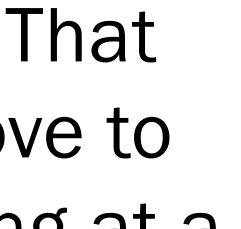
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Moving memories

Packing up all your belongings and moving house is one of the most stressful experiences. That becomes doubly true when facing the move to a retirement village or a rest home. Staring at a lifetime's worth of belongings and memories that need to be sorted, donated, and packaged into boxes can seem nigh on impossible.

That's where Furniture Removal Solutions (FRS) can lend a hand. Whether you're moving over the hill to an idyllic retirement village or lifestyle block, or you're a long-time Wairarapa resident deciding to downsize or transfer to one of the bustling rest home communities, the friendly and focused team can safely shift your belongings from point A to point B.

FRS is a family-owned and operated business with over four decades of combined experience. Based in Masterton and operating across Aotearoa, they provide hassle-free moving experiences that ensure all your things arrive at your new home in one piece – even when making the windy trip over the Remutakas!

No job is too big or too small – they can assist with large-scale items or help you box up your small breakables to ensure they stay intact. The team can lend a hand from start to finish, including with packing, unpacking, and cleaning. They can even help you find a storage space to keep your items somewhere while you take stock of what you need.

If it's peace of mind you're after, FRS is committed to helping you settle in.

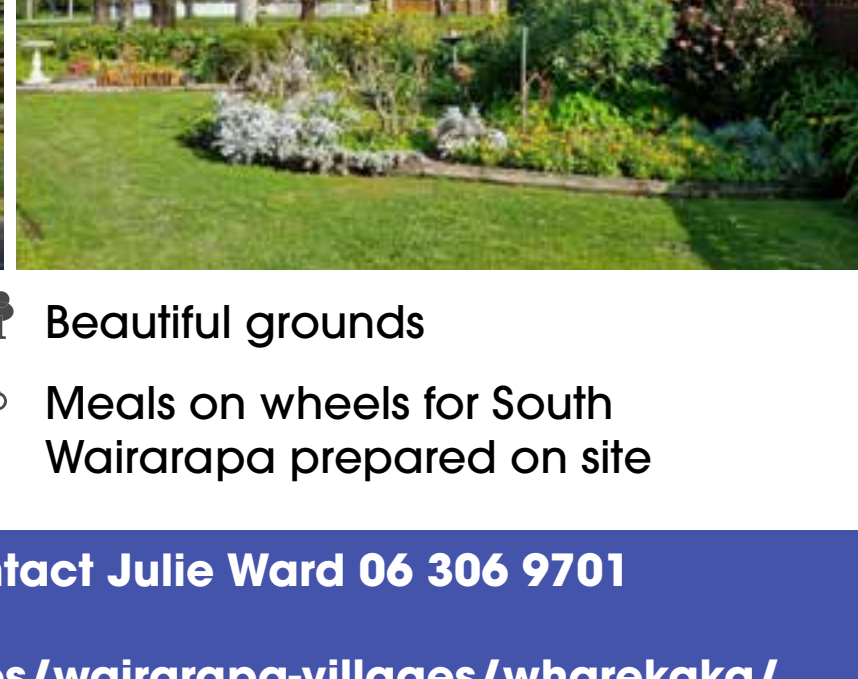
Day of Older Persons

Wharekaka Masonic Village, Martinborough

THE MASONIC VILLAGES TRUST

Discover a vibrant community in the heart of Martinborough

We have 2 villas available to view



12 villas

Beautiful grounds

Onsite parking

Meals on wheels for South Wairarapa prepared on site

Independent living

Oxford Street, Martinborough | Contact Julie Ward 06 306 9701

Julie.ward@masonicvillages.co.nz

www.masonicvillages.co.nz/villages/wairarapa-villages/wharekaka/

Keeping connected – Wairarapa

Wharekaka Masonic Village brings boutique retirement living to Martinborough. Nestled in the centre of Wairarapa's sophisticated heart, this beautiful and well-connected village is designed to offer independence while still catering to your needs.

Located in proximity to everything Martinborough has to offer, Wharekaka is a place you can truly call home. The tight-knit team is dedicated to going above and beyond to exceed your expectations and help you live your life to the fullest.

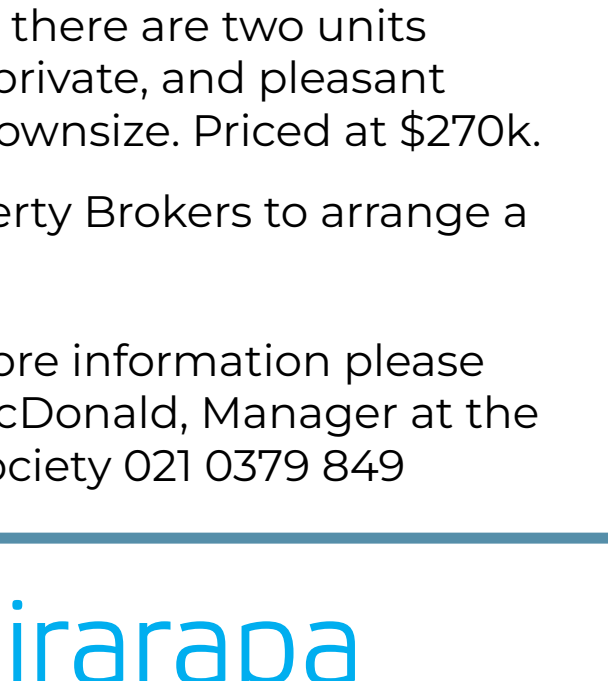
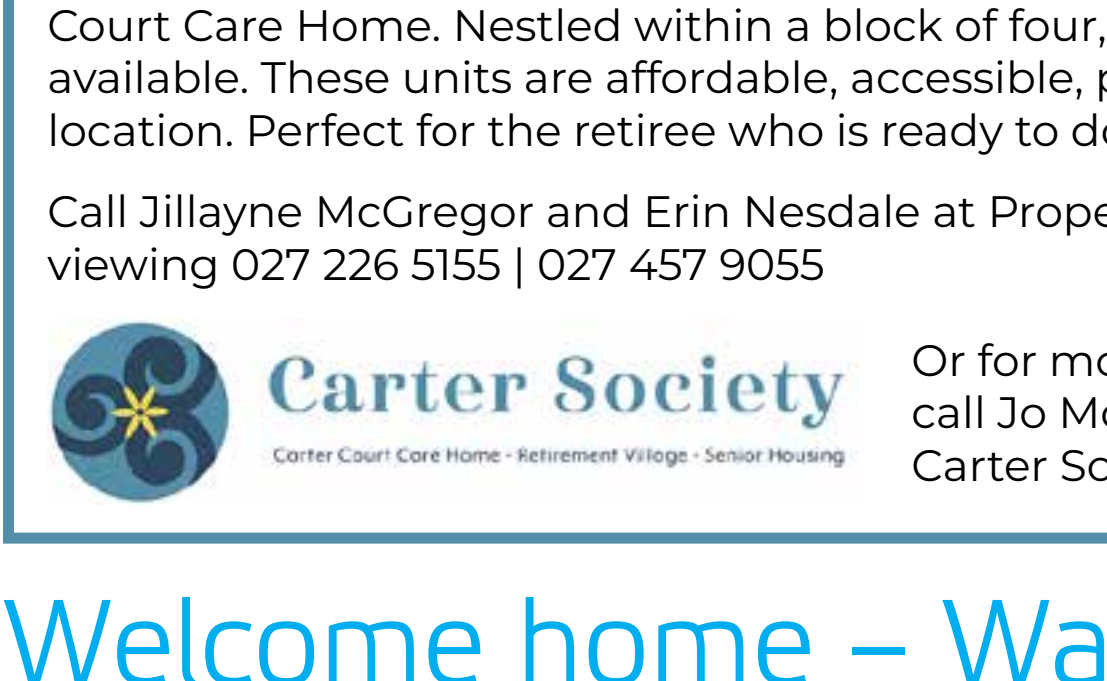
With the goal in mind to enhance your lifestyle, the compassionate and enthusiastic team take care of any property maintenance, and south Wairarapa's meals-on-wheels service is prepared onsite and available to residents, enabling you to have more time to spend on the things that bring you joy. In fact, there are always opportunities available to engage in a range of daytime activities, ensuring you can continue to enjoy the things you love most while benefitting from some added assistance when you want it.

Encompassing only 12 villas, Wharekaka is designed to enable its residents to be fully integrated in the local, vibrant community.

Martinborough is one of the region's most eclectic and busy hubs, with all kinds of events happening throughout the year. From wine tasting and artisan markets to concerts and culinary capers, shopping and strolling to biking and breakfast dates, this slice of Wairarapa with Wharekaka at its heart is designed to offer an active and fulfilling lifestyle.

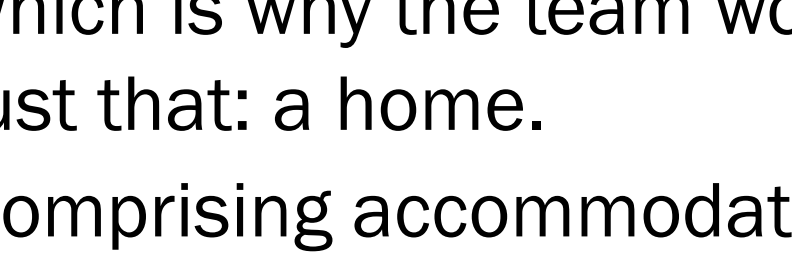
FOR SALE - 2 x 1 bedroom Right to occupy Units

Carter Court Retirement Village, Carterton



Located in Fisher Place, just a short distance to our main facility, Carter Court Care Home. Nestled within a block of four, there are two units available. These units are affordable, accessible, private, and pleasant location. Perfect for the retiree who is ready to downsize. Priced at \$270k.

Call Jillayne McGregor and Erin Nesdale at Property Brokers to arrange a viewing 027 226 5155 | 027 457 9055



Carter Society

Carter Court Care Home - Retirement Village - Senior Housing

Or for more information please call Jo McDonald, Manager at the Carter Society 021 0379 849

Welcome home – Wairarapa

At Carter Court Retirement Village, residents are number one. They are the ones who spend the most time here and the ones that call it home, which is why the team work tirelessly to make it just that: a home.

Comprising accommodation options that range from independent living in the quaint and friendly village to complete care in the comfortable and cheerful rest home, Carter Court adapts to suit residents' needs, tailoring their approach to each person in order to ensure the comfort, care, and safety of those who live on the grounds.

The 10-unit retirement village and 40 independent senior rental units within Carterton township offer the perfect balance between independence and supported living. Accessible and private, these units enable residents to continue living on their own and on their own terms while still having the peace of mind that help is just around the corner if it's ever required.

Whether in the independent living quarters or the rest home, residents have access to all the facilities and activities available at Carter Court. From relaxing gardens to comfortable shared space, veggie patches to hobby rooms, libraries to a hairdresser, and, of course, a team of nurses and staff to help with anything residents require, Carter Court is a social and welcoming place where there is always something fun planned.

Take a look at the place you may like to call home too at www.cartercourt.co.nz



Positive Ageing Services
PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT CENTRAL



Retire in the sunny Wairarapa

Stage 4 completed – Brand new 2-bedroom villas available now!




Enliven's Kandahar Village – Boutique Retirement Community in beautiful Lansdowne, Masterton – Small Village Living, Big Sense of Belonging

- Close to everything the Wairarapa has to offer like vineyards, cafes, bush walks, bike tracks & shops – live your lifestyle while knowing that everything is taken care of
- As your needs change, so too can the care we provide with Kandahar Home and Kandahar Court just around the corner

Call Sharon to view on 06 370 0662 or visit enlivencentral.org.nz

Life your way – Wairarapa

Retirement doesn't have to mean slowing down – it means having more time to do the things you love and live life how you want. Enliven's Kandahar Retirement Village offers a boutique lifestyle to its residents, complete with a vibrant community, access to nature, proximity to bustling Masterton shopping district, and all the comforts of an assisted living environment.

Brand-new two-bedroom villas are now available in Kandahar Retirement Village. Located in the beautiful Lansdowne suburb of Masterton, this manicured and beautifully crafted extension in an established community has just been completed with villas available now. The villas are spacious, modern, sunny, and bright, offering all the small luxuries and amenities that make life comfortable and carefree. Plus, with all the gardening, rates, security, and other features taken care of within your weekly fee, residents don't have to worry about a thing except enjoying life.

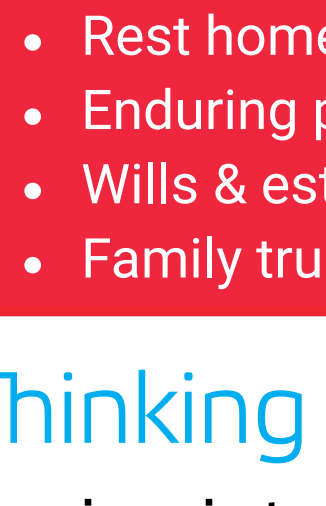
Residents will have access to a vibrant community centre where they can enjoy socialising, clubs, events, and outings with their community. Picking up new or old hobbies is encouraged, and Masterton's centre is just a short drive away, meaning residents have access to everything the bustling town has to offer.

What's more, as needs change, so too can the care Enliven provides thanks to the neighbouring Kandahar Home and Kandahar Court giving preferential entrance to Kandahar Retirement Village residents.

Choose a boutique lifestyle where you know your neighbours and have access to everything you love at Kandahar Retirement Village.

Lawyers that listen.

Life planning decisions made easy.



Jessie Hunt

Senior Associate

(06) 370 6472

jessie.hunt@gibsonsheat.com



Donna Watt

Senior Associate

(06) 929 7433

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- Rest home subsidies & care advice
- Enduring powers of attorney
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Thinking about retirement? – Wairarapa

Buying into a village is not the same as buying a house. Most use a licence to occupy, which means you do not own the unit, plus there are ongoing fees and village rules. These choices affect your money, daily life, and what happens when you leave.

By law, you must get independent legal advice before you sign a retirement village agreement. A cooling-off period applies, and you have 15 working days after signing your Occupation Right Agreement (ORA) to change your mind and cancel.

If you bring Gibson Sheat Lawyers the papers, we will read them with you and explain your options in plain English.

In Masterton, our life planning team gives clear, practical advice. We confirm what services you get and what they cost. We check fee changes, maintenance services, and any refurbishment or capital charges. We explain exit fees, how resale works, when money is repaid, and any deductions. We can also check your will and enduring powers of attorney, so everything aligns.

Get in touch with Gibson Sheat Lawyers before you sign a retirement village agreement, when transferring an ORA, or when planning an exit for a private and pressure-free consultation. We take our time, and you can bring a family member or support person if you like.

Call our Gibson Sheat life planning legal specialists and we will go through the fine print at your pace in person, via phone, or on video. Feel sure about your choice and leave with a plan that fits you.

Day of Older Persons



Wainuiomata Masonic Village

Friendly people, beautiful valley. Come join us!

- 80 Easy-care Villas – join our waitlist
- Woolworths & shops 5 min walk
- 25 min drive to Lambton Quay
- Village Hub activities and amenities
- Independent living Village, fixed fees, ages 65+

Book a tour now 04 564 1118

Live life to the fullest – Wainuiomata

Independence and strong community connection live hand in hand at Wainuiomata Masonic Village. Our beautifully designed independent living retirement village has 80 easy-care villas built over the last five years, a vibrant Village Hub, and a thriving community of more than 100 residents.

We're located in the heart of Wainuiomata Valley and a very short walk to Woolworths, Mitre 10, pharmacies, hairdressers, and many takeaways. We're next to a medical centre, opposite a pharmacy and dentist, and beside a park and children's playground. It's a 15-minute drive to Queensgate Shopping Centre and less than half an hour into Wellington.

Quality of life is front of mind at Wainuiomata Masonic Village. The golden years are meant for enjoying passions, hobbies, and time with friends and loved ones, which is why the facilities are thoughtfully designed to cater to the needs of seniors, providing safe and comfortable spaces to relax, socialise, and thrive. From well-maintained common areas to private residences, group activities to cosy corners, every aspect of the village prioritises resident wellbeing.

We're a friendly village community, offering many activities as well as resident-run events and the opportunity to host your own celebrations in our Village Hub. Wainuiomata Masonic Village prides itself on being more than a place to live. It's a home – where meaningful connections are made and memories are cherished.

Call our friendly village manager Esther to come for a visit and find out more at www.masonicvillages.co.nz



Kapiti Retirement Trust
"a lifestyle to enjoy"

Retirement village and care services for the elderly
"Focussing on our residents needs" Operated by a charitable trust
Three great options - Sevenoaks Retirement Village
- Midlands Gardens Retirement Village - Muriwai Court

04 297 0116 | www.retirekapiti.co.nz

Designed for you – Kapiti

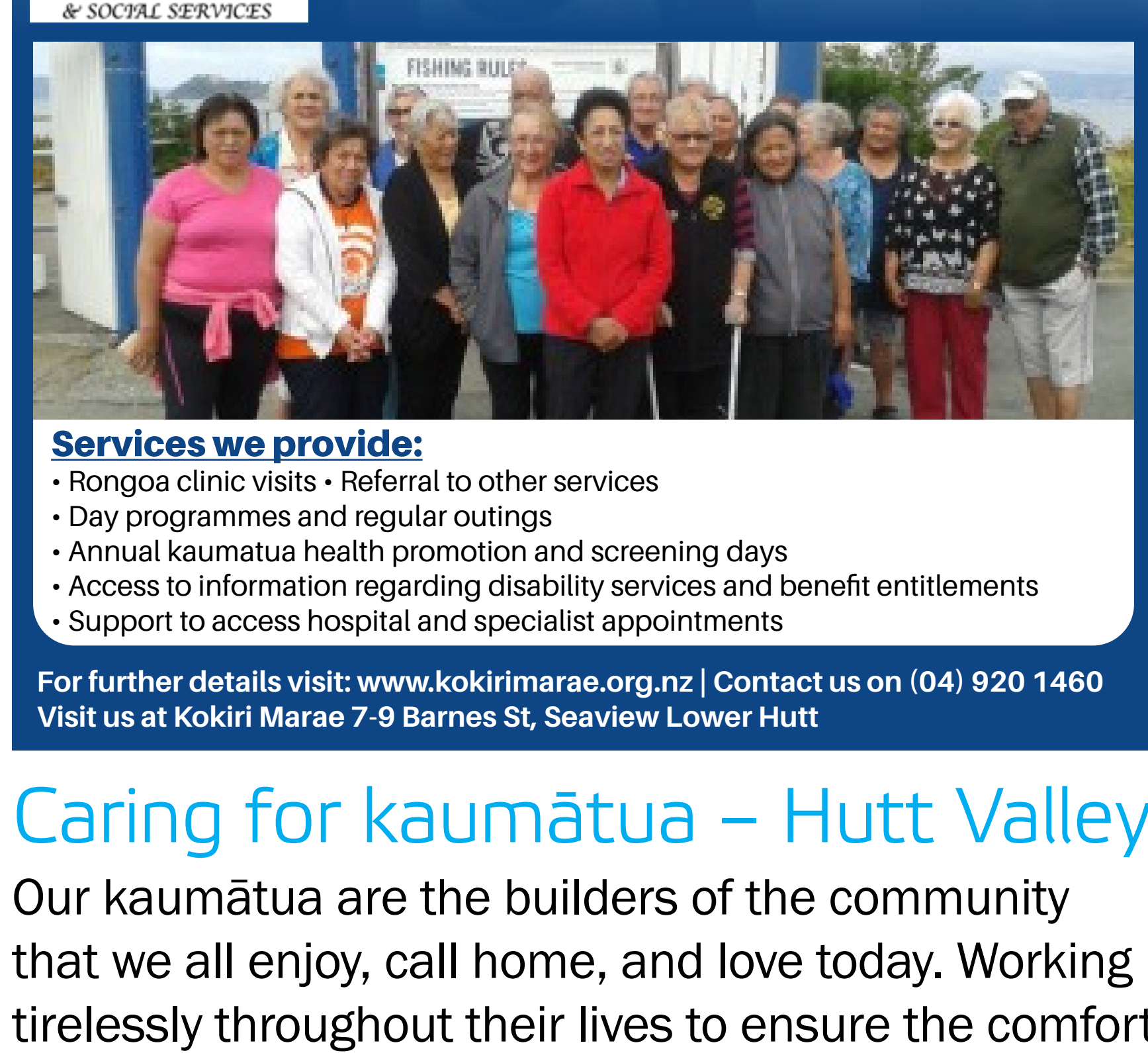
Nearly 70 years ago, a group of Kapiti Coast residents came together to create a charitable trust that would give locals the opportunity to retire and receive care options in the community they loved. Today, Kapiti Retirement Trust continues to provide Coasters with a range of options for their retirement.

Kapiti Retirement Trust operates one village across three locations in Paraparaumu. Sevenoaks, Midlands Gardens, and Muriwai Court feature a variety of well-designed houses and apartments set on spacious landscaped grounds. Care services include rest home, dementia, respite, and day options, plus care suites. With lots of activities, great neighbours, onsite security, helpful and compassionate staff, a supportive environment, sunny spacious homes, beautiful grounds, capital gains, and transparent fees, residents love their lives!

Within New Zealand, retirement villages and care homes have become a major business due to the increasing older demographic and a demand for the services offered by these facilities. Where the Kapiti Retirement Trust differs is that it benefits residents rather than shareholders. Funds are reinvested into the trust to provide continuously improved services and standards of living – that way the people investing in the trust are benefiting the most.

Kapiti Retirement Trust focuses on its residents' needs first – after all, they're the ones who call the network of villages home.

Find out more about an enjoyable, tailored lifestyle at www.retirekapiti.co.nz



Kokiri Marae Health & Social Services

Kaumātua/Pakeke Services

Services we provide:

- Rongoa clinic visits • Referral to other services
- Day programmes and regular outings
- Annual kaumātua health promotion and screening days
- Access to information regarding disability services and benefit entitlements
- Support to access hospital and specialist appointments

For further details visit: www.kokirimarae.org.nz | Contact us on (04) 920 1460
Visit us at Kokiri Marae 7-9 Barnes St, Seaview Lower Hutt

Caring for kaumātua – Hutt Valley

Our kaumātua are the builders of the community that we all enjoy, call home, and love today. Working tirelessly throughout their lives to ensure the comfort and safety of those younger than themselves, it is time that we take care of them when they need us most.

Kōkiri Marae is passionate and dedicated to serving the needs of its community. Structured yet flexible, challenging yet supportive, focused yet holistic, the compassionate and knowledgeable team offer a range of community, social, and hauora services aimed specifically at our kaumātua and pakeke.

Health services encompass specialised and broad programmes, including rongoā clinic visits, annual kaumātua health promotions and screenings, referrals to other services, support during hospital and specialist appointments, and access to information regarding disability and benefit entitlements. Kōkiri Marae even organises day programmes and regular outings!

All these initiatives and services assist kuia and koroua Māori maintain their independence and enjoy a higher quality of life. Isolation is something that affects many members of New Zealand's older community members, which is why Kōkiri Marae make it their mission to provide a range of solutions to meet their needs. By facilitating access to services and information across the region, the team can support the generations of our community that are most at risk and advocate for their independence and wellbeing.

To find out more about how Kōkiri Marae can help you or your kaumātua, visit www.kokiri.org.nz



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Smooth sailing – Wellington

For legal services from Wellingtonians, for Wellingtonians, Sievwrights Law is the first port of call. The experienced local team have cultivated a reputation for excellence and are committed to helping their community with all personal, commercial, and property-related legal needs.

When it comes to wills, power of attorney (POA), and elder law, Sievwrights can help you get your affairs in order. POA grants someone the authority to act on your behalf legally, financially, and personally when you are unable to, while a will outlines how your assets should be handled after your passing, guaranteeing your wishes are followed even when you're not here. It's crucial to sort these matters before they're needed to ensure everyone is on the same page and that proceedings run smoothly.

The team take a tailored approach with each client. Their top priority is ensuring you achieve your goals and will work tirelessly to exceed your expectations. With a deep understanding of the New Zealand legal system, they prioritise communication and listening to your specific needs and concerns so they can help you achieve the desired result.

Sievwrights Law can guide you through the complexities of the legal system, providing peace of mind and helping you understand all the technical details so that you feel in control of your interests. Find out more or get in touch at www.sievwrights.co.nz or call us.

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International Day of Older Persons

Honouring our elders



International Day of Older Persons on the 1st of October provides the perfect opportunity to honour and celebrate the older people in our lives. Traditionally, older persons took on roles as custodians of children and wise counsellors due to the experience garnered over their lifetimes. They are a fount of knowledge and should be revered and respected for all they have achieved and accomplished.

First celebrated in 1991, International Day of Older Persons was established by the United Nations to raise awareness about the issues affecting our ageing community (65 and above).

This year's theme is Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide. By 2030, older people are projected to outnumber youth globally. It's imperative to adjust to this increase by promoting wellness, encouraging involvement, and preventing and treating illnesses throughout the entire course of our lives. As people age, their ability to partake in everyday activities depends heavily on health. If older people are able to maintain a healthy lifestyle, then a longer life brings endless opportunities not only for the individual and their family, but also for society.

This October the 1st, there are many ways to celebrate your elders. Make a photo album, gift age-friendly technology to stay connected and engaged, volunteer at a rest home, enrol your loved ones in a course to rekindle an old passion or learn a new skill, or just simply spend time with them.

Future foundations



When building, extending, or renovating your home, you want to know it's in safe hands. Finding a team you can trust is easier said than done, but there's nothing like a proven track record and years of experience to give you peace of mind. Highland Homes Construction have both in droves and deliver every project with precision and professionalism.

At the helm is Craig Livingstone, who is dedicated to building the foundations of your future. Craig and his team of specialists provide an unparalleled level of service that encompasses all your plans while still meeting your budget. They pride themselves on creating spaces that reflect your dreams, needs, and lifestyle, even as they evolve in the years to come.

If you're looking to spruce up the family home after years of life and love, Highland Homes Construction can update and restore it to its former glory.

Working across Wellington on some of the most detailed character homes, the team will ensure they modernise older villas for comfort while still retaining their classic charm. The crew can also add space and functionality with an extension that's in keeping with the style of your home.

If you're keen to start fresh and finally build your dream home, Highland Homes Construction can help from concept to completion and incorporate all your ideas along the way. Plus, they offer advice on everything from cost estimates to design guidance. Whether big or small, Highland Homes Construction does it all.



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FREE ESTIMATES / QUOTES

CLIENT REVIEW: ★★★★★

Craig is the absolute best. The quality of his workmanship is incredible, and my repair job was full of surprises - he wasn't daunted by any of it, the handfuls of rotten piles and framing, the joinery that didn't quite fit, the 3D jigsaw puzzle of a kitchen he installed. He communicated brilliantly all the way through, and left the spaces tidy and livable at the end of each day. Also a very sweet person. Everyone who has been to see the house is beyond impressed with what he has managed to do, and price-wise he achieved so much within a tight budget. Very much a problem solver, incredibly pragmatic, diligent and clever. Gillian Parnham

Contact: Craig Livingstone, 022 032 1376

Email: office@hhconstruction.co.nz • www.hhconstruction.co.nz



International Day of Older Persons

Making memories



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

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

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

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

Breaking barriers



International Day of Older Persons on the 1st of October provides the perfect opportunity to honour and celebrate the older people in our lives. With World Osteoporosis Day just a few weeks later on the 20th, this month is also a good excuse to check in with our whānau who are at an age when staying fit and healthy is particularly important.

Dedicated to raising global awareness of bone health and the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis, World Osteoporosis Day makes noise for what is often referred to as the silent disease. Osteoporosis causes bones to become weak and fragile, making them susceptible to breaks and cracks – even as a result of a minor fall, bump, sneeze, or sudden movement. Fractures caused by osteoporosis can be life-threatening and a major cause of pain and disability.

Despite one in three women and one in five men aged 50 years and over suffering from an osteoporotic fracture, the disease is vastly underdiagnosed and undertreated. Our bones are the foundation of our wellbeing and independence and should be a top priority for everyone.

There are a number of measures that can reduce the risk of developing osteoporosis, such as maintaining a healthy body weight, doing regular weight-bearing exercises, avoiding smoking, limiting alcohol intake, ensuring an adequate dietary intake of calcium, and getting 20 minutes of sun exposure daily to maintain vitamin D levels.

Find out more and access resources online at www.osteoporosis.org.nz

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A strong skeleton for life

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and discuss the results with your healthcare professional.

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Buy – build – renovate

Proud to be small



L-R: Rose Stevens, Kathryn Forsyth, Ruth Kilmister, and Jess Innes.

We're not a big bank, but good things come in small packages. At WBS, we're proud of being small. Small enables us to treat our customers in the personable way that we do. It means we are accessible for customers and we can make lending decisions quickly.

When it comes to loans or deposits, new customers don't need to transfer their everyday bank accounts to us. We are here to help with the big decisions, not the daily transactions. We try and make our customers' lives as easy as possible.

We're regulated by the RBNZ but being small means we're able to think outside the box. We get to know our customers and their lending and investing needs. Our profits stay in the Wairarapa, going right back to the local community we support through sponsorship and grants from the WBS Charitable Trust.

Long-time investor at WBS, Warren Reiri, summed up our client service recently.

"When I first joined WBS in the 1980s, I would come in if I needed a smile and I'd always get one – on the way in and on the way out," Warren says. "It's the same today. Even on the phone, the staff are there to help me. They always have time for me, and I feel like they'd do anything to help."

WBS chief executive John Healy says that for a small organisation "we do an amazing job, thanks to our staff, our board, and all our supporters in the community".

Delivering excellence



Retirement means you'll be spending more time in the comfort of your own home, but is it comfortable? Whether you want a better conditioning unit, lights that don't flicker, an upgraded security system, or outdated wiring replaced, Eclipse Electrical are happy to help.

The fully qualified and accredited team of electrical contractors operate across Wellington, up and down the Hutt Valley, along the Kapiti Coast, and over the hill in Wairarapa. They offer 24-hour emergency callout services and are available for jobs of all shapes and sizes. With a reputation built on customer satisfaction and long-lasting partnerships, what sets Eclipse Electrical apart is their dependability and five-star service.

Not only can Eclipse Electrical help you upgrade to a new heat pump or HVAC system that will keep your home warmer in winter and cooler in summer, but they can also help you save money on your electric bill by installing a unit that is energy efficient. This means less of your hard-earned pension and retirement savings will be tied up in bills so you can do more of what you love.

Whether you're home or away more often in retirement, a security, alarm, or CCTV system can help keep you, your loved ones, and all your belongings safe.

The friendly and dependable team are also happy to perform small electrical repairs, upgrade switchboards and lighting, and test and tag your appliances. Get in touch with Eclipse Electrical so they can help you feel more comfortable.



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Back to contents



Growing roots



Detail of *Camellia* by Heather Kremen.

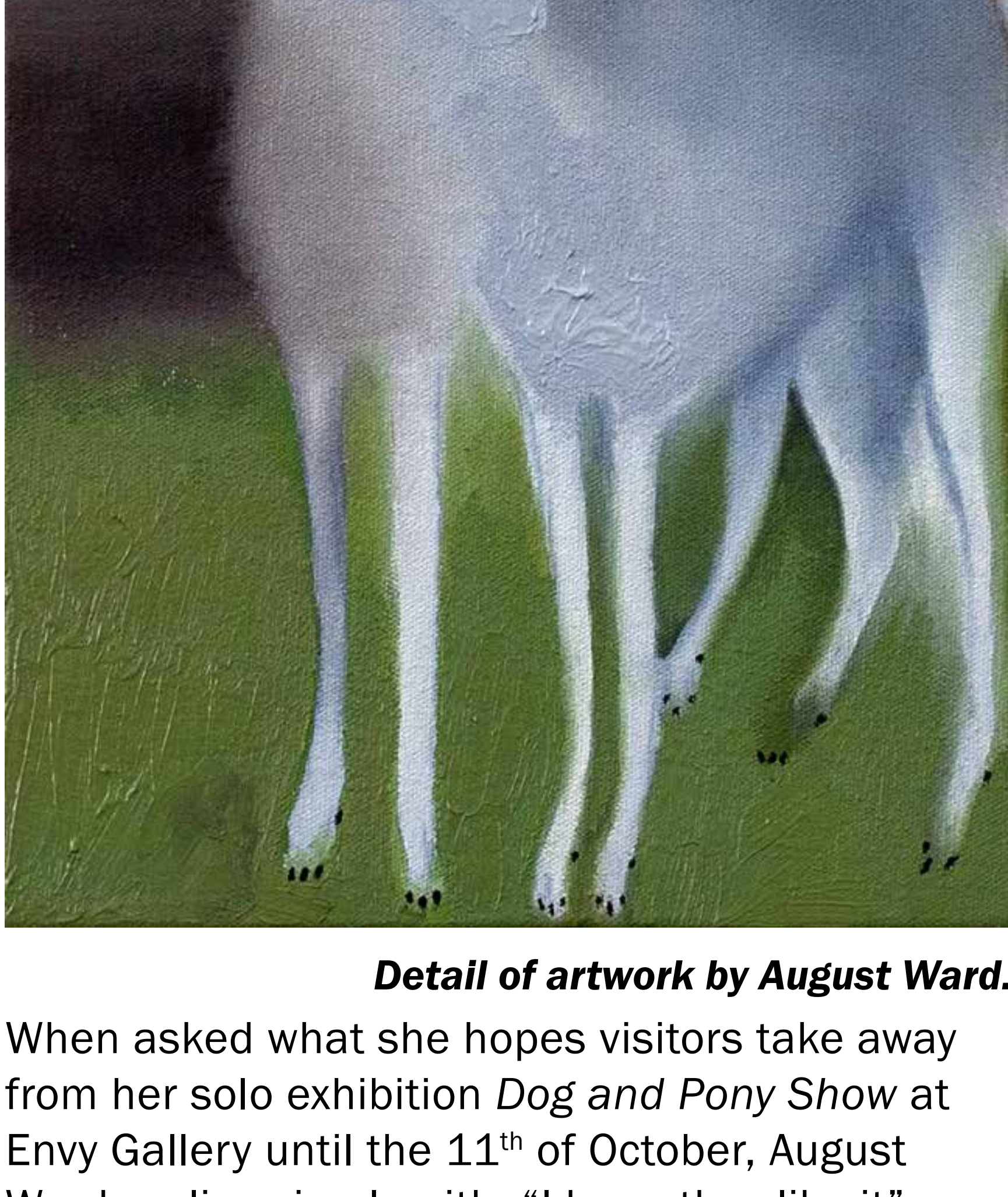
Glass artist Heather Kremen explores the link between plants and people, sowing stories of belonging, migration, and memory into the fruits of her labour.

“While I have a handful of endemic plants in my yard, and have planted more, my yard is also full of imported plants – fruit trees, flowers, and grass. They have immigrated here, so to speak, just as I have,” Kremen says. “Like the Pākehā and Chinese populations that have been in New Zealand for close to 200 years now, a lot of the non-native plants have become permanently part of the local scenery. They were brought over for various reasons such as food, medicine, and decoration. Seeing several of these plants reminds me of my time living in the USA and Japan, they are comforting when I have a touch of homesickness. I’m sure many other immigrants feel the same way. That said, I want this beautiful land that took me in to flourish, and I want to do my part to make it better.”

In her new glass art exhibition *Transplant* at Pātaka Art + Museum until the 9th of November, Kremen creates stylised interpretations of familiar plants – forms that speak to both recognition and reinvention. Her process includes crafting intricate murrine in the hot shop and at a tabletop torch, as well as using fused glass rollups, hot sculpting, and detailed coldworking.

She says her “goal is to get people to connect more with the world around them, to ask where our scenery comes from, and how they can relate to it”, as well as draw attention to our native plants to appreciate how unique and valuable they are.

Beneath the surface



Detail of artwork by August Ward.

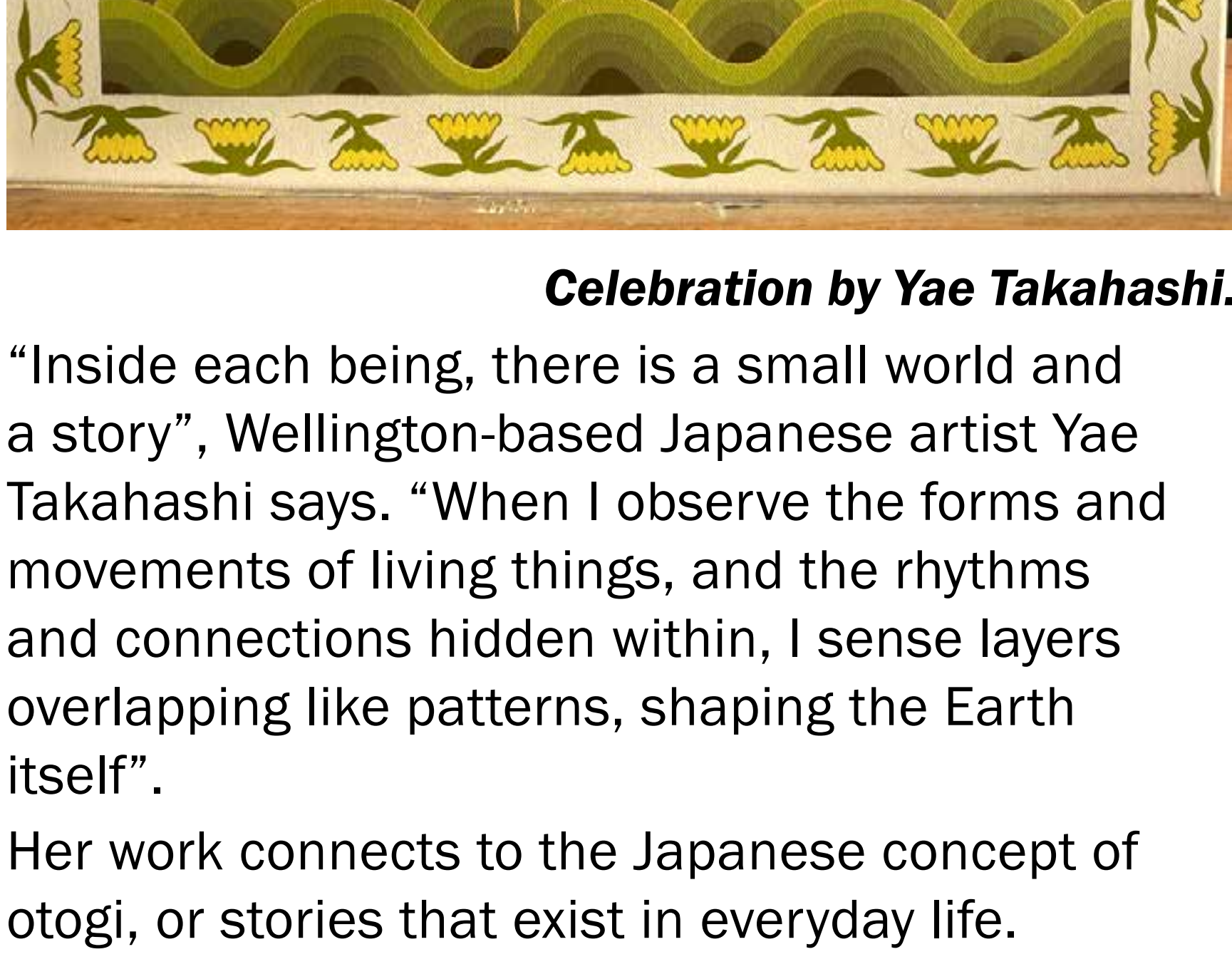
When asked what she hopes visitors take away from her solo exhibition *Dog and Pony Show* at Envy Gallery until the 11th of October, August Ward replies simply with: “I hope they like it”.

Though she says her inspiration often comes from “glamorous women” with her work exploring the glamour in everyday life, Ward’s new oil paintings follow more in her continued interest in references such as reality TV shows (the *Real Housewives* franchise), identity (transsexuality), consumption (plastic surgery), and fame. The idea of surface and appearance is central to her work, which often conceals something darker underneath.

Having been stuck in a phase of painting bouquets of flowers, the Tāmaki Makaurau-based creative “wanted to explore different subject matter because I was worried people would start to think about me as primarily a painter of florals. It started with *Multiple Dogs*, a painting of some hounds, and expanded to a cat and an ambiguous horse/donkey animal. I thought the phrase *Dog and Pony Show* was funny and a good name for a show of animal paintings.”

Graduating from Elam School of Fine Arts in 2022 and exhibiting around the motu at Paper Anniversary, Sanc Gallery, Paludal, and twice now at Envy with an upcoming show in Europe, the emerging artist says that she didn’t choose painting as a medium intentionally. “It is kind of just a compulsive thing I have been doing since I was a child. Painting definitely comes from somewhere deep and mysterious.”

Tiny universes



Celebration by Yae Takahashi.

“Inside each being, there is a small world and a story”, Wellington-based Japanese artist Yae Takahashi says. “When I observe the forms and movements of living things, and the rhythms and connections hidden within, I sense layers overlapping like patterns, shaping the Earth itself”.

Her work connects to the Japanese concept of otogi, or stories that exist in everyday life.

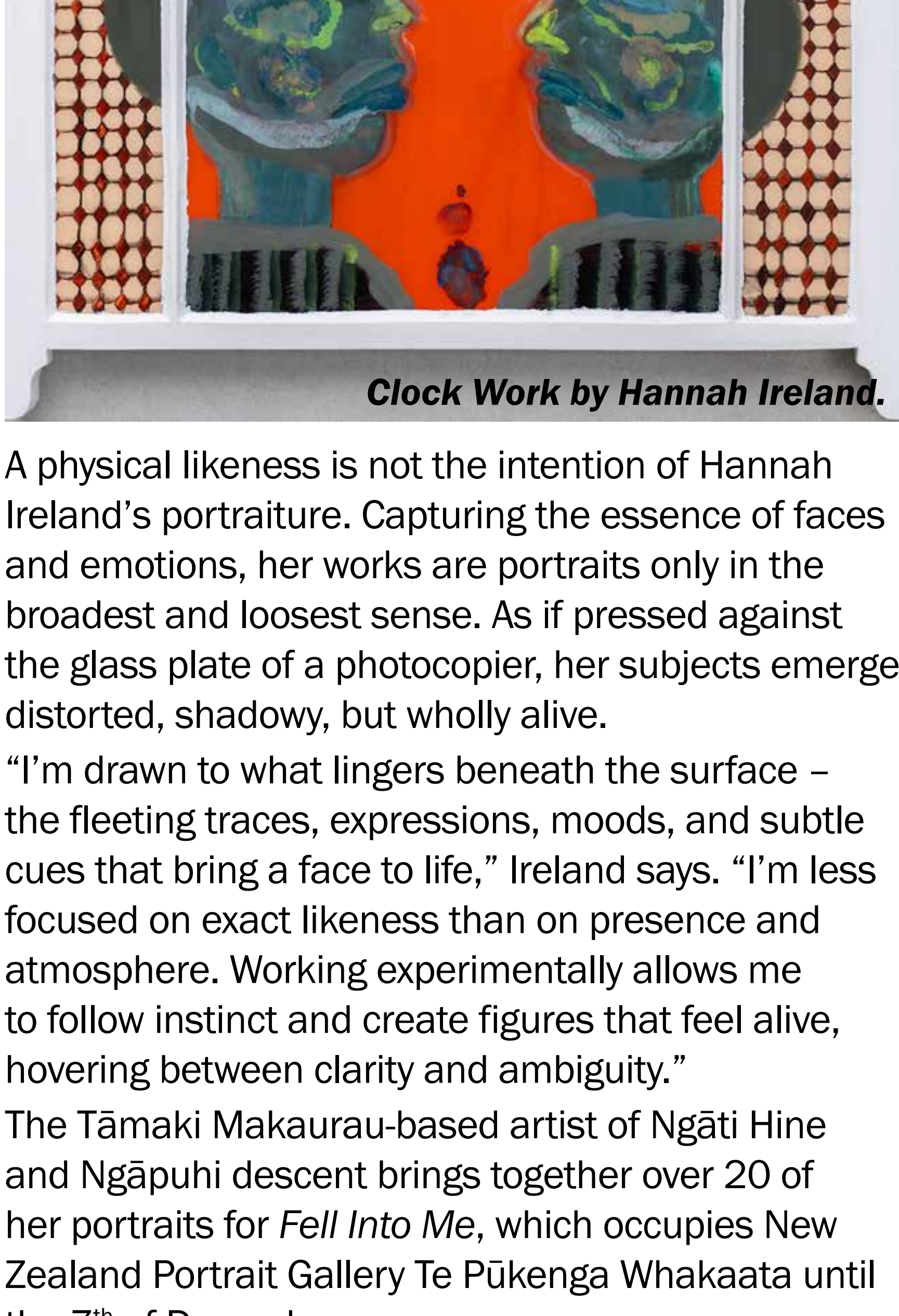
“Just as there are always stories in our own lives, I believe that animals, nature, and even unseen energies are never in a fixed state but are constantly changing, and within that change, there are stories too,” Takahashi explains. “Like fractals, similar patterns unfold on both micro and macro levels, and I feel that together they shape the Earth.”

Influenced by the traditional colours and motifs of both Japan and Aotearoa and fascinated by pieces that seem simple at first but reveal unexpected details upon closer examination, her work expresses the hidden connections and harmony of life through simplified forms and patterned designs of animals, plants, and natural elements.

Her solo exhibition *The Art of OTOGI* at Thistle Hall from the 23rd to the 28th of September explores otogi through the delicate balance between boldness and subtlety, inviting viewers into these layered worlds to offer them a moment to pause and step into the gentle narratives within nature.

“I focus on a single small scene from a story in each of my works”, Takahashi says. “Otogi stories are the fairytales I grew up hearing as a matter of course in Japan. Though often unseen, I gently capture these otogi-like moments – delicate landscapes that quietly exist all around us”.

Anyone, everyone, someone, and no one



Clock Work by Hannah Ireland.

A physical likeness is not the intention of Hannah Ireland’s portraiture. Capturing the essence of faces and emotions, her works are portraits only in the broadest and loosest sense. As if pressed against the glass plate of a photocopier, her subjects emerge distorted, shadowy, but wholly alive.

“I’m drawn to what lingers beneath the surface – the fleeting traces, expressions, moods, and subtle cues that bring a face to life,” Ireland says. “I’m less focused on exact likeness than on presence and atmosphere. Working experimentally allows me to follow instinct and create figures that feel alive, hovering between clarity and ambiguity.”

The Tāmaki Makaurau-based artist of Ngāti Hine and Ngāpuhi descent brings together over 20 of her portraits for *Fell Into Me*, which occupies New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata until the 7th of December.

“*Fell Into Me* brings together works from across my early career, allowing them to speak across time, process, and materials,” Ireland says. “It explores how we connect, remember, and transform, showing how people reveal and conceal themselves at once. Through stitched canvases, glass, and silk, figures emerge, dissolve, and reassemble, highlighting the layered and shifting qualities of memory and identity.”

Her work is grounded in a tug and pull, a relationship between control and spontaneity. Depicting anyone, everyone, someone, and no one in particular, the figures hint at the shapeshifting nature of how people present themselves in different situations.

“I hope visitors feel a sense of recognition – of themselves, others, or a sense of familiarity they can’t quite put into words,” Ireland continues. “I want people to spend time in a space that encourages reflection, curiosity, and connection, where vulnerability and ambiguity are embraced, and where meaning emerges through looking, feeling, and engaging with the works”.

Taranaki

Like no other



Taranaki's running festival isn't your average jog in the park (unless you count the five-kilometre run in Pukekura Park... which is also epic). The Coastal Five is a one-of-a-kind, five-event running adventure stretched over two glorious days between the 15th and 16th of November.

Whether you're gunning for the full marathon distance across all five events or just keen to dip your toes in one, this choose-your-own-adventure race weekend is yours to shape.

Set against a backdrop of lush native bush, wild coastline, and dramatic Taranaki Maunga, the Coastal Five reimagines the marathon with a fresh, flexible twist.

Roll through hills and cruise the Te Henui Walkway before finishing right in the buzzing heart of New Plymouth for the Coastal Half Marathon (21.1km).

The Habit Health Pukeiti Climb (10km) is defined by ferns, flowers, and a cheeky hill or two in the stunning Pukeiti Gardens.

The Shoe Clinic Pukekura Park 5K is lush, iconic, short, and oh-so-sweet.

The Lake Mangamahoe Track (4.5km) features forest vibes and maunga views that'll make you pause mid-run (or blame the hill for your break).

Streamline Mile (1.6km) is fast, flat, and the perfect chance to show off that sprint finish – or power-walk it like a boss.

The Coastal Five has something for everyone – first-timers, seasoned striders, costume runners, and personal-best hunters alike. Run one. Run them all.

Run your way. Sign up at www.coastalfive.co.nz

Real gardens for real people



The Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival is being presented for the 21st time in 2025. This year, we are excited to share with you over 40 gardens and places of interest throughout the region.

We offer a large variety of gardens that range from picture-perfect to practical and achievable. This spectrum is chosen by design. We want you to go away brimming with inspiration and the knowledge that you too can create your own garden of delight regardless of the time, money, or space you have at hand.

Stretching from the coast to the base of Mount Taranaki, the bustling centre city to quaint countryside towns, and everywhere in between, the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival is as vast and varied as the region itself.

Just as important as the gardens are the gardeners behind them and the Taranaki Garden Trust seeks to celebrate their passion and achievement. That's why we encourage you to meet the gardeners, share their stories, and learn from their adventures each time you visit a garden – whether it's a familiar favourite or from a fresh face.

We're committed to keeping things personal and accessible. Entry to any of our gardens is \$2, as it was when we started 21 festivals ago.

We thank you for your support and invite you to discover, share, and enjoy our real gardens for (and by) real people from Friday the 31st of October to Sunday the 9th of November.

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[Sign up now at coastalfive.co.nz](http://www.coastalfive.co.nz)

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TARANAKI

Real Gardens for Real People

Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival

31st October to 9th November 2025



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[@](#) [f](#) **TaranakiFringeGardenFestival**

Taranaki

Get tattooed!



The 13th New Zealand Tattoo & Art Festival presented by Bepanthen Tattoo Aftercare hits the TSB Stadium in New Plymouth on the 29th and 30th of November. Featuring over 250 of the best tattoo artists from around the world and New Zealand, the lineup includes Vice TV host Grace Neutral from the UK, black and grey specialist Carlos Torres from the USA, and colour realism legend Steve Butcher back in New Zealand for the first time in five years.

The festival has a stacked entertainment lineup featuring New Zealand rock legends Head Like a Hole live at 5pm on Saturday, FMX Legends Live shows by X Games world champion Levi Sherwood, Franklin Farm BMX team events featuring Nitro Circus stars Jed Mildon and Ellie Chew, tattoo competitions, retail stalls, food trucks, a Panhead bar, and much more.

Spend the weekend immersed in tattoo culture at the best tattoo event Down Under. Secure your ticket by the 31st of October to be in to win a \$500 tattoo voucher and a one-night stay at the Novotel New Plymouth Taranaki.

The festival provides the perfect opportunity to get tattooed with all styles of tattooing under one roof. Artists are taking bookings now and walk-up tattoo appointments will also be available over the two-day event. Visit the artist page at www.nztattooart.com to view the full lineup and get hyped for a one-of-a-kind event.

Celebrating stories, land, and legacy



From the 3rd of October to the 8th of November, Taranaki opens its doors to the past with over 40 events that honour the region's rich cultural tapestry. Taranaki Heritage Month is more than a calendar of activities, it's an invitation to walk the land, hear the voices, and connect with the stories that shaped this corner of Aotearoa.

This year's programme features powerful reflections on Māori heritage, including a panel on Dame Whina Cooper's 1975 Māori land march and a symposium exploring Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi). Visitors can experience guided walks through historic sites, ride a heritage train with the Waitara Railway Preservation Society, and explore conservation work behind the scenes.

Film lovers will enjoy screenings of rare archival footage and moving documentaries like *Tatarakihi: The Children of Parihaka*. Families are welcomed with interactive museum events, while history buffs can dive into bottle archaeology, uncover tales of pioneering women, and so much more.

Whether you're sipping gin in a heritage-listed distillery or tracing footsteps through Pukekura Park, Taranaki Heritage Month offers little and big Kiwis alike a vibrant, hands-on journey into the heart of the region.

For full event listings, visit Heritage Taranaki online at www.heritagetaranaki.com and make this spring a season of discovery.



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The Christmas Village





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What stories of people and events are embedded in our Taranaki landscape. How have they shaped our cultural identity in Taranaki? Let's share our stories together!
 The programme for 2025 is available at: www.heritagetaranaki.com f heritagetaranaki

Taranaki

A world in itself



Glockenspiel Clock Tower.

Stratford is a world away yet just around the corner. With Egmont National Park to the west and Whanganui National Park to the east, Stratford is the perfect base for whatever adventure you have in mind.

Hidden gems are everywhere. The Cardiff Centennial Walkway follows the Waingongoro River through farmland, bush, and a swingbridge. Formerly a dairy farm, the lush Holland gardens have been rated five stars by the New Zealand Gardens Trust. Stratford's King Edward Park features the McCullough Rhododendron Dell, the historic Malone Memorial Gates, and the entrance to the Carrington Walkway – a nine-kilometre urban and rural trail.

Filled with boutiques, galleries, and quirky cafés, Stratford is popping with culture, history, and art. The Percy Thompson Art Gallery and Fenton Street Arts Collective is a gallery, distillery, and espresso bar all in one. TET Kings Theatre was the first cinema in the Southern Hemisphere to show talkies. A dream for literary lovers, streets are named in Shakespeare's honour, and the glockenspiel clock tower performs the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* four times a day. The Pioneer Village is like a window into the past.

Stratford stands at one end of the Forgotten World Highway (SH43), which traces the history of the region's early pioneers through jaw-dropping landscapes. It leads to Taumarunui and passes through tunnels, the Tangarakau Gorge, and the republic of Whangamōmona.

Stratford is steeped in natural beauty and brimming with character.

Taranaki Arts Trail 2025



Photo by Brendan Larsen.

Join us from the 31st of October to 9th of November for the Taranaki Arts Trail, where over 60 emerging and established talented artists will open their studios to the public for free. This celebration of creativity invites you to engage with a diverse array of local artists creating paintings, jewellery, photography, ceramics, sculptures, prints, and mixed media works while showcasing their unique skills.

As you explore the trail, you'll have the rare opportunity to witness the creative process firsthand, engage with artists as they share their stories and inspirations, and deep dive into the techniques and practices to see the dedication that goes into creating these unique artworks.

The trail explores Taranaki's breathtaking landscapes, where the majestic Taranaki Maunga, native rainforests, and stunning coastlines provide a picturesque backdrop to your artistic adventure. The beauty of the Taranaki Arts Trail is how it reveals hidden gems you'd never find otherwise. Following studio maps takes you down quiet country roads, past heritage buildings, and into communities where tourism is still at its most authentic.

Taranaki offers something increasingly rare: an authentic experience in a place where natural beauty and human creativity exist in perfect harmony. The Taranaki Arts Trail is your invitation to discover both and to understand why those who find Taranaki tend to lose a piece of their heart to this remarkable place.

To plan your adventure, pick up a brochure or visit www.taranakiartstrail.co.nz



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31st Oct - 9th Nov 2025

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Back to contents



Showbiz, baby *by Alessia Belsito-Riera*



It has been 15 years since the release of *Burlesque* the movie; over a decade since Cher requested *Wagon Wheel Watusi*... are we any closer to knowing what it is?

Nope! But Velma Cherry [pictured] thinks we may finally find out at *Burlesque The Movie (The Burlesque Show)*, a tribute to the iconic movie starring local and national talents from near and far at Whisky & Wood on the 3rd of October.

A dazzling spectacle in the lush sanctuary perched high above the grit and the grime, the noise and the naughties of the city, this show features all the hits from the film performed live by real burlesque, draglesque, and vocal artists. Strutting their stuff on stage are headliners Shania Came and Tryst'n Oliver-Town, plus Robin Yabland, Ginger Velour, Diamante Doll, JoJo Bellini, Tenacious Venom, Lou Handsome, Aracella, and Victor Victorious.

With a legacy that stretches back over 100 years, I asked producer and host Velma Cherry what makes performers and audiences come back for more.

“Burlesque keeps evolving because every performer brings their own spin to it. We reach back into the history to learn the craft and then build something new from it that’s all our own,” she says. “That’s what keeps audiences coming back – the joy in the room, the energy exchange between the performers and the audience, and seeing something of themselves reflected on stage.”

Step into the world of sequins and stars at *Burlesque The Movie (The Burlesque Show)*.

A poignant portrait



Picking up the Sundance Film Festival’s Audience Award before selling out cinemas at Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival in August of this year, the feature-length documentary *Prime Minister*, which tells the story of Rt Hon Dame Jacinda Ardern, will finally launch in cinemas nationwide on the 25th of September.

Directed by award-winning filmmakers Lindsay Utz and Michelle Walshe, *Prime Minister* follows New Zealand’s 40th national leader over seven years, capturing the pinnacle of her political career thus far and featuring footage shot by her husband Clarke Gayford. The result is a rare and personal portrait of Ardern that offers insight into both her public and private life.

During her time in office, Ardern led the nation through unprecedented challenges – including a live-streamed domestic terrorist attack, a volcanic eruption, and the COVID pandemic – implemented bold policies, and became the second prime minister in history to give birth while in office, all while championing an inclusive and empathetic leadership style.

“Our goal was to give audiences an intimate, front-row seat to the extraordinary demands of leading a country – made even more remarkable as Jacinda navigated some of New Zealand’s most significant crises while balancing the realities of new motherhood,” Walshe and Utz say. “Her approach to leadership during times of immense pressure and uncertainty offers a powerful reminder of what’s possible when leaders prioritise people.”



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Popping, locking, and dropping it to the world stage

by **Alessia Belsito-Riera**



If you attend the Pump Dance Studios fundraising showcase on Saturday the 11th of October at Lower Hutt Little Theatre, you'll get to see New Zealand's representatives before their chance to win big at the Hip Hop Unite World Championships in Prague, Czechia at the end of the month. The 15 young Wellington dancers aged 10 to 13 are blown away that they have been selected to compete as part of the 18-strong Revolution cadet mega crew on the world stage, but they need help to get there.

"Dancing is my life, and I never dreamed in a million years I could have this chance right now," Tara Hall, age 10, says, followed up quickly by her teammate Willow King, age 11, who is so excited to "represent New Zealand and show the world what Revolution can do"!

To make their dreams a reality, dedicated coaches, parents, and supporters are fundraising \$75,000 through Givealittle to fully meet the team's travel, accommodation, and competition costs.

Hip Hop Unite World Championships is a premier dance competition that brings together the best international dance teams of all ages to battle it out for gold. The event is an inclusive, positive, and uplifting experience for everyone involved with workshops from international choreographers and connecting with dancers from around the world a core part of the experience. Competing in the Cadet Mega Crew category, New Zealand's Revolution will be judged by a panel of international hip-hop choreographers and experts.

Pump Dance Studios director Gemma Laing knows that to win gold on a world stage, the crew needs to be dedicated and work hard to make their dream a reality.

"Hip-hop teaches dancers from a young age to chase their dreams and work hard towards things they love. It also teaches great life skills around teamwork, commitment, and resilience, and how to set goals and work towards them," she says.

Good thing the team are as driven as they come! Dancers Florence and Ruby say that rehearsals are "going really well".

"We've been putting in so much hard work and the dance is coming together amazingly," Florence beams, adding that she loves the "energy and the excitement" of dancing in front of audiences and the feeling of stepping out onto the stage.

"I'm most excited to compete on the world stage and to travel to Prague with my friends to do the thing we love most," she says.

As for Ruby, she loves high-energy dancing and hip-hop music... and her welcoming teammates, of course! She can't wait to experience a new culture and "travel across the world with my team, representing New Zealand".

Come along to the fundraising showcase or search Revolution Dance Crew on Givealittle to help the team realise their dreams.

Spontaneous sorcery



A celebration of spontaneity, the New Zealand Improv Festival (NZIF) crumples all that is wacky, weird, and wonderful about improvised theatre into a nine-day smorgasbord of shows, workshops, conferences, and comedy that will warm the heart and tickle the funny bone between the 26th of September and the 4th of October.

With almost all of the 34 workshops at capacity, your best bet is to settle into one of the 22 shows bursting onto the BATS Theatre stage this spring. Bull Rush [pictured] beelines from Auckland with their side-splitting, sexy, scintillating improv. Local comedy favourites Ginge & Minge present *Redemption*, where game players give their comedy ideas a second chance. Māori and Pasifika improv group Kōrero Paki return with their third outing of mean kōrero and wild comedy. Festival favourite *The Made-Up Smackdown* is a thrilling, unpredictable competition of late-night improvisational glory.

Just the tip of the improv iceberg, what binds the shows together are key principles of listening, acceptance, and support, with festival co-directors Jim Fishwick and Matt Powell adding that the NZIF kaupapa is to "demonstrate the power of improv to bring people together in the moment, performer and audience alike, to create new things that no individual could have made by themselves".

As our editor Maddi said a few years ago, "If you want to laugh till your belly hurts, watch wizards weave worlds out of thin air, and be a part of something special, inimitable, then catch as many NZIF shows as you can."

Let's Dance



Artwork by Hugo del Mar.

Sound and Vision collide in Featherston, transforming it into BowieTown between the 26th and 28th of September and giving festivalgoers access to a *Moonage Daydream*.

From *Dancing in the Street* to art in Anzac Hall, Bowie-oke to book events for all ages, the BowieTown celebration is inspired by the multifaceted creativity, life, and legacy of David Bowie. It's the brainchild of local historian and musicologist Stephen Austin, who decided the popular Bowie-themed karaoke nights could be transformed into something grander.

Friday the 26th will see Bowie-oke kicking off the festivities at 7:30pm alongside a Featherston Library display featuring 30 books recommended by the Starman himself.

Saturday is a *Space Oddity*, with a library collage event beginning the day at 10am before giving way to the Bowie Barkers Dog Party in Dorset Square. Draw and paint Bowie models at the Bowie Art Bash in Anzac Hall before grabbing a Bowie-themed pizza at The Last Post. It'll be perfect fuel for the Bowie Blastoff – a night of live music and dance in Anzac Hall featuring Mad Honey, The Davids, Taza Manaza, Justine Rose Kingdon, Hugo del Mar, and DJ Nix.

On Sunday catch The Davids flashmob in the Squiracle and Penny Griffin reading Bowie books for kids at Chicken and Frog, plus Bowie cocktails, roasts, and desserts served up at Brac & Bow.

"Bowie-inspired activities for dogs, children, readers, and artists are all part of the weekend", Austin says, with local eateries and creatives having thrown themselves headlong into making BowieTown a *Magic Dance*.

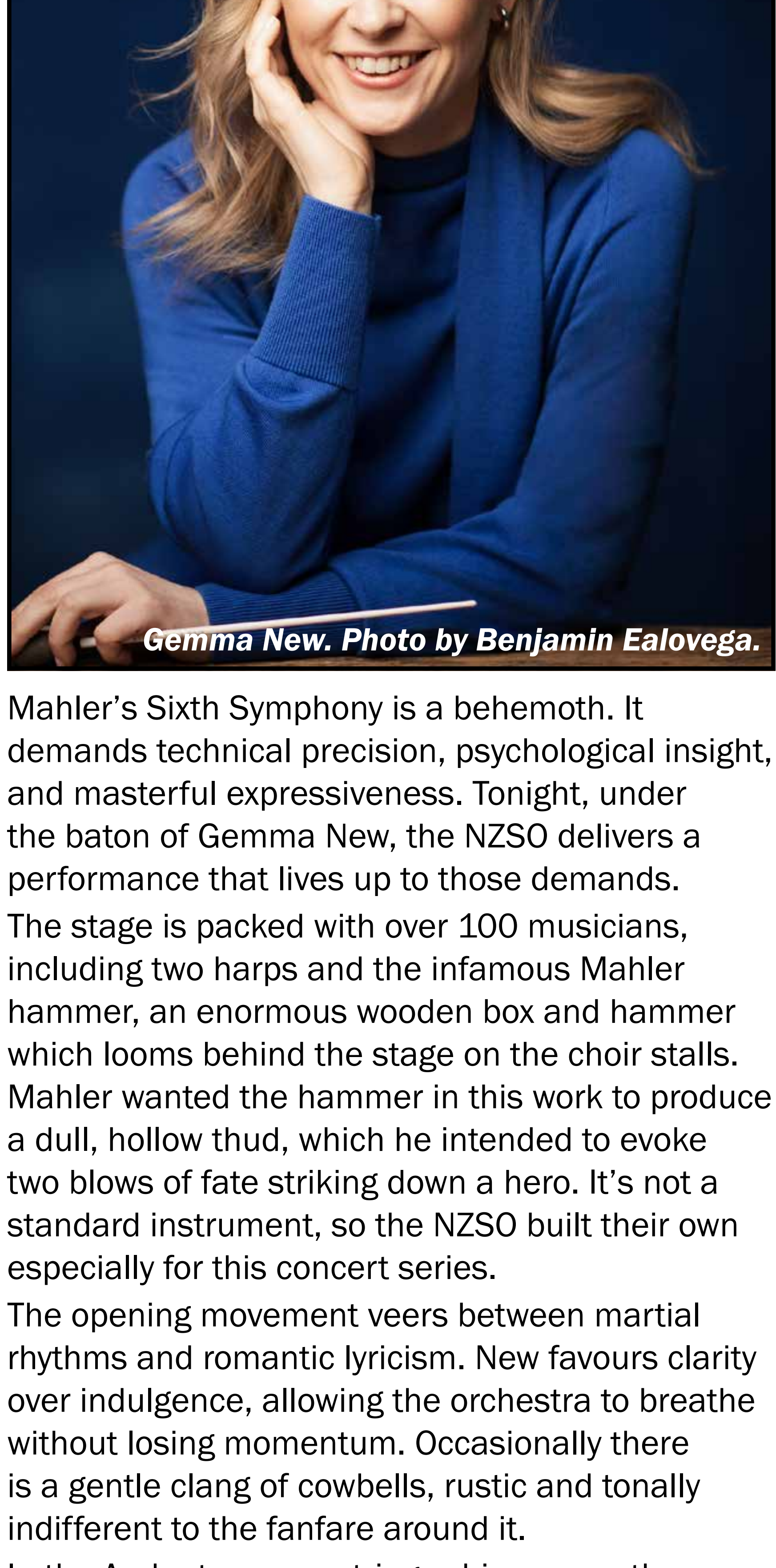
Mahler 6

Presented by New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by Gemma New

Michael Fowler Centre, 5th Sep 2025

Reviewed by Ruth Corkill



Gemma New. Photo by Benjamin Ealovega.

Mahler's Sixth Symphony is a behemoth. It demands technical precision, psychological insight, and masterful expressiveness. Tonight, under the baton of Gemma New, the NZSO delivers a performance that lives up to those demands. The stage is packed with over 100 musicians, including two harps and the infamous Mahler hammer, an enormous wooden box and hammer which looms behind the stage on the choir stalls. Mahler wanted the hammer in this work to produce a dull, hollow thud, which he intended to evoke two blows of fate striking down a hero. It's not a standard instrument, so the NZSO built their own especially for this concert series.

The opening movement veers between martial rhythms and romantic lyricism. New favours clarity over indulgence, allowing the orchestra to breathe without losing momentum. Occasionally there is a gentle clang of cowbells, rustic and tonally indifferent to the fanfare around it.

In the Andante, warm strings shimmer as the music unfolds almost organically. It is a welcome reprieve from the symphony's otherwise relentless forward motion. In the Scherzo, Mahler's sardonic humour comes to the fore. The woodwinds are sharp and brittle, their interjections biting.

The final movement is sprawling, fragmented, and devastating. The hammer blows land with theatrical precision, each one a brutal punctuation. Offstage, the cow bells echo again, as if pastoral realities are making one last attempt to break through the brass surges and the foreboding tones of the trombones and tuba. New navigates the movement's emotional terrain with assurance, drawing out moments of despair, defiance, and fleeting hope.

The NZSO plays with conviction and sensitivity, horns melding with woodwinds and strings to create rich harmonic textures. The percussionists (two timpanists, snare drum, celeste, xylophone, glockenspiel, church bells, cowbells, and the hammer) are especially deserving of praise. Tasked with some of the symphony's most dramatic moments, they are impeccable. Gemma New proves herself a formidable Mahler interpreter, drawing up the intellect and heart of his music.

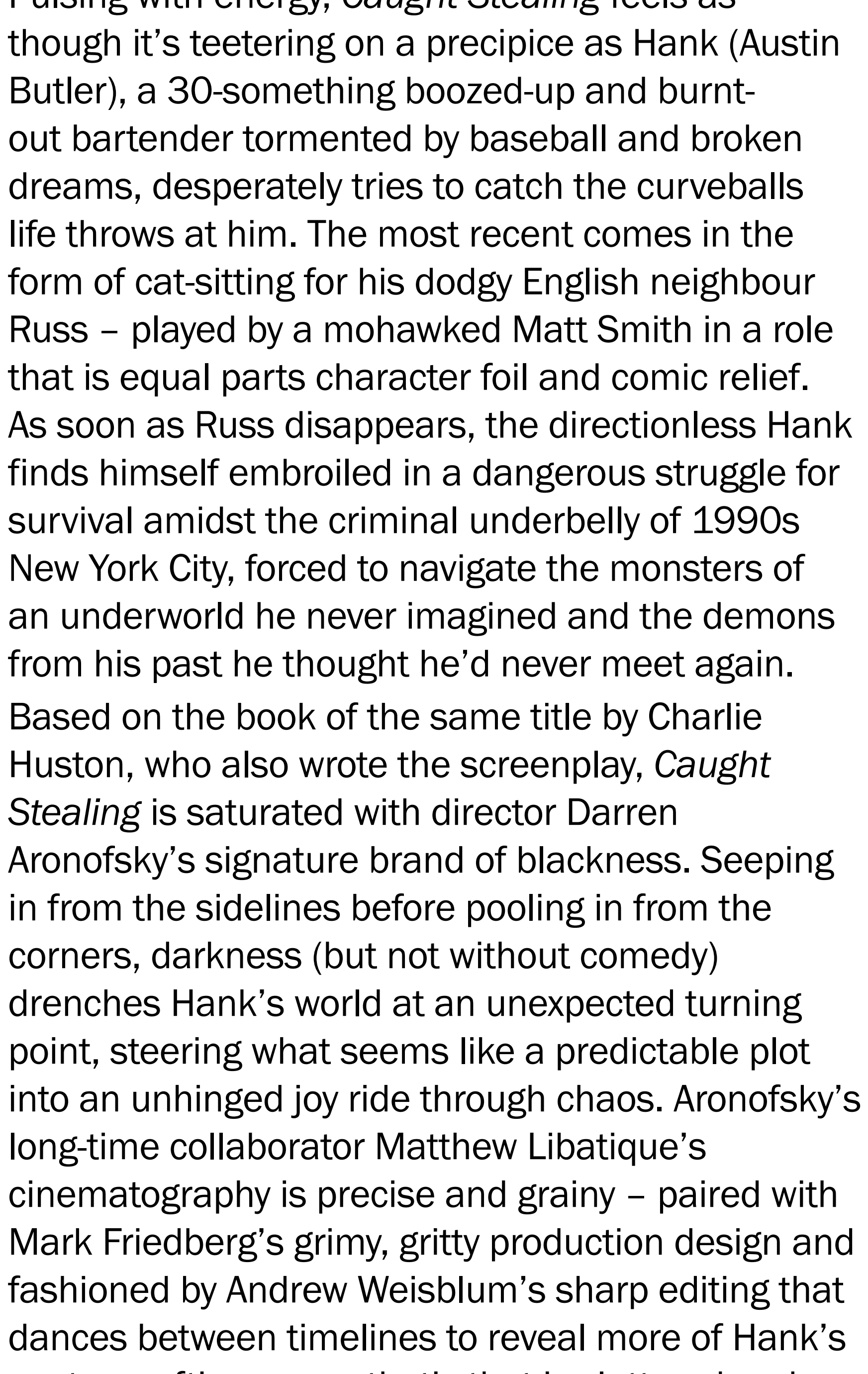
Caught Stealing

106 minutes

R16

★★★★

Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera



Caught Stealing doesn't come out swinging. In fact, it feels like it's taunting you, yelling "Hey batter, batter" from the sidelines for the first 30 minutes, but boy does it hit a homerun into a grand slam eventually.

Pulsing with energy, *Caught Stealing* feels as though it's teetering on a precipice as Hank (Austin Butler), a 30-something boozed-up and burnt-out bartender tormented by baseball and broken dreams, desperately tries to catch the curveballs life throws at him. The most recent comes in the form of cat-sitting for his dodgy English neighbour Russ – played by a mohawked Matt Smith in a role that is equal parts character foil and comic relief. As soon as Russ disappears, the directionless Hank finds himself embroiled in a dangerous struggle for survival amidst the criminal underbelly of 1990s New York City, forced to navigate the monsters of an underworld he never imagined and the demons from his past he thought he'd never meet again. Based on the book of the same title by Charlie Huston, who also wrote the screenplay, *Caught Stealing* is saturated with director Darren Aronofsky's signature brand of blackness. Seeping in from the sidelines before pooling in from the corners, darkness (but not without comedy) drenches Hank's world at an unexpected turning point, steering what seems like a predictable plot into an unhinged joy ride through chaos. Aronofsky's long-time collaborator Matthew Libatique's cinematography is precise and grainy – paired with Mark Friedberg's grimy, gritty production design and fashioned by Andrew Weisblum's sharp editing that dances between timelines to reveal more of Hank's past – crafting an aesthetic that is cluttered and corrupt, echoing the inner workings of Hank's mind that becomes increasingly unstable as he grapples with regrets, missed chances, and a progressively perilous problem. Match cuts and callbacks create satisfying circular moments, but not without character development tangled in between (balanced brilliantly by Butler). As the web of lies coils more tightly around Hank, simultaneously unravelling and sustaining him, he gears up for one helluva swing.

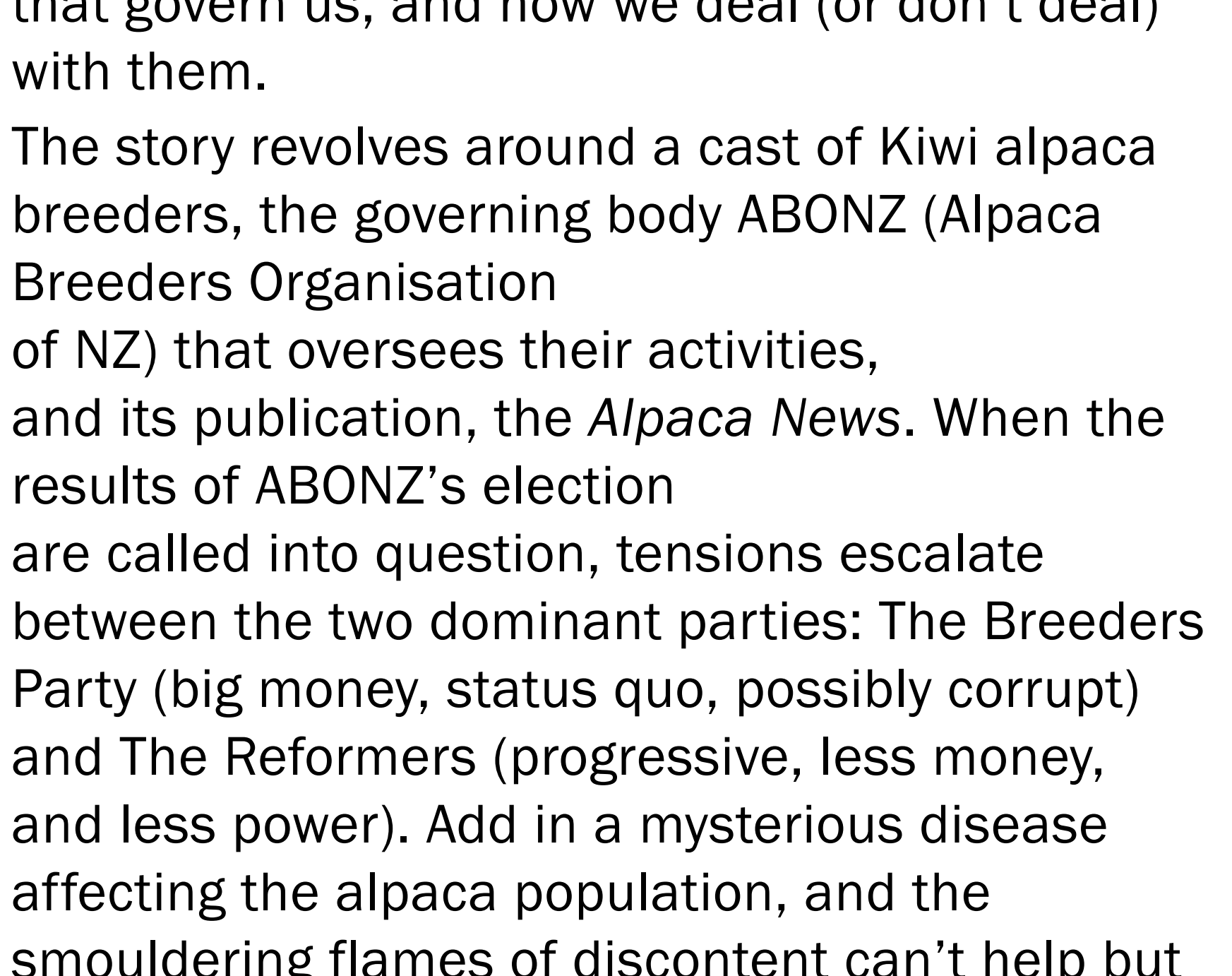
A chaotic car crash of a movie that comes careening around the corner at breakneck speed, you're in for a wild ride if you choose to ride shotgun... just be sure to buckle your seatbelt.

Stargazers

Written by Duncan Sarkies

Te Herenga Waka University Press

Reviewed by Denver Grenell



While some forms of satire go for the jugular, wielding their themes and real-life precedents like a sledgehammer, Duncan Sarkies' (*Scarfies*, *Two Little Boys*) third book, *Stargazers*, opts for a less caustic path and is all the better for it. And despite the *Star Trek*-like font and cover art, the book is no cosmic exploration of our place in the universe. Instead, using the relatively niche world of alpaca breeding as his lens, Sarkies humorously examines the political machinations that govern us, and how we deal (or don't deal) with them.

The story revolves around a cast of Kiwi alpaca breeders, the governing body ABONZ (Alpaca Breeders Organisation of NZ) that oversees their activities, and its publication, the *Alpaca News*. When the results of ABONZ's election

are called into question, tensions escalate between the two dominant parties: The Breeders Party (big money, status quo, possibly corrupt) and The Reformers (progressive, less money, and less power). Add in a mysterious disease affecting the alpaca population, and the smouldering flames of discontent can't help but ignite in a comically awkward fashion.

Sarkies' characters range from those seeking justice, to people-pleasing pushovers, to the bullies at the top of the heap, like the controlling and unshakeable Shona Tisdall, alpaca breeder and producer of VitaI Paca Health Biscuits, which may have something to do with the declining health of the alpaca population. Opposing Shona is the caring but abrasive Willemijn De Vries, firmly set on her crusade to right the listing ship that is ABONZ. But, in some wonderfully written chapters, we also spend ample time with the creatures themselves, gaining crucial insight into the very animals the whole story revolves around.

Sarkies threads his tale with humour and pathos, ultimately painting a sobering, all-too-familiar picture: the status quo will ultimately reassert itself, and those fighting the good fight will be left to lick their wounds and regroup, hopefully stronger for the next round.

2:22 A Ghost Story

Written by Danny Robins

Directed by Peter Feeney

Running at Circa Theatre till 11th Oct 2025

Reviewed by Madelaine Empson

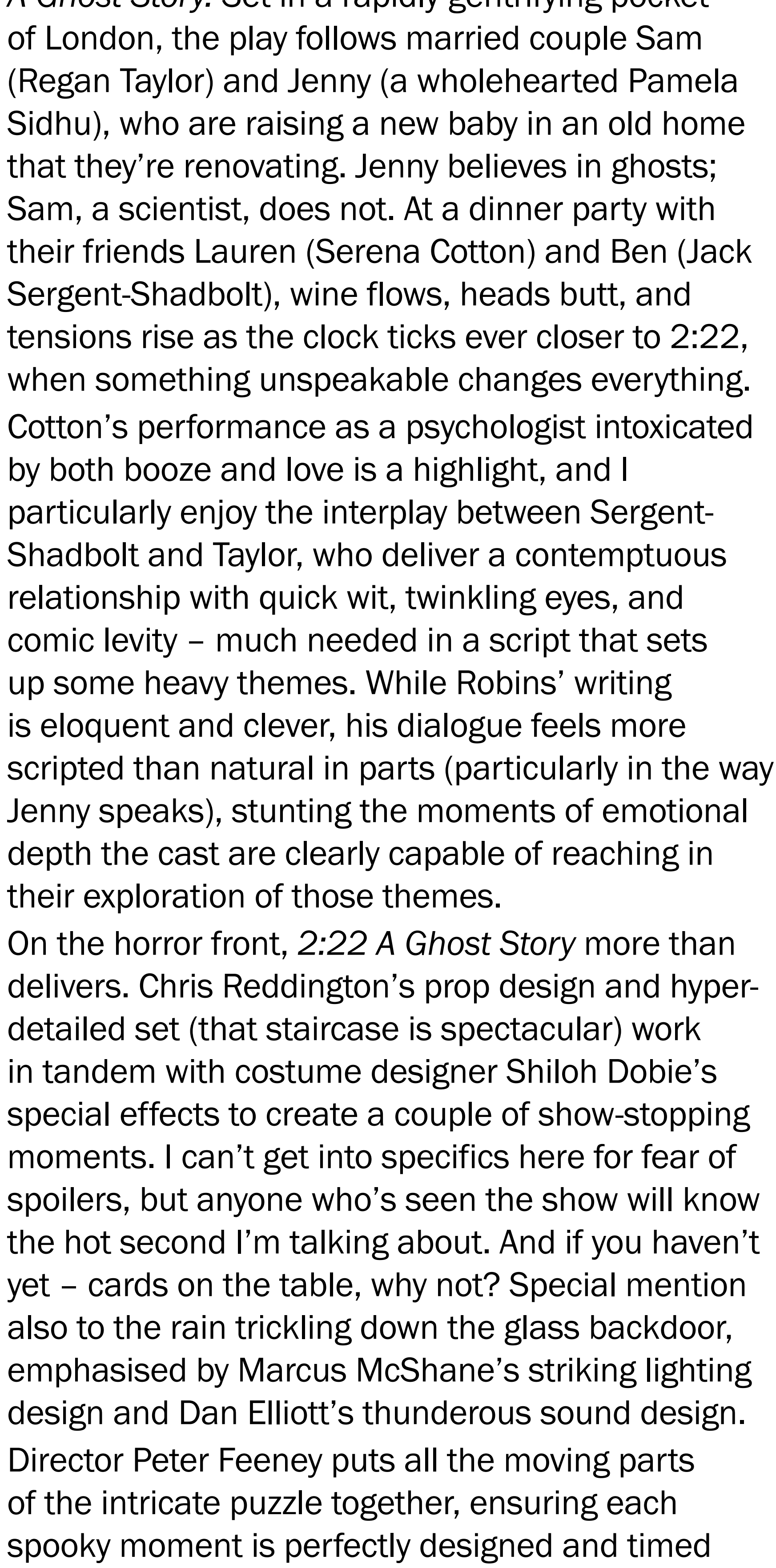


Photo by Lewis Ferris.

If you love experiencing the pure adrenaline shot a good horror can inject, I highly recommend *2:22 A Ghost Story*. Set in a rapidly gentrifying pocket of London, the play follows married couple Sam (Regan Taylor) and Jenny (a wholehearted Pamela Sidhu), who are raising a new baby in an old home that they're renovating. Jenny believes in ghosts; Sam, a scientist, does not. At a dinner party with their friends Lauren (Serena Cotton) and Ben (Jack Sergeant-Shadbolt), wine flows, heads butt, and tensions rise as the clock ticks ever closer to 2:22, when something unspeakable changes everything. Cotton's performance as a psychologist intoxicated by both booze and love is a highlight, and I particularly enjoy the interplay between Sergeant-Shadbolt and Taylor, who deliver a contemptuous relationship with quick wit, twinkling eyes, and comic levity – much needed in a script that sets up some heavy themes. While Robins' writing is eloquent and clever, his dialogue feels more scripted than natural in parts (particularly in the way Jenny speaks), stunting the moments of emotional depth the cast are clearly capable of reaching in their exploration of those themes.

On the horror front, *2:22 A Ghost Story* more than delivers. Chris Reddington's prop design and hyper-detailed set (that staircase is spectacular) work in tandem with costume designer Shiloh Dobie's special effects to create a couple of show-stopping moments. I can't get into specifics here for fear of spoilers, but anyone who's seen the show will know the hot second I'm talking about. And if you haven't yet – cards on the table, why not? Special mention also to the rain trickling down the glass backdoor, emphasised by Marcus McShane's striking lighting design and Dan Elliott's thunderous sound design.

Director Peter Feeney puts all the moving parts of the intricate puzzle together, ensuring each spooky moment is perfectly designed and timed for maximum effect. The result is the audience reaction straight out of every horror creative's best nightmare: the shriek, followed by the nervous, jittery giggle. I leave feeling exhilarated.

Wellington Jazz Festival

Sonic swirlings *by Alessia Belsito-Riera*



Photo by Chris Wethey.



**Styled by ZMM.
Photo by Joshua Espino.**

Born in Hawai'i and raised in Aotearoa, Pōneke-based songwriter Zoe Moon dances between

strength and softness.

Moon is the daughter of multi-GRAMMY®-winning blues legend Taj Mahal, but resides within a genre of her own making dubbed folk R&B. She weaves a world of influences into an undulating tapestry of sonic sensibility, embracing gospel, soul, blues, and jazz, as well as hip-hop and R&B. Moon's music is unbridled and eclectic, crafted around lyrics that cut to the truth and a voice that glides from rich lows to angelic highs.

Proudly embracing her roots as a Black New Zealand/American woman, Moon seeks truth through insightful lyricism, the result being songs that explore the interpersonal nuances of identity, life, and self-love.

Fresh from attending the GRAMMYs, Moon will present *Real Black for Me* at the Wellington Jazz Festival, where she will sing the music of Roberta Flack at Meow on the 17th of October.

"I'm excited to explore the connection I have with this material and move into the depths of gratitude I have for Roberta and her artistry," Moon says.

"I'm excited to give myself to this music and see what I discover on the other side of this show. It is imperative that Roberta is celebrated in this year that we lost her. I can't wait to spend time with these songs, with my talented friends, and with the audience to create an unforgettable memory and honour someone who gave us so much music and beauty in this thing called life".

Legends and legacies

by Madelaine Empson



Aotearoa Jazz Orchestra.

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Shining, shimmering



Photo by Emily Dynes.

With a voice that send ripples through the stars, award-winning Noongar vocalist Bumpy weaves together a shimmering mosaic of contemporary soul laced with folk, funk, and jazz. The Naarm-based artist goes by her childhood nickname – earned for a habit of bumping into all kinds of obstacles – and pulls her hypnotic force from the strength found in tenderness, scars and all.

Bumpy has cemented her status as one of Australia's most compelling new artists, performing to festivals and concert halls alike with legends like Herbie Hancock and Marcus Miller and garnering prestigious accolades along the way, including New Talent of the Year at the 2023 National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs), the Archie Roach Foundation for Emerging Talent at the 2023 Music Victoria Awards (MVAs), Best Soul/RnB/Funk & Gospel Work at the 2024 MVAs, and a nomination for Best Soul/RnB Work at the Australian Independent Record Labels Association (AIR) Awards.

In her Aotearoa debut, Bumpy will perform at San Fran on the 15th of October fresh off the release of her acclaimed debut album *Kanana*, which "brims with percussion and smooth double bass, celebrating the small moments that bring people together" (*Rolling Stone Australia*).

Threading themes of country, story, and home into music that gently unravels into a tapestry of tenderness and strength, Bumpy "has the kind of voice that takes you somewhere special" (Double J). Don't miss the emotional, captivating, and towering talent live in the capital as part of the Wellington Jazz Festival.



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Events and
hospitality stars





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What's on



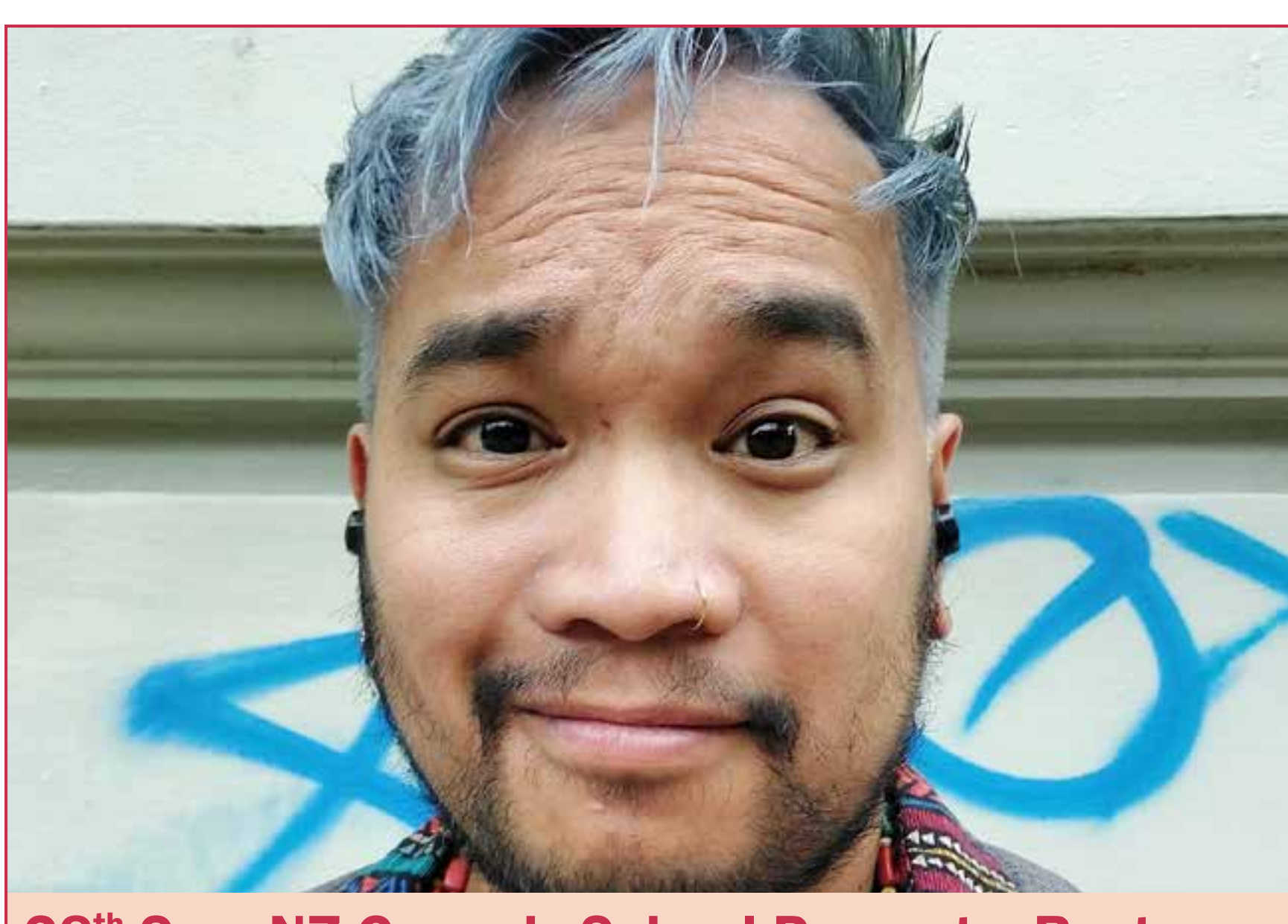
1st-4th Oct. Carnival of Chaos: *Studio 77, Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn* – 6pm. Myth, chaos, murder, alchemy, mystery, and devils are afoot in this four-night festival featuring six short retellings of classic works with strange new twists! All six shows are directed, designed, produced, choreographed, and managed by Victoria University of Wellington – Te Herenga Waka's theatre students. **Sean Faaiuso and Will Tickner.**



28th Sep. Maddy Low: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 5:30pm. Maddy Low's songwriting combines indie folk elegance and lyrical authenticity, layered guitar loops and feather-light harmonies framed by quietly powerful lyrics. Her vulnerable songs capture intimate stories about love, change, and self-discovery, delivered with an understated honesty.



27th Sep. Chappell vs Charli: A Drag Fundraiser Smackdown: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. Calling all brats and pop stars to this high-camp, high-stakes drag smackdown showdown where local drag artists battle it out as Charli XCX or Chappell Roan for the title of Queen of the Chartsverse. Get rowdy for this Wellington Pride Festival fundraiser. **Artwork by Jared Pallesen.**



28th Sep. NZ Comedy School Presents: Best in Class: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. NZ Comedy School graduates take to the stage for a rollicking alumni showcase featuring Wellington Raw Comedy Quest winner Lydia Sainsbury and finalist Ralph Hilaga [pictured] as MC, plus Leo Holbrook, Siân Feehan, Bibi Devoy, Mark Ormsby, Q Potts, Olivia McHugo, and more.



5th Oct. Sci-Fi Sundays: Nope: *Space Place at Carter Observatory, Salamanca Road, Kelburn* – 6pm. The residents of a lonely gulch in inland California bear witness to an uncanny and chilling discovery in this thrilling film. When a man and his sister discover something sinister in the skies, the owner of a nearby theme park tries to profit from the mysterious, otherworldly phenomenon.



1st Oct. Albi & the Wolves: *Hilltop House Concerts, Upland Road, Kelburn* – 7:30pm. Albi & the Wolves set fire to stages and fill hearts with hope with their energetic and relatable alternative indie folk songs. Albi (Chris Dent), Pascal Roggen, and Michael Young have crafted a stage show brimming with energy yet with pauses for reflection, featuring acoustic guitar, electric violin, double bass, and three voices.

What's on

Wairarapa

26th Sep. 80's Super Band Love Shack: *Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park, High Street, Masterton* – 8pm. Come and party with Love Shack as they bring their ultimate 80s party back to Wairarapa.

26th-28th Sep. BowieTown: *Various locations and times in Featherston.* Just dance into a festival celebrating the music, artistry, and magic of David Bowie and featuring events of all kinds.

26th-28th Sep. Greytown Art Town: *Various locations and times in Greytown.* This new, dynamic festival dedicated to visual arts, music, poetry, and performing arts features a programme for all ages.

28th Sep. Distinguished Gentleman's Drive: *The White Swan, Main Street, Greytown* – 10am. Classic car enthusiasts will polish their chrome, don their finest attire, and take to the beautiful Wairarapa roads to raise funds for prostate cancer research and men's mental health.

4th Oct. Movie Fundraiser: Ocean: *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Te Aro* – 6pm. Celebrate World Animal Day with a screening of *Ocean with David Attenborough*.

Kapiti

26th Sep. The Lighthouse Trio: *The Raumati Social Club, Poplar Avenue, Raumati* – 7:30pm. The Lighthouse Trio will play original arrangements of favourite tunes as well as brand-new original songs from their debut EP.

2nd-11th Oct. Coasters Musical Theatre Presents: Legally Blonde The Musical: *Southward Theatre, Otaihangā Road, Paraparaumu* – various times.

Based on the beloved hit movie starring Reese Witherspoon, this musical performance delivers an empowering message about believing in yourself, breaking stereotypes, and discovering your own strength and intelligence.

3rd Oct. Light IT Up Inclusive Theatre and The Shed Project Present: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: *Te Rā Waldorf School, Poplar Avenue, Raumati* – 11am, 6pm. This magical reimagining of the timeless classic by Roald Dahl features song, dance, and plenty of humour.

9th Oct. Startup World Cup New Zealand Final: *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – 5:30pm. Startups from across the motu will go head-to-head in front of a live audience and expert judging panel to win tickets and pitch support for a trip to Silicon Valley.

Events

25th Sep. Radicals Film Screening: *National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, Molesworth Street, Thorndon* – 6pm. This documentary tracks the evolution of modern Māori political activism from young members of Ngā Tamatoa in the 1970s to the actions of Te Kawariki at Waitangi Treaty Grounds in 1995.

26th-28th Sep; 11th-12th Oct. Japanese Film Festival: *The Roxy Cinema, Miramar; Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Upper Hutt* – various times.

Explore the culture and traditions of Japan through contemporary cinema.

2nd-17th Oct. Latin America & Spain Film Festival: *Dominion Museum Building, Buckle Street, Mount Cook* – various times. LASFF embraces the richness and diversity of Latin American and Iberian cultures and connects communities through free screenings of contemporary cinema.

3rd Oct. Explore Omnibirding with Giselle Clarkson: *Mervyn Kemp Library, Main Road, Tawa* – 10:30am.

Giselle Clarkson's book *Omnibird* explores what's remarkable about the birds all around us and the clues we can all use to become avian investigators.

4th Oct. Electrify the Hutt Expo: *Lower Hutt Town Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt* – 8am. Learn about opportunities to electrify your home and life to reduce costs, increase sustainability, and benefit the environment.

4th Oct. Tartan Up the Green: *Brewtown, Blenheim Street, Upper Hutt* – 11am. Bagpiping, Highland drumming, and dancing collide at this all-new take on traditional Scottish pipe and drum competitions.

9th Oct. Book Launch – All Her Lives by Ingrid Horrocks: *Unity Books, Willis Street, Te Aro* – 6pm.

All Her Lives follows women across generations as they resist, nurture, and transform.

Music

26th Sep. Jamie and The Numbers: *The Rogue & Vagabond, Garrett Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. What started as a one-off recording project has turned into a passion for playing moving originals and energetic covers in this Wellington band's own loud and soulful way.

27th Sep. The RVMES: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. These lads are a high-energy alt rock band from Tāmaki Makaurau who are releasing their fourth album *Boundary Issues*. Catch them alongside Devon Welch, ROY (93silva), and Fortuna.

2nd Oct. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Rossini Stabat Mater: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. The NZSO, Choirs Aotearoa, and four extraordinary singers present Gioachino Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Kiwi composer Victoria Kelly's response to that work.

2nd Oct. King Missile: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. John S. Hall and Dogbowl, aka King Missile (Dog Fly Religion), are playing their very first New Zealand shows featuring their unmistakable alt rock, avant-beatnik banter.

3rd Oct. Tami Neilson: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. *Neon Cowgirl* is Tami Neilson's most anticipated album yet – catch it live in Pōneke before she gallops across the motu.

4th Oct. Elvis: An American Trilogy: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Steve Michaels, Louis Brown, and Arron Walker are some of the best Elvis tribute artists in the world. See them live in this spellbinding journey.

5th Oct. The Fleetwood Mac Experience: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Immerse yourself in the timeless classics and chart-topping hits that defined a generation with this tribute show to the legendary band Fleetwood Mac.

9th Oct. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Four Seasons: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. Virtuoso violinist Pekka Kuusisto directs and performs *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi and conducts the Third Symphony by early Romantic composer Louise Farrenc.

9th Oct. The Beatniks & IVY: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Two of the biggest independent artists coming out of Ōtepoti, The Beatniks and IVY are known for their captivating shows that are melancholic in one instance and packed full of noisy energy the next.

10th Oct. BB & The Bullets: *Capital Blues Inc., Dixon Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Dynamic three-piece Whanganui blues band BB & The Bullets hit the road with their new album *High Tide*.

11th Oct. Kora: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Known as one of the country's most powerful and dynamic acts fusing elements of roots, reggae, funk, rock, dub, and electronic music, Kora reawakens Wellington ahead of their new album.

Performance

1st-4th Oct. a2 Company Presents: Running into the Sun: *Te Auaha, Dixon Street, Te Aro* – various times. After winning Best Theatre at the Melbourne Fringe, *Running into the Sun* comes home to Pōneke for the first time to tell a story about a global future filled with war, climate change, and political unrest.

2nd Oct. Alien Comedy: *Moon Bar, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 8pm. Out-of-this world pizza meets stand-up comedy of galactic proportions at Wellington's second-longest-running monthly comedy show.

2nd-5th, 9th-11th Oct. KAT Presents: Jekyll and Hyde: *Cochran Hall, Cashmere Avenue, Khandallah* – various times. This brilliantly theatrical adaptation from Neil Bartlett cuts right to the heart of Robert Louis Stevenson's darkly fascinating tale of male violence, guilt, and privilege to look at the male world through the female lens.

3rd Oct. Burlesque The Movie: The Burlesque Show: *Whisky & Wood, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – 8pm. Local performers deliver offerings from *Burlesque* the movie in this burlesque, drag, singing extravaganza.

4th Oct. Stringbean Puppets Present: The Tree Friends: *Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary, Waiapu Road, Karori* – 10:30am, 1pm. Kererū and Millie are best friends. When a baby kohekohe tree is left orphaned in a storm, they work together to protect it from the invaders.

4th Oct. Caburlesque – Mythical & Mystical: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Get a jump start on spooky month at this mythical and mystical-themed cabaret meets variety show.

4th Oct. Anime-Zing: The Anime Drag Show: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9pm. Featuring original performances inspired by anime classics like *Jujutsu Kaisen* and *Sailor Moon*, this drag show is going to be a night full of magic.

11th Oct. Stepping up for Revolution: *Lower Hutt Little Theatre, Queens Drive, Lower Hutt* – 3pm. The Revolution Dance mega crew have been selected to represent New Zealand at the Hip Hop Unite World Championships in Prague, Czechia. See their performance ahead of their trip and help them raise funds to get there!

11th Oct. Rob Beckett: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – 8pm. Smashing the life out of the M25, M1, M5, and any other road that's in his way, UK comedian Rob Beckett embarks on a New Zealand road trip with his new show *Giraffe*.

Galleries

Until 11th Oct. Dog and Pony Show: *Envy Gallery, Garrett Street, Te Aro.* August Ward's new oil paintings reference reality TV shows (the *Real Housewives* franchise), identity (transsexuality), consumption (plastic surgery), and fame.

Until 9th Nov. Transplant: *PĀTAKA Art + Museum, Parumoana Street, Porirua.* Glass artist Heather Kremen explores the link between plants and people – the stories of belonging, migration, and memory that bloom in every garden.

Until 7th Dec. Fell Into Me: *Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront.* Hannah Ireland paints portraits in the broadest, loosest sense, capturing the essence of faces and emotions.

22nd-28th Sep. The Art of OTOGI: *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro.* Yae Takahashi invites viewers into layered, story-like worlds. Through simplified forms and patterned designs of animals, plants, and natural elements, they explore the unseen connections and quiet harmony of life.

Festivals

Until 19th Oct. ChoctoberFest: *Various locations and times in Porirua.* 32 local businesses across Porirua serve up delicious treats featuring Whittaker's chocolate.

26th Sep-4th Oct. New Zealand Improv Festival: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – various times. Spotlighting a dizzying variety of shows, workshops, mixers, conference sessions, and social events, NZIF showcases the best of improv from Aotearoa, Australasia, and beyond.

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

[Back to contents](#)

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 30 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

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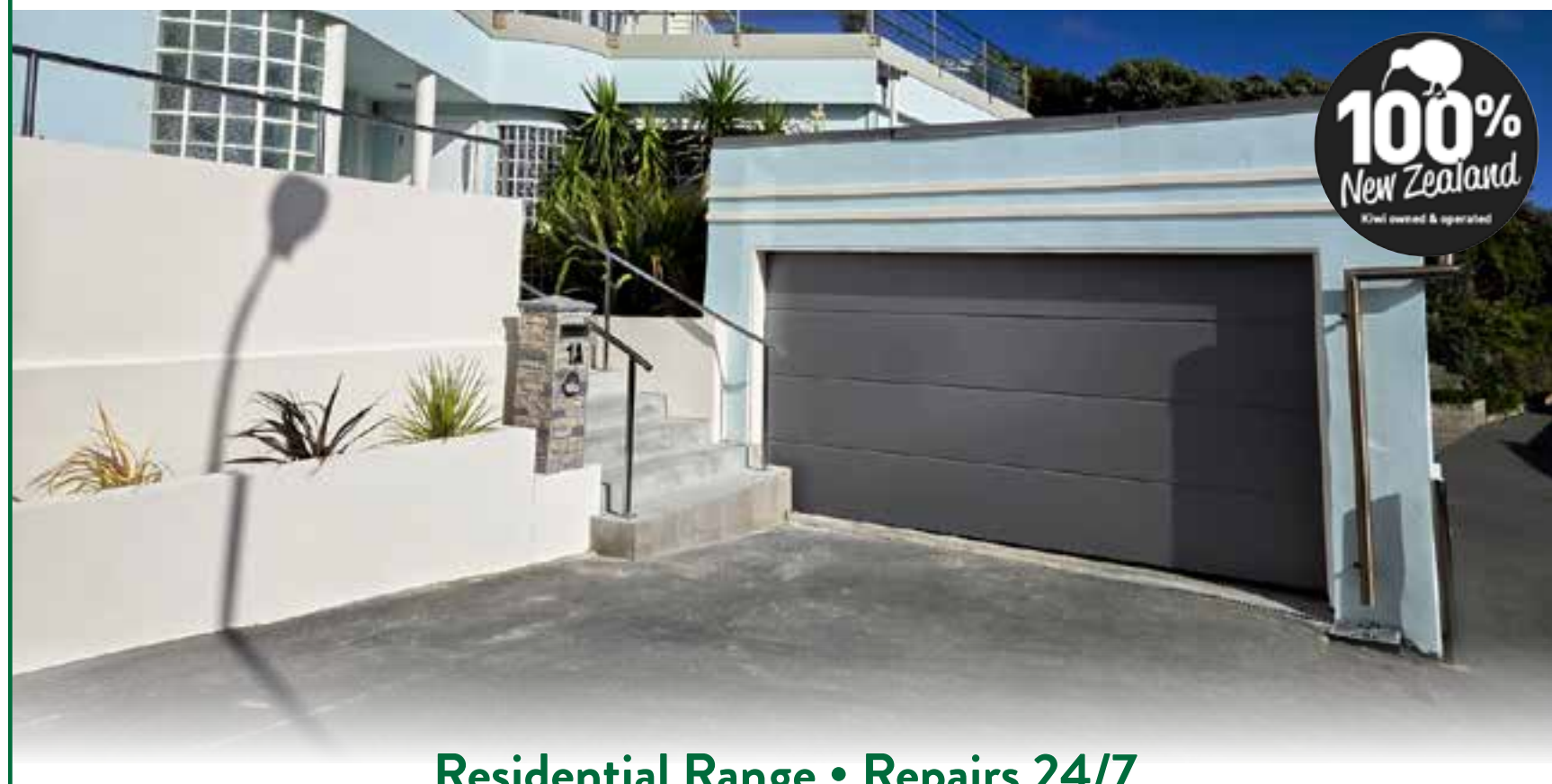
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