Regional News

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News

Flickering golden sea



The spacious hall of Wellington Cathedral of St Paul is set to be illuminated by the quiet glow of thousands of candles as a string quartet performs some of Hans Zimmer's most memorable and iconic film scores.

Taking place on the 7th of November, audiences can relax into the pews and allow the music to wash over them. The programme features familiar scores, including *Time* from *Inception*, *This Land* from *The Lion King*, *A Dark Knight* from *The Dark Knight*, *Supermarine* from *Dunkirk*, and *Cornfield Chase* from *Interstellar* alongside music from the movies *Dune*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Gladiator*, *Wonder Woman*, *The Pacific*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Zimmer's music takes on a life of its own in the lofty cathedral, stripped bare of the visuals that they usually accompany. The shimmering sea of golden candlelight creates a breathtaking atmosphere for audiences to relive the sweeping melodies and emotional resonance behind the scores. With its striking architecture and intricate stained glass, the historical building takes on a new aspect too as the serene acoustics and the grandeur of its interior are amplified.

Candlelight concerts bring the enchantment of live, multi-sensory musical experiences to awe-inspiring locations around the world. Always a popular event, for those unable to attend the November performance of *Candlelight: The Best of Hans Zimmer*, there will be another opportunty to witness the magic in the new year on the 23rd of January at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul.

Lit around town



The wildly vivacious and inexplicably provocative VerbCrawl is back, and she's got bite. Over 25 literary events extending from the experimental to the spooky, the comedic to the outrageous take place across one night, making it one of the most fast-paced and exciting celebrations of all things writing, conversation, books, and performance.

Happening on the 14th of November between 6pm and 9:15pm, the crawl is spread across bars, fabric stores, galleries, bookshops, music venues, and other unlikely haunts. Events take place simultaneously across three phases, which will see lit crawlers making some tough decisions about what to pick and where to go.

With a focus on grassroots literary collectives, indie journals, and emerging voices, expect inventive formats that blend theatre, music, performance, poetry, and art.

At Drapers Fabrics, poetry icons Chris Tse and Hera Lee read poetic responses to the songs, shows, and pop culture touchstones that they love. Dracula queen Noelle McCarthy leads a gothic salon at the apt location of St Peter's on Willis, with authors reading from their favourite pieces of gothic literature. Hosted by Hugo Grrrl at PEG Gallery, Melody Thomas, Kasi Valu, Nadine Hura, and Tawhi Thomas smut up classic fairy tales. Daniel Vernon, better known as YeeHawTheBoys introduces his brand-new comic book *Local Legends*, which reimagines three Māori pūrākau, at The Bicycle Junction.

At City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi, poets James Brown, Airini Beautrais, Rebecca Hawkes, and Tony DiCarlo respond with haiku to Cornelia Parker's exhibition, At Aurelia Books, Molly Crighton and Anthony Lapwood discuss breaking traditional tropes and centring queer voices in crime fiction. Children's book author Sacha Cotter and illustrator Josh Morgan [pictured] perform a reading of their book *A Guide To Rocks* at The Ferret Bookshop. Poetry meets progressive heavy metal as Wellington band FVKVSHIMA joins forces with four poets in a collaborative show at Meow.

With bucketloads more of exciting events, co-directors Kate McDonald and Gabrielle Vincent say, "We hope audiences can feel the sense of fun, curiosity, and sparkling energy that has gone into every part of the curation."

Cover: Bret McKenzie. Air Force in Concert, Royal New Zealand Air Force Band. Photo by Lou Hatton.

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News

The symphonic treatment



Photo by Lou Hatton.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Band have been polishing their brass, tuning their instruments, and preparing a programme of epic symphonic scores in time for their annual concert, taking place at 2:30pm on the 8th of November at the Michael Fowler Centre.

Joining the 65-strong band as a soloist is the GRAMMY® and Academy Award-winning songwriter and performer Bret McKenzie. Daniel Hayles and Sergeant Andre Paris have arranged some of McKenzie's most iconic songs from his solo career, past bands, and film scores for the full RNZAF band. This includes *A Little Tune* from the 2022 album *Songs Without Jokes*, *Man Or Muppet* from *The Muppets*, *The Most Beautiful Girl (In the Room)* by Flight of the Conchords, and *One By One* by The Black Seeds.

Corporal Barbara Graham and the popular RNZAF Drumline form part of the band's talented roster of soloists for the concert. The spectacular programme has a huge array of music to delight all ages, ranging from songs from Super Mario Bros and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* to *Hamilton* and a composition by Dmitri Shostakovich.

Air Force in Concert is the band's biggest event of the calendar. During the rest of the year, they maintain a busy schedule of ceremonial duties, public performances, and community engagement, while also representing the country at commemorative events overseas.

Thrilled to bring the special collaboration with McKenzie to the stage, Bandmaster Warrant Officer Ben Robertson says, "Bret McKenzie is one of New Zealand's favourite musical storytellers. His songs have entertained audiences around the world, and it is our great privilege to perform alongside him. Bring your friends and family for a fun-filled afternoon."

Sharp relief



Shonen Knife are currently carving up the country on a fist-pumping tour that celebrates their new album *Let's Knife Re-Cut*.

The original, best-selling *Let's Knife* (1992) has a storied past. In the early 90s, Kurt Cobain famously declared Shonen Knife to be his favourite band and sought them out to play support on tour. The Japanese pop-punk trio hadn't heard of Nirvana but nevertheless eagerly seized the opportunity and put together the album from a selection of their catchiest, funniest songs. They recorded *Let's Knife* in English before heading to America to open for Nirvana's full US tour.

Let's Knife Re-Cut is a re-recording of the DIY album with Shonen Knife's current lineup of Naoko Yamano, Atsuko Yamano, and Risa Kawano. The musicianship of the band is undeniably stronger, the songs reworked with more depth, lush instrumentation, and occasional garage-rock gravitations.

Heavily influenced by 1960s girl groups, pop bands, The Beach Boys, and The Ramones, Shonen Knife sing in both Japanese and English and have recorded music for numerous films, including a theme song for the beloved *The Powerpuff Girls* cartoon series. Live, they have thrown their neon lifesaver from stages all around the world, reminding us all "that rock can still be heartfelt, silly, and absolutely essential" (*Jammerzine*). Their last Aotearoa appearances stunned in 2024, and this time, they'll deliver sharp relief to a city on a knife edge. Why? With support from high-energy industrial punk three-piece Displeasure, Shonen Knife's Wellington show is set to shred the stage at Meow on the 7th of November: election day. Whatever happens, you'll be glad you were at the kind of gig that a *Louder Than War* reviewer said their soul had been crying out for: "An electric and unashamedly fun, pop-punk masterclass."

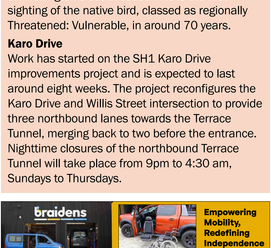
Where would the world be without gigs that leave you happier and lighter than when you came in?

SNIPS

Election day
Advance voting is open until the 6th of November and election day is Saturday the 7th of November. On the day, voting places are open from 9am to 7pm. Official results for the 2026 General Election will be declared on the 27th of November. Find your closest voting place at www.vote.nz

First sighting
Mātātā, or fernbirds, have been spotted at Lake Kohangatera in East Harbour Regional Park on Wellington's south coast. This is the first sighting of the native bird, classed as regionally Threatened: Vulnerable, in around 70 years.

Karo Drive
Work has started on the SH1 Karo Drive improvements project and is expected to last around eight weeks. The project reconfigures the Karo Drive and Willis Street intersection to provide three northbound lanes towards the Terrace Tunnel, merging back to two before the entrance. Nighttime closures of the northbound Terrace Tunnel will take place from 9pm to 4:30 am, Sundays to Thursdays.



An ode to a banger



Gemma New.

More than two centuries after its premiere, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 remains one of music's most loved masterpieces. The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) will perform the enduringly popular work for the first time in seven years at the Michael Fowler Centre on the 19th of November.

Led by NZSO artistic advisor and principal conductor Gemma New, the *Beethoven 9* concert will be brought to life by New Zealand soprano Michaela Cadwgan and tenor Jonathan Abernethy, together with Australian alto Sian Sharp and bass James Clayton. Orpheus Choir Wellington and City Choir Dunedin will join the 75-strong NZSO for the celebrated finale: the spine-tingling and universally recognisable *Ode to Joy*, which incorporates Friedrich Schiller's poem *An die Freude*. The revolutionary addition of voices to a symphony is just one of the factors that made it a landmark not only in Beethoven's career, but in the history of music.

Opening the night is Dame Gillian Karawe Whitehead's *Hoata*, which shares the Ninth's concern with community and connection. Named for the Māori phase of the moon when it is barely visible, the piece evokes the icy blizzards and intense isolation the Aotearoa composer experienced during a cold northern hemisphere winter in 1979.

Beethoven 9 champions a work that continues to captivate audiences with its immense scale, bold innovation, and profound message of shared humanity. The concert brings the NZSO's 2026 mainstage season to a triumphant close.

All about the exotic



Stephen Hough. Photo by Sim Canetty-Clarke.

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) is thrilled to welcome pianist and polymath Sir Stephen Hough back to Aotearoa this spring. The British music legend will perform Camille Saint-Saëns' mesmerising Piano Concerto No. 5, known as the *Egyptian Concerto*, for the *Enigma* concert at Michael Fowler Centre on the 13th of November.

"I think this piece is all about the 'exotic', especially in the second movement with its Eastern sounds – both Middle and Far East," Sir Stephen has said. "It was written at the beginning of the 20th century when many new ideas and tastes were being imported into Europe, and it also reflects Saint-Saëns' adventurous travel tastes."

Sir Stephen went on to describe Saint-Saëns as a great pianist: "Very fast fingers, light, graceful, always elegant. Although it is highly virtuosic, everything lies under the hand – everything works on the instrument."

With credits spanning GRAMMY® nominations to eight Gramophone Awards to appearances with many of the world's leading orchestras, Sir Stephen's performance of the *Egyptian Concerto* will match its virtuosity.

Enigma opens with the world premiere of multi-award-winning Aotearoa composer Ross Harris' Concerto for Orchestra. The grand finale is Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, a set of 14 variations built around an unheard theme. Long the subject of intense scrutiny and enduring affection, the work combines compositional ingenuity with a powerful emotional pulse.



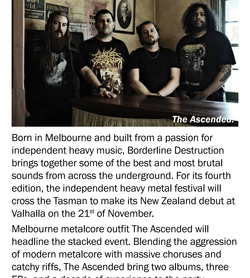






Music news

The metalcore edition



The Ascended

Born in Melbourne and built from a passion for independent heavy music, Borderline Destruction brings together some of the best and most brutal sounds from across the underground. For its fourth edition, the independent heavy metal festival will cross the Tasman to make its New Zealand debut at Valhalla on the 21st of November.

Melbourne metalcore outfit The Ascended will headline the stacked event. Blending the aggression of modern metalcore with massive choruses and catchy riffs, The Ascended bring two albums, three EPs, and a decade of experience to the party. Their sound draws on the melodic drive of bands like Killswitch Engage, Trivium, and Bullet For My Valentine while carving out their own identity and intensity. On their first Aotearoa tour, The Ascended will deliver a relentless headliner at Borderline Destruction while sharing the stage with local talent. Joining them are Cryfor, Synthesis of Self, Soulstroke, INTHEIRIMAGE, and Broken by Design, showcasing the depth and diversity of our heavy music scene.

More than just a lineup, Borderline Destruction is about bringing heavy music communities together, creating opportunities for bands to reach new audiences, and strengthening the connections between Australia and Aotearoa's heavy music scene. In this inaugural NZ edition, Borderline Destruction sets out to make a lasting impression and establish a foothold as a celebration of the music, bands, and community that keep heavy music alive.

We can't play that!



Hoodoo Gurus are about to deliver an all killer, no filler set tour. Expect hit after hit when "One of Australia's greatest singles bands" (*The Guardian*) pulls up at Meow Nui on the 20th of November.

"We've often been described as a 'singles band'", frontman Dave Faulkner confirms, "so for this *Rewind* tour we're gonna embrace that notion by only playing songs that were released as singles. No B-sides, no album tracks, we'll just be concentrating on the hits – and quite a few misses as well!"

"It's funny but some of our biggest flops went on to become some of our most beloved songs", Dave continues. "*Axegrinder* horrified radio programmers back in the day – 'We can't play that!' seemed to be their collective response – but within 12 months *Axegrinder* had become a fan favourite, which it remains to this day."

Dave says a whole lot of other near misses fall into that category too.

"Along with all our bona fide hits, we're hoping to play *every* one of our 42 singles at least once somewhere during this tour."

That means *What's My Scene*, *Bittersweet*, *1000 Miles Away*, *Come Anytime*, *Death Defying*, *My Girl*, *Miss Freelove '69*, *I Want You Back*, and *Like Wow – Wipeout!* will almost certainly earn some belt-along time along the *Rewind Tour – All Killer, No Filler,* which celebrates 45 years of Hoodoo Gurus. The Aussie legends have shoulder-tapped Auckland rock 'n' rollers Pash to reunite and join the bill, making for one A-side epic from two A teams.

Crafted confessionals



Between you and me, acclaimed indie band Flyte are jetting from London to New Zealand to perform a special run of shows this November, landing at San Fran on Saturday the 14th on the *Between You and Me Tour.*

Between You and Me (2025) is Flyte's fourth studio album and captures the English folk-rockers at their most raw, intimate, and emotionally direct. Full of mesmerising lyrics and fragile melodies, it showcases collaborations with the likes of Ethan Johns and Aimee Mann and sees singer-songwriters Will Taylor and Nick Hill at their most self-assured. It is a culmination of a decade of penmanship and at the same time but a dip in the inkwell of artistry for a duo whose close creative partnership underpins the band's distinctive identity.

Flyte have earned widespread acclaim for their refined songwriting and emotionally resonant sound, with a catalogue that showcases their evolution from classic British guitar pop to more expansive and introspective arrangements. From their breakthrough debut *The Loved Ones* (2017) through to *This Is Really Going to Hurt* (2021) – their sophomore "brutal, raw but ultimately sonically beautiful break-up album" (*Discogs. com*) – to their third eponymous record *Flyte,* their releases epitomise the signature blend of heartfelt lyricism and melodic craftsmanship that has seen them take flight.

Flyte's work captures themes of love, vulnerability, and connection, delivered with meticulous attention to detail and a stripped-back elegance that has resonated with fans and critics the world over.

A blockbuster album

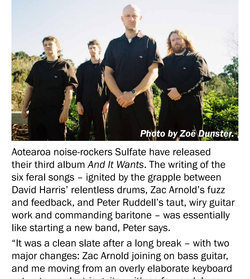


Photo by Zoë Dunster.

Aotearoa noise-rockers Sulfate have released their third album *And It Wants*. The writing of the six feral songs – ignited by the grapple between David Harris' relentless drums, Zac Arnold's fuzz and feedback, and Peter Ruddell's taut, wiry guitar work and commanding baritone – was essentially like starting a new band, Peter says.

"It was a clean slate after a long break – with two major changes: Zac Arnold joining on bass guitar, and me moving from an overly elaborate keyboard setup to an electric guitar with as few pedals as possible."

Keeping the instrumentation simple meant the band could push the songs further instead of miring in the tone-zone, Peter continues.

"I found we were really digging in – creating intensity through repetition – and David in particular really stretches out on the drum kit."

Peter goes on to describe Zac's bass playing as inimitable: a wall of sound Sulfate embraced wholeheartedly on a record where the songs capture and conjure "the feeling that there are no rules, that nothing matters, and that we all die".

"The intent is to provide a sonic backdrop to dance ecstatically, liberated, as the world around you burns. Find comfort and joy in things while you can, even as the end draws near and darkness begins to ruminate."

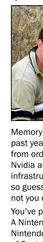
Created on a diet of Cormac McCarthy novels, Adam Curtis documentaries, and the madness of gothic horror, come howl along to *And It Wants* when Sulfate lights up Meow on the 13th of November.

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News
Tech talks with Pat

Why your gadgets will cost more

by Pat Pilcher



I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but it's not looking great for anyone eyeing up a new laptop or phone this summer. Prices are heading into the stratosphere, and it's not retailers being greedy. It's the cost of RAM.

I'm not talking about sheep, but the Random Access Memory vital to just about all our tech gear. For the past year, chipmakers have shifted capacity away from ordinary memory towards AI data centres. Nvidia and the hyperscalers building out AI infrastructure will pay eye-watering premiums for it, so guess who wins the capacity war. Spoiler alert: not you or me.

You've probably felt this without realising why. A Nintendo Switch 2 cost $799.95 in 2025. Nintendo lifted that to $969.95 from the 1st of September, citing rising component costs, and Microsoft hiked Xbox prices in August, also blaming memory. If console makers are squeezed, laptop and phone makers are next.

The numbers are startling. RAM prices rose roughly 170% through 2025, and analysts reckon combined memory prices could climb another 130% by the end of 2026, dragging PC prices up 17% and phone prices up 13%. Even Lenovo, which stockpiled to dodge the worst, warned prices may rise.

It's not a factory fire or a shipping blip, it's structural, and analysts expect AI's appetite for memory to outstrip supply for years. SK hynix's boss reckons 2027 will be the worst year yet, with no cheaper RAM before 2028.

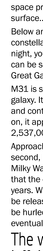
So, should you buy now? If you're planning an upgrade in the next year anyway, yes. Sooner beats later. Get the RAM and storage you'll need for three to four years, top up an upgradeable machine before prices climb, and don't assume last year's model is the compromise choice; it might be the smarter buy.

The AI boom has rehashed the chip industry once. Now it's reshaping what you'll pay for gadgets over the next 12 to 24 months.

Cosmic conversations

Cosmic jewels of spring

by Richard Hall, astronomical communicator



Spring is here and, in the early evening, you will find the Southern Cross just above the horizon. Unfortunately, at this time of the year, our spectacular Milky Way is low in the sky. There are, however, some spectacular objects to observe.

Looking to the north is the 'Great Square'. These are four fairly bright stars, each about 15 degrees apart in a relatively barren region of the sky. Above and to the right of the Square is a star of similar brightness. But this is no star. This is the planet Saturn.

Seen in a telescope, Saturn is truly magnificent. It is a colossal planet second only to Jupiter in size. It has a mass 95 times that of the Earth and a diameter just under 10 times that of our world. Saturn's beautiful rings are composed of billions of chunks of ice and rock. They could be the debris of two or more moons that collided.

Saturn has 274 moons. The largest is Titan, which is bigger than the planet Mercury. Titan has a relatively dense atmosphere with a terrain of continents, rivers, lakes, and seas. But it is nothing like our world. Its surface temperature is -180°C. Titan's dense and hazy atmosphere is primarily nitrogen and methane, which gives it a greenish hue. Its rivers and seas are not water. They are liquid methane and ethane. However, despite its hostile appearance, space probes have detected organic materials at its surface... Aliens?

Below and a little to the right of the Square is the constellation of Andromeda. Here, on a clear dark night, you may glimpse the most distant object that can be seen with the unaided eye. This is M31, the Great Galaxy in Andromeda.

M31 is similar to, but slightly larger than our galaxy. It has a diameter of 152,000 light-years and contains a trillion stars. Seen almost edge-on, it appears faint due to its colossal distance of 2,537,000 light-years.

Approaching us at speed of 110 kilometres per second, M31 is on a collision course with our Milky Way galaxy. However, its distance is so great that the collision is not due for another four billion years. When this occurs, an inferno of energy will be released. Stars, probably including our sun, will be hurled in all directions. The two galaxies will eventually merge to form a large elliptical galaxy.

The wilds of Welly

by Madelaine Empson



Image by Kian Haberler.

Thomas Bauer and Kathryn Fitzpatrick of Two Knocks Improv both loved Christopher Nolan's Odyssey. "The action is driven by love, weakness, pride, determination – all things that feed a great improv show!" Thomas says.

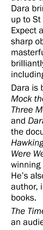
Their new show *The Wodyssey* marries the movie with the city of Wellington, which "has that vibe of the epic, with its fearsome winds, history of tanwhis, kākā circling the city like tiny pterodactyls", Kathryn muses. "It just felt exciting to transfer the concept of a struggle to get home into our favourite city. I mean, so many things can happen."

The duo's style of improv is stripped back and relationship centric. "There's an empty stage, two chairs, and us", Kathryn explains. "That's part of the challenge... but also means the only limit is imagination. In *The Wodyssey* we could be anywhere in Wellington, from the top of Mount Kaukau to a wētā-infested cave in Seatoun. Regardless, the really interesting thing is always what's going on between our two main characters – that's where the audience finds emotion and intrigue."

The Wodyssey comes courtesy of Two Knocks Improv's win at the 64th *Late Night Knife Fight*, a monthly improv battle where the winning team returns as the headliner the following month. Thomas says that for the audience, "it's always a super-fun night with guaranteed variety where improvisers take risks and do their very best", while for practitioners, it's an important and "low-stakes way to test new ideas and try new stuff in a rowdy and supportive environment".

It might be their first full-length two-person show, but Thomas and Kathryn are "good to go – bring it on!" Join them on this improvised epic through the wilds of Wellington right from your seat at BATS Theatre from the 19th to the 21st of November.

Razor-sharp laughs



Described as a "pure, undiluted comic genius" (*Evening Standard*) with sets that are a "masterclass in intelligent, no-frills stand-up" (*The Guardian*), Irish-born comedy powerhouse Dara Ó Briain is returning to the capital with his brand-new show *Re:Creation*.

Having already performed to sold-out crowds across the UK, Ireland, and Northern Europe, Dara brings his spontaneous, wildly funny stand-up to St James Theatre on the 14th of November. Expect a spectacular evening full of wit, razor-sharp observations, effortless improvisation, and masterful audience interaction, where Dara tells brilliantly crafted and deeply personal stories, including about searching for his biological father.

Dara is best known as a feature in shows like *Mock the Week*, *Robot Wars*, *Stargazing Live*, *Three Men in a Boat*, *Dara Ó Briain's Science Club*, and *Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure*, and for the documentary *Dara Ó Briain Meets Stephen Hawking*. His previous stand-up show *So... Where Were We?* toured extensively in both hemispheres, winning Best Tour at the 2023 Chortle Awards. He's also made a name for himself as a bestselling author, including of children's non-fiction science books.

The Times says, "If you want a comic who can hold an audience in the palm of his hand for two hours, here's your man." As if that wasn't already enough high praise, *The Arks Desk* gives *Re:Creation* five stars and says, "Hugely entertaining... It also contains the biggest rug pull of any show I have ever seen, which will make you gasp."

Close-up

by Madelaine Empson

Hold my rod



Photo by Michelle Hyslop.

Urzila Carlson is a multi-award-winning South African New Zealand comedian. From her star turns on Netflix comedy specials and rom coms like *Kinda Pregnant* to winning the prestigious People's Choice Award at the 2025 Melbourne International Comedy Festival and dazzling with deadpan wit on more TV shows than you can shake a mast at, she's one of Aotearoa's biggest comedy names.

I've been lucky enough to meet a lot of hilarious comedians in my time, but I've never cry-laughed during an interview before. At least not till I spoke to Urzila Carlson about her new show *Fatty on a Yacht*, coming to Michael Fowler Centre on the 30th of January 2027.

I'm obsessed with the title! Please tell me more about Fatty on a Yacht.

So many people are too scared to say the title. They go, 'So you're… touring?'

Because I'm a storyteller, everything I talk about onstage has either happened to me, I've seen happen, or I can imagine happening. So last year, a friend of mine had just started dating this new guy, and she goes, 'We're going on his dad's boat, and I'm scared' – because they're six weeks in, right – 'that if the conversation isn't flowing, then I'm out on the ocean with this man… Can you come with me? You could talk to a stick for four and a half hours.'

I go, 'Mate, say less.'

I'd been with her on other dates in the past, but like, hiking, which is not as fun. So I said, 'Yeah, I'll go', and to her credit she never said this, but when she said we're going on a boat, my bogan head autocompleted that we're going on his dad's tinny, and we're going to go fishing. I dressed accordingly, from head to toe. My fishing gear, my hat. I had my fishing rod that I got for my birthday. I had a chilly bin full of bread rolls, pre-buttered and back in the bag from which they came, some chippies to put in them. I even had a two-litre Coke Zero in there and party cups with a sharpie so you can write your name on yours.

I was fully kitted out to go on this tinny, and then I'm waiting at the marina in Auckland, and people start arriving and it looks like they're going to the races. Sun dresses, fascinators, big hats. What is happening? How big is this tinny? And then I see my friend, who's also in a sundress, and I've never seen her in a sundress. She's strictly a jeans kind of gal. When our eyes locked, she had panic in her eyes – and then I had panic in my eyes, because she had panic in her eyes – and she goes, 'Where are you going?' And I go, 'Where are *you* going?' It wasn't a tinny at all. It was a yacht. Not one of those skinny ones where you have to sit on the side or it tips over. It was a superyacht. On the superyacht, there were two jet skis. There was a hot tub for eight people. Later, the crew showed me around (it was like full *Below Deck*) and there was another jetboat *inside*, that comes out on a hydraulic arm that you put into the ocean in case you wanna go bomb around. They had all of that, and a library. Who can afford a superyacht, and not a kindle? I want to know that.

So I rock up, and I went on it. People are surprised to hear that, because I think when people realise they made a huge mistake – like I did there – they'd go, 'I made a mistake, you guys go, have fun.' But I'm 50 years old. I've never been on a superyacht. I don't know if I'll ever get the opportunity again. I'm going! I was invited; I'm going! I texted my manager from the marina, 'Next year's show's called *Fatty on a Yacht!*' She goes, '*What* are you doing!' I said, 'I'll report back.' And I got on that superyacht and I had the best time of my life.

And that's how I wrote the show.

[Fighting back tears.] Did you get any pushback about going on the superyacht?

I could tell the captain wasn't too keen. Initially, he goes [lowers voice] 'Can we have a word? Unfortunately, we won't be able to let you on today because of… your fishing rod.' And I go, 'Oh, no problem!' And I walk over to Shane, a guy I know who cleans fishes at the marina, 'Can you please hold my rod?' And then I go to the captain, [cheerily] 'Sorted!' I'm not going to let a little snafu like that hold me back, bro. I left the rod and got on the yacht with my chilly bin full of bread rolls and the little one full of bait. And I just went with it.

Honestly, any situation ever, if you give it five minutes, it all settles down. You feel like an impostor for a bit, but once you settle in, have a good chat with anyone, it all just disappears. People don't care if your hair is wild. If they have a good time with you, they don't care what you're wearing or what you look like.

It sounds like part of the show is about letting go of people's expectations and just having the best time regardless?

Yeah, fully! Years ago I was in hospital in ICU, and I will never forget the lady next to me. She was a yoga teacher in her eighties. They weren't sure what was wrong with her. I'd had surgery that day and was really sick, but there was someone else who came into ICU who was *really* unwell. While they were busy with her, I started throwing up. Mrs Josantus came and sat with her legs crossed – the way only a person who does yoga for a living can sit – on my bed, and she was holding the sick bucket for me. But she had one for herself too, because every time I would throw up, she'd throw up as well. She stayed with me throughout the night. The next morning, I said to my mum and my sister when they came to visit (and they'd moved Mrs Josantus to a different room), 'She sat with me all night and was an absolute angel.' My sister goes, 'Yeah, a wrinkly one.' Excuse me? 'You can tell she does yoga in the sun.' Mum goes, 'Yeah, that's a lot of sun damage there.'

I tell you what, even today, I would not be able to describe what she looked like to you. I can't remember. All I can remember is that she was an absolute angel of a woman, and her looks never even came into it for me. I think 90 percent of things are like that. We obsess about what we're wearing, what we look like, but none of that matters. If I said to you, 'Is your best friend's really wrinkly, what's her neck look like?' you'd go, '*What?*' You just go off their vibe, how they make you feel.

There's some lovely dialogue out there at the moment: at your funeral, no one is going to say, 'Oh, she looked so good in a bikini,' or 'Her hair was so shiny' – they'll talk about you as a person.

100 percent. My mum's got Alzheimer's now, and my sister and I care for her. You can tell that she is drawn to people who make her feel safe and comfortable. That's it. So many of her friends are not in there anymore, she's only with the true people. What a great way to sift out the trash.

And what an amazing calling card, if you're a person who other people want to be around… You're someone who gets to make people feel great through comedy!

I have the best job! You don't know the week people have had, and I get the opportunity to go make them laugh. They immediately feel better. When I tell a joke and look out and people are like baby birds in a nest – head back, mouth open, laughing – I can't tell you what that does to a person. That's my job! I come out, people are screaming, then they start laughing. It's just the best. The best. I can't imagine doing any other job.

What makes the impact you have on people really hit home?

You get these messages where people go, 'I've had the roughest time, but your clips, or your stand-up, got me through.' I just did a gig in Tamworth and there was a lady who asked if she could come who's going through chemo. Every time she gets chemo or radiation, she listens to my stand-up. She told me that initially she felt awkward ugly laughing during that, but she's got the same group of women who she goes through chemo with, and they all now sit and watch my stuff together. It's changed it from this quiet, depressing room; they're looking forward to doing it.

That's the stuff. People can't say anything when I know that. Someone calls me a fat b***h online? I don't care mate. What you say carries so little weight when I know my stand-up is lifting someone up in a chemo room.

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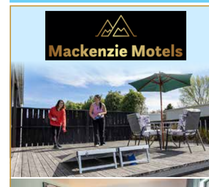
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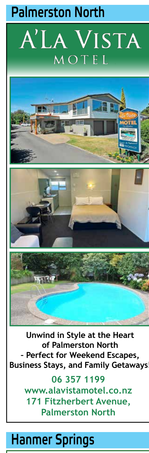
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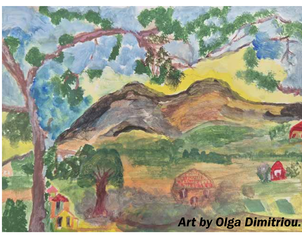


Hanmer Springs



News

Vibrant and varied



Art by Olga Dimitriou.

The *Annual Group Exhibition* has been held by Vincents Art Workshop for most of its 40-year history. This year's show opens on the 4th of November and will be on display at Vincents Gallery on Willis Street for just over three weeks until the 30th of November.

The community art studio is a place where people from all walks of life create side by side. The *Annual Group Exhibition 2026* is a culmination of works from artists who have attended the studio this year and features paintings, prints, woodcraft, fabric art, and many other craft media.

Many of the artists are making their debut at Vincents Gallery. "Seeing someone exhibit their artwork for the first time is one of my favourite parts of my job!" coordinator Andrew Mitchell says. "I have been involved with organising many exhibitions over the years, and every time there is something that makes me smile, and I can see the joy it brings to members of the public who come into our gallery."

At Vincents Art Workshop, people are encouraged to explore their own creative path with the support of skilled tutors. The vibrant and varied exhibition is a testament to the creativity present in the community and the opportunities available for local artists to try a range of art activities at the workshop.

Opening night will be a fabulous chance to celebrate and meet the artists and support a much-loved part of Pōneke's arts community.

Weekend of stitches



Gabby Anderson.



Wilson Dixon.

The celebrations continue as Wellington Comedy Club marks 30 years of bringing the best gags to the capital and platforming emerging and established comedians alike.

Taking over Fringe Bar on the 20th and 21st of November, Wellington Comedy Club presents an evening of laughs with Wilson Dixon and Gabby Anderson at the helm of an epic lineup.

Billy T Award nominee and National Raw Comedy Quest winner Gabby is back after a few years on the Melbourne comedy circuit with her "sharp mind and sharper wit" (*NZ Herald*), while everybody's favourite comedy country music legend Wilson will bring his signature blend of deadpan humour and melodic musings on life.

"The world is a divided place, and if just one city person can find it in their heart to listen to one country song, then maybe there's hope," Wilson says. "It's a small step down a long and troublesome road – possibly a racist road that's also in flood – and actually not in fact real at all, since there's a high chance a computer robot made the road up, but even so, it's something."

Sharing the stage across both nights is Wellington Raw Comedy Quest winner Orin Ruaine-Prattley, and the self-proclaimed 'big dog' of Wellington comedy, Kipling DC.

Friday's special guest is plasterer and kickboxer-turn-comedian Lachlan Bowker (Ngāpuhi). On Saturday, Jay Tiemann – "the funniest transgender comedian to move to Wellington from North Carolina in years" according to his mum – will take the stage.

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Part of your story



Based in Hāwera, Taranaki, Trust Visa New Zealand is a boutique immigration service providing personalised advice to individuals, whānau, and New Zealand employers both locally and internationally.

Director and licensed immigration adviser Monika Warszawska understands that immigration is more than paperwork: it is about family, opportunity, belonging, and building a future. She works directly with clients through every step of their immigration journey, committed to making the process clear and understandable.

Monika has been working as an immigration adviser for nearly a decade. She offers professional and practical help to people looking to make Aotearoa their home, including assistance regarding work visas, residence and permanent residence applications, partnership and family visas, visitor visas, student visas, and citizenship-related matters.

To support New Zealand employers, Monika provides assistance with employer accreditation, job checks, migrant recruitment-related processes, and immigration compliance obligations. She advises overseas clients looking for employment and career options in Aotearoa and helps families wishing to visit loved ones explore family immigration pathways.

Advice is tailored to each client's circumstances and goals. Every situation is different, and Monika is dedicated to helping clients make informed decisions, build strong applications, and make New Zealand become a part of their story.
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Regional News conference: Thailand















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Thailand

Together with you



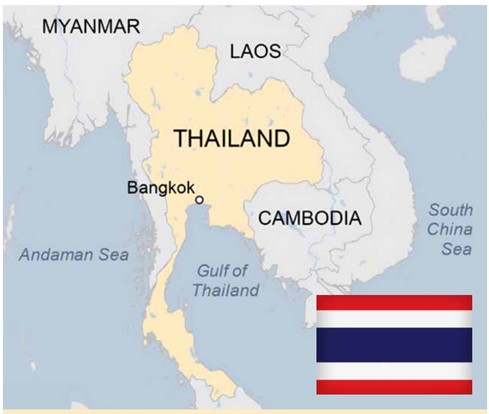
Founded in 1959 with headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan, China Airlines serves more than 102 cities. With New Zealand sitting at the bottom of the map, China Airlines helps connect it with the world. There are five weekly flights from Auckland via Brisbane to Taipei. China Airlines' extensive network connects travellers not only to Thailand, but to Asia, Southeast Asia, Korea, Japan, Europe, and North America.

To simplify multi-flight travel, passengers can book Air New Zealand domestic add-ons to connect with China Airline flights departing from Auckland, while codeshare options with Qantas are available from Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, and Queenstown via China Airlines' gates in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Taipei, and beyond.

As a full-service carrier dedicated to comfort, they offer two complimentary checked-in bags on long-haul flights and in-flight entertainment, serve Michelin-inspired meals on flights departing from Taipei, and feature complimentary Wi-Fi on selected aircraft.

Between the 25th of October and the 27th of March 2027, China Airlines will increase the frequency of flights, with daily flights from Sydney, six weekly flights from Brisbane, and five weekly flights from Melbourne, giving passengers access to up to four daily flights to Taipei and beyond from New Zealand and Australia.

China Airlines is Together with You, Blossoming in the Sky.



Facts

Official name: Kingdom of Thailand

Population: 71,555,984 (as of Thursday 29th October 2026, Worldometer)

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



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Kui Buri National Park.

Thailand's Wild Side: Discover Three UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites

Travel can be about more than discovering new places. It is an opportunity to reconnect with nature, understand different landscapes and appreciate the importance of protecting the world we share.

While Thailand is celebrated for its beautiful beaches, vibrant cities and rich cultural heritage, its forests reveal another side of the Kingdom. Here, mist rises above mountain peaks, waterfalls flow through lush woodlands and wildlife thrives in some of Southeast Asia's most important natural habitats.

Across three UNESCO Natural World Heritage properties, Thailand's natural treasures invite you to slow down, discover the beauty of the wilderness and experience the country from a different perspective.

Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex: Find Your Connection with Nature

In western Thailand, the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex is a landscape of rugged mountains, tropical forests and remarkable biodiversity. Recognised as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage property, it protects an extensive natural environment supporting an extraordinary variety of wildlife.

At Kaeng Krachan National Park, the experience begins with slowing down. Watch morning mist drift across the mountains, listen to birds calling through the forest and appreciate the small details that are easy to miss in everyday life.

The park is home to elephants, gibbons, hornbills and countless other species. Guided experiences offer opportunities to learn about the forest ecosystem and the importance of preserving these habitats.

Beyond its scenery, Kaeng Krachan reminds us that forests are living environments essential to biodiversity and the wellbeing of future generations. Exploring responsibly and respecting wildlife in its natural habitat can deepen our understanding of conservation and our role in protecting the natural world.


Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary.


Khao Yai National Park.


Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex.



Khao Yai National Park.

Khao Yai National Park: Discover the Beauty of the Wild

A few hours from Bangkok, Khao Yai National Park offers a refreshing escape into nature. Part of the Dong Phayayen–Khao Yai Forest Complex, a UNESCO Natural World Heritage property, it features evergreen forests, rolling grasslands, spectacular waterfalls and diverse wildlife.

Explore the park's nature trails, visit the impressive Haew Suwat Waterfall or join a guided wildlife-watching excursion. With patience and a little luck, you may spot gibbons, deer and colourful birdlife. Wild elephants also inhabit the park, although sightings are never guaranteed.

What makes Khao Yai special is not simply the wildlife you might encounter, but the opportunity to experience nature on its own terms. A walk through the forest or a quiet moment beside a waterfall encourages you to slow down, look closer and appreciate the intricate relationships that sustain the natural world.

The park also highlights the importance of protecting wildlife habitats and maintaining the delicate balance between human activity and nature.

Thung Yai–Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries: Protecting a Precious Wilderness

Thung Yai–Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries protect an extensive wilderness landscape vital to the survival of threatened species, including tigers and Asian elephants.

Recognised as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage property, this remarkable area plays an important role in conserving one of mainland Southeast Asia's most significant forest ecosystems.

Unlike conventional tourist destinations, much of the protected area has restricted access to safeguard wildlife and sensitive habitats. This reminds us that meaningful travel does not always mean going everywhere or seeing everything. Sometimes, appreciating a place also means understanding why it must remain protected.

Discover a Deeper Side of Thailand

Thailand's natural World Heritage properties offer more than beautiful scenery. They reveal a country rich in biodiversity, where forests sustain wildlife, ecosystems thrive and conservation plays an essential role.

From the misty mountains of Kaeng Krachan to the waterfalls of Khao Yai and the protected wilderness of Thung Yai–Huai Kha Khaeng, each destination offers a different perspective on Thailand's extraordinary natural heritage.

Exploring these landscapes encourages a deeper appreciation of the connections between people, wildlife and the environment. By following local guidelines, supporting nearby communities where possible and observing wildlife from a respectful distance, we can help protect these remarkable places for future generations.

Sometimes, the most meaningful journeys are not measured by how much we see, but by what we come to understand along the way. In Thailand's wild places, there is an opportunity to discover not only the beauty of the natural world, but also our shared responsibility to protect it.



Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex.



Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary.

New Wellington school rapidly gathering steam





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Zut alors! For the first time ever, the Circa Theatre pantomime gets Frenchified with a fresh take on a family favourite. *Beauty and the Beast – The Pantomime* features spectacular songs, goofy gags, and a spellbinding story for all ages.

Written by Simon Leary and Gavin Rutherford, and starring Rachel McSweeney, Bronwyn Turei, Jthan Morgan, Natasha McAllister, Andrew Paterson, Jack Taylor, and Te Mihi Potae, the panto sells out every summer, so book now for this magical night at the theatre!

A very special place



If anyone has sat in the lofty hall of St Andrew's on The Terrace during one of their lunchtime concerts or a gathering, you'll know how the pale-yellow walls glow as the sun streams in through the long rows of windows. When paired with the warm acoustics, audiences are transported to delightful sonic realms.

The heritage Presbyterian church was built in 1923 in a rare Neo-Baroque style that saw it registered as a Category 1 heritage building on the Heritage List. But the history of the congregation harks as far back as 1840, when settlers formed the community now known as St Andrew's on The Terrace.

A lively and progressive community, the calendar is busy right up to Christmas. There are plenty of lunchtime concerts and gatherings to look forward to, as well as Christmas services and opportunities for children to make decorations as the festive December holidays near.

Cherished by many



Earlier this year, The Friends of Old St Paul's alongside Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga celebrated the 160th anniversary of Old St Paul's consecration. It assumed its role as a pro cathedral in 1886 and today remains a national treasure.

Old St Paul's is a place of immense beauty and peace where thousands have celebrated births, deaths, and marriages. It is visited and admired by countless locals, national visitors, and international tourists, and hosts a variety of concerts every year.

One such event is the annual *Carol Service.* The Friends of Old St Paul's celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season in this service that features traditions cherished by many. The bells ring out, choirs sing, Hutt City Brass are in attendance, and the Christmas story is told and comes alive for young and old. All are welcome and we hope to see you there on Tuesday the 1st of December at 6pm.

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Celebrating Christmas

St Andrew's on The Terrace

Hoto Anaru o Te Pankhua
Founded 1840

Christmas Crawl during the week in the middle of the day before Christmas Day (together with other inner city churches). A chance to have a breather in the pre-Christmas mayhem. Children welcome to come and make decorations (more details nearer to the time).

Christmas Eve service Thursday 24th 7.30pm
Christmas cake and sherry, followed by service at 8pm, including traditional carols.

Christmas Day service Friday 10am followed by morning tea.

Sunday 27th service at 10am.

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Friends of Old St Paul's

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Annual Christmas Carol Service
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Doors open at 6.00pm

The Friends of Old St Paul's Traditional Christmas Carol Service will be led by
Father Patrick Bridgman
(Cathedral of the Sacred Heart)

Joined by The Bach Choir and Hutt City Brass

Please bring non-perishable food items for the social supermarket. There will be a cash koha offertory collection during the Carol Service.

The Christmas shop at Old St Paul's is open daily from 10am -4pm and will be open prior to the commencement of the service

Arranged by the Friends of Old St Paul's Society Inc



Tickets and vouchers for Christmas

Joyful sparkles



Santa's Cave is a much-loved Palmy institution, a favourite holiday treasure that's been enchanting generations for more than 100 years! For some, it is a magical trip down memory lane. Others find its kitsch-factor totally endearing. There are those who even find it curiously creepy... but all agree, it wouldn't be Christmas in Palmerston North without the Cave. Since 1918, its sparkle and joy has put a smile on the faces of thousands of visitors every year.

For those looking for unique and unusual Christmas gifts, the Santa's Cave Christmas shop stocks a special selection of merchandise. From festive puzzles and games to Te Manawa's very own line of Christmas toys, there's sure to be something unique to make Christmas special for the whole family.

Santa's Cave is open daily during the Christmas period from the 14th of November 2026. Please note that Santa's Cave is closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day. Entry is by donation. During your visit, be sure to allow time to explore Te Manawa, a place that celebrates imagination and the dreamers who dared to do. Where stories take flight and innovation and expression stand hand in hand in a museum for the future, Te Manawa is home to more than 200,000 treasures to discover.

Before you arrive, be sure to check the Te Manawa website for Santa's timetable in order to meet the man himself! www.temanawa.co.nz

A moment of calm



St Mary of the Angels.

The frenzy is real in the lead-up to Christmas in the capital. Last-minute shopping, holiday planning, and a calendar full of end-of-year events make finding a quiet moment for yourself difficult. This year, between the 22nd and 24th of December, six churches open their doors for the Christmas Crawl, welcoming you into the serenity of the historic buildings to catch a break.

There'll be stories, activities, displays, music, self-guided tours, and moments of tranquility alongside the Christmas ceremonies, services, and masses at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, St Andrew's on The Terrace, Wellington Central Baptist, St Mary of the Angels, St John's in the City, and St Peter's on Willis Street.

You'll have the opportunity to see nativity displays and learn the Christmas story more intimately. There'll be carols, poetry, Christmas lights, and places to make cards and decorations.

Visit www.christmascrawl.org.nz and find a moment of serenity this festive season.







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Countdown to Xmas – 52 days to go

Be in to win!

A $100 voucher from one of the businesses below

- ☐ 1. Wellington Paving
- ☐ 2. The Capricorn Spirit
- ☐ 3. Granny's Christmas Shop
- ☐ 4. Kaimak Turkish Cuisine
- ☐ 5. Circus of the Night
- ☐ 6. Roof Rack Centre
- ☐ 7. Nepal NZ Connection
- ☐ 8. New World Silverstream
- ☐ 9. The Wellington Comedy Club
- ☐ 10. Kapiti Knitting & Lotto

Just tick the box of the business you wish to spend money with.
We will draw the winners and send you out your winning voucher.

Send your entries to admin@regionalnews.kiwi or post to P.O. Box 15163, Miramar 6243

Name _____
Address _____
Phone number _____

Entries close Monday 16th November 2026.





















Countdown to Xmas – 52 days to go

Be in to win!

A $100 voucher from one of the businesses below

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- [ ] **4. Kura Gallery**
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- [ ] **7. Lloyd Kelly**
- [ ] **8. GoodFor**
- [ ] **9. Arobake**

Just tick the box of the business you wish to spend money with.
We will draw the winners and send you out your winning voucher.

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On my Christmas table

Yamas! Cheers!

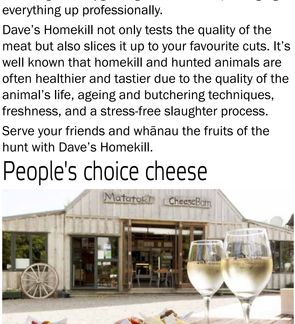


Established by Greek couple Basil and Martha Yiannoutsos in 2000, Elysian Foods was born out of a well-known Miramar deli. As Basil's taramasalata – a dip made from fish roe – became a local favourite, they began distributing it to supermarkets across the motu. In 2017, with Basil and Martha in their 70s, Elysian Foods was looking at a new owner or closure.

That's when Toby Green and his partner Sarah stepped in. "I was faced with the possibility of taramasalata not being available on supermarket shelves, and that really worried me," Toby says. "So, I decided to buy the business."

Over the years they have worked hard to build the business and increase sustainability, developing several new products along the way. Now, as one of Aotearoa's favourite brands of dips and olives, Elysian Foods is a proud finalist in the 2026 2degrees Wellington Regional Business Excellence Awards in the Best Small Business category.

Fruits of the hunt



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

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

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

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

People's choice cheese



The Cheese Barn in Matatoki put the Hauraki Plains town on the map. Serving up organic, handmade, small-batch cheese, yoghurt, and cultured dairy across the country, this family-owned business, café, and gift shop has crafted dairy excellence for over 20 years.

The Cheese Barn believes in keeping things as simple and natural as possible. Its certified organic, unhomogenised, and GMO, additive, and gluten-free products can be found in stores around Greater Wellington and Manawatū.

With a cabinet full of medals, Kelvin and Cathy Haigh's cheeses have received awards nearly every year since 1998, including gold for their organic halloumi, brie, mozzarella, and cumin seed gouda. Other sought-after products include their famous organic cottage cheese and kefir yoghurt.

The country café is open six days a week, serving up seasonal hot meals, cabinet food, and homemade ice cream. Bring a bottle of wine and enjoy a cheese platter on the ample grounds.



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Organic Buzz Palmerston North | Live2Give Organics - Online orders delivered by chilled van to Palmerston North, Levin, the Kapiti Coast, Lower Hutt, and Wellington to Eastbourne (not Upper Hutt) live2giveorganics.nz

Business for sale!

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On my Christmas table

Fuel your Xmas



No matter how you celebrate, what brings whānau together over the Christmas period and festive season is always the food on the table.

What makes our summertime Christmas that extra bit more special is the fact that the days are long, the sun is out, and you can have the barbie going all day long in the garden or on the deck.

While chucking a ham, a turkey, or a duck (or all three) in the oven might honour the traditions of the Northern Hemisphere, it's a sizzling hot barbeque with rows of snarlers, racks of lamb, buttery grilled corn cobs, and freshly caught kaimoana that often keeps a Kiwi Christmas fuelled.

With delectable grilled cuts, a host of garden salads, and some fresh, summer spuds, you've got an extra special meal that not only makes it easy for the chefs, but also makes the day stress-free and enjoyable for everyone.

What's the buzz



Waireka Honey's unpasteurised, raw, and creamy honey is locally produced with nationwide reach. Amber golden and soft as silk, it is made by bees collecting nectar from indigenous plants like mānuka, pōhutukawa, rewarewa, and kāmahi, and other popular varietals like blue borage and clover. The distinctive flavours of the honeys range from dark and earthy to sweet and floral, capturing the diversity of our flora.

Located on SH1 just south of Sanson, Waireka Honey creates premium honey that is perfect for spreading on toast, drizzling over muesli, or keeping on the table to add to just about anything. They also offer a range of honey-based products, including health and skincare products, sauces and seasonings, honey meads, confectionary, beeswax candles, and all the beekeeping supplies a hobbyist or commercial beekeeper needs.

Stop at the bright yellow building next time you're passing through or visit their online store at www.wairekahoney.co.nz to see what the buzz is all about.

Spirited beers



The story of Three Sisters Brewery is one of ambition, expansion, and quality beer. From humble homebrew beginnings, it has since moved into the old Taranaki Savings Bank in New Plymouth, expanded into the neighbouring premises, and last year, added a sister bar and restaurant on Blair Street in Pōneke.

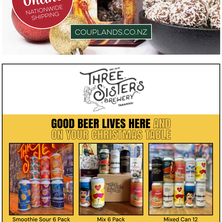
While the brewery has grown, the spirit has remained the same. Three Sisters brews timeless and innovative beers, ranging from IPAs and sours to hazys and lagers. As Christmas approaches, the mixed can packs are the perfect gift or stash to have in the fridge for friends and whānau with different tastes.

Located just off Courtenay Place, visit the bar for an award-winning cold one and something to eat. The menu offers up tacos, burgers, wings, loaded chips, light bites, and tasty snacks. Crafted with love and infused with an independent spirit, visit www.threesistersbrewery.store to explore what's on offer.









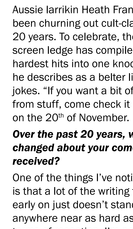


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A belter of a best-of

by Madelaine Empson





Aussie Iarrikin Heath Franklin, aka Chopper, has been churning out cult-classic comedy gold for 20 years. To celebrate, the stage and *7 Days* screen ledge has compiled all his funniest bits and hardest hits into one knockout show, *GOLD*, which he describes as a belter lined wall to wall with solid jokes. “If you want a bit of a laugh and a break from stuff, come check it out” at The Opera House on the 20th of November.

Over the past 20 years, what do you think has changed about your comedy and the way it’s received?

One of the things I’ve noticed doing this show is that a lot of the writing that I got away with early on just doesn’t stand up anymore or hit anywhere near as hard as the new material. In terms of reception, I’m not going to go too deep into cancel culture, but I think there is – in some parts of Australia at least – a humourlessness now. Everyone has sort of lost the ability to laugh at themselves and not take things seriously. Not that I want to go around punching down or making fun of people who are having a hard time, but there is a general lack of relaxed, ‘Yeah, whatever, that’s funny’. Half the room might be thinking to themselves, ‘Oh, you can’t say that,’ and the other half might go, ‘Oh, everyone’s going to be thinking you can’t say that.’ I think the rise of comedians being really political about everything has made people assume that’s what it is. But I just want to be as silly as possible and tell jokes and not remind people about the misery of day-to-day life at the moment [laughs].

Do people let their guard down more with you because of your stage persona?

I think so, because it all looks so pantomime. I hope that I’ve laid down the groundwork and made it so silly that it shouldn’t and can’t be taken seriously.

Can you sneak in an example of one of the ‘funniest bits’ in GOLD?

An example (of something that got a few rewrites actually) is a sketch I did in *The Ronnie Johns Half Hour* TV show back in 2005 of Chopper doing people’s horoscopes. As you can imagine, it all goes wrong.

Brilliant. What is the weirdest thing a fan has said to you, and what would be the best thing?

The weirdest *and* the best thing – and this happens to me in New Zealand a lot – is you meet people after the show who are like, ‘Come back to my place! I’ve got a shed. We can drink beers and smoke bongs.’ That’s very lovely of you, thank you. If I did that every time I was offered, I wouldn’t make it through the year I don’t think. So I will continue to (respectfully) decline all offers to go and party with strangers in their sheds [laughs].

Duty calls



Malcolm Morrison. Photo by Nina Hogg.

The *Starship Nepobaby* explores the furthest frontiers of the universe. Having inherited the captain’s chair from his father, the incompetent Captain Dash Labs has caused all his officers to die from easily avoidable accidents. Armed with a mountain of unearned confidence and skills, the dumbest guy possible is in charge of the space bridge, and the audience at *Nepobabies In Space* are the only crew remaining on board who can help complete the mission.

This *Star Trek*-style space adventure will have you feeling like you’re inside your favourite sci-fi show… literally, because the control is in your hands. Each audience member is given a tablet on entrance that, with a push of a button, controls the ship and the direction of the story.

Directed by local comedy legend Nina Hogg, *Nepobabies in Space* promises an intergalactic comedy experience that is truly out of this world! Performed by actor and improviser Malcolm Morrison, creator of over 30 shows in the last 20 years, expect something “clever, electrifying, and funny as hell” (*Regional News*).

Built by technical designer Tom Hall, the software allows for an experience that isn’t possible with traditional theatre. “*Nepobabies in Space* is so much more than a character comedy,” Morrison says. “We have interactive screens, surprise guest performers, and a storyline which the audience has full control over!”

Can you collectively rise to the occasion and save the day? Join the crew between the 17th and the 21st of November, destination: BATS Theatre.

The end is nigh



In sequined anticipation and true nerd fashion, ahead of the blockbuster multiverse crossover *Avengers: Doomsday*’s arrival in cinemas later this year, Ivy Bar is having a comic book takeover, full of iconic characters and larger-than-life performances of your favourite X-Men mutants.

X-Men: A Doomsday Drag Show is happening on the 6th of November, combining heroes, villains, fashion, camp, and world-ending glamour. Hosted by the incomparable Anna Diction, a true X-Men superfan bringing Dazzler to life, the cast features Ms Leading as Rogue, Faux Femm as Mystique, Ness Quick as Psylocke, Lady Kassandra as the Scarlet Witch, Blink Bogan as Magik, and King Chloe Tamekehu channelling the power of Jean Grey.

Whether you’re an X-Men X-pert or a total rookie, this show is where worlds collide. “Drag and cosplay are simply two sides of the same geeky coin”, organiser Faux Femm says.

“The X-Men are so incredibly gay. Ask any geeky queer kid, and they can name the X-Men who informed their gay awakening. It’s easy to see the allegory of an intersectional minority group being targeted for their visibility, differences, and desire to be included in society.”

If you miss out, the sequel *X-Men: A Hellfire Gala Drag Show* is happening on the 20th of November, featuring a new and just as opulently stylish cast of characters. For the ultimate fans, why not head along to both and get served twice the drag, twice the mutants, and four times the glitter.

Businesses for sale

Loads of heart



You know you're in Paeroa when you drive past the giant bottle down the eastern end of the main street. The gateway to the Coromandel, where the Waihou and Ohinemuri rivers meet, Paeroa is a busy hotspot for cyclists, hikers, and holidaygoers chasing the sunshine.

Recently listed on the market is the Racecourse Motel Paeroa. Located just a two-minute drive from the township and a 25-minute drive from Waihi Beach, it is an exciting business opportunity backed by Therese Bailey from Bayleys Hamilton. The single-storey motel is home to comfortable, thoughtfully furnished guest rooms, ranging from queen studios to family suites. Each unit comes with a bathroom, a kitchenette complete with a cooktop, microwave, and fridge, as well as a small patio for guests to enjoy their meal outside.

With free on-site parking and a lovely landscaped barbecue area, the Racecourse Motel has loads of space and even more heart.

Live your dream



In the heart of Horowhenua, Foxton is a great place to set up shop, start a business, and raise a family. Visitors frequent the charming, cultural town, so there's more foot traffic to help take your entrepreneurial endeavours up a notch.

Kids will get a kick out of adventure activities like horseback riding, surfing, four-wheeling, and wakeboarding, while adults will find peace in the nature and arts that abound. The bustling main street is lined with picture-perfect historic buildings and is home to the famous De Molen Windmill, a replica 17th-century Dutch windmill, plus the impressive Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park. Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is within and combines Māori, Dutch, and pioneering history in an exquisite setting. Just five minutes away stretches a broad, sandy west coast beach where the world-renowned Manawatū river estuary teems with wildlife as it meets the sea.

With affordable real estate and fantastic business opportunities, your dreams await in Foxton.

Make the move



Whanganui has become increasingly popular for Kiwis across the motu, not just for its natural beauty, but for its unbeatable lifestyle. Choosing Whanganui is a savvy business move thanks to its bustling economy and fantastic opportunities.

With parks and reserves, gorgeous green forests and golden beaches, and a roaring river at the heart of it all, nature is never far away. Within a stone's throw, too, are all the amenities, services, and schools you'll need to put down roots. Once you've begun setting up your profitable business, it'll be time to secure the perfect place! House prices are lower in Whanganui, making your dream home more accessible. Here you'll find the historic estate, modern flat, beachside property, or lifestyle block you've been searching for.

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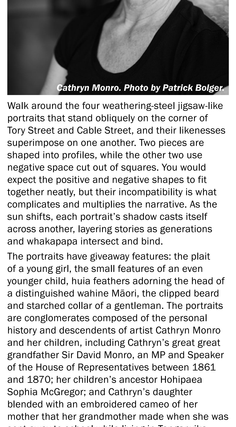
Wellington sculpture series

Per Capita *by Isabella Smith*

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



Photos by Isabella Smith.



Cathryn Monro. Photo by Patrick Bolger

Walk around the four weathering-steel jigsaw-like portraits that stand obliquely on the corner of Tory Street and Cable Street, and their likenesses superimpose on one another. Two pieces are shaped into profiles, while the other two use negative space cut out of squares. You would expect the positive and negative shapes to fit together neatly, but their incompatibility is what complicates and multiplies the narrative. As the sun shifts, each portrait's shadow casts itself across another, layering stories as generations and whakapapa intersect and bind.

The portraits have giveaway features: the plait of a young girl, the small features of an even younger child, huia feathers adorning the head of a distinguished wahine Māori, the clipped beard and starched collar of a gentleman. The portraits are conglomerates composed of the personal history and descendents of artist Cathryn Monro and her children, including Cathryn's great great grandfather Sir David Monro, an MP and Speaker of the House of Representatives between 1861 and 1870; her children's ancestor Hohipaea Sophia McGregor; and Cathryn's daughter blended with an embroidered cameo of her mother that her grandmother made when she was sent away to school while living in Tanganyika, East Africa. At the same time, and more saliently, they depict a shared, broader narrative of belonging, movement, and memory to create "a national portrait, capturing the complexity of who we are as a nation and the challenges we face," Cathryn says.

"I thought what if I got [Sir David] together with my children and some of their other tūpuna on that intersection to have a conversation about Aotearoa today? They all have such different arrival stories and would offer different perspectives on what belonging, home, and being a New Zealander means. Here they are, meeting and learning about each other across 184 years of history."

Per Capita sits opposite Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, outside QT Wellington hotel, on reclaimed land in the capital city. "Amongst all of that are crosscurrents of national history, conservation, narrative, identity, belonging, origins, arrival, colonisation, place names, transition, accommodation, relocation, home, government, democracy, meeting, public and civic space, land ownership, and people. I wanted to capture all of that somehow."

The title *Per Capita* is Latin for 'by the head' and refers to the individuals that make up a population. Sitting at Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui, the head of the fish of Māui, it is a nod to the capital as the seat of Aotearoa's democratically elected government, and the site where issues of identity and nationhood are discussed, debated, and shaped.

Commissioned by Wellington Sculpture Trust and installed in 2006, the sculpture is made of 40-millimeter-thick plates of weathering steel. With the tallest standing at four metres and a combined weight of eight tonnes, Cathryn couldn't manually handle the materials in her studio, instead providing computer-aided designs to a company that builds roading bridges, who water-cut the images into the plates. To account for high winds and active faultlines, beneath the pavement lie rigorously engineered foundations that, during construction, had to contend with a thicket of unlabelled pipes and cables (one day, while excavating the site, one of the contractors inadvertently caused a power outage across the CBD).

"As four two-dimensional forms, the challenge was to place them in a way that they still related to each other visually but couldn't be understood from one angle only. It requires a shift in perspectives and more exploration to see it as a whole," Cathryn says. "In the same way society is complex and we need to be willing to move to see our blind spots."

Over the last two decades, the sculptures have developed a patina of age, weathering big storms, strong winds, and saline blasts as well as heavy motor and foot traffic. The flat planes of the sculptures haven't been exempt from vandalism, but they have also been covered in decorative chalk drawings, moko kauae, and urban knitting.

"Weathering steel is amazing as it constantly weathers. If the surface is damaged and the patina lost, it can heal itself. I like the resonance of that. A natural patina builds too where people touch the work; I've even seen photos posted of people giving the work a hongi, so people are becoming part of the work every time they touch it."

With its exploration of intersecting histories, belonging, and identity, *Per Capita* feels more vital and relevant than ever. 20 years on we have an increasingly polarised population still grappling with its colonial past. Our national identity continues to be argued across party lines in a manner that is selective and wholly simplified. As the country heads to the polls to decide on the future government, the sculpture's imposing physical expression of the nation's shared and complicated history continues to offer possibilities for the future.

"We have such a golden opportunity to learn to work together on complex problems if we can get past our colonial mindset. I'd so love for parliament to evolve into a place of intelligent collaborative wānanga, where the house is a place of mana, an institution of long-term stewardship, not this ridiculous low-grade pantomime of shouting and name calling we currently have."

Cathryn continues to explore ancestry and genealogy in her art practice. She is currently working on a series using her grandmother's workbooks from her time learning to paint under classical masters in Hong Kong between 1957 and 1964.

"I'm cutting and collaging the sample paintings into compositions that represent and honour her work and bring it to life in a new way. There's the cutout again! I love the tactile analogue process of cutting, pasting, and composing. Following her hand and layering in the intervention of mine feels like a collaboration across time."

Cathryn delivers half-day lectures for The Wall Walk, which shares the history of Māori-Crown relations, how laws have shaped it, and how they play into current challenges and skewed statistics. "We really need to be taught New Zealand history at school so we can be better informed and make better decisions for the health and wealth of our future. And we need to educate the previous generations that also missed out on that knowledge."

Cathryn recently went on a whakapapa trip to Scotland, staying in the Munro castle, where a hefty piece of Arts and Crafts furniture bears the words of art critic and social philosopher John Ruskin, "Life without work is guilt, and industry without art is brutality."

In that way creativity isn't frivolous, but essential to elevating human awareness. "Just as work is important to our sense of purpose and worth, we need art to articulate our experience, make sense of who we are, and connect us to our shared humanity. Public art honours human experience and can transform public spaces into places of manaaki, shared reflection, insight, and connection."

Per Capita and its shifting shadows and superimpositions remind us that "we don't just whakapapa back, we whakapapa forward too."

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Gallery news

by Isabella Smith

Sculpted metaphors



Kneeling Boy, 2010. Photo by Ryan McCauley.

Terry Stringer ONZM is a canonical figure of contemporary Aotearoa art whose practice spans half a century. The artist is known for his bronze, figurative sculptures that explore human forms, often distorting and sloping their dimensions across a flat plane. To celebrate his 80th birthday, the sculptor's long-time friend and curator Mark Hutchins-Pond has selected touchstones of the stylistic and thematic evolutions of his work, both two and three dimensional, which are currently on display at Page Galleries until the 14th of November.

The title of the exhibition, *CONTINUITIES: Stringer's Stringers – 1990 to 2025*, reflects the way the artist views his practice as a continuous exploration of the human condition through the metaphor of sculpture. The works are from Terry's personal archival collection, which he began for his own reference in the early 1990s.

"Each work expresses something of what he has personally experienced in the complex and chaotic world we live in as well as his observations of how others navigate this problematic minefield of human existence in these times," Hutchins-Pond says. "But each new work he creates is an expression and exploration of new ideas, so there is always more to learn and discover."

With references to classical sculpture, renaissance art, and cubism, Stringer incorporates "what are often quite complex narratives into his sculptures".

What is most rewarding about Stringer's sculptures is the experience of viewing them from different perspectives and witnessing how their axes shift like a wobbling top. With the concept of a 'peephole' as a recurring theme in a number of the works, it "subtly echoes the curatorial intent of the *CONTINUITIES* exhibition: to tantalisingly reveal hidden secrets to a privileged few through elaborately ritualistic means."

Trash Collector



Photo by Isabella Smith.

Plastics and synthetic polymers are an unavoidable fact of our modern existence. Bottle caps, yoghurt lids, clingfilm, and silver foil form the ever-growing mound of evidence of our daily life since birth. Jeweller Moniek Schrijer's exhibition *Trash Collector*, found in the illuminated, monolithic Courtenay Place lightboxes until February 2027, sees the artist collecting and working with found objects to make jewellery, then setting them against textural black-and-white film photographs of urban and natural environs taken around Pōneke over a year.

Fragments of glass are set into metal inlays, bottle caps are folded over, bits of plastic are strung into a necklace, a piece of bark becomes a pendant. The works reimagine the down-and-out objects doomed to be pushed along gutters, snagged in urban infrastructure, or buried in landfill for millennia.

"Reworking and reimagining existing objects is something I have often done in my practice, especially in my early years. The challenge was working with objects and materials I disliked and had previously chosen not to bring into my oeuvre," Moniek says.

Moniek remembers where she gathered most of the materials over the years. An action that requires one to notice small things, to consider one's surroundings, and to subvert ideas of value.

"We are totally anchored to our phones when out and about, and we often block out the visual environment when in transit or experiencing a new place; hopefully these works remind us to slow down and observe the small details. I feel the plastic in the pieces ended up quite hidden in the work, like the way it is in our environment and daily life."

Shifting concentrations



Still from AD, 2026.
Image courtesy of the artist and Lett Thomas.

In Sriwhana Spong's exhibition *HA HA HA*, on at Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery until the 25th of March 2027, edges are softened and empty space is revealed to be vital and full of movement. Here, energy metamorphoses and reverberates, like the expulsion of breath – pumped by the heart – which forms the voiceless glottal fricative 'ha'.

The exhibition brings together a body of works spanning over a decade of Sriwhana's practice, featuring film, sculpture, and musical instruments alongside two new commissions. These works are shaped by meditations on continuity and change, inheritance and agency.

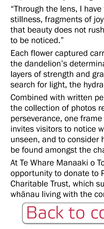
The *aun-aun* motif used in traditional Balinese Kamasan painting runs through the newer works. "This motif is said to represent the idea that there is no such thing as empty space but fields of energy in shifting concentrations," Sriwhana says.

"In his final painting, my grandfather, I Gusti Made Rundu, metamorphosised this motif into warring insects. I took up this gesture of transformation and brought my own translation of mist, which emerged during the process of learning to draw the motif myself in 2025 under the guidance of the painter Ketut Murki."

The 2026 film *AD*, shot on 16mm film, follows a road trip to Dartmouth, England, arriving at the moor in dense fog. The film's soundtrack, composed by Lachlan Anderson, is created using *Instrument I, (Made Rundu)* (2026), adding a sonic dimension to the *aun-aun* motif. Since 2015, Sriwhana has been making a series of instruments inspired by the Balinese gamelan, an ensemble of traditional percussive instruments, which are on display.

In *HA HA HA*, Sriwhana tampers with filmic processes using electrical currents, completes an unfinished poem by Lord Byron using an AI large language model, and moves audiences through states of knowing and unknowing, intimacy and distance.

One frame at a time



Looking at the world through the lens of a camera has the ability to expand time and open it up to unexpected beauty and moments of stillness. For Margarita Yiannoutsos, photographing flowers has been both a refuge and a means of expression while living with Parkinson's for the last 15 years.

Her upcoming exhibition *Through My Lens, I Bloom: A Journey of Resilience, Light and Quiet Beauty*, on at Te Whare Manaaki o Toda Gallery, on Cuba Street between the 9th and the 28th of November, is an exploration of light, change, and perseverance through the images of flowers.

"For 15 years I have walked alongside Parkinson's; learning its rhythms, its pauses, and its unpredictability," Margarita says.

"Through the lens, I have found moments of stillness, fragments of joy, and gentle reminders that beauty does not rush; it simply exists, waiting to be noticed."

Each flower captured carries its own associations: the dandelion's determination, the rose's unfolding layers of strength and grace, the sunflower's search for light, the hydrangea's adaptability.

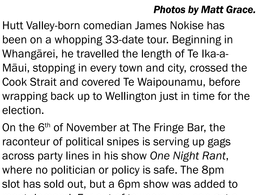
Combined with written personal reflections, the collection of photos reveals small acts of perseverance, one frame at a time. The exhibition invites visitors to notice what can easily pass unseen, and to consider how creativity and joy can be found amongst the challenges of illness.

As Te Whare Manaaki o Toda Gallery, there is an opportunity to donate to Parkinson's New Zealand Charitable Trust, which supports people and their whānau living with the condition.

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Hot off the trail *by Isabella Smith*





Photos by Matt Grace.

Hutt Valley-born comedian James Nokise has been on a whopping 33-date tour. Beginning in Whangārei, he travelled the length of Te Ika-a-Māui, stopping in every town and city, crossed the Cook Strait and covered Te Waipounamu, before wrapping back up to Wellington just in time for the election.

On the 6th of November at The Fringe Bar, the raconteur of political snipes is serving up gags across party lines in his show *One Night Rant*, where no politician or policy is safe. The 8pm slot has sold out, but a 6pm show was added to meet demand. For out-of-towners, you can get a livestream ticket to the 8pm show or find live-from-the-road field reports from each stop of the tour at www.jamesnokise.com.

We caught up to discuss what's set to be a frenetic evening of fist-shaking, boot-stomping catharsis.

Tell me about the nationwide tour.
I wanted to be able to really get a feel for the country's attitude towards the election and current politics. We hear a lot about what small town NZ feels, but don't necessarily see it. Also, there are amazing stories and characters to be found around the country. The tour has let me seek out those stories too.

Has the show evolved over time?
I had a really scripted, tight hour of jokes ready for opening night and it sort of went out the window as soon as I asked 'How's everyone feeling about the election?' The show's now morphed into much more of a comedic town hall meet. The jokes are still there, but people have got stuff they want to get off their chests.

How does it feel to follow the election so closely?
Exhausting? Debilitating? Stimulating? It's not just the MPs that make the news. When you do a tour like this, you're looking at all the local candidates in the places you perform at. I'm absorbing a lot of the press cycle, but I'm also finding out the quirks of local politics as I visit new places.

What kind of vibes do you anticipate in the capital?
There's a certain mania building in Wellington around the election. It's not an excitement as much as a sort of repressed catharsis from a city that's neck deep in bureaucracy. I'm looking forward to tapping into that energy, and sort of showing that off on the livestream we've got happening for people from out of town or overseas. Wellington is a dorky city, but it's got an edge I think people forget about.

What's on the cards for the night?
A lot of stories from the tour, and a summary of the campaigns. I'm not gonna tell people how to vote, but I will be making fun of every party and hopefully picking up a few final stories from the Welly gossip machine too. I'm throwing the kitchen sink at those shows, and I think the crowd will bring that kind of energy too.

Shimmering shimmies



The next chapter of students from Pōneke's burlesque school The Velvet Haven are gearing up to showcase what they've been working on during an intimate cabaret night at The Fringe Bar on the 15th of November.

Through the mediums of bumps, grinds, poses, struts, and shimmies, the students have been exploring movement, sensuality, silliness, and confidence in a safe space led by Ginger Velour and Robin Yablind – who will be your hosts on the night.

With a whole lot of sparkle and talent, the lineup of budding solo starlets will strut their stuff on stage – many for the first time ever – while the advanced students debut new acts they've been crafting over the last term. There'll also be group performances ranging from kinky to comedic, all with equal amounts of empowerment and expression.

"As teachers, it is incredible to see all the fabulous mahi our students have been putting into their performances", say Robin and Ginger, who will also make special appearances in the 90-minute show.

"It is such a privilege to watch our community go from individuals who may not even like looking in the mirror during their first class to gaining confidence and a love of self-expression, then taking the next step as performers ready to shine on stage."

At *The Velvet Haven: Student Showcase*, the enthusiasm will be palpable and the attention to detail beautiful. Head along and witness how these burlesque students keep showing up for their community and for themselves.

Shadows grow tall



Spine-tingling tales of terror and mystery await at The Dickensian Bookshop & Tea Rooms in Featherston. Horror and dark fiction writer Denver Grenell alongside authors T.L. Wood, Ricky Dey, and Gary Shaw will conjure vengeful spirits and local ghosts in this spooky late-night storytelling event, happening at 10pm on the 14th of November.

On as part of the Featherston Heritage Festival, these locally based writers have crafted original bone-chilling stories inspired by the land and people of Featherston.

"A few of us live here, and we can easily write about our experiences and the stories we've heard from long-time residents," Grenell says. "The stories are fictional, but the settings are real."

Fact, folklore, and fiction will blur at the *Featherston Ghost Stories* event, as spooks and spectres emerge out of the shadows of different time periods, including a period piece, one set in the 1970s, and one in the modern day. Who knows, a cryptid might even show up.

Featherston Heritage Festival runs from the 13th to the 15th of November, with over 30 events on offer. As Aotearoa's only Booktown, it is a place full of stories. "I'm really looking forward to adding to that legacy by sharing original Featherston-based tales with an eager late-night audience."

"I hope the stories get under attendees' skin, so they might look twice at certain buildings or landmarks (like the Featherston Library, for instance) when journeying through or around Featherston, preferably late at night after the event."

Love your garden



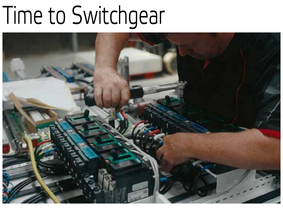
Green Valley Gardening is a finalist in Excellence in Construction, Trades and Infrastructure at the 2026 2degrees Wellington Regional Business Excellence Awards, and the team could not be prouder.

Founded by Hamish Murray in 2020, Green Valley has grown from one gardener and a dozen clients into five full-time professionals caring for more than 80 regular clients across Wellington, Hutt Valley, Kāpiti, and South Wairarapa, with a portfolio ranging from private homes and diplomatic residences to commercial properties.

Every garden receives a tailored maintenance programme from experienced horticulturists who take pride in their craft, from hedge trimming and topiary to pruning, plant health, and seasonal planting. Tools are battery-powered, treatments are glyphosate-free, and the team are Registered Master Landscapers.

The care shows. Woodcote Gardens, which Green Valley Gardening maintains, holds a four-star Garden of Significance rating from the New Zealand Gardens Trust.

Time to Switchgear



Excel Switchgear has a small team with a huge output. Located in a modern factory in Petone, they provide custom-built electrical and mechanical switchboards, pump stations and irrigation systems, and enclosures for large electrical systems.

Under the new ownership of Antony and Stefanie Dixon, Excel Switchgear's team of dedicated professionals undertake dozens of projects a year. Recent significant projects include the control boxes for street lighting along Transmission Gully, new switchboards for factory expansions for Whittaker's, and a suite of high-capacity boards designed to manage the immense load of Te Whare Toroa at RNZAF Base Ōhakea.

Being a small team, Excel Switchgear has the advantage of providing a personalised service, from consultation and quotation to design and final manufacture. Their regular customers continue to return for their excellent product knowledge, consistently high-quality switchboard solutions, approachability, and transparent pricing and scheduling.

Congratulations, finalists



Each year Wellington's diverse business community is celebrated in the 2degrees Wellington Regional Business Excellence Awards, with the finalists function held at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club.

The awards recognise local businesses who contribute to the success and vibrancy of Wellington. Each of the nine awards categories have up to six finalists – some of whom you'll find in these pages. The categories are: Best Small Business; Celebrating Diversity, Inclusion and Growing People; Excellence in Sustainability and Environmental Practices; Excellence in Health, Safety and Wellbeing; Excellence in Technology & Innovation; Excellence in Service & Support; Excellence in Manufacturing; Excellence in Construction Trades and Infrastructure; and Excellence in Hospitality, Tourism and Retail.

All finalists are in the running for the ANZ People's Choice Award, which is voted for by the public and recognises business success based on what matters most: community, stakeholders, staff, and customers.

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WELLINGTON REGIONAL EXCELLENCE
WHO ARE OUR FINALISTS?
BE INSPIRED BY TODAY'S FINALISTS

SPECIAL CATEGORIES FINALISTS

Celebrating Diversity, Inclusion, and Growing People
Down & Dunlop, I'm In Employment Programme, Mana Communications, Preston Corp Ltd, Workstep ara

Best Small Business
Elysian Foods, Excel Switchgear Ltd, Jolly Billboards, Morden, Speedy Signs Hutt Valley

Excellence in Sustainable & Environmental Practices
BRANZ, Farman Turkington Forestry Ltd, KAM Transport & Logistics, Macaulay, The Kids Market, Wellington Airport

Excellence in Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Innovation
Anastasia Bennett - Perinenopause Health, Maidenz Pawdbusters Ltd, Presbyterian Support Central, Seaview Marina, Yellow Brick Road

AWARDS GALA EVENING
Friday 20 November 2026
6.00PM - Late
Lower Hutt Events Centre, 30c Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt

BUSINESS CATEGORIES FINALISTS

Excellence in Service & Support
Cultivia Consultants Ltd, I'm In Employment Programme , KAM Transport & Logistics, Workstep ara, Timex-7

Excellence in Manufacturing
KiwiStar Optics, Preston Foods, Steel E.D. & Falton, Timex-7, Uniplex NZ

Excellence in Technology & Innovation
Askiuma.ai by Arnamon AG, Hirtenberger Defence Technology Limited, Maidstone Pawdbusters Ltd, Pridac Consulting Ltd, Timex-7

Excellence in Hospitality, Retail, & Tourism
Blue Carrot Catering, Frank's Coffee, Petone Club , The Crooked Elm, The White Swan Country Hotel

Excellence in Construction, Trades, & Infrastructure
Green Valley Gardening, Holmes Architecture, Holmes Construction, SQN Consulting Limited, Steel E.D. & Falton

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Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce

The next generation

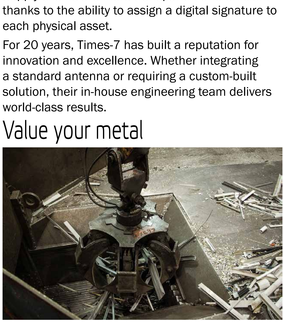


For 47 years, Dixon & Dunlop has helped shape Wellington and Hutt Valley through civil construction, earthworks, roading, and infrastructure. Founded in 1979, we have grown as a business while retaining the practical, people-focused values that built our reputation.

The past 18 months have brought significant ownership, management, and generational change, which we have embraced as an opportunity to strengthen the business. We have broadened recruitment, created pathways from operational roles into leadership, increased diversity, and adapted training to support different learning needs.

Importantly, we continue to value the experience of our long-serving people, encouraging them to share their knowledge and skills through mentoring and development. Alongside stronger safety measures, digital systems, commercial reporting, and sustainability initiatives, we are creating a culture based on respect and shared knowledge where people can succeed, building a more inclusive and resilient Dixon & Dunlop for the next generation.

Global reach



Times-7, a Petone-based company, specialises in high-performance fixed RAIN RFID (UHF) antennas. This cutting-edge technology has transformed inventory management and asset tracking in retail and healthcare, while optimising operations in logistics, manufacturing, and industrial automation worldwide.

Designed and manufactured locally yet distributed globally, Times-7's antennas are integral to solutions that rapidly scan, identify, and authenticate thousands of items within seconds, drastically accelerating item tracking.

Tasks that once required manual scanning are now automated, hands-off processes that ensure assets are identified and tracked with precision. Supply chains are more transparent and efficient thanks to the ability to assign a digital signature to each physical asset.

For 20 years, Times-7 has built a reputation for innovation and excellence. Whether integrating a standard antenna or requiring a custom-built solution, their in-house engineering team delivers world-class results.

Value your metal



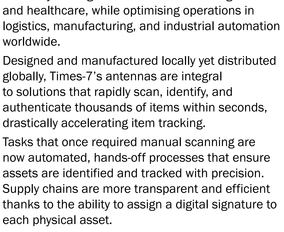
Whether you're giving the garage a tidy or in a job that leaves you regularly surrounded by metal that needs recycling, Macaulay Metals' buying shed in Seaview will take it off your hands. New Zealand's largest privately owned metal recyclers, not only do they help you with your discards, but your back pocket and the environment benefit too.

Since 1959, Macaulay Metals have built a network of customers, and continue to be trusted for their honesty, integrity, fair pricing, and prompt payment. Their handling of larger, commercial jobs and demolition projects makes their metal recycling services the most comprehensive in the industry. A fleet of trucks across the North Island can also assist by picking up the material from onsite, making life much easier for you and recovering value.

The staff are experts in their field, and every load is tracked and recorded by an IT system. That way, customers feel confident with every load.

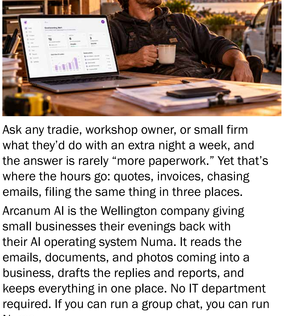






Regional Business Excellence Awards

Free your evening



Ask any tradie, workshop owner, or small firm what they'd do with an extra night a week, and the answer is rarely "more paperwork." Yet that's where the hours go: quotes, invoices, chasing emails, filing the same thing in three places.

Arcanum AI is the Wellington company giving small businesses their evenings back with their AI operating system Numa. It reads the emails, documents, and photos coming into a business, drafts the replies and reports, and keeps everything in one place. No IT department required. If you can run a group chat, you can run Numa.

Used by more than 150 businesses across New Zealand and Australia, Numa saves active users around four hours a month. Closer to home, you'll find it behind the scenes at Howden, AV Media, Howie, Advanced Electrical, David Reid Homes, Racetech, and plenty more Wellington names, including fellow award finalists. Find out more at asknuma.ai

Experts in development



Celebrating 80 years in business next year, Cuttriss Consultants has been helping people turn development ideas into reality across the Wellington region.

With experienced planners, surveyors, and civil engineers working together in-house, we provide practical advice and solutions for projects of all sizes, from individual residential properties through to large-scale land developments.

Our strength is bringing the right people and expertise together. We understand the local landscape, know the challenges of developing land, and work closely with our clients to navigate the process from initial concept through to completion.

With a reputation built on strong relationships, sound technical advice and getting results, we're here to help make your project a success. Visit www.cuttriss.co.nz to book a free consultation and let's start talking about your next project.

Thoughtful designs



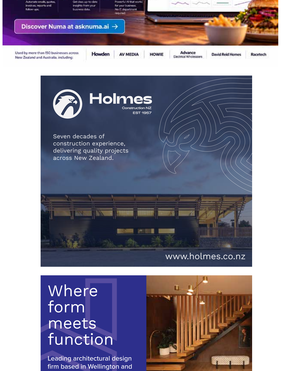
Good architecture is about more than how a building looks. It's about how people live, work, and use a space, and how well it stands the test of time.

Established by Mike Holmes in 2010, Holmes Architecture brings together considered design and practical building knowledge across residential and commercial projects. From bespoke homes and character renovations to multi-unit developments, retail spaces, and commercial fitouts, every space balances form, function and individuality.

Every project starts with understanding the brief, the site, and the budget. With experience spanning feasibility, concept design, documentation, and building consents, Holmes Architecture works closely with clients to turn ideas into well-resolved, buildable designs.

Based in Wellington and working across New Zealand, the award-winning team takes a straightforward approach to architecture: thoughtful design, practical solutions, and buildings made to last. For design that works beyond the drawing board, get in touch with Holmes Architecture.







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Rural living – lifestyle farming

Hill country retreat



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

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

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

Uniquely experienced



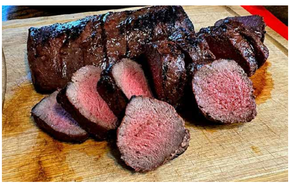
Tomlinson and Carruthers are a full-service surveying, project, and resource management firm established in 1948 and based in Masterton. Their experienced staff are dedicated to providing a high level of service and live in the communities they help develop.

The expert team undertake a wide variety of surveying work in both rural and urban areas. They perform work such as the definition and relocation of boundaries, the removal of title limitations, cadastral matters, unit title surveys, and more. They can also conduct topographical and legalisation surveys.

If you're looking to subdivide, Tomlinson and Carruthers are experienced in land development, and as a first step, they'll determine whether the revenue gained from the sale of the developed land will exceed the cost of development. The team of surveyors can work with you throughout your project, from initial concept to final touches.

Every project is unique but so are Tomlinson and Carruthers.

Fruits of the hunt



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

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

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

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

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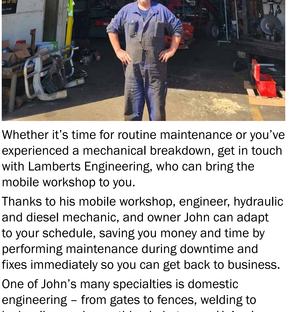
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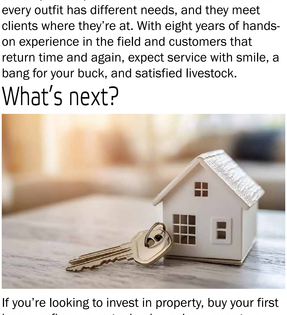
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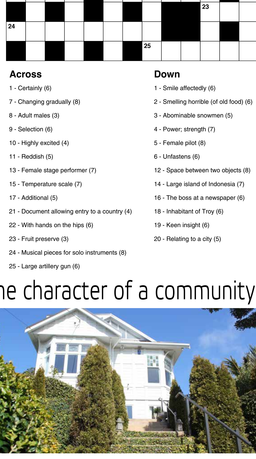
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Puzzles

3	2							
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	5		6		1	4	3	
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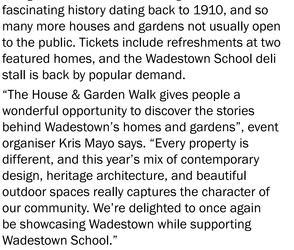
Across

1 - Certainly (6)
7 - Changing gradually (8)
8 - Adult males (3)
9 - Selection (6)
10 - Highly excited (4)
11 - Reddish (5)
13 - Female stage performer (7)
15 - Temperature scale (7)
17 - Additional (5)
21 - Document allowing entry to a country (4)
22 - With hands on the hips (6)
23 - Fruit preserve (3)
24 - Musical pieces for solo instruments (8)
25 - Large artillery gun (6)

Down

1 - Smile affectedly (6)
2 - Smelling horrible (of old food) (6)
3 - Abominable snowmen (5)
4 - Power; strength (7)
5 - Female pilot (8)
6 - Unfastens (6)
12 - Space between two objects (8)
14 - Large island of Indonesia (7)
16 - The boss at a newspaper (6)
18 - Inhabitant of Troy (6)
19 - Keen insight (6)
20 - Relating to a city (5)

The character of a community



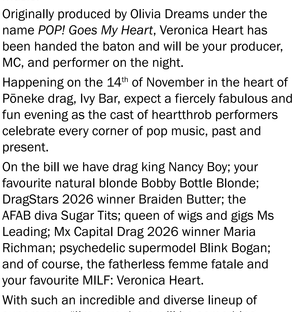
If you live in Wadestown or have ever wandered through the suburb, you'll know the houses and gardens there are stunning. Many sing of history and heritage, while others mix classical with contemporary design, honouring the character of one of Wellington's oldest suburbs while sparkling with sustainable, modern-day features. Lush gardens wrap these homes in verdant green and florals that bloom beautifully all year round, but especially in spring.

On Sunday the 15th of November from 10am to 4pm, locals and visitors, architecture buffs and green thumbs alike will have the opportunity to explore these gems on the Wadestown School House & Garden Walk. A cherished community tradition that raises funds for Wadestown School and has been running for nearly three decades, this year's event features an award-winning sustainable home that was featured on *Grand Designs New Zealand*, a heritage home with a fascinating history dating back to 1910, and so many more houses and gardens not usually open to the public. Tickets include refreshments at two featured homes, and the Wadestown School deli stall is back by popular demand.

"The House & Garden Walk gives people a wonderful opportunity to discover the stories behind Wadestown's homes and gardens", event organiser Kris Mayo says. "Every property is different, and this year's mix of contemporary design, heritage architecture, and beautiful outdoor spaces really captures the character of our community. We're delighted to once again be showcasing Wadestown while supporting Wadestown School."

Don't run out of thyme, hurry over to visit www.wadestown.school.nz

Make it pop



Back again by POP!-ular demand – after a little rebrand and a makeover – *Popstars!* is set to become the ultimate drag event for all things pop music.

Originally produced by Olivia Dreams under the name *POP! Goes My Heart*, Veronica Heart has been handed the baton and will be your producer, MC, and performer on the night.

Happening on the 14th of November in the heart of Pōneke drag, Ivy Bar, expect a fiercely fabulous and fun evening as the cast of heartthrob performers celebrate every corner of pop music, past and present.

On the bill we have drag king Nancy Boy; your favourite natural blonde Bobby Bottle Blonde; DragStars 2026 winner Braiden Butter; the AFAB diva Sugar Tits; queen of wigs and gigs Ms Leading; Mx Capital Drag 2026 winner Maria Richman; psychedelic supermodel Blink Bogan; and of course, the fatherless femme fatale and your favourite MILF: Veronica Heart.

With such an incredible and diverse lineup of superstars, "I'm sure there will be something that caters towards a range of pop music lovers," Veronica says.

Be ready to sing along to your favourite pop bops and admire the time, effort, and craft put into creating such a high-energy, star-studded show. "Audiences need to make noise! Drag performers are notoriously egotistical and respond to noise!" Veronica says, adding that "The more you hoot and holler throughout their number, the better (usually) they'll be!"

A show not to be missed, get ready to witness banger after banger.

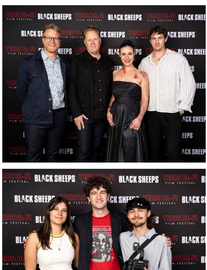
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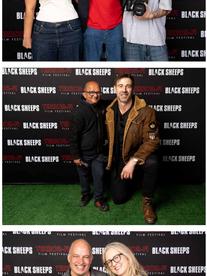
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Black Sheeps premiere at The Roxy Cinema

Photos by Rebecca McMillan Photography



















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Elegance

Presented by New Zealand Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Tianyi Lu
Michael Fowler Centre, 16th Oct 2026
Reviewed by Tamsin Evans

Ilaita Kanneh-Mason. Photo by John Davis.

It's hard to choose a favourite from three courses of sublime music. Often, it's the entrée for me but the second course was my pick from this feast.

The entrée, Elfrida Andrée's *Andante Recitative* for strings, was wonderful. A romantic violin solo, hesitant and broken over sustained lower strings, melody passing between cello and violins, a thick almost chewy sound, rising from the deep to finish on sustained violin. Delicious.

The second course was Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 27. Pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason played with the perfect level of dominance in her right hand, her left almost unnoticeable at times but always guiding our ears towards the melody. She played with astonishing fluidity and an admirable confidence in the face of the complexity and challenge of a well-known Mozart concerto.

The last movement, Allegro, perfectly combined Mozart's originality with Kanneh-Mason's incredible talent. In lesser hands, Mozart's harmonic variations might seem repetitive, but multiplied many times over by the brilliance of Kanneh-Mason's talent, this was infinite variety and inventiveness condensed into a few too-short minutes. Kanneh-Mason made Mozart her own creation, surely one of the loudest things in the world. A divinely played version of *I Say a Little Prayer* was her equally impressive, wow-factor encore.

As far as the NZSO's institutional memory and archives can tell, the orchestra has never performed Serenade No. 1 in D Major by Brahms. Six movements show off his versatility and creativity in what is considered the first published orchestral work. Conductor Tianyi Lu's interpretation, coupled with the orchestra enjoying the challenge of something less familiar, established a really light-heartedness throughout this piece. From the opening few bars, it was clear something joyful was coming, followed by something martial, romantic, playful, and confident. The finishing Rondo felt like a cantering horse was slowing to a fast trot, skittering slightly and coming to a happy standstill.

Accomplice

Written by Rupert Holmes
Directed by Neil Brewer
Gryphon Theatre, 28th Oct 2026
Reviewed by Zac Fitzgibbon

Strap into your seat and prepare for a wild ride. This is not your ordinary comedy thriller. Beginning in a cottage in Dartmoor, the air is filled with the hint of adultery and murder. What unfurls is a mystery that even the greatest sleuth would struggle to solve. Leaving you perplexed at almost every moment, you are going to need a warm footbath of Epsom salts to help process this one.

As quoted in *Accomplice*, 'Stan Slavsky' once said, "a single prop can ground an entire show". Each of Megan Laybourn's props has a significance and believability that, without spoiling the plot, grounds us deeply in the unfolding narrative.

Jack Thompson's set is, like the show, full of surprises and feels very homely; fitting considering this is to be the house of the incredibly content married couple Derek and Janet Taylor. There is absolutely no tension between them (or anyone else) at all... Not one bit!

~Expect the unexpected, and you won't be disappointed~ is an apt description provided by the president of Wellington Repertory Theatre, Kevin Hastings. This show relies on many twists and turns to engage the audience, and all four actors do such a fantastic job of suspending reality to allow for these to happen.

It is difficult to compliment the cast members individually without spoiling character truths or important moments, but Jonathan Evans, Catherine Price, Kevin Hastings, and Phoebe Day are fantastic at *playing* terrible actors. All their performances are incredibly believable in a very meta sense. It's not often that the person responsible for 'public announcements' is credited in the programme, let alone mentioned in a review; however, I feel that Gary Hollier deserves a particular commendation for their work.

Filled to the brim with surprises, *Accomplice* makes it hard to distinguish what's real and what's not. This suspenseful slow burn is sure to be all the rage in Wellington, just as it is in Crawley. Ensure you book tickets to the final show of Wellington Repertory Theatre's centenary season as soon as possible, or else your fate may be left to poison, knives, hairdryers, or other such devices.

After God

Written by Stuart McKenzie
Directed by Miranda Harcourt & Stuart McKenzie
Circa Theatre, 20th Oct 2026
Reviewed by Tanya Plejus

Photo by Stephen A'Court.

From the team that brought us *Transmission* and *Transmission: Beta* comes *After God*, a new verbatim play described by its writer Stuart McKenzie as a "mash-up of philosophical dialogue, medieval morality play, divine comedy, and absurdist drama in the spirit of *Waiting for Godot*". For an audience, it's a high-energy theatrical machine gun of ideas marshalled by a disciplined and beautiful production design and imaginative direction.

With a hungry mind and burning questions, McKenzie (mostly Andrew Paterson) hits the road, travelling from Wellington to Kathmandu, London, and New York. Along the way, he encounters a vivid cast of real-life characters: theologians, Tibetan rinpoches, philosophers, cosmologists, taxi drivers, hotel receptionists, a famous singing nun, and his own mother. Each has their own radically different way of making sense of human existence. As he travels, he is in constant conversation with theologian Mark C. Taylor (Michael Hurst), the author of the play's subtitle, 'Hope is an act of defiance'.

Assisting the two leads who expertly anchor the narrative are Kali Kopae, Roy Clark, and Tara Canton, who all do stellar work as the many other voices along the path of the two men's journey towards understanding. The moment when the whole cast joins in song is divine.

Mark McEntyre's elegant set design consists of two black gantry forms with steps either end and a gap in between so actors can move freely around the space. Five hanging strips of muslin, hand-pulled by the actors, provide a dynamic backdrop for Chris Bloodkey's visuals of fractals and evocative photographs of hands. Natasha James' lighting design, which makes excellent use of side light and colour, adds mystery and meaning to the play's scenes of place. Alongside Chris Ward's atmospheric sound design, William Philipson's original music complements with depth and rhythm.

Filled with existential questions and answers that leave much to ponder, this is ultimately a satisfying and superbly realised story of friendship between two men searching for God in a confounding world.

Midge Ure – Catalogue: The Hits Tour

Meow Nui, 23rd Oct 2026
Reviewed by Graeme King

Midge Ure is primarily known as a new wave and synth-pop artist, formerly of the bands Ultravox and Visage. As well as being a successful singer-songwriter and record and video producer, he is also an accomplished guitarist, temporarily joining hard-rock band Thin Lizzy in the late 1970s. This concert had been delayed a year due to Ure's health issues, and the full-house audience were certainly more than ready to party!

Support act Cole Stacey, whose strong vocals and energetic mandolin-playing fronts indie-pop wave the perfect warmup, is also a member of Ure's touring band. His version of Mary Hopkin's *Those Were The Days* from 1968 was a highlight, with many of the audience in full voice showing their generation.

30 minutes later, Ure together with Stacey (keyboards, bass, backing vocals), Russell Field (Ure's long-time drummer) and Joseph O'Keefe (keyboards, violin) arrived on stage to rapturous applause.

The first song *Dear God* set the tone for the night. *Again We Land* blended into *Call of the Wild*, after which Ure said, "I have to apologise, we're a wee bit late – about a year!" On *Passing Strangers*, the audience were encouraged to clap along. The huge solo hit *If I Was* followed and had the crowd singing the choruses. Ure commented on the venue's unique design: "We've never played in half a yacht before!"

After the gorgeous Tom Rush ballad *No Regrets*, Ure said (with a hint of sarcasm), "Isn't it classic that something I *didn't* write gets the best applause!" The heavy guitar-laden Led Zeppelin-esque *Monster* segued effortlessly into crowd-favourite *Vienna*, featuring a stunning violin solo by O'Keefe.

Reap the Wild Wind again had the crowd in full voice as did *Fade To Grey*, with Ure switching from guitar to keyboard. For *Dancing with Tears in My Eyes*, the band quietened down for the crowd to sing the choruses on our own! This was a band clearly enjoying themselves, and Ure happily engaged with the adoring audience.

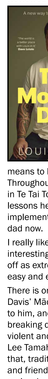
The first encore, the instrumental *Yellow Pearl*, led beautifully into the final song *Hymn*. Then it was over, the crowd leaving tired but sated.

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Book reviews

The Modern Dad

Written by Louis Davis
Allen & Unwin
Reviewed by Kerry Lee



Growing up is not easy, no matter when or where you were raised. Each generation has its own unique challenges, and the lessons we learn and that stick with us help us become the parents we want to be.

TikTok star and one of New Zealand's biggest online celebrities, Louis Davis explains what being a parent means to him in his new memoir *The Modern Dad*. Throughout the book, he explores his childhood in Te Tai Tokerau in New Zealand's Far North, the lessons he learned from his parents, and how he implements those lessons in his day-to-day life as a dad now.

I really liked this book and found it quite interesting. Despite his internet fame, Davis comes off as extremely down-to-earth, and his writing is easy and enjoyable to read.

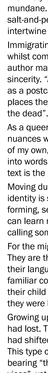
There is one section in particular that I loved. Davis' Māori heritage is extremely important to him, and he dedicates an entire chapter to breaking down the depiction of Māori fathers as violent and angry characters like Jake the Muss in Lee Tamahori's *Once Were Warriors*. Davis explains that, traditionally, Māori men were playful, gentle, and friendly toward their children. In fact, many early missionaries to New Zealand noted what good fathers Māori men were – they were certainly not just warriors. Tackling the past and the present, this chapter dismantles the incorrect perception of Māori as bad fathers then and now. Davis sets the record straight, trying to dismiss a stereotype that circulated even before the movie came out in the 90s.

Modern Dad would suit a reader either thinking about having kids or who has just had one and is looking for a little advice. Either way, it is a great read. Don't go into it expecting a how-to manual, though I suspect they do not exist!

If you see this book, do not hesitate to pick it up. *Modern Dad* might be one of the best memoirs I've read all year.

Lucky Creatures

Written by Joseph Trinidad
Te Herenga Waka University Press
Reviewed by Tineke Buser



As the title suggests, Joseph Trinidad's debut essay collection *Lucky Creatures* has proven to be an incredibly fortuitous read, nestling itself tenderly within my bookshelf and heart. Unfeigned and authentic, Trinidad's writing provides a real rarity: familial intimacy. Adopting the reader as an honorary member of his pamilya, he dishes up a sensory medley. Prose-like in style, minutiae breathe life into the seemingly mundane. The age spots on Mami's hands, Eleng's salt-and-pepper hair, Papa's foil pouch of prunes intertwine into a visceral image of family.

Immigrating from the Philippines at a young age whilst coming to terms with his gay identity, the author materialises his hardship with heartbreaking sincerity. "A graveyard almost convincingly dressed as a postcard", his family bade goodbye to all the places they knew, "leaving everyone, the living and the dead".

As a queer individual with an immigrant family, the nuances within Trinidad's experience mirrored those of my own, verbalising struggles I have yet to put into words. To me, the most poignant aspect of this text is the portrayal of parental foreignness.

Moving during childhood is difficult, but a child's identity is still unfinished. Their language is still forming, sense of belonging still taking shape. They can learn new words, new customs, new ways of calling somewhere "home".

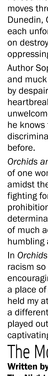
For the migrant parent, there is no such luxury. They are the ones who leave everything behind – their language, their culture, their community, the familiar contours of a life they once knew – so that their child can inherit a world larger than the one they were born into.

Growing up, I never considered what my parents had lost. That, much like the Trinidad family, identity had shifted from a physical location to the abstract. This type of isolation carries an inescapable weight, bearing "the same skin, the same voice, the same vices", yet somehow feeling perpetually displaced.

There is a peculiar sadness in realising that your whānau is foreign. Not foreign to you, necessarily, but to the place they have been asked to call home. Perhaps that is the greatest fortune of Trinidad's collection. It does not simply tell a story about immigration, queerness, or family; it gives language to the spaces between them.

Orchids and Camellias

Written by Sophie Rogers
Flying Books Publishing
Reviewed by Jo Lucre



In *Orchids and Camellias*, Ginny Yang is newly widowed and forever looking over her shoulder, held prisoner by a past that assailed both her and her late Chinese husband Deming.

On the run from her father and his cretin-like cronies, Ginny has no choice but to fight a fight she never asked for. Set in Nelson in 1869 and beyond, her sole motivation is to care for her son Liang. Ginny searches far and wide for allies in a world that sees no place for her or her mixed-heritage child.

Forced into a fleeting and transient existence, she moves through Nelson, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, and Arrowtown, navigating each unforgiving and equally unkind landscape set on destroying her soul, removing her voice, and oppressing her child.

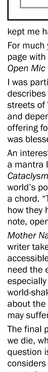
Author Sophie Rogers starkly captures the grit and muck that discrimination brings. Fuelled by despair, Liang the child, then young man, is heartbreakingly aware his face is unwanted and unwelcome. Through his very existence alone, he knows there is no escape from the harrowing discrimination thrust upon him and his father years before.

Orchids and Camellias is a vivid historical telling of one woman's strive for acceptance, played out amidst the backdrop of a time where women were fighting for their voices to be heard and unrest over prohibition was stirring. Ginny's love and dogged determination to care for her child in the face of much adversity and emotional turmoil is both humbling and wrenching.

In *Orchids and Camellias*, Rogers conveys a racism so deeply embedded at the time that it is encouraging to follow Ginny and Liang's search for a place of peace and safety. The novel certainly held my attention to the very end. I was expecting a different ending though; the one I had imagined played out tidily in my head, but it was a great, captivating read all the same.

The Monk's Chair

Written by Margaret Jeune
The Night Press
Reviewed by Margaret Austin



Margaret Jeune and I have several things in common: we're both poets, we share the same first name, were born within a decade of each other, and from the first poem in her small but highly readable collection *The Monk's Chair*, I felt an affinity involving landmarks and relics from the past that kept me happily reading to the end.

For much younger readers, appeal lies in the title page with enticements such as *Glue, Free Speech, Open Mic Poets,* and *TV News*.

I was particularly touched by *An Encounter,* which describes a meeting with a homeless man on the streets of Wellington surviving on next to nothing and depending on the kindness of strangers. After offering food and conversation, "I am the one who was blessed by the encounter", remarks the poet.

An interesting question is posed in *Free Speech*, a mantra I have long been suspicious of, and *Cataclysmic* carries a justifiable warning about the world's possible fate. *Open Mic Poets* also struck a chord. "The poets reveal their personalities / By how they hold the floor" is a sage observation. Take note, open micers!

Mother Nature is just one example of how this writer takes a serious subject and by couching it in accessible language increases its impact. We don't need the esoteric to explain, illustrate, and warn, especially when it comes to matters of literally world-shaking import. Our poet makes no bones about the all-too-possible fate we and our planet may suffer.

The final poem, appropriately, is *Legacies*. "When we die, what will our legacies be?" Never think this question is banal – oh, you younger readers! Jeune considers it as we all must and concludes as we all must: the eternal question remains just that.

It's a fitting note with which to conclude a wistful, thought-provoking collection.

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The electric unknown

by Madelaine Empson

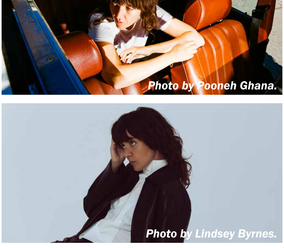


Photo by Pooneh Ghana.

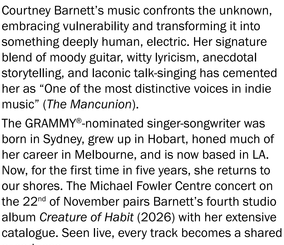


Photo by Lindsey Byrnes.

Courtney Barnett's music confronts the unknown, embracing vulnerability and transforming it into something deeply human, electric. Her signature blend of moody guitar, witty lyricism, anecdotal storytelling, and laconic talk-singing has cemented her as "One of the most distinctive voices in indie music" (*The Mancunion*).

The GRAMMY®-nominated singer-songwriter was born in Sydney, grew up in Hobart, honed much of her career in Melbourne, and is now based in LA. Now, for the first time in five years, she returns to our shores. The Michael Fowler Centre concert on the 22nd of November pairs Barnett's fourth studio album *Creature of Habit* (2026) with her extensive catalogue. Seen live, every track becomes a shared experience.

Centred on the question of how to get out of your own way so you can live and truly feel your life, *Creature of Habit* is "a fierce reminder of why Barnett remains one of the most vital voices in modern guitar rock – restless, self-aware, and still finding new ways to hit the nerve" (*Paste*).

I love the Creature of Habit album cover – what is the significance of the praying mantis?

Somewhere in the middle of writing the record, I had this moment where one appeared on my door. I was having a bad day where I was doubting myself and stuck with the songwriting. I looked up, and it felt like this little sign from the universe. It felt really special, and I'd never experienced anything like that before. It became this recurring thing that pops up every now and then. It felt like a really important part of the album.

You've been touring Creature of Habit across the UK and Europe since May. Are the songs transforming as you perform them live?

Yeah! I think that happens quite often; the songs always take on a new life once they've been recorded and then as soon as you start playing them, they kind of evolve on their own, which I really like. Some of the songs that weren't released as singles, sometimes they end up being the more exciting, fun, or singalong songs. It's always unexpected, but I like that unknown element.

Do you have a new favourite as a result of that evolution?

I really love playing *Sugar Plum* live, and *Wonder*. I've been playing *Mostly Patient* as a solo in this set, which feels like a nice little reset, a breath of air.

How do you think the album compares and contrasts with your 2015 debut, Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit?

Albums kind of feel like a document of time to me. Each one is a document of a few years in my life – the writing, the recording, the touring. It feels like the next chapter in the archival process of my life. There are some elements that feel similar, some elements where I feel like I've grown as a person and as a songwriter. We still play a lot of songs from [the debut] live, and it's still really fun to perform them.

How would you define Creature of Habit in that documentation context?

I think I'm still understanding the album and how it represents this time.

Do some albums reveal what chapter they encapsulate quickly, while others take longer to come into relief?

Yeah, and they also shift and change with time. Or sometimes the meanings of songs evolve in a weird way. I know what I've written something about, but it takes on a new meaning. Just like when someone listens to it, they project their own meaning onto it. It's an interesting part of the process.

The last time you toured New Zealand coincided with COVID. Strange times...

Yes, it was kind of on the cusp of something happening. When the tour finished, I think I had to stay longer because the border had closed down? It was a strange time to be touring for sure, but for that reason, that tour especially sticks out in my memory. It feels really special. I did a stripped-down duo [show] with Stella Mozgawa, who made the album with me. It was quite intimate and different compared to a regular band tour. During COVID and then afterwards, I found this new appreciation and gratitude for performing live. Being in a room with people, considering what everyone in the room went through to get there – there's something so meaningful about that. We're all in a room together for an hour and a half, singing songs to each other. I remember that tour really fondly.

What are you most looking forward to about returning, and performing in Wellington in particular? The Michael Fowler Centre has stunning acoustics.

Oh, cool! Wellington is the first place I ever went in New Zealand, before I even toured. It reminds me of Hobart – just beautiful. I'm really excited to come back. I always love playing shows there and doing a little bit of exploring. Looking for the best coffee – that's always my favourite thing to do wherever I go [chuckles].

Do you have any pre-show rituals, and any that might go down a treat in Wellington?

I spend a lot of time by myself, do vocal warmups, stretch, get my head in the game, sing songs on my guitar, think about the show. On the morning of, I really love to walk around wherever I am, the city, and just explore. I enjoy soaking in the sounds and the sights of a new place. Honestly though, my goal on that journey really is to find the best coffee, that's my happy place.

If you're trying to find the best coffee, how many can you drink a day? Do you end up a bit... 'woo!'

My limit is normally one, otherwise I get really anxious [laughs]. So it's one! I have to find the *one* perfect coffee! Honestly, sometimes I get a bad one and it ruins my day...

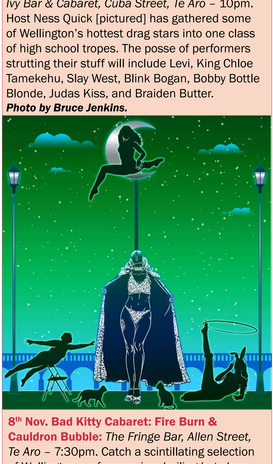
High stakes! But we do a pretty darn good coffee... I'll send through a list of the best of our best.

Please, yeah! Great, I'd really appreciate that [laughs].





10th Nov. Book Launch: Puke: *Unity Books, Willis Street, Te Aro* – 6pm. essa may ranapiri's [pictured] *Puke* weaves a modern pūrākau of desire, decay, and decolonisation. The story shifts between two lovers, but the other atua have begun to disappear, and their world is slowly dying. Launched by Jasmine Sargent, Ruby Solly and Midden Rahurahu will read poetry in response to the book. ***Photo by Kelly Joseph.***



7th Nov. Clique: The Hottest Show on Campus: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. Host Ness Quick [pictured] has gathered some of Wellington's hottest drag stars into one class of high school tropes. The posse of performers strutting their stuff will include Levi, King Chloe Tamekehu, Slay West, Blink Bogan, Bobby Bottle Blonde, Judas Kiss, and Braiden Butter. ***Photo by Bruce Jenkins.***



8th Nov. Bad Kitty Cabaret: Fire Burn & Cauldron Bubble: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Catch a scintillating selection of Wellington performers in a boiling-hot show featuring pole, burlesque, drag, and circus in a dark and disturbing showcase. Hosted by Violet DeVil, the lineup features Sapphic Fire, Mel Teaser, Dylan Daisy, Miss $$Billz, Venla, Novamarie, Gabby, Paloma, Maxine Goth, and more.



14th Nov. Silver Hammers Play The Beatles: *Kapiti Playhouse, Ruahine Street, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. Andrew and Kirsten London play favourite Beatles songs with spirited assistance from Anje Glindemann on drums and Ramon Oza on guitar. From Paul McCartney's ballads to John Lennon's cynicism and George Harrison's rockabilly, the Silver Hammers will cover the Fab Four's full career.

13th Nov. Cheeky Leash: *Parrotdog Bar, Kingsford Smith Street, Lyall Bay* – 8pm. Cheeky Leash present their debut album *How Much Love Have I Got Left*. Expect big guitar hooks, cheeky charm, and a sweaty, singalong night from the Wollongong indie rock four piece, and anthemic saxophone melodies blended with thoughtful songwriting from local support act Debt Club. ***Photo by Zac Robinson.***

13th Nov. Manish Latch: *The Bond Store, Birmingham Street, Paraparaumu* – 8pm. Through sharp storytelling, quick crowd work, and brutally honest observations, *Why Am I Like This?* makes sense of a lifetime of Manish Latch's questionable decisions and awkward moments. Known for his high-energy performances, Manish draws on his daily experiences, immigrant life, food obsessions, and strange realities.

What's on Wairarapa

6th Nov. Club 85: *Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park, High Street, Masterton* – 7pm. Club 1985 was Masterton's first night club. Relive the 80's with great fashion, amazing music, and big hair.

6th-15th Nov. Wairarapa Walking Festival: *Various locations and times in Wairarapa*. Grounded in the principles of aka, hīpara, and hono - learning, exploring, and connecting – this walking festival is designed to explore the beauty, history, and culture of Wairarapa.

8th Nov. Eagle NZ 4x4 Nationals Rally Trials: *Ahiaruhe Road, Ahiaruhe, Carterton* – 9am. Watch epic 4x4 machines tackle the toughest terrain – with action, food, drinks, and family fun all day!

Kāpiti

14th Nov. Raumati South Garden Trail: *Jeep Road Reserve, Jeep Road, Raumati* – 9:30am. Explore 13 unique gardens on show around Raumati displaying creativity, resilience, and sustainability while raising funds for the Raumati South Residents Association.

14th Oct. Hobnail and Friends: *St Peter's Village Hall, Beach Road, Paekākāriki* – 8pm. Rob, Jo, Hamish, Graham, and Murray are joined by special guests Wayne Mason and Alan Norman for a night of musical fun and excellence.

18th Nov. Ash Grunwald: *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – 7pm. Part troubadour, part storyteller, Ash Grunwald delivers a high-energy, vibrant live show with stacks of guitars and foot-stomping blues.

Events

7th-8th Nov. Go Green Expo: *TSB Arena, Queens Wharf, Wanganui Waterfront* – 10am. This is your one-stop shop for everything you need to live a sustainable life, from everyday items to huge project solutions!

11th Nov. From Plate to Page: An Evening with Peter Gordon: *Marsden Auditorium, Marsden Avenue, Karori* – 6pm. Hear about the books, travel, people, and experiences that have shaped chef, restaurateur, writer, and fusion pioneer Peter Gordon's life at this fundraising event for Katherine Mansfield House & Garden.

11th Nov. Brooklyn Twilight Festival: *Brooklyn Community Centre, Harrison Street, Brooklyn* – 1pm. This year's festival will see over 50 stalls featuring food, crafts, and community groups, plus local and national performers.

15th Nov. Wadestown House & Garden Walk: *Various locations and times in Wadestown*. Wander through some of Wadestown's most beautiful homes and gardens – a wonderful mix of indoor and outdoor spaces that reflect the neighbourhood's character and creativity.

Music

6th Nov. Midwave Breaks: *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 8pm. As a two piece, Midwave Breaks deliver a huge sound, infectious live energy and dynamic performance. Catch their first full-length album *Echo. Tide. Awake.*

6th Nov. RAGE The Machine and Stoned Templar Pirates: *Abandoned Taproom Petone, Fitzherbert Street, Petone* – 8pm. Take it back to the 90s with tribute bands Stoned Templar Pirates and RAGE The Machine.

7th Nov. Candlelight: The Best of Hans Zimmer: *Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Hill Street, Thorndon* – 6:30pm. Enjoy composer Hans Zimmer's famous tunes from films and beyond.

7th Nov. Shonen Knife: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Shonen Knife offer a joyous live-music gift, bringing their quirky, food-focused pop-punk performance to Welly.

8th Nov. Air Force in Concert featuring Bret McKenzie: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 2:30pm. GRAMMY® and Academy Award-winning songwriter and performer Bret McKenzie joins the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band to play his greatest hits.

11th Nov. Wellington Children's Orchestra Presents Stringendo: *St Andrew's on The Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 12:15pm. This training orchestra for school-age string players from Grade 2 and above will perform an electrifying concert during St Andrew's beloved lunchtime concert series.

13th Nov. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Enigma: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. NZSO artistic advisor and principal conductor Gemma New with legendary pianist Sir Stephen Hough present a concert of charm, mystery, and bold vision.

13th Nov. Sulfate: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8:15pm. Fresh, devolved, and running on instinct, the six songs on Sulfate's third album *And It Wants* cling to optimism and joy while being subject to the existential nihilism of our current hypernormal Western reality.

14th Nov. Flyte: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Flyte have earned widespread acclaim for their refined songwriting and emotionally resonant sound, with a catalogue that showcases their evolution from classic British guitar pop to expansive and introspective arrangements.

14th Nov. Mortiis: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Metal music powerhouse Mortiis will be joined by Wellington black metal powerhouse Windswept for a night of chaos and revelry.

15th Nov. The Velvet Glove: *Gibbons Hotel, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. The Velvet Glove revisits the heart of The Velvet Underground's gritty urban realism, bridging bright jangly chaos and Lou Reed's lyric beauty.

19th Nov. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Beethoven 9: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. The grand finale of the NZSO's 2026 mainstage season features the grandest of symphonies: Beethoven's Ninth.

22nd Nov. Hoodoo Gurus: *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Look forward to hit after hit as the Hoodoo Gurus celebrate their 45th anniversary.

22nd Nov. Courtney Barnett: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Known for a performance that's part intimate storytelling, part indie rock with bursts of raw grunge-like energy, Courtney Barnett live is genuine and authentic.

Performance

Until 7th Nov. Wellington Repertory Theatre Presents: Accomplice: *Gryphon Theatre, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro* – various times. In this fiendishly clever thriller full of deception and dark humour from acclaimed writer Rupert Holmes, no one is quite who they seem when a dark crime unfolds.

Until 7th Nov. Royal New Zealand Ballet Presents: The Sleeping Beauty: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – various times. Step into a world of fairytale magic as Greg Horsman's acclaimed production of the beloved fairytale springs to life on stage with a Kiwi touch.

6th Nov. James Nokise: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. There are three things you can count on this election according to James Nokise: mistrustful soundbites that age like milk, policy walk-backs hours after announcements, and his hot comedic takes on it all.

6th Nov. X-men: A Doomsday Drag Show: *Ivy Bar and Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. The end is nigh… and she's wearing sequins. Join Welly's most powerful drag mutants for a night of jaw-dropping performances, superhuman looks, and comic book chaos.

13th Nov. Jack Ansett – Work in Progress: *The Cavern Club, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. The Billy T award nominee and TV regular presents some new work ahead of the 2027 festival circuit.

14th Nov. Play Reading: Significant Others: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – 2pm. Three queer best friends have never had any interest in dating. When one of them dives into a romantic relationship, they are forced to ask if they will be able to hold onto their significant others, or will this pull them apart?

14th Nov. Dara O'Briain: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – 8pm. O'Briain's new show *Re:Creation* sees one of Ireland's finest live comedians back and doing his favourite thing: standing in a theatre, telling stories, and creating madness with the audience.

14th Nov. Popstars!: *Ivy Bar and Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. Previously produced by Olivia Dreams and now in the hands of Veronica Heart, *POP! Goes My Heart* has morphed into *Popstars!*.

17th-21st Nov. Nepo Babies in Space: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. In this immersive character comedy experience, the audience becomes the bridge crew of a *Star Trek*-style spaceship.

19th-21st Nov. Two Knocks Improv Presents: The Wodyssey: *BATS Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. This improvised Wellington odyssey sees a heroic journey through a city transformed by danger, temptation, strange encounters, and questionable decisions.

20th Nov. Heath Franklin's Chopper: GOLD: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Catch two decades of Chopper's funniest bits and hardest hits as Heath Franklin celebrates 20 years of his iconic character.

21st Nov. The Wellington Comedy Club with Wilson Dixon and Gabby Anderson: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Hoot and holler alongside equestrian cowboy and country music singer Wilson Dixon, local comedians, MC Gabby Anderson.

Galleries

Until 11th Nov. How to See a Song, How to Hear a Picture: *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro*. Four artists cross disciplines and oceans to explore whakapapa, ritual, and sound.

Until 14th Nov. CONTINUITIES: Stringer's Stringers: *Page Galleries, Victoria Street, Te Aro*. The exhibition highlights Terry Stringer's long engagement with bronze, scale, memory, and perception, bringing together works that reveal how themes return and shift across his career.

Until Feb 2027. Trash Culture: *Courtenay Place Light Boxes, Courtenay Place, Te Aro*. Moniek Schrijer explores the ordinary and the everyday, transforming found, used, and scavenged materials into a series of new jewellery works that explore and reflect on the matter of row.

Until 25th Mar 2027. HA HA HA: *Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington, Kelburn*. Bringing together two new commissions alongside film, sculpture, and musical instruments, Sriwhana Spong's work contends with questions of continuity, change, inheritance, and agency.

4th-30th Nov. Vincents Annual Group Show: *Vincents Gallery, Willis Street, Te Aro*. Discover a vibrant showcase of work by the talented artists who frequent Vincents' inclusive community art studio.

Festivals

Until 15th Nov. Wellington Heritage Festival: *Various locations and times in Greater Wellington*. Discover more than 160 events exploring the Wellington Region's unique history and heritage.

Until 18th Nov. British and Irish Film Festival: *Various locations and times in Greater Wellington*. Explore cinematic excellence from across the British Isles and Ireland at this intrepid film festival.

21st Nov. Borderline Destruction Festival: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 4pm. Expect crushing riffs, relentless breakdowns, huge energy, and a lineup built to celebrate the heavy music community.

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 10 November

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

Regional News
Connecting Wellington

Answers to the puzzles on page 32

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VERBCRAWL 2026
SAT 14 NOV 5:00PM — LATE
Verb's beloved, one-night-only, high-energy literary festival, VerbCrawl, will take over the streets of inner-city Wellington.
With 26 untamed events unfolding across bars, fabric stores, galleries, bookshops and more, expect a joyous celebration of writing and books in unexpected ways and unexpected places.
VERBWELLINGTON.NZ

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Stratford A&P Association
Stratford A&P Show
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stratfordshow.co.nz

18 19 20 21 MARCH
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$16 $18 multiple entry) Early Bird before 10am till 7pm | $24 Max per weekday, $7 Overnight | $2 weekends first hour, then $2 per hour, max $7
Early October Special on Roof Only - $10.00 Early Bird | Monthly rates available 0508 447 275

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