Regional News

in Wellington

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News

Life's like that *by Madelaine Empson*

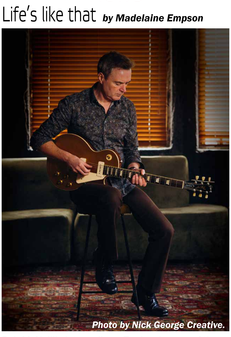

Photo by Nick George Creative.

Bob McNeill's latest album *Twelve dreams of the river* explores themes of life, age, and transition, reimagined as a journey down three iconic rivers: the Manuherikia in the South Island, the Waikato in the North Island, and the Kelvin in the folk singer's native Scotland.

"I got the idea a couple of years ago when I bought an old suitcase from the 60s in an op shop in Hamilton," McNeill tells me. "Somebody had written the name Helena inside it and there was an old ticket for a trip down the Waikato… it all started there. I was thinking about how rivers start small, up in the high country, people live by them, but eventually they flow out to the sea – maybe a metaphor for life. The songs are like scenes along the way."

So, what do those scenes sound like?

"I had some recordings I'd made by the Waikato on a rainy morning: the sounds of the river and the rain. I put them on one day, loud on the big monitors, and just played along with them – the first thing that came into my head on the keyboard."

Thinking about "how the character of the Waikato changes so often", *Dream of the Waikato* is the closest the multi-award-winning musician came to capturing the overall sound he was chasing.

Featuring the rich songwriting of one of New Zealand's most popular folk artists of the last two decades, *Twelve dreams of the river* is poignant and unflinching. McNeill played all the instruments himself and most of the songs are first takes. Rather than getting fixated on little things – avoiding mistakes, hitting cues exactly – the first time "you're just playing the song, feeling it out, exploring maybe. I suppose it's a little like the first time you go along a river… it's not the same when you know where the bends are."

And life's like that, he says.

You can catch the new album when McNeill plays an intimate show with Emily Roughton at Vogelmorn Upstairs on the 16th of May.

Sounds amazing

It's that special month of the year again! Te Marama Puoro o Aotearoa 2026, the 26th NZ Music Month, has officially kicked off.

This year's theme is Our Sounds, Our Spaces. With an exciting programme of events, collaborations, and community-led activations, May is a celebration of our music and all the places it is made and enjoyed across Aotearoa. From local live music venues and community halls to schools, libraries, marae, public parks, town squares, all-ages spaces, and more, NZ Music Month 2026 shines a light on the unique environments that bring music to life across the motu.

In Wellington, we have a host of fantastic venues where local and national artists will be tearing up the stage this month. Many of them have new music to share, or major milestones to celebrate.

"From Split Enz to Mim Jensen, there is a huge amount of amazing local music happening across the motu during Te Marama Puoro o Aotearoa" Cath Andersen of NZ Music Commission says. "From Aotearoa legends Fat Freddy's Drop at a town hall or emerging stars like Ivy and Pearly* on their co-headline South Island tour, there will be hundreds of opportunities to see amazing sounds in amazing spaces this May."

A (major) key event of NZ Music Month is MusicHelps NZ Music T-Shirt Day, which this year falls on Friday the 29th of May. Buy and don your favourite Kiwi artist's merch to support the community, and don't forget to fundraise or donate to MusicHelps. This national charity funds and supports projects where music makes a real difference in people's lives, including through music therapy sessions in hospitals and special needs schools, programmes that help those experiencing hardship find confidence and connection through music, supplying music equipment, and more.

While every day is a celebration of Aotearoa music, in May? Turn. It. Up.

Cover: Not in Our Neighbourhood

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News

Not in Our Neighbourhood

"Quietly devastating" and "rich with emotional truth", Taki Rua Productions presents *Not in Our Neighbourhood,* written by acclaimed playwright Jamie McCaskill (Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāpuhi, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi).

On at Circa Theatre from the 22nd of May to the 13th of June, the play follows a group of wāhine whose lives intersect at a Women's Refuge safehouse, offering a deeply human story that balances warmth, tension, and moments of disarming humour.

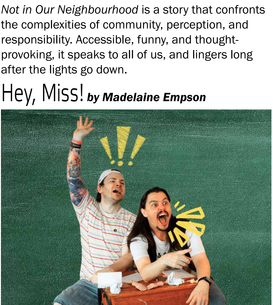
Framed as a documentary within a play, and told through the lens of a filmmaker, the story unfolds with subtlety and intrigue, drawing audiences into the spaces between what is said and what is left unsaid. "I have an interest in social justice and how systems, societies, and governance can affect us as New Zealanders, but more specifically, Tāngata Māori", McCaskill says. "I want to give voice to the people who are silenced or forgotten about."

Directed by Maaka Pohatu (Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, Ngāti Apa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa), Parekawa Finlay (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Maniapoto, Te Whakatōhea), and Paul McLaughlin, the play invites audiences to take a closer look and consider what might be unfolding just out of view in their own neighbourhoods. "I think family violence has no prejudice and continues to affect people every day. My view on the play is that it gives those people affected by family violence a voice."

With a stellar performance from Hariata Moriarty (Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa, Ngāpuhi Hokianga ki te Raki), known for her role in *Cousins*, the play was first performed in 2013 for the wāhine they originally created it for. "To get their blessing to use the story and continue telling their story is a massive privilege", McCaskill says. "I'm excited for the audience to feel empathy and hope. If there is a feeling of hope that we can work towards a violence-free society, then that will make me happy."

Not in Our Neighbourhood is a story that confronts the complexities of community, perception, and responsibility. Accessible, funny, and thought-provoking, it speaks to all of us, and lingers long after the lights go down.

Hey, Miss! *by Madelaine Empson*



This NZ International Comedy Festival, Keegan Thomas and Aaron James Douglas will take to a stage they've always craved: an empty high school classroom. *Hey, Miss!* begins when a teacher storms out of detention, leaving two attention-deprived theatre kids both unsupervised and unwilling to sit in silence. No teachers + no rules? Total chaos.

Crashing into the Cavern Club from the 7th to the 9th of May, this hour of carnage mashes sketch, improv, character, and storytelling comedy to capture the absurdity of teenage life… but not in today's world. No, *Hey, Miss!* dives into the delightful cringe of growing up in the late 2000s and early 2010s.

Aside from questionable fringe cuts, Lynx Africa permeating gym-room nostrils, and oversharing on Facebook, I asked Thomas for his twilight zone memories of the era.

"Oh it feels so weird remembering that we had to pay for texts – 20c a text", Thomas says, hitting a little too close to home for my millennial brain. "So you only had a finite amount of time to seal the deal with your crush or fork out another $10 top-up or plead with Vodafone for one more IOU."

Ouch.

Part nostalgia trip, part identity crisis, and part beautifully dumb celebration of who we used to be, *Hey, Miss!* stars its two writers – absurd one-man variety act Douglas and "national treasure in the making" (*Wellyott*) Thomas – alongside a different guest comedian each night in the role of the long-suffering teacher. Anything can happen so everything probably will. Hold onto your chair… just mind the gum underneath.

SNIPS

New trains

The Lower North Island will enjoy the first fleet of battery-electric trains in the Southern Hemisphere, with 18 to be built by Alstom. Greater Wellington chair Daran Ponter says Wairarapa and Manawatū line passengers can look forward to quicker journeys and more frequent trains from 2030. "The Tūhono fleet will double peak time trains, increase off-peak services, and support regional growth."

New depot

Greater Wellington has announced a new train maintenance depot for Masterton. Construction is expected to begin later this year, with the facility operational in time to support the rollout of the new Tūhono trains.

New payments

Adult passengers can now use their Visa or Mastercard credit or debit card on Metlink buses and trains. Simply tag on and off using the existing Snapper infrastructure, with the same 1.5 percent fee charged for each fare. Those wanting to pay multiple fares or a concession rate still need to use their Snapper card or cash.

Virtuoso fireworks

James Ehnes.

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) will bring together several titans of the classical music world under the one high ceiling of the Michael Fowler Centre this month. On Friday the 22nd of May at 6:30pm, GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist James Ehnes and NZSO artistic advisor and principal conductor Gemma New will deliver a thrilling programme of myth, colour, and symphonic grandeur from Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Thomas Adès, and the mighty Gustav Mahler in *Titan*.

Canadian violin virtuoso Ehnes is making his long-awaited NZSO debut performing Korngold's dazzling Violin Concerto – a work renowned for its sweeping lyricism and cinematic brilliance. With his radiant tone and refined virtuosity, the decorated musician is one of the best interpreters of this neo-Romantic masterpiece.

"It's a beautiful piece and it has all the elements you'd want", Ehnes says. "It's very lush – in person even more than on a recording. It's stunningly colourful, and the orchestration is spectacular. It has lots and lots of virtuoso fireworks – and everyone likes a good show."

Ehnes adds that the piece isn't just a vehicle for the soloist; it's "also a real opportunity for the orchestra to shine". And shine they will under the baton of New, who continues to break new ground around the world as a New Zealand conductor.

The concert opens with Adès' shimmering *The Origin of the Harp* before reaching the titular heart: Mahler's Symphony No. 1, *Titan*, a triumphant declaration by a young composer announcing himself to the world.

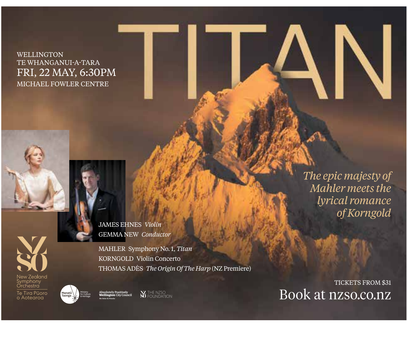
An arresting odyssey

Modern God makes the internet incarnate. Straddling the realms of contemporary dance and physical theatre, Footnote New Zealand Dance's critically acclaimed show delves into the intricate web of global internet culture and the complexity of the online world in a return season at Circa Theatre from the 14th to the 23rd of May.

Six influencers take the stage in this high-powered satirical performance. Through text, dance, and three cell phones, the characters relentlessly create content for their online platform and social media channels – reviewing the latest beauty product, fielding online trolls, getting cancelled, filming an ad for hand sanitiser. *Modern God* dissects our interaction with the digital world, while capturing its absurdity, speed, and mounting danger.

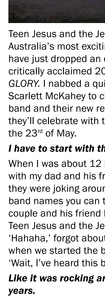
The complex and thought-provoking dance theatre work comes from the mind of choreographer and director Jeremy Beck, who is joined by a powerhouse team featuring AV design by creative production studio RDYSTDY (*Unarchival*, *Innocence*, *The Bloom*), sound design by Benny Jennings (*Avatar: The Way of Water*, *Fire and Ash*), costumes by Gabrielle Stevenson (*The Luminaries*, *Ghost in the Shell*, *Mortal Engines*, *The Hobbit*), and lighting by Tony Black (*Dance, Danced, Dancing*). The cast comprises Footnote dancers Airu Matsuda, Cecilia Wilcox, and Levi Siaosi alongside guests Jareen Wee, Montell Nickel, and Haruka Chan.

An arresting odyssey that surfs the web's deepest and darkest corners, *Modern God* navigates into the recesses of our souls.



Music news

Grungy glory *by Madelaine Empson*



Photos by Brianna Da Silva.

I have to start with the story of your band name!

When I was about 12 I was in the back of the car with my dad and his friend going to Salvos, and they were joking around: 'What are the dumbest band names you can think of?' My dad said a couple and his friend Davey said, 'What about Teen Jesus and the Jean Teasers?' I was like, 'Hahaha,' forgot about it, and then years later when we started the band, it was like a vision. 'Wait, I've heard this before!'

Like it was rocking around in there for a few years.

Bouncing around in my brain – finally put it to good use!

From forming in high school some 10 years ago, to seeing your debut album I Love You reach the top 10 of the ARIA Charts in 2023, to picking up a slew of awards along the way... What have been some of the pinch-me moments?

We try and stay aware of how crazy and amazing it is as much as we can. Not take it for granted – pinch ourselves that we even get to do it at all. Touring with Pearl Jam in America in May last year was major. They were really lovely, very welcoming. Winning an ARIA – just ridiculous!

GLORY (Deluxe) features two new songs – BATH WATER and GO WASTE MY TIME – and stripped-back versions of four fan-favourites from GLORY. Does the meaning of a song change for you when you relmagine it?

When you strip it back to its fundamentals, it does change the song a bit. For example the song *Mine* – the original is punky, really fast, heavy guitars, it's super fun and energetic. The reimagined version is almost spooky: it's very stripped back, mysterious, has more synths, feels a bit more sinister than the original. A couple of others sound much more sad. I think it means the core of a song can shine through a bit more.

Tell me about the Aotearoa tour and the Welly gig – what can audiences expect?

We've never been to New Zealand before so we're very, very excited! It's been on our bucket list for so *long*. And we're very excited to play some of these new songs we haven't played before. We want it to be really fun for everybody and really appreciate people coming out to watch us and share that with us. It should be really wholesome and really fun!

Catharsis personified

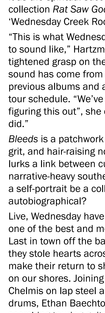


Photo by Graham Tolbert.

Bleeds is "not only the best Wednesday record – it's the *most* Wednesday record", the North Carolina noisemakers say. Founder, frontwoman, and primary lyricist Karly Hartzman describes it as the spiritual successor of their fifth studio collection *Rat Saw God* and the "quintessential 'Wednesday Creek Rock' album".

"This is what Wednesday songs are supposed to sound like," Hartzman says. The rock band's tightened grasp on their identity and sharpened sound has come from time spent collaborating on previous albums and a relentless yet rewarding tour schedule. "We've devoted a lot of our lives to figuring this out", she continues, "and I feel like we did."

Bleeds is a patchwork of literary allusions, outlaw grit, and hair-raising noise. Under the bleachers lurks a link between curiosity and confession: narrative-heavy southern rock that asks, can a self-portrait be a collage? Can empathy be autobiographical?

Live, Wednesday have built a reputation for being one of the best and most dynamic on the circuit. Last in town off the back of *Rat Saw God,* where they stole hearts across the motu, they now make their return to share their *Elderberry Wine* on our shores. Joining Hartzman will be Xandy Chelmis on lap steel and pedal steel, Alan Miller on drums, Ethan Baechtold on bass, and the band's scorching touring guitarist Jake Pugh.

Called "catharsis personified" by *Exclaim!* and lauded for their "ever-present joy, even during the most harrowing songs", join Wednesday's cult following when they shred the San Fran stage on Friday the 22nd of May.

Indie sensibilities

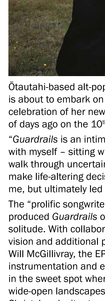


Photo by Naomi Haussmann.

Ōtautahi-based alt-pop singer-songwriter CAITLIN is about to embark on her first national tour in celebration of her new EP, released just a handful of days ago on the 10th of April.

"*Guardrails* is an intimate look at rebuilding trust with myself – sitting with hard feelings, choosing to walk through uncertainty, and learning that I could make life-altering decisions that cost and broke me, but ultimately led me closer to myself."

The "prolific songwriter" (*Sniffers*) wrote and produced *Guardrails* over long stretches of solitude. With collaborations that accentuate her vision and additional production and mixing by Will McGillivray, the EP moves between organic instrumentation and electronic touches, nestled in the sweet spot where Te Waipounamu's vast, wide-open landscapes meet the kinetic energy of Christchurch city streets. It is grounded in sincere indie sensibilities and centred by *Tied*, a dreamy focus track that lingers with lyrics like "Teardrops on my kitchen counter / I felt older."

"*Tied* was inspired by the feeling of being stuck in my day-to-day routine – going to work, watching each day blur into the next," CAITLIN explains. "I was living in a flat with people I didn't really align with, and looking back, I felt lonely and deeply unsettled. I hadn't pushed myself out of my comfort zone and was truly lost, not knowing what direction I was heading in. It's a constant tension between what's inside and outside of your control when you're trying to move closer to the life you want."

Known for her standout live performances at festivals like Electric Avenue and Nostalgia, CAITLIN will bring *Guardrails* to Moon Bar in an intimate performance on the 21st of May.

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News

Drag's answer to Eurovision

QUEEROVISION is the Wellington drag community's answer to this year's contentious Eurovision contest – already boycotted by Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Slovenia, and Iceland for the European Broadcasting Union's decision to allow Israel to compete.

Audiences can expect drag excellence from local performers on Friday the 15th of May at Ivy Bar and Cabaret, on the same weekend as the Eurovision finale.

Instead of sitting at home and watching the finale, head down to Ivy to witness the energy, the talent, the costumes, the fabulousness of Pōneke drag. On the bill are nine performers: organiser Dickslexia [pictured], alongside MANNNTIS, Myrtle Montgomery (Aotearoa's Drag Monster 2023), Dusty Daze, Levi, Sir Traylene, Cocked N Loaded, Maria Richman, and Cailiah the Banshee.

QUEEROVISION will pay homage to iconic songs performed by artists who have competed in Eurovision in the past, ranging from the sombre to the goofy and featuring, as always, some Eurovision classics. Organiser Dickslexia says "It'll be a night of not just supporting Palestine, but also coming together as a community to watch and support our local performers."

All proceeds from the night will go to Justice for Palestine NZ and their mahi with Team Assal, a small but dedicated group of Palestinians working tirelessly to provide food, water, and essential aid to families in Gaza. Head down to Ivy Bar for an evening of hooting and hollering all in the name of a good kaupapa.

Hypno-comedy excellence

Comedy hypnotist Haiming Jiang is up for just about anything. As seen on *Seven Sharp* and going viral on TikTok, his combination of hypnosis, audience participation, and laugh-out-loud comedy has resulted in participants getting up to all sorts of whacky things on stage. Be it falling asleep on command, becoming convinced that their nose is made of rubber, or roaring like a lion, this guy can get the audience under his spell.

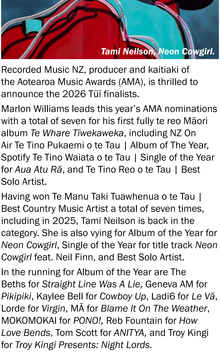
Jiang will perform his *Hilarious Comedy Hypnosis Show* across two nights. On the 15th of May he'll be wowing crowds at the Lower Hutt Town Hall before heading over to Carterton to perform at the Wairarapa Events Centre the following night.

Jiang is known for masterfully blending hypnosis with comedy to entertain audiences while also showcasing the power and benefits of hypnosis. The show is ideal for anyone who is up for a good laugh or eager to experience firsthand how hypnosis can relax, focus, and entertain.

A one-of-a-kind experience, Jiang provides a safe environment, combining humour and charm. Audiences are guaranteed to be amazed, taking away unforgettable memories and a new admiration for the science behind hypnosis.

Participation is, of course, optional, and if you don't find yourself on the stage, just being part of a crowd all roaring with laughter is enough to make everyone in the room feel engaged. You are sitting in your chair, you are reading *Regional News*, you should head along to the show…

Celebrate Aotearoa music



Tami Neilson, Neon Cowgirl.

Recorded Music NZ, producer and kaitiaki of the Aotearoa Music Awards (AMA), is thrilled to announce the 2026 Tūi finalists.

Marlon Williams leads this year's AMA nominations with a total of seven for his first fully te reo Māori album *Te Whare Tiwekaweka*, including NZ On Air Te Tino Pukaemi o te Tau | Album of The Year, Spotify Te Tino Waiata o te Tau | Single of the Year for *Aua Atu Rā*, and Te Tino Reo o te Tau | Best Solo Artist.

Having won Te Manu Taki Tuawhenua o te Tau | Best Country Music Artist a total of seven times, including in 2025, Tami Neilson is back in the category. She is also vying for Album of the Year for *Neon Cowgirl*, Single of the Year for title track *Neon Cowgirl* feat. Neil Finn, and Best Solo Artist.

In the running for Album of the Year are The Beths for *Straight Line Was A Lie*, Geneva AM for *Pikipiki*, Kaylee Bell for *Cowboy Up*, Ladi6 for *Le Vā*, Lorde for *Virgin*, MĀ for *Blame It On The Weather*, MOKOMOKAI for *PONO!*, Reb Fountain for *How Love Bends*, Tom Scott for *ANITYA*, and Troy Kingi for *Troy Kingi Presents: Night Lords*.

"Congratulations to the 2026 Aotearoa Music Awards finalists", Recorded Music NZ CEO Jo Oliver says. "The finalists are a shining example of the range and diversity of musical talent here in New Zealand. From the biggest musical successes of the year to exciting new emerging artists and their music, it is a privilege to promote and celebrate Aotearoa music and to see local artists succeed here and overseas."

Winners will be announced in Auckland on the 28th of May, closing out Te Marama Puoro o Aotearoa NZ Music Month with a hi-hat and a bang.

Sparkling synths

Shimmering New Zealand indie-pop duo Foley say *Like an Actress* is rooted in positive energy.

"This EP is very much about love, but it's also about manifesting good things in life – cultivating strong friendships, enjoying the good times, celebrating loyalty, being hopeful, and believing you deserve good in your life."

Released in February this year, *Like An Actress* has racked up hundreds of thousands of streams across five tracks: *Suckerpunch, Honey,* the anthemic *Cinematic*, where they "deploy synths as sparkling as a glass of Lion Red in the Auckland summer sunlight" (*Under the Radar*), and the breezy, flowing *Going Easy*. They wanted the final track *Breakfast for Dinner* "to feel like something from the soundtrack to *Dawson's Creek* and nostalgic to that period".

"We had a big image of the cast up in the studio to keep us in the zone. It was a good laugh! For other tracks we referenced old 90s and 2000s romcoms to put them in a nostalgic context. It really helped us get our heads into the music and palette of that period."

Now based in Sydney, where they spent the last year bookending a tour of Asia with back-to-back shows, Ash Wallace and Gabe Everett are about to make their triumphant return to home ground.

"We can't wait to see all of you across Aotearoa! AKA the best crowds in the world", they exclaim. "We're heading back to where our community started, where our first Foley fan tattoo happened and so many incredible memories. We can't wait to do it all again and play a brand-new show for our Kiwi fans."

Get amongst the *Like An Actress Tour* at Meow on Saturday the 9th of May.

News

Advice from Alan

Misuse of AI in court

by Alan Knowsley, consultant, Rainey Collins Lawyers

Artificial Intelligence is evolving rapidly. Well utilised it has many truly useful purposes, but poorly used there are serious traps.

The highest court in New Zealand recently issued a judgment addressing the serious implications that the misuse of AI can have for the administration of justice and public confidence in the justice system.

The Supreme Court said that reliance on false citations, including the unverified outputs of AI applications, may in serious cases amount to obstruction of justice or contempt of court. Our law provides for penalties of up to seven years imprisonment or up to a $25,000 fine for obstruction of justice or contempt of court, so getting this wrong can have very serious consequences.

People who represent themselves in court can be less equipped than lawyers to spot inaccuracies in material prepared with the help of AI that they submit to the court. The Supreme Court judgment involved a Family Court case in which one of the parties was representing himself and filed submissions prepared with the help of AI which had referred to cases that were of no direct relevance to his application, and included some genuine cases supposedly supporting principles of law, but this was not the case.

The Supreme Court cited the guidelines currently applicable to the use of AI by non-lawyers in New Zealand court cases: "You are responsible for ensuring that all information you provide to the court/tribunal is accurate. You must check the accuracy of any information you get from a [generative AI] chatbot before using that information in court/tribunal proceedings."

With the Supreme Court flagging the potential for misuse of AI being a serious crime under the provisions of the Crimes Act covering conspiring to "obstruct, prevent, pervert, or defeat the course of justice in New Zealand or the course of justice in an overseas jurisdiction", it's important the potential problem is widely known by all.

In another case a self-represented litigant cited a case which did not exist. Their failure to check showed they were not competent to run the litigation.

If using AI when representing yourself in court, check each case reference in a legal database.

Tech talks with Pat

Avoiding the subscription trap

by Pat Pilcher

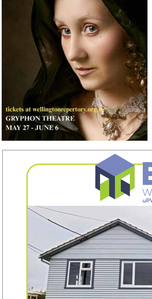
I'd signed up to a software package a few months back and found I wasn't using it much (and that my inner scrooge really disliked paying ongoing fees for something that just a few years back I could have purchased once and owned outright). I tried cancelling the subscription via emails (the company ignored them and kept charging me). In the end, I got my bank involved. The entire fiasco cost me money and time I didn't have to spare, not to mention stress.

It's what regulators call a 'subscription trap'. These are where services are easy to join but a nightmare to leave, relying on confusing terms, hidden renewal dates, or unresponsive support. The Commerce Commission says subscription contracts must have clear terms, including how long they run and how you can cancel, and standard form consumer contracts must comply with the Fair Trading Act.

Free trials are often where the 'fun' starts. A classic move is the 'free' trial that silently rolls into a full-priced subscription unless you cancel in time, sometimes helped along by a pre-ticked box you never noticed when signing up (read sign-up forms very carefully). The Commerce Commission has seen a rise in complaints about these practices and has made shoddy online sales conduct an enforcement priority.

The good news is that NZ laws give you some protection (at least when dealing with NZ-based traders). The Consumer Guarantees Act covers most digital services, which must be fit for purpose and provided with reasonable care and skill. The Fair Trading Act bans misleading or unfair practices in trade. If you are repeatedly charged after cancelling, and like me are dealing with a foreign business, your bank can challenge or block recurring payments.

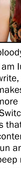
Avoiding my circle of subscription hell is avoidable. Set a calendar reminder to cancel before the free trial ends, screenshot sign-up pages, and use low-limit credit cards. Cancel early, in writing. Keep a record of every email. If a company buries the cancel button or ghosts your messages, treat that as a red flag and talk to your bank and the Commerce Commission.



News
A word from Maddi...

The novelty of books

by Madelaine Empson



Recently, out of nowhere, I read a book in a day. All 384 pages of it, devoured. Afterwards, as if startled awake from a dream, shocked to see that night had fallen, I felt a strange sense of pride and productivity. And all of a sudden it hit home how much time I waste on bloody Instagram.

I am lucky enough to work in words. I read, write, and re-write them all day, every day, so it makes sense to me that when I get home, I'm more inclined to pick up my phone than a book. 'Switching off', as they call it, but the reality is that my brain is still constantly consuming content. This content is colourful and shiny and fun and funny and it makes pleasing bing-bong-beep noises and oh boy is it fast... so fast I've lost hours, and I can't remember a thing I've seen. All I have left when I finally put down my phone is this muddied feeling of guilt and unease sitting somewhere behind my belly button.

Bite-size videos like reels, when combined with the calculated algorithms of platforms like Instagram and TikTok, utilise rapid and unpredictable rewards that trigger dopamine hits, encouraging compulsive scrolling. Even addiction. This has, in recent months, drained me. Instagram has capitalised on almost every anxiety I have by showing me content I've repeatedly asked it not to. Here's another one about body image, but don't worry, this cute dog will make you forget and feel better. It's intentional, and it crushes my spirit just that little bit more each time.

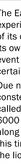
Recently, though perhaps not out of nowhere, I read a book in a day. All 384 pages of it, and it felt amazing. The smell of the paper, the warmth of a woollen blanket, the golden glow of a smoked lavender candle, the sound of... sweet nothing. How novel it is, these days, to let our mind's eye do the imagining.

A few days later, I felt myself slipping back into my old doomscrolling habit, so promptly threw my phone down and left the house to buy a book. Every night since, I've made a concerted effort to pick that up instead. Page 272 and counting.

Cosmic conversations

The Lion in the sky

by Richard Hall, astronomical communicator



The stars form patterns that we call constellations. Many, if not most of these constellations were named thousands of years ago. To our ancestors they were 'signs in the sky'. They foretold the coming of seasonal events and changes to the tasks of the people.

The Earth, as it travels around the Sun, experiences the same seasons in the same part of its orbit. Consequently, each season will have its own pageant of stars. Each and every seasonal event will coincide with the dawn appearance of certain stars.

Due north on an autumn evening is the constellation of Leo, the Lion. These stars are so-called because their rising in the dawn twilight, 6000 years ago, warned the people that lived along the Nile valley that the lions were coming. At this time, due to a seasonal change in the climate, the lions would come in from the wilderness and prey upon the domestic flocks.

To the Egyptians these stars were the Symbol of Sekhmet, a lion-headed goddess who carried a fire-spitting cobra. The seasonal climate was believed to be a reflection of Sekhmet's mood. When she was at rest, she was a figure of calm, royal dignity. But when she was angry she became a fierce war-goddess. She breathed flames, and searing heat – the parched winds of the desert radiated from her body.

In Greek mythology Leo is the Nemean lion, a monstrous beast that came from the moon and terrorised the people. After a month-long battle it was eventually slain by Hercules.

However, to the people who lived in Europe, the stars of Leo formed 'the Sickle'. The dawn rising of the Sickle was the sign to prepare for the harvest. The harvest itself was carried out at the time of the full moon following the dawn rising of the Sickle. This was known as the harvest moon, which provided light for the people to work throughout the night to bring in the valuable harvest.

The brightest star in Leo is Regulus, which forms the hilt of the Sickle. It has a distance of 79 light-years. Regulus is a hot, blue-white star 140 times brighter than the Sun. It is spinning so rapidly that it has the shape of a gigantic lens.

Regulus is in fact a multiple star. Orbiting around it is a pair of fainter stars. One is orange in colour and the other is red.

Butterfly kisses and unicorn hiccups

See you, see you soon Wellington! National treasure Suzy Cato ONZM is bringing the laughs to The Hannah at 2pm on Saturday the 16th of May in her NZ International Comedy Festival debut.

Sounds Funny with Suzy Cato and Friends sees the beloved children's entertainer host a lineup of comedians, performers, and delightfully silly guests doing stand-up and more just for kids. Well, and the grownups who like to laugh with those too!

Tamariki – especially five and up – will love the madcap mayhem from Chris Lam Sam, one of Aotearoa's most popular children's entertainers, picture-book authors, and musicians; the award-winning Zappo the Magician, who continues to delight children aged zero to 99 across Kāpiti, Wairarapa, and Te Whanganui-a-Tara; the joy-sparking, toe-tapping Wellington Carnival Street Band; and Barry Prescott, who has spent years working behind the scenes on *What Now?* and other kids' shows.

There are more surprises after the show – or as Suzy would say, kids, "it's our time!" Budding young comedians can take the stage and give it a go in an open mic hosted by Suzy herself.

"There is nothing better than the sound of laughter – especially if you're the one laughing", Suzy exclaims. "And a laugh shared is worth its weight in butterfly kisses and unicorn hiccups. So, I can't wait to laugh, and hiccup with tamariki in Auckland and the capital with these inaugural *Sounds Funny* events."

Greatest musical exports

For over 30 years, Saxcess has been Aotearoa's premier saxophone quartet. They have enjoyed sold-out shows across the motu, playing music spanning swing, classical, and cutting-edge New Zealand contemporary, and bringing the joy and dynamism of the beloved woodwind instrument to their delighted audiences.

Lead by soprano sax Debbie Rawson, the group will be playing a lunchtime show at St Andrew's on the Terrace on Wednesday the 13th of May, which will feature a kaleidoscope of colourful works from New Zealand composers and arrangers such as Gareth Farr, Anton Wuts, Peter Liley, and Karlo Margetić. Rawson will be joined by alto sax Mark Cookson, tenor sax Franz Ombler, and baritone sax Rachel Collingridge.

True to Saxcess' diverse musical tastes, the audience can expect a hot tango, a wild trip down a bat cave, a thrilling journey through Eastern Europe, an arresting Klezmer dance, a deep dive to oceanic depths, a drunken quartet of Balkan revellers, and a few old favourites from Erik Satie, movie soundtracks, and more.

Since their debut at the Sydney Opera House in 1992, Saxcess has enjoyed both national and international success. Described by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as "one of New Zealand's greatest musical exports", they've toured with the Royal New Zealand Ballet, the New Zealand String Quartet, premiered New Zealand composers' work at international saxophone congresses, and featured at major arts festivals.

Close-up

by Isabella Smith

The next page

Photos by Sara Tansy.

The first thing Ruth Paul shows me on our video call is a copy of her brand-new book *Farmer's Pyjamas*, which had gotten completely soaked in the recent bout of bad weather in Wellington. "It's ok", she laughs, holding her now soft-cover-hard-covered book up to the camera, "I didn't know that's what happened, it's so bendy!" Luckily there were only 10 in the box, and there are blue skies again.

We caught up to discuss *Farmer's Pyjamas*, a delightful read-aloud book about a farmer who needs all the help she can get to find her pyjamas.

Ruth is an award-winning author and illustrator who has written and/or illustrated 28 children's books, some of which have been sold worldwide and translated into five different languages. Her stories have been adapted for the screen, for the stage, and for the radio. Most recently, she worked alongside musician Charlotte Yates to bring characters from several of her stories to life in the stage production *HELP! A Monster Ate My Story*, which showed in April this year at Circa Theatre.

Ruth will be reading aloud from her book *You Can't Pat A Fish* at the Featherston Booktown event Book-Book-Book! alongside other children's book authors Giselle Clarkson and Juliet MacIver at Featherston School on Sunday the 10th of May.

What inspired you to write Farmer's Pyjamas?

It's a really simple premise. I like picture books that set up a routine that is then broken. The child can tell when it's gone wrong and love pointing that out to their parents. I was thinking about doing something that had that sort of setup. And a bedtime routine is a really good one to get wrong.

I was also thinking about my mother-in-law, who's this amazing farmer. It occurred to me that in picture books, whenever people talk about farmers, they think of men. They only think of farming women as wives. I thought it'd be fantastic to have a farmer who just happens to be female, though it's not really mentioned. She also does it all on her own, and I'm sure that happens all over the country.

I thought it was a really strong idea, doing a bedtime routine setup that gets broken, then all the animals on the farm get upset and have to help find the farmer's pyjamas to get things back in order.

Although, you have to be careful who you share it with, because some people go, 'Oh, no, I really don't like that, that doesn't work.' And other people will get it. I was told by an agent years ago that no one will write anything about farmers, because they can't sell those books. I remember thinking 'Well, there are a lot of farmers around and they might think otherwise.'

Plus, it's a classic bedtime story. You always have that moment where you're trying to get kids into their pyjamas, and parents can say, 'You can go read the pyjama book if you get into your pyjamas'. Because it has a bedtime routine, there's a place for it in your household when you're trying to get the kids to bed.

It also invites all the farmyard animals to come into the story, which everyone will love.

In this story, the animals have to solve the problem, which I really like.
It's a cooperative deal between the farmer and the animals. It took me a while to work out how to draw the farmer. There were conversations about her being a lot younger, but I wanted her to have grey hair and to be on her own, because I think a lot of people farm by themselves. They may have started out farming with a partner or someone else, and then end up on their own. I thought my farmer should have had life experience and be pretty good at what she does. You may not notice, but she has a knee brace. I gave her grey hair and a knee brace, because there's no farmer who doesn't have an injury of some kind.

Is there a message in your stories, or do you focus more on the creative aspects?

I don't like heavy-handed messages, so I don't like didactic picture books. But I do like there to be a good shape to a story. For it to have a thought-through progression and ending. Sometimes people write in rhyme, and the rhyme takes over and it goes wherever it goes, and there's no sense of structure. I like it if there's a structure, and the rhyme works within that structure, because then you get a double whammy. It's more satisfying.

In this one I wouldn't say there's any kind of message, except that it's a very warm story, and there is an element of cooperation in it. I think my farmer is quite caring, which, given that farming life is very hard, it's nice to show the caretaking side.

How do you put yourself in the shoes of a child when you're writing your stories?

Children's authors often get asked if they write for their own children, or if they're trying to think like a child, but I think it's always the inner child that I write for. I wouldn't know what everybody else's children are like. I think about what I would find funny if I was little, and the things that I used to like. Also, if you've done enough books, over time you recognise that there are things that work and things that don't work so well, depending on what kind of book you're writing.

What first drew you towards writing children's books?

I was an illustrator first. I did commercial illustration for a while then illustrated a couple of picture books for other people. I'd always wanted to write my own. It did coincide with me having my own kids, but that wasn't the reason I started writing them. It meant that I could work at home, which is great, because working on a book will take a big chunk of time, three to six months.

The main reason I think, is because I will always adore that moment when you're trying to get your kids to bed. You're cuddled up with them and reading them a story. Before lights out, it's a really intimate moment as you share something together on the page, laughing or talking. And eventually their eyes start to shut.

People have very strong memories of being read to, and I still love being read to. If the child isn't old enough to read, they're reading their way through the images in the background and what's going on in the pictures. I just love that, that shared interaction. And it is quite shared, because often you'll say, 'What noise does the animal make?' and the child will make the noise. Or you go, 'What happens?' and they'll start reading it, telling you what happens on the next page.

Generally, at that point in time, when you finally get them to bed to read, they actually smell quite nice, the day is over. It's just that thing as a parent. There's a whole lot of magical feelings I have about that moment. I like working in that world.

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Based in Raumati South and led by Robert Hickey, Rob's Jobs services homes and commercial buildings across the lower North Island, from the Kāpiti Coast down to Wellington. Their comprehensive building, carpentry, and landscaping services are completed with meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to excellence. To bring your plans to life with people you can trust, get in touch with Rob's Jobs for expert advice and a free, no-obligation quote.

It's about trust

Ross Vessey from One Agency knows that business is about one simple thing: trust. He also knows that he's doing something right when his clients return for the second or third time to work with him. It means he's kept his promise to do his very best every step of the way.

A real estate agent in Kāpiti, Ross has been in the business for over 15 years, but he still feels the same sense of pride he felt when his first vendor entrusted him to sell their property. Over that time, Ross has collected numerous awards for service and performance, and his communication skills, knowledge of the area, and client base have continued to grow and excel.

Previous clients say Ross is easy, flexible, informative, and professional, keeping them up to date throughout the process and beyond. If this sounds like the kind of real estate agent you'd like to work with, get in touch today.

Realise your dream

Life on the Kāpiti Coast, with the sleepy island out west and the stretch of mountains to the east, can feel like you're tucked into your own personal paradise. With a climate entirely its own and sweeping views from the South Island all the way up to Mount Taranaki and Mount Ruapehu on a good day, the spacious towns lining the coast have room to breathe and grow.

Whether you're looking to buy, build, or renovate, Kāpiti Coast is a thriving region with strong cultural roots, a tight-knit community, and all the the right people to call on no matter the job. Less than an hour away from Wellington while still holding the tranquility and charm of small town living, there is something for everyone.

The stunning countryside and beautiful beaches offer up endless opportunities to realise your dream, be it finding the perfect property on the market, building from the ground up, or getting your local construction company to build that deck you've always wanted to sit on and watch the sun set over the horizon.

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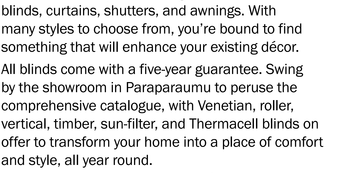
Living our T.E.A.M. values



Experience a school that feels like home. At Kāpiti Primary, we pride ourselves on truly knowing our families. Our smaller student population allows our staff to excel at catering to individual needs, ensuring every child is seen and supported.

We believe a genuine partnership between home and school is essential to get the best out of our tamariki. This whānau feel is now bolstered by a new leadership team led by Principal Bec Power, alongside an extended, refreshed teaching and support team. Together, we are committed to our vision of growing Confident, Connected Explorers.

By living our T.E.A.M. values: Tu Tangata, Excel, Active Learner, and Manaakitanga, our students thrive in a rich, multicultural environment. We invite you to join our community and partner with our passionate staff to help your child find their place in the world.

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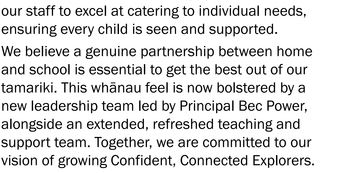
A household name



It would be hard to find a shed in New Zealand that doesn't have a STIHL chainsaw, hedge trimmer, lawn mower, leaf blower, or STIHL power tools in it. That's because this year marks the 100th year of STIHL being a household name, known for its reliable, high-quality products that are always keeping up with cutting-edge technology.

The STIHL SHOP in Paraparaumu offers all your favourite STIHL products. Their huge range of outdoor appliances are fit for assisting you in the maintenance of any property, whether you're after a battery-powered chainsaw or a petrol line trimmer, a lawn mower that you can sit on or one that you push. Their products ensure that you've got the right tools no matter how big the load of firewood, or how high the branches are that need a prune.

There's a reason Kāpiti is looking so sharp, and that is thanks to STIHL.

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ADVERTISMENT

Less maintenance, more living, the benefits of a serviced apartment

Bonnie chose to move into a Summerset serviced apartment when maintaining her previous home started to feel overwhelming. She wanted a place that would support her future needs and give her family peace of mind.

"I was living in a lifestyle village worrying about the maintenance of that place and realising that as you got older, you were going to need more help. I looked around and thought, I want something that's going to keep me safe so my kids can just relax and not have to worry," said Bonnie.

With her loyal dog, Flash, by her side, Bonnie has found joy and companionship in her serviced apartment, fully embracing this fresh chapter and friendships.

"This place, it's got a bit of magic. It feels like you've arrived somewhere where everybody's buoyant, like I'm on holiday on a cruise. Every day you can have fun," said Bonnie.

"It's just so vibrant. You wake up in the morning and there's noise and life going on. You want to hear this place. They're laughing, joking and enjoying themselves. And really, where else do you see that at eight or nine o'clock in the morning? I can be sitting outside my place, and somebody will come along and say, 'Hello Bonnie, how are you?' And invite me along to an activity. It's the availability of company, all the time. That's what I like about it. Everybody's so nice." Surrounded by a vibrant community, Bonnie feels confident knowing her future is secure thanks to caring and supportive staff.

"The staff are so empathetic and caring, they sort of ooze it. You can see by the looks on the Nurse or Manager's face, how much they really do care. That's the part that I like, you'll get a bit of sympathy when you need it, and you get care when you need it."

Knowing she's in the right place and busier than ever, Bonnie encourages others to make the move while they can still enjoy everything village life offers.

"For us older ones, if you don't do something about it sooner rather than later, you don't have the same options. So, think about it and think about what's best for your family. Do it while you can enjoy it."

Want to see what serviced apartment living could look like for you? Pop into Summerset Boulcott or Summerset Waikanae for a chat with the sales team, or find out more at summerset.co.nz

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A limited and unique offering for Wellington families

What makes Ahoroa Estate so special are the gorgeous views – looking out across the Porirua Harbour to Kāpiti Island in the north, and Mana Island and the Cook Strait to the south – that are complemented by a sense of space and tranquility that living in the city doesn't afford.

Ahoroa Estate comprises 13 lifestyle blocks located in the small rural suburb of Judgeford. Ahoroa means 'fresh water pouring out' and 'a place of abundant life'. What was once the site of a fresh water spring became a working sheep and cattle farm. It now boasts regenerated native bush amongst green fields, rolling, contoured hills, and magnificent sunsets.

Sitting behind the vision are Joe and Deb Lupi, who wanted to exit suburbia while also living close enough to enjoy the workplaces, schools, kids, sports, and activities that city centres provide. With Transmission Gully completed, families are able to experience the lifestyle of living in the regions while being only 20-odd minutes away from the heart of Wellington, 10 minutes away from Hutt Valley and Porirua, and the whole of the Kāpiti Coast just a half an hour drive away.

The roading and civil works are completed, underground power has been installed to the boundaries, and building platforms have been engineered. The land is waiting for like-minded families, who want their own space, food resources, gardens, and animals in a safe, gated community, to build their dream at Ahoroa Estate.

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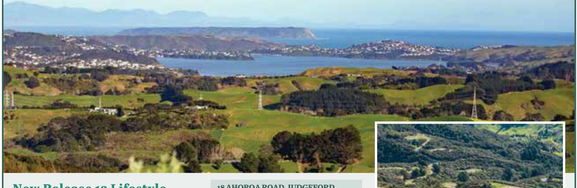

New Release 13 Lifestyle Blocks Wellington

If you value the outdoors, land with native bush and a level of self-sufficiency, then this is the opportunity for you.

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Flavours of the world

Taste of Home has a cult following due to word of mouth, proof that the flavours there are something Wellingtonians can't get enough of.

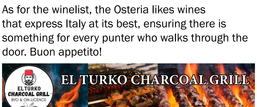
The pint-sized steamy little space fills up with hungry customers every lunchtime, grabbing a bowl of Yo Po Mian (hot oil noodles) to the sound of slapping from the small kitchen as the hand-pulled noodles are being stretched into shape.

The Classic Dan Dan Noodle dish is another popular choice. Try out crispy fried tofu, squid tentacles, or chicken off their munchies menu, and grab fried mini buns or taro and kumara balls with condensed milk for a midday dessert.

Walking into the restaurant Cicio Cacio Osteria in Newtown, one immediately feels at home. The warm light, the high ceilings, the sounds of the kitchen and of people enjoying good wine, good company, and of course, exceptional pasta.

Changing the menu each month, Cicio Cacio are passionate about regional cuisine, often researching lost Italian recipes to create authentic dishes that evoke places, people, and memories out of the highest-quality ingredients.

As for the winelist, the Osteria likes wines that express Italy at its best, ensuring there is something for every punter who walks through the door. Buon appetito!



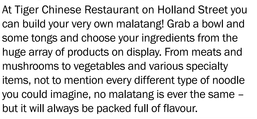
Enter through the door and immediately the smell of warm spices and the charcoal grill will have you salivating at El Turko Charcoal Grill in Lower Hutt. Delectable cuts of lamb, chicken, or steak are cooked over the grill and made to order, served with homemade dips, salads, and rice.

Try their meat and vegetable iskenders and kebabs, or have meat served over chips or on a salad. Begin the evening with traditional dolmados or shakshuka, and finish with baklava or a turkish delight.

Proudly owned by Murat and Turkana, El Turko brings authentic flavours from their homeland in Turkey straight to your plate.

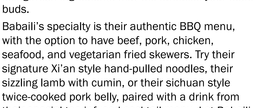
Have you ever heard of malatang? It's a popular street food in China similar to hot pot. Mala means numbing and spicy, tang means to boil or blanch. In essence, a bunch of tasty and flavourful ingredients are thrown together into a spicy broth, creating an explosion of zesty goodness.

At Tiger Chinese Restaurant on Holland Street you can build your very own malatang! Grab a bowl and some tongs and choose your ingredients from the huge array of products on display. From meats and mushrooms to vegetables and various specialty items, not to mention every different type of noodle you could imagine, no malatang is ever the same – but it will always be packed full of flavour.



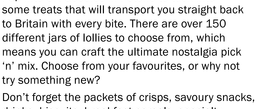
The Shaanxi province in China is known for its bold, savoury, and fragrant cuisine. Babaili Restaurant on Willis Street takes you on an authentic culinary experience inspired by the region's capital Xi'an, using fresh ingredients that will tantalise your taste buds.

Babaili's specialty is their authentic BBQ menu, with the option to have beef, pork, chicken, seafood, and vegetarian fried skewers. Try their signature Xi'an style hand-pulled noodles, their sizzling lamb with cumin, or their sichuan style twice-cooked pork belly, paired with a drink from their special tea-infused cocktail menu. Let Babaili guide you through the flavours of Xi'an in the heart of Wellington.



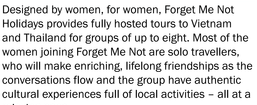
Missing your favourite foods from back home? Pop into UK Goodies in Petone to tuck into some treats that will transport you straight back to Britain with every bite. There are over 150 different jars of lollies to choose from, which means you can craft the ultimate nostalgia pick 'n' mix. Choose from your favourites, or why not try something new?

Don't forget the packets of crisps, savoury snacks, drinks, biscuits, breakfast cereals, specialty ingredients and so much more. Stocking all the well-loved favourites and some lesser-known delights, a trip to UK Goodies is like a plane ticket to the United Kingdom without the long-haul flight. Shop online at www.ukgoodies.co.nz



Designed by women, for women, Forget Me Not Holidays provides fully hosted tours to Vietnam and Thailand for groups of up to eight. Most of the women joining Forget Me Not are solo travellers, who will make enriching, lifelong friendships as the conversations flow and the group have authentic cultural experiences full of local activities – all at a relaxing pace.

The groups are intentionally small to create the perfect setting for safety and meaningful connection. Women will enjoy the slow itinerary, lingering in each destination with every day offering something new. From night markets to elephant encounters, boutique resorts to cooking classes, get in touch with Forget Me Not Holidays today.



Regional News has spent many a staff celebration at Le Saigon, an elegant and authentic Vietnamese restaurant on Featherston Street.

Le Saigon has a couple of signature dishes you simply must try, like their happy pancake (banh xeo) and char-grilled pork sirloin (suon cha). Start with the Saigon rolls combination, which will whet your appetite well for the Southern Le Saigon pho. Finish with the Vietnamese crème caramel (banh flan), a steamed crème flan with crunchy caramel drizzle on top. It's knock-your-socks-off sweet and will serve as the perfect cap to a lunch or dinner filled with attentive service, great vibes, and, of course, exceptional food.

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Living the dream

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Living the dream – Wellington region

Smooth sailing

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

When it comes to wills, power of attorney (POA), and elder law, Sievwrights can help you get your affairs in order. It's crucial to sort these matters before they're needed to ensure everyone is on the same page and that proceedings run smoothly.

With a deep understanding of the complexities of the New Zealand legal system and a tailored approach for each client, they prioritise communication and listening to your specific needs and concerns, to help you achieve the desired result. Sievwrights Law provide peace of mind, helping you understand all the technical details so that you feel in control of your interests. Find out more at www.sievwrights.co.nz

The perfect fit

A new roof can increase your kerb appeal and completely transform the look of your home. But it's not just about style and aesthetics. Ensuring your roof is in tip-top shape is important for your home's overall health, and it's especially important before winter sets in. Family-owned, Wellington Lightweight Roofing Limited is as dependable, skilled, and professional as they come.

Wellington Lightweight Roofing has been servicing the lower North Island for more than 30 years. As Certified Gerard Roofers and members of the Roofing Association of New Zealand, they specialise in new roofs, re-roofs, fascia systems, and spouting, and are dedicated to customer satisfaction.

Whether you're modernising a tired look or maintaining a timeless, traditional style, need a new roof or are looking to replace your current one, consider this your opportunity to add real character or a more contemporary feel to your home. With plenty of options to suit your needs, you'll find the perfect fit with Wellington Lightweight Roofing.

Form meets function

Blinds help keep your property cool in the summer and warm in the winter, act as insulators, offer privacy, and regulate the amount of light entering into a space. Just Blinds has a huge catalogue of products in all kinds of designs and materials, helping you easily elevate your space both functionally and stylistically.

Locally owned and operated in Wellington, Just Blinds sells everything from shutters and Roman blinds to New Zealand-made and sustainable options. With so many materials, colours, and patterns to choose from, it's easy to forget that different blinds perform different functions, which is why every decision should start with this question.

The friendly and qualified team can help guide you through the decision-making process, then provide a free, no-obligation measure and quote. Once the measuring is done, the fun part begins. Choose your colour, design, and working mechanisms and Just Blinds will do the rest, offering installation services, a three-year guarantee, and ongoing maintenance and repair services.

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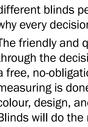
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Living the dream – Wairarapa

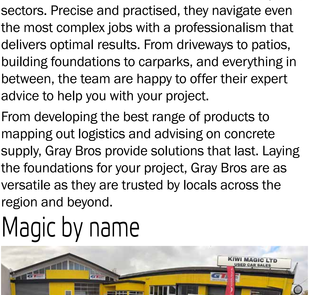
Treasure trove

Have you ever wondered what happens to all the materials, fixtures, abandoned household objects, and other valuable items when a house gets demolished? Well, Quality Demolition sends all the extra bits and bobs to Bentley's Bargains, a salvaging business located in Masterton.

Bentley's Bargains is chocka with anything and everything you could think of, from window frames, timber, building materials, and scrap metal to furniture, tools, paint, kitchen items, fixtures, appliances, antiques, and more. With friendly and helpful staff on hand, Bentley's Bargains is like a treasure trove. If you can't find what you're looking for, the team will keep their eyes peeled and get in touch when they locate it.

Open six days a week, Bentley's Bargains recycles items and materials that would otherwise end up in
landfills, giving new life to things with someone who needs them. Pop by to see what's in stock and get the best deals.

Tried and true



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

Based in Greytown, Gray Bros provide a range of solutions across residential, commercial, and public sectors. Precise and practised, they navigate even the most complex jobs with a professionalism that delivers optimal results. From driveways to patios, building foundations to carparks, and everything in between, the team are happy to offer their expert advice to help you with your project.

From developing the best range of products to mapping out logistics and advising on concrete supply, Gray Bros provide solutions that last. Laying the foundations for your project, Gray Bros are as versatile as they are trusted by locals across the region and beyond.

Magic by name

Kiwi Magic Limited has reached its 20th year of offering customers peace of mind motoring. A used car dealership in Masterton, the business specialises in a wide variety of low-mileage vehicles whether you're after a ute, sedan, station wagon, or coupe.

They work hard to make your vehicle purchase experience hassle free and offer competitive finance brokering services. Before you head off in your new wagon, or when you're next passing by, the team can provide a full valet service: getting into every nook and cranny of the interior and exterior.

Magic by name and magic by reputation, owner Ross Eggers has been in the industry for over 60 years, selling cars in Wellington for 40 of those before 'retiring' to Masterton and opening up Kiwi Magic. Known to be hands-on, hardworking, and for negotiating the best deals, Ross and his team are the kind of people you want around.

Living the dream – Wairarapa

A Wairarapa life

Vast and varied with breathtaking scenery, plenty of entertainment, community and cultural hubs, and the bush, beaches, and beauty that Aotearoa is famous for, Wairarapa is paradise. Couple that with the increased availability of work-from-home jobs, high house prices in major cities, and safe, connected communities, and it comes as no surprise that the region is becoming a hotspot for young professionals, families, and retirees alike.

Only an hour from the capital, Wairarapa is just far enough away to escape the hustle and bustle while being close enough to feel connected. There is no shortage of diverse and bustling townships, activities, schools, and scenic slices to call home.

Lifestyle blocks offer unique investment opportunities for those wanting to get more in tune with nature. Rural living also provides much-needed relief from the strains of modern life. A sunrise is a far gentler awakening than an alarm and living by the seasons gives life a slower pace.

Wairarapa's communities are as plentiful and varied as its locals – there are towns and villages of different sizes, each with its own personality and community. The things they share are their welcoming nature and outstanding quality of life.

Whether you're looking to buy, build, or renovate – a lifestyle block, family home, farm, or flat – there are real estate agents, property managers, and builders to help you take the leap. From there, you'll find all the services you need to help you settle in and make Wairarapa your safe and secure forever home.

Crafting your dream space

There is no right or wrong answer in interior design. Rather, it's about finding pieces that you love and that make your space feel like you. That's the kaupapa at Guthrie Bowron, a decorating company in Wairarapa that is committed to helping clients create a home that brings them joy.

Co-owner operators Amanda and Karl Herrick offer a complete design service at their Masterton location and at their new Greytown hub. They bought the Guthrie Bowron Masterton business in February 2024 and have been building on the name's excellent reputation ever since, creating a place that fosters inspiration and helps clients craft their own special spaces.

A one-stop shop for any and all interior design projects, Guthrie Bowron has a huge catalogue of wallpapers, paints, curtains and blinds, and flooring to suit every taste and budget. The friendly and knowledgeable team are passionate about working with clients to create a tailored design that reflects their lifestyle and aesthetic.

"Not only can we help you with flooring, window furnishings, tiles, wallpaper, paint, and homewares, but we can help you collate your ideas into a design concept", Amanda beams. "We love being part of your projects and get very invested in what our customers are creating".

Whether you're a professional painter, decorator, or DIY-er, or you're simply trying to spruce up a corner of your home, stop into the Masterton or Greytown Guthrie Bowron stores to talk to the team about your dream space.

Living the dream – Wairarapa

Your homebuying journey

At WBS, we do things differently.

We're small and local. We get to know you and your borrowing needs. Our lending decisions are made right here in Masterton, which means we can act quickly.

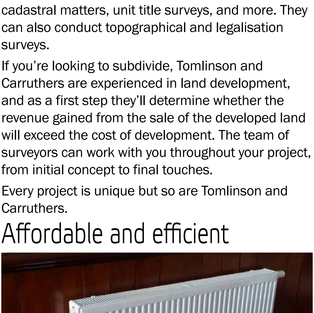
Once you've found the home you're after, we'll walk with you every step of the way – friendly, patient, and always keeping you informed.

As a new client recently said, "WBS makes the whole process easy."

"It took us nearly a year to actually find the right place, but WBS stuck with us the whole way. When we applied for our home loan, we had an answer within two days and were kept in the loop the whole time. It all made for such an easy process."

We are the only locally owned lending and investment service provider in Wairarapa that rewards our members and puts money back into the community.
Visit www.wbs.net.nz to find out more.

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 experienced 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.

Affordable and efficient

Marshall Heaters design and build water heaters in New Zealand, for New Zealand. With over 50 years of experience in the industry and an unparalleled reputation for excellence, the Kiwi-owned and operated company is committed to helping warm homes and slash power bills with their innovative products.

Marshall Heaters are solely dedicated to designing and manufacturing custom-made, efficient, non-electric hot water heaters that can heat the whole house. Ranging in size from 273 to 1025 litres, their water heater solutions are reliable, convenient, and energy-efficient, plus they are individually designed for specific applications and requirements.

Marshall Heaters customers enjoy reduced power bills thanks to designs that burn multifuel, wood, coal, or diesel, and that are even compatible with solar and photovoltaic panels. Consider connecting underfloor heating or radiators to your Marshall heater for an affordable and efficient way to heat your space.

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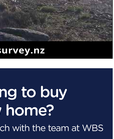
*Provided the heater is fuelled accordingly



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Living the dream

Engineering solutions

In a city clinging to the hills on shaky isles, there are geotechnical considerations to be made when building infrastructure around Wellington. Torlesse was established to be the backbone of your engineering project: to investigate, assess, and report on the challenges associated with it, and help design the solution. Whether it be landslide and rockfall mapping, seismic assessments, liquefaction analysis, or construction monitoring, Torlesse covers a wide range of services and industries.

Their tailored engineering services include lightweight residential dwellings, multi-storey commercial developments, land developments, and transport and utility projects. The team excels in designing stable cut and fill slopes, retaining wall systems, and expertly managed earthworks. They provide solutions for the construction of road networks and highways, and engineering services for pump stations, wastewater treatment plants, and reservoirs. Whatever your geotechnical problem, get in touch with Torlesse.

Metalcraft Roofing

With 12 branches nationwide, Metalcraft Roofing is New Zealand's largest and most established privately owned building product manufacturer. Their dependable products offer unique solutions for any roof or wall cladding project, backed by solid manufacturing and installation warranties.

They offer a range of roofing and rainwater systems, from metal roofing and cladding to tiles, guttering, spouting, purlins, girts, tophats, fencing, asphalt shingles, and insulated panels. They are proud to use New Zealand steel from COLORSTEEL, which undergoes intensive performance testing to ensure it is equipped to handle our ever-changing conditions.

Metalcraft also specialises in manufacturing and supplying insulated panels and they even offer a nationwide PV solar supply and installation service for any domestic, commercial, or off-grid property.

Their revamped Wellington branch has more manufacturing capacities and efficiencies than ever, so talk to Metalcraft Roofing for unparalleled coverage today.

Water solutions

Whether you own a swimming pool or spa pool, an old or new house, run a farm, a small lifestyle block, or live in the centre of town, Stu Turner of Stu's Pumps & Filtration has got all the expertise required to service your water pumps and filtration systems.

Stu provides solutions that are tailored to the needs of your land. He can install and service a wide range of agricultural water pumps, getting your water moving for irrigation, livestock water, and effluent management. On your property he can install and service filtration systems in your spa and swimming pool, as well as pump and filtration systems in the home to ensure that your water is sanitised, clean of debris, and safe to swim in and drink from.

Whether your home is a new or old build, Stu keeps up to date with the latest technologies, so that whatever the problem, he can lend an expert hand. Stu's Pumps & Filtration is based in Feilding and services the wider Manawatū District. Get in touch today.

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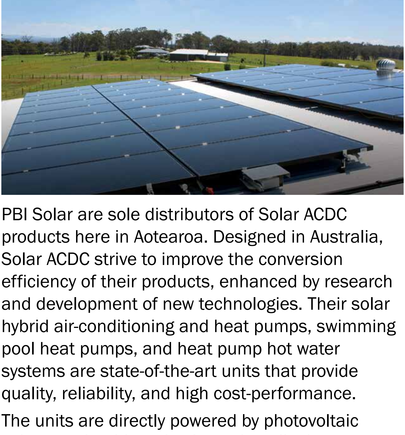
Smart and self-sufficient

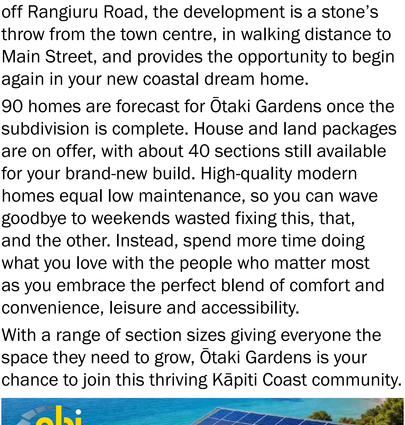


PBI Solar are sole distributors of Solar ACDC products here in Aotearoa. Designed in Australia, Solar ACDC strive to improve the conversion efficiency of their products, enhanced by research and development of new technologies. Their solar hybrid air-conditioning and heat pumps, swimming pool heat pumps, and heat pump hot water systems are state-of-the-art units that provide quality, reliability, and high cost-performance.

The units are directly powered by photovoltaic solar panels without having to install a battery, inverter, or charge controller, meaning they can be used off-grid. Alternatively, you can keep the power connected and the units will prioritise using solar first before topping it up with grid energy.

With the prices of energy rising, and current events highlighting New Zealand's supply chain vulnerability, now is a better time than ever to consider ways to make your home more self-sufficient, sustainable, and cheaper to run.

Land and lifestyle



More and more people are making the move to Ōtaki, and it's easy to see why. The little town has big personality, with wide-open spaces and gorgeous surrounds that feel like a breath of fresh air when you've come from the city.

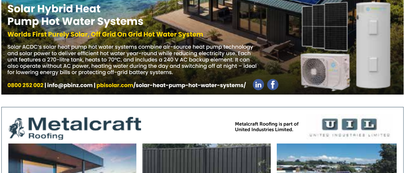
Ōtaki's tight-knit community makes it the perfect place to raise kids, with lots of family fun to be had every weekend on the castle-worthy sands and sparkling waters of Ōtaki Beach. Meanwhile, the bustling Main Street provides all the cafés, shops, and amenities you'll ever need.

Add the Kāpiti Expressway and Transmission Gully into the equation, which connect Kāpiti Coast to the north and south more readily, and you have proximity too. Ōtaki is now under an hour from Wellington CBD, while an hour in the other direction gets you to Palmerston North and beyond.

If you're looking to start fresh in Ōtaki, a new subdivision called Ōtaki Gardens boasts land and lifestyle in spades. Accessed from two entrances off Rangiuru Road, the development is a stone's throw from the town centre, in walking distance to Main Street, and provides the opportunity to begin again in your new coastal dream home.

90 homes are forecast for Ōtaki Gardens once the subdivision is complete. House and land packages are on offer, with about 40 sections still available for your brand-new build. High-quality modern homes equal low maintenance, so you can wave goodbye to weekends wasted fixing this, that, and the other. Instead, spend more time doing what you love with the people who matter most as you embrace the perfect blend of comfort and convenience, leisure and accessibility.

With a range of section sizes giving everyone the space they need to grow, Ōtaki Gardens is your chance to join this thriving Kāpiti Coast community.



Dream big

When Land Matters say they deliver innovative property, community, and environmental solutions, the brief is ambiguous because their portfolio and range of expertise is so diverse they can only be summed up in a broad stroke.

The capabilities of the team mean that Land Matters can engage with, facilitate, and manage a wide range of projects related to land development and infrastructure. This includes new housing developments, subdivision, infrastructure (including bridges and roads), forestry harvest plans, regeneration, landscape architecture, surveying, storm water repairs, handling resource consents and procurement, and everything in between.

Large-scale projects require a lot of hands. The team is made up of urban developers, environmental planners, construction workers, hearing commissioners, resource management experts, land surveyors, civil engineers, scientists, and other people in a wide range of fields. Land Matters can assist right from the get-go in planning projects, surveying the land, and getting the right people on board, through to meeting standards and regulations, managing the project or construction site, and on to its completion.

As experts in planning and resource consents, they can ensure that your project meets local standards and environmental policies. Every project is unique, carrying its own set of problems and solutions. Land Matters looks at a project from every angle before setting off in a particular direction. The project managers then keep things moving on time and on budget while always keeping an eye out for risks, becoming a trusted partner who walks beside their clients, minimising roadblocks and risks, and ensuring things run smoothly.

Big projects require talking to the right people, and the experts at Land Matters are skilled in communicating with local councils, iwi, and neighbours when it comes to large urban developments and infrastructure. Their independent hearing commissioner services ensure that decisions are made with impartiality and credibility, strengthening project applications and delivering outcomes that serve both people and place.

Land Matters surveyors provide services across the lower North Island, carrying out site surveys, subdivision and boundary work, and construction and engineering surveys, using the latest technologies to carry out the job, no matter the size.

Their highly qualified civil engineers can assist in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure whether it be road and access design, storm water and surface drainage, wastewater, earthworks, or subdivision engineering.

While the project is under construction, their marketing team can help you create a brand identity for your project, ensuring that you have the best chance of attracting investors.

At the heart of all their work is the land, working with the environment to help clients achieve their big dreams. Land Matters are dedicated to helping with urban regeneration and sustainable forestry. To learn more about the projects that Land Matters have been a part of, and the services they provide, visit their website at www.landmatters.nz

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- Construction Management
- Drone Surveys
- Forestry Harvest Plans
- Property Advisory

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Living the dream – Dannevirke

Peace of mind

The kind of care needed to age with dignity differs from person to person. At Rahiri Lifecare in Dannevirke, they offer personal, compassionate care, no matter what is required. It's in the name – Rahiri means to welcome and receive. The facilities and rooms are warm, spacious, and light-filled, and the charming gardens and rural atmosphere provide a truly special setting, made more homely by the professional team of nurses and caregivers.

There is an array of accommodation options, 24/7 nursing care, and caregivers available to manage medications, mealtimes, and daily assistance. The hospital care gives families peace of mind, knowing that end of life care is provided sensitively and respectfully. The dementia community is a secure facility that focuses on safety and enabling residents to live with as much independence as possible.

If you're looking for a tranquil place for a member of your whānau to call home, get in contact wih Rahiri Lifecare today.

Meaningful learning

For decades, the kindergartens of Dannevirke have provided warm, inclusive environments for tamariki to grow.

The Dannevirke Kindergarten Association is made up of Appleton Kindergarten and Dannevirke Central Kindergarten, both of which embrace their bicultural curriculum and relationships with whānau, and create a safe place where learning is meaningful and every child is seen, heard, and celebrated.

Te Whare Koha Playgroup is available for children under the age of three. Held at Dannevirke Central Kindergarten on Wednesdays, this interactive playgroup offers a nurturing environment for young minds to grow and learn through play-based learning, sensory activities, time both indoors and outdoors, and through meeting other children.

At the heart of all three childcare facilities sits whanaungatanga and manaakitanga. The passionate team of teachers provide an enriching and inclusive environment for kids to play, learn, and grow into their best, most confident selves.

A place to discover

The largest town in the Tararua Region, Dannevirke High School serves as the main learning hub, inspiring every learner to realise their academic, physical, cultural, and social potential.

Dannevirke High School's goal is to make sure their rangatahi head out into the world feeling confident, engaged, and supported to pursue their dreams and contribute meaningfully to Aotearoa and the world. Their excellent teachers, dynamic sporting facilities, and rich cultural involvement enable students to discover their talents, learn within a diverse community, and come away with a kaupapa of respect, inclusivity, and responsibility.

Dannevirke High School is a medium-sized co-educational secondary school located in the beautiful countryside beneath the Ruahine Ranges. Led by principal Di Carter, the leadership team and teachers are dedicated to providing a supportive, safe, and happy environment for rangatahi to be challenged, to succeed, and make lifelong friends.

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11-13 High Street, P.O. Box 250, Dannevirke | Cell: 0273023842 | email: manager@dvkss.co.nz | www.dvkss.co.nz

Living the dream – Dannevirke

A place to call home

Hugged by the ranges to the west, and surrounded by stunning countryside, Dannevirke has its own quiet charm. Driving down the Main Street you'll notice it is bustling with small-town character, with lovely public spaces and plenty of shops. The town has all the essentials: a bunch of schools and kura kaupapa, nature trails, recreational facilities, a modern hospital, and a cinema. What makes Dannevirke special, though, is what it's got by the boatload: space.

The people of Dannevirke love the tranquility of the township. Those who live on lifestyle blocks or rurally enjoy the quiet country life while also knowing they can take a quick trip over the hill to arrive in Palmerston North, or drive up the road to be in the sunny Hawke's Bay.

Known as the "Viking Town" due to the Danish and Norwegian settlers who founded it in 1872, its unique history can be felt everywhere, making this storied landscape the perfect place to call home.

The trusted choice

At Property Brokers Dannevirke, locals helping locals has been the foundation of the business for nearly 40 years. With deep community knowledge and a strong understanding of the local market, the team is proud to showcase why Dannevirke is such an appealing place to call home.

Property Brokers offers access to a wide variety of properties, and Dannevirke continues to attract first-home buyers, families, and investors. With a median sale price of around $410,000, it offers exceptional value compared with many larger centres. Buyers can also choose from a wide range of lifestyle properties, with many available under $900,000.

Perfectly positioned just one hour from both the coast and the mountains, Dannevirke offers the best of both worlds – affordable living, outdoor adventure and a welcoming rural community. Whether you are looking for your first home, space to grow, or a lifestyle change, Dannevirke is a destination well worth considering.

A legacy of Kiwi pride

When you wear New Zealand Natural Clothing, you're not just stepping into high-quality garments made from local wool, possum, and other fibres – you're stepping into a legacy of Kiwi pride and sustainability. We're passionate about supporting and stocking Kiwi brands like Native World, MKM Originals, Koru, Palliser Ridge, Swanndri, Norsewear, and our own exclusive line, made right here in New Zealand. Every product we offer reflects the pride and care that went into its creation. Take the famous Norsewear Farm Fleck Socks, which have been crafted here for over 50 years in the historic town of Norsewood.

With our flagship store located in Norsewood, we are also committed to giving back to our community and environment. We partner with The Wop Wops Wetland Park, a conservation project focused on protecting the native New Zealand longfin eel and educating the public about these remarkable creatures. Located just behind our Norsewood store, the park offers a perfect picnic spot and free self-contained camping to stay overnight.

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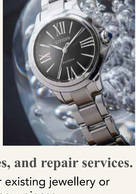

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Kayllin Pender, Residential Sales Consultant, P 021 177 5268
Natalie Hales, Residential Sales Consultant, P 027 695 1522

Phone 06 374 8102 | 5 Stanley Street, Dannevirke | www.propertybrokers.co.nz/community/dannevirke

Living the dream – Dannevirke

Got tractor troubles?

When you've got tractor troubles, or a breakdown happens on your farm, no matter what time of the day, Lancaster Tractor Services 2022 Limited are there to help.

Located in Dannevirke, they provide comprehensive tractor and farm machinery services, as well as an on-site showroom selling both new and used machinery, and parts from trusted brands such as Landini Tractors, Pearson, TotalEnergies, Rata Equipment, and Koba Batteries. If they don't have what you're looking for, they'll happily order it in for you.

The purpose-built, fully equipped workshop is your one-stop shop. Run by Dave Reid alongside his team of fully trained and qualified mechanics, their full suite of repairs and services include hydraulic hose repairs and diagnostics, engineering repairs, air-conditioning servicing, front end loader scales, farm vehicle servicing and repairs, and transporter hire for up to 14 tonnes. Lancaster Tractor Services 2022 are dedicated to quality machinery and outstanding customer service.

One-stop shop

Hewitt Motorcycles in Dannevirke are your one-stop shop for all things Yamaha. They're the only authorised dealership in the surrounding area, from Woodville to Waipawa – including the coastal area – that stock Yamaha all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, and outboards, as well as new and used farm quad bikes and side-by-sides.

They stock a large range of vehicles, parts, and accessories, and can service your vehicle and outboard so you don't compromise on performance, reliability, and safety. If they don't have what you're looking for, they'll get in for you the very next day.

Hewitt's website features a tool to compare models before buying, with detailed insights around key specs like engine power, storage, towing capacity, or fuel efficiency. Their trade-up tool allows you to easily assess the worth of your existing vehicle.

If you're in the region, head over to Hewitt Motorcycles and find your perfect partner in the paddock or your next adrenaline-fueled adventure.

The country life

You can't beat a life in the countryside when it comes to peace, quiet, and beautiful natural surroundings. Moving to a lifestyle block offers you rural freedom, giving you and your family room to grow – and to grow your own delicious food, while you're at it – in the great outdoors.

While living in the city has its drawcards, buying a lifestyle block in Dannevirke means you get the best of both worlds: big skies and wide-open spaces, with the largest town in the Tararua District right at your fingertips. You will never be far from local amenities. Dannevirke has a modern hospital, three secondary schools, and a growing commercial sector. It even has its own community radio station! It's where people know their neighbours and look out for one another.

Leave the hustle and bustle, traffic, and daily grind of yesteryear behind. For tranquillity and a change of pace, choose a lifestyle block in Dannevirke.

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huttcity
KINDERGARTENS

About Hutt City Kindergartens

Hutt City Kindergartens (HCK) has a long and proud history in Te Awakairangi / the Hutt Valley. In 2028, we will celebrate 100 years of serving tamariki and whānau in our community.

Our story began with Nettie Riley, a passionate advocate for young children and their learning. In recognition of her vision and contribution, we named our 20th kindergarten after her when it opened in 2020.

Today, HCK is made up of 22 kindergartens across the Hutt region. We offer a range of options to meet the needs of our diverse community, including sessional, all-day, and all-year experiences. Our aim is to provide high-quality early childhood education that is accessible and affordable for all whānau.

We are part of New Zealand Kindergartens, which acts as our governing body and supports kindergartens across Aotearoa New Zealand.

At HCK, all teaching positions within ratio are filled by fully qualified and certificated kaiako. Our teaching teams are supported by a wider professional network, including Senior Teachers, an Early Intervention Teacher, a Speech Language Therapist, a Pouako, and Association Support staff. We are also committed to ongoing professional learning and development to ensure our teachers continue to grow and provide the best possible learning experiences for tamariki.

HCK is co-led by two General Managers, with responsibilities across Operations and Professional Services, ensuring both the day-to-day running of our kindergartens and the quality of teaching and learning are well supported.

Our Philosophy

Our curriculum is guided by Te Whāriki, the early childhood curriculum of Aotearoa New Zealand. Alongside this, our philosophy is grounded in the work of Friedrich Froebel, who established the first kindergarten and gave us the name which means “a child’s garden.”

Froebel believed that childhood is a unique and important time in its own right, and that tamariki learn best through play, exploration, creativity, and meaningful relationships. He saw children as capable, curious learners who thrive when they are connected to the natural world, to others, and to their own ideas.

At HCK, this philosophy is reflected in our practice.

We value:

- play as a powerful way for tamariki to learn and make sense of the world
- strong, respectful relationships with tamariki, whānau, and communities
- the importance of nature and outdoor environments
- creativity, imagination, and the expression of ideas
- each child as a confident and capable learner

Together, Te Whāriki and Froebel’s philosophy guide us to create rich, meaningful learning environments where tamariki can grow, learn, and flourish.

growing young learners

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Gallery news

by Isabella Smith

Perfection Salad

Mind the Pearls by Emily Hartley-Skudder. Image courtesy of the artist.

Harking back to the Jell-O delicacy that was popularised in 1950s America, *Perfection Salad* refers to the savoury concoction of chopped cabbage, celery, and red peppers suspended in a tart gelatin and shaped by an aspic mold. On until the 16th of May at Jhana Millers Gallery, cross-generational duo Judy Darragh ONZM and Emily Hartley-Skudder explore consumer culture and its plastic excess through their sculptural assemblages and oil paintings, playing with the instability of value hierarchies.

Judy is a stalwart in the Aotearoa art scene. Her brightly coloured sculptures made of found objects call into question consumption and waste while at the same time granting objects a new lease on life through re-arranging and re-evaluating them as art. Strings of brightly coloured plastic line the walls and stand proudly on the floor of the gallery, organised in such a way that they sing in a unified harmony of new meaning.

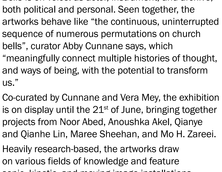
Emily's practice too began with working with found objects. At art school she traversed opshops and scavenged through recycling bins to build her collection, all the while looking up to Judy's work as a resource to grow her own practice. Emily's oil paintings dial up the absurdity of everyday throw-away items. "There's ultimately a bit of humour when you challenge the value of things," she says. "Selling people's detritus back to them," or "spending hours and hours rendering a plastic takeaway container in oil paint".

Emily's paintings depict brightly coloured Jell-O moulds, cleaning products, and toiletries. Arranged and positioned together on a flat plane reminiscent of traditional still life paintings, she is in conversation with art history and the objects people have revered over time. The objects also evoke a sense of nostalgia for viewers. She says, "There is something simple yet strangely satisfying about taking very ordinary, familiar objects and shifting their context by bringing them into the gallery as art. Combining two seemingly contradictory things always creates a little spark."

Both Judy and Emily live in the realm of kitsch, "Where objects that were once seen as lower-class nicknacks… have now come to be super collectable items and command high prices." As avid collectors, the accumulation of found objects shapes their relationships to the wider world: a method of physically collecting ideas. Emily says, "It's a very fitting way to explore hyper consumerism and the circulation of objects."

In the same way that the amusing trend of serving *Perfection Salad* was once considered the height of elegance and a symbol of status, so too are the values of plastic objects in these sculptural assemblages and paintings reimagined. Still lifes that once depicted ornamental fruits now display ornamental cleaning products and kitchenware, and objects destined for landfill have become part of something larger than themselves. "I'd like to think if we can celebrate or treasure some of this plastic then we'll think twice before it ends up in the trash."

Peal the bells



Still from A Night We Held Between, 2024 by Noor Abed. Image courtesy of the artist.

Imagining the dramatic architecture of Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery as a giant bell, with each artwork striking a different note within the larger structure, the emphasis of group show *Peal the Bells* is on voice: as actor, instrument, and archive, both political and personal. Seen together, the artworks behave like "the continuous, uninterrupted sequence of numerous permutations on church bells", curator Abby Cunnane says, which "meaningfully connect multiple histories of thought, and ways of being, with the potential to transform us."

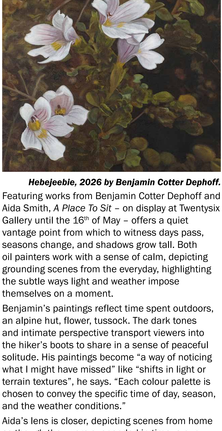
Co-curated by Cunnane and Vera Mey, the exhibition is on display until the 21st of June, bringing together projects from Noor Abed, Anoushka Akel, Qianye and Qianhe Lin, Maree Sheehan, and Mo H. Zareei.

Heavily research-based, the artworks draw on various fields of knowledge and feature sonic, kinetic, and moving image installations, paintings, and the film A *Night We Held Between* (2024). "Each work takes a precise position with relationship to language, resisting its co-option by dominant forces, and holding onto context and specificity." In different ways they ask us to be critical, empathetic, and open to narratives that are unfamiliar.

"These works invite us to pay particular and close attention to the voice," Cunnane says. "To consider how elements like tone, silence, collective recitation, the singing voice in waiata, the sound of breath itself, each have their own character and forms of meaning." They are also a prompt to speak with clarity and conviction in a world full of endless noise.

Posing questions about how we might orient ourselves within official languages, and what it means to participate in a chorus, to stay silent, or to speak alone, the artworks also rely on a form reciprocity: they expect us to listen.

Suspended stillness



Hebejeebie, 2026 by Benjamin Cotter Dephoff.

Featuring works from Benjamin Cotter Dephoff and Aida Smith, *A Place To Sit* – on display at Twentysix Gallery until the 16th of May – offers a quiet vantage point from which to witness days pass, seasons change, and shadows grow tall. Both oil painters work with a sense of calm, depicting grounding scenes from the everyday, highlighting the subtle ways light and weather impose themselves on a moment.

Benjamin's paintings reflect time spent outdoors, an alpine hut, flower, tussock. The dark tones and intimate perspective transport viewers into the hiker's boots to share in a sense of peaceful solitude. His paintings become "a way of noticing what I might have missed" like "shifts in light or terrain textures", he says. "Each colour palette is chosen to convey the specific time of day, season, and the weather conditions."

Aida's lens is closer, depicting scenes from home as though they were suspended in time: a cup of tea, coloured pencils, a candle burning. "The objects are touch points, things you pick up when you're not glued to a screen." Aida says she looks "for something paired back, with the absolute minimum of detail, and a slightly abstracted view."

There is a sense of temporality in the landscapes and still lifes Benjamin and Aida depict. Benjamin says, "There is always a narrative for each photo and painting whether you see it or not". The people in Aida's work, too, seem to have just left the frame, their presence felt only at the edges.

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Looking to the future – events

Invitation to Thai Festival 2026

The Royal Thai Embassy, in collaboration with the Thai community in New Zealand, is proud to present the Thai Festival: "Sawasdee New Zealand, 70 Years of Friendship" on Saturday the 16th of May at the Michael Fowler Centre from 10am.

The event commemorates the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and New Zealand, celebrating decades of friendship, cultural exchange, and mutual cooperation.

The Opening Ceremony starts at 10:45am, promising a vibrant and immersive cultural festival for all ages. Attendees can enjoy a diverse programme of activities and attractions, including traditional Thai cultural and Khon mask performances, authentic Thai cuisine, and live demonstrations of fruit and vegetable carving. Visitors can also participate in a Muay Thai workshop, meditation sessions, and experience traditional Thai massage.

There will be showcases of Thailand's rich cultural heritage, and special exhibitions honouring the Thai monarchy, including displays of royal-endorsed traditional Thai attire. Attendees can also enter a lucky draw with the chance to win a hotel accommodation package on Samui Island, and a range of other fantastic prizes!

His Excellency Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Ambassador of Thailand to New Zealand, says, "The Royal Thai Embassy and the Thai Community warmly invite members of the public, families, and visitors from across New Zealand to join in this special celebration to experience the rich traditions and warm hospitality of Thailand."

Deep-pocket grooves

One of Aotearoa's longest-running festivals, the Manawatū International Jazz & Blues Festival is back for its 59th year. On between the 22nd and 31st of May, it brings to the stage a fabulous lineup of local, national, and international talent across multiple days and venues in celebration of all things blues and jazz.

Topping the bill is the Rodger Fox Big Band, playing at the *Gala Concert* on the night of Saturday the 30th. Formed 52 years ago by the late, great Kiwi jazz icon Rodger Fox CNZM, they have performed at major festivals around the globe. Joining the band is one of New Zealand's most recognised singer-songwriters Hollie Smith, and celebrated US jazz guitarist David Becker, who has shared the stage with the likes of Miles Davis and Chick Corea.

Some highlights include the Manawatū Jazz Club Band playing at Willowpark Tavern on the 24th; the Palmy Sweethearts, an all-girl saxophone quartet, joined by Triple Fret, a trio of vocalists from Palmerston North Girls' High School, on Wednesday the 27th at Globe 1; and the Whanganui-based band The Funk Rockets delivering slick arrangements and deep-pocket grooves on Friday the 29th at Globe 1.

Other exciting events include a guitar and a jazz workshop with David Becker, a highschool jazz competition, and a jazz café scene. A festival for all the cool cats and jazz rats, put it in your diaries and head along for some smooth listening that is guaranteed to be the region's blues and jazz highlight of the year.

Venue for events & weddings

Enjoy our beautiful gardens and our heritage village set in the boutique village of Greytown.

Please check our Facebook page or website www.cobblestonesmuseum.org.nz for our open hours.

169 Main St, Greytown, Ph: 06 304 9687.

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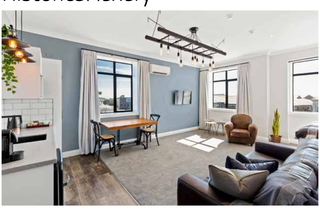
Looking to the future

Historical luxury



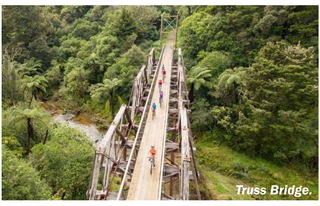
At the heart of the wild and wondrous West Coast is Hokitika – nestled at the mouth of the Hokitika River, looking out over the tumultuous Pacific Ocean, with a shawl of emerald and ivory mountains at her shoulders.

When in town, you can't go past a staycation at Hokitika Fire Station Boutique Accommodation, where history meets luxury, heritage meets modern comforts.

Hokitika Fire Station Boutique Accommodation calls the town's old 1866 fire station building home. Beautifully restored, each self-contained apartment is named after a fire chief who led the brigade and has its own flair and feel, accented by original brickwork, historic photographs, and firefighting memorabilia. As the only Qualmark five-star accommodation in central Hokitika, it goes without saying that all five apartments offer character, class, and charm by the fire-truckload.

Just outside, you'll find Hokitika's bustling hub chocka with boutiques, museums, galleries, and eateries and cafés – if you can bring yourself to leave your apartment!

The winterless north



Truss Bridge.

One of Aotearoa's most storied, exciting, and accessible bike trails, the 87-kilometre cross-country Pou Herenga Tai – Twin Coast Cycle Trail takes you from coast to coast – from Opua in the Bay of Islands to Hōreke in the Hokianga Harbour (or the other way around). Through native forests and rolling hills, along the coast, past lakes and some of NZ's earliest Māori and European settlements, this sub-tropical ride is open year round, and includes a memorable five-kilometre section aboard a vintage train.

With plenty of different options for accommodation, the trail is divided into four sections and passes through Kawakawa, Kaikohe, and Ōkaihau. Enthusiastic riders can complete the entire trail in just two days, but it is best enjoyed as a multiday ride, stopping off at restaurants and cafés along the way while exploring sites such as the colourful Hundertwasser toilets, Matakohe Kauri Museum, and Wairere Boulders.

Pay it forward

The Bay of Islands is true paradise. Rich in history, culture, and dotted with countless subtropical islands, the region is the perfect place for nature lovers, water enthusiasts, and history buffs alike.

The Bay of Islands Holiday Park is the perfect location to set up sticks before exploring the area. Positioned between Paihia and Kerikeri, it has an array of accommodation that caters to all needs; whether you're after a fully furnished cabin, a powered site to park up your caravan, or a spot to pitch your tent. With communal kitchens and bathrooms for bunkers and campers, a BBQ and pizza oven, laundry facilities, and an outdoor pool, the holiday park offers 3.1 hectares of space to relax, enjoy, and explore.

They are also proud supporters of the TimeOut Charitable Trust, providing a sanctuary for people with incurable illnesses to relax on the shade-filled grounds beside the Waitangi River.

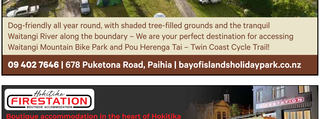
Your West Coast adventure starts here –
Our friendly local experts can help create transport and accommodation packages for your West Coast Wilderness Trail journeys and beyond.

41 Weld Street, Hokitika | 03 755 6166

Step into a prehistoric world at Wairere Boulders — a geological phenomenon where stunning nature meets adventure.

Enjoy camping, hiking, bouldering, swimming, kayaking, and easy access to the Twin Coast Bike Trail.

70 McDonnell Road, Horeke, Hokianga
Phone 021 434 669 | wairereboulders.co.nz



Dog-friendly all year round, with shaded tree-filled grounds and the tranquil Waitangi River along the boundary – We are your perfect destination for accessing Waitangi Mountain Bike Park and Pou Herenga Tai – Twin Coast Cycle Trail!

09 402 7646 | 678 Puketona Road, Paihia | bayofislandsholidaypark.co.nz

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The 80s Calling

Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand's new campaign, The 80s Calling, aims to reduce stigmas, normalise conversations, and support people living with HIV.

While medical advances have significantly reduced locally acquired HIV infections, myths have lingered for decades, and social stigma remains a persistent barrier. Deborah Woodley, director of Starting Well at Te Whatu Ora, says "around three-quarters of New Zealanders still hold onto HIV-related stigma, often fuelled by a lack of up-to-date information".

The 80s Calling targets New Zealanders aged 40 to 69 whose perceptions are often still shaped by fear-based messaging from the 1980s AIDS crisis. "By providing credible, modern information, the campaign aims to shift these long-held attitudes."

Developed in collaboration with the Burnett Foundation, Positive Women, and Body Positive, the four-month campaign will roll out across a variety of mediums, featuring opinion leaders to drive home the message: HIV discrimination belongs in the past.

We are your neighbours

This editorial reflects the collective voice of people living with HIV in Aotearoa and Body Positive.

There's a good chance someone you know is living with HIV. A mate, a family member, someone in your congregation or on your rural run. You probably don't know, because they haven't told you. And the reason they haven't told you is fear – not of the virus, but of what you might think.

We get it. Most of us grew up in the same era you did. We saw the same ads, felt the same dread. The 1980s did a number on all of us.

But here's what's changed. Medicine has transformed HIV completely. People on treatment today live full, healthy lives. New Zealand has just formally recognised U=U at a national level – Undetectable equals Untransmittable – meaning someone on effective treatment simply cannot pass HIV on sexually. That's settled science, and we're proud to be a country leading the way. You can be part of that too.

What hasn't kept pace is understanding. You cannot get HIV from a hug, a shared meal, a cup of tea, doing someone's laundry, or sitting beside them. These were never risks – not in the 80s, not now. HIV doesn't survive that way.

Yet nearly three-quarters of New Zealanders still carry some level of HIV stigma. That fear is what stops people getting tested, accessing treatment, and asking for support.

A new national campaign, The 80s Calling, launched this week. All we ask is an open mind and an open heart.

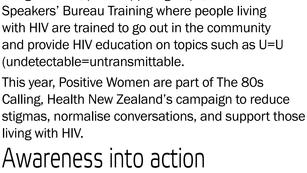
Feeling connected

Positive Women Wāhine Kaha Inc have been supporting and empowering women and whānau affected by HIV for nearly 40 years, raising awareness through programmes that focus on prevention and de-stigmatisation.

Their website is abundant with resources about living with HIV, and links to amazing programmes like HIV Better2Know, which makes HIV testing easy, and Te Taenga Mai, which provides information on HIV prevention and support for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, as well as free HIV and Syphilis rapid testing training. Positive Women offer a freephone support line, annual retreats for women living with HIV, peer support groups, and Positive Speakers' Bureau Training where people living with HIV are trained to go out in the community and provide HIV education on topics such as U=U (undetectable=untransmittable.

This year, Positive Women are part of The 80s Calling, Health New Zealand's campaign to reduce stigmas, normalise conversations, and support those living with HIV.

Awareness into action



Stroke remains a leading cause of adult disability and the second leading cause of death in Aotearoa New Zealand. Yet up to 90 percent of strokes are preventable.

This May, Stroke Awareness Month is focused on turning awareness into action.

Prevention sits at the heart of this year's campaign. Stroke Aotearoa New Zealand will share practical ways to reduce risk, amplify the voices of stroke survivors, and create opportunities for meaningful community involvement.

A key event this month is The Road to Recovery, a nationwide movement challenge encouraging New Zealanders to get active while supporting a vital cause. The charity has partnered with physiotherapist Mark Adams, who specialises in stroke rehabilitation, to highlight the dedication and physical effort involved in recovery. You can take part by tracking your activity throughout May and fundraising to support Stroke Aotearoa New Zealand's services for stroke survivors and their whānau. Sign up at stroke.org.nz/events/the-road-to-recovery/

A helping hand

When you have your own family, their wellbeing is always front of mind. Atareira is here to help, no matter the circumstances.

As a charitable trust with a 40-year history of providing support to families, Atareira has resources available for all ages. From mental health services to addiction support, child and youth programmes to transitional housing options, the organisation has you and your family's best interests at heart.

Family support services are available through Atareira to anyone living in the Wellington Region. Atareira provides compassionate and caring support for those experiencing mental health or addiction issues first or second-hand. Other resources include free group anxiety management programmes for those 18 and older, and transitional housing services for those who are temporarily experiencing homelessness.

Atareira can help struggling families and individuals to get back on their feet when they need it most.

Aotearoa New Zealand Sex Workers' Collective

We advocate for the rights, safety & health of all sex workers.

Proudly supporting sex workers from the LGBTQIA+ community.

04 382 8791
nzpc.org.nz

ATAREIRA
Housed Health & Addiction Support for Family Whānau
Transitional Housing

Proudly serving the Greater Wellington region for over 40 years.

www.atareira.org.nz • enquiries@atareira.org.nz
04 499 1049

Stroke Aotearoa NZ

This May for Stroke Awareness Month, we're helping turn awareness into action through stroke prevention and promoting the importance of recognising the signs.

Stroke Awareness Month

A stroke is a sudden loss of brain function

Every minute treatment is delayed, 1.9 million brain cells die

1 in 4 of us will experience a stroke

90% of strokes are preventable

Learn what it means to act F.A.S.T.

FACE DROOPING
ARM WEAKNESS
SPEECH DIFFICULTY
TAKE ACTION CALL 111

stroke.org.nz

HIV+ speakers help reduce HIV stigma and discrimination.
Engaging a speaker from the Positive Speakers Bureau is a great way to give people living with HIV a voice to tell their story and share their experiences with others, where discussion and questions are encouraged. The Positive Speakers Bureau is a free service and is open to organisations in everyone in New Zealand.
Visit us online for more information or to book your session
Positive Speakers Bureau
Text 027 222 0000
Positive Women Kaha
Positive Women Kaha

Mothers & babies
In New Zealand, the number have been born with HIV to mothers who have been diagnosed and treated for HIV with an undetectable viral load.
Mothers who have an undetectable viral load cannot pass HIV on to their transmitting and their both vaginally if delivery or via c section.

Living life
HIV is not recognised as a chronic illness, i.e. asymptomatic, for people with HIV who are on treatment and have a viral load that is undetectable, this does not have HIV.
HIV antiretroviral medication (ART) taken by people living with HIV, when they are confirmed to be undetectable and lead to people living with HIV. The risk of HIV transmission is zero or no to others to almost zero.

HIV transmission in healthcare settings is extremely rare.
The practice of infection control measures, including standard precautions, protects patients as well as healthcare providers from possible HIV transmission in medical and dental settings.
Get up to date with HIV:
positivespeakers.org.nz
positivewomenkaha.org.nz
hrcouncil@hrc.co.nz
better2know.org.nz

End stigma and discrimination
To truly end HIV related stigma, we need to be able to talk about it with yourself, your workplace and your community.
Its time to change how we see HIV.
Positive Women Kaha

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Puzzles

						5	6	
6				9	4			
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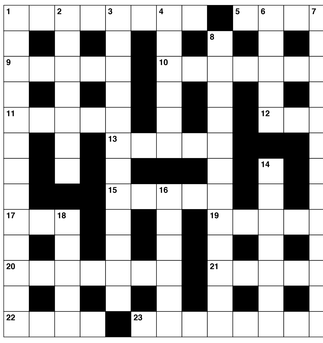

Across

1 - Exultant (8)
5 - Extent of a surface (4)
9 - Hank of wool (5)
10 - Gambling houses (7)
11 - Mental impressions (5)
12 - State of armed conflict (3)
13 - Bird claw (5)
15 - Metal spikes (5)
17 - Bristle-like appendage (3)
19 - Equine animal (5)
20 - Ardent (7)
21 - Expel from a country (5)
22 - The world's longest river (4)
23 - Versions of a book (8)

Down

1 - Explanatory reason (13)
2 - Establishment for making beer (7)
3 - Having existed for a considerable time (4-8)
4 - Five cent coin (US) (6)
6 - Rejuvenate (5)
7 - Aggressive self-assurance (13)
8 - Amazement (12)
14 - Tortilla rolled around a filling (7)
16 - Truly (6)
18 - Relating to birth (5)

Infernal laughs

It's 2026, and "unfortunately, comedy appears to be more important than ever as the world faces down a resurgance of a**holes trying to take away hard-won rights", says Tim Batt ahead of his show *Eternal Optimist,* on as part of the NZ International Comedy Festival.

After years away from the festival circuit, Batt has decided to ignore his children and return to the stage in order to make light of the rising tide of fascism.

An award-winning comedian and podcaster, Batt doesn't shy away from tough topics. Known for his unashamedly left-wing political wit, brilliant irreverance, and sharp energy, *Eternal Optimist* – on at BATS Theatre from the 6th to the 9th of May – blends biting political satire with genuine reflection on parenting and activism. The audience can expect his trademark mix of intelligence and absurdity as he dissects New Zealand politics, and explores the joys of fatherhood and rebellious act of staying upbeat when everything seems to be on fire.

Eternal Optimist is a fearless, funny, and hopeful hour. Batt is a two-time Billy T Award nominee and three-time winner of Best Comedy Podcast at the New Zealand Podcast Awards. He co-hosts the smash-hit global podcast *The Worst Idea of All Time* with Guy Montgomery, which has racked up over 20 million downloads.

Despite the dire situation in Aotearoa, Batt says, "Let's get in a room and have a laugh together", inviting the audience to laugh loud, think hard, and maybe even check their voter enrollment on the way out.

Feel free to get in touch with cartoonist Kate Garnyk at katykamf@gmail.com

Film news

Architects of imagination

Still from Leonora in the Morning Light.

Still from Prickly Mountain.

The Resene Architecture & Design Film Festival is celebrating its 15th year of screenings with its most ambitious programme yet. RADFF over the years has grown into a nationwide event and one of the largest architecture and design festivals in the world, showcasing the latest and most captivating films of the genre to Aotearoa audiences.

The festival will take place between the 14th of May and the 1st of June in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, with films showing at the Embassy Theatre and Light House Cuba.

Featuring 23 feature films and five shorts from nine countries, Curator Yasmine Ganley says the lineup is full of dynamic and thought-provoking films. "Innovation, sustainability, and artistic expression are notions that run through this year's thematic pods: Building for the Community, The Domestic Experience, Light as Form, and Hand-Crafted Worlds."

A selection of films demonstrate Aotearoa's creative energy, including *Parallel Universe: The Art and Design of Roy Good*, a rare figure in New Zealand art; the short film *Rimurapa by Neil Pardington* about the local artist who creates graphic works from bull kelp; *The Temple of Kinetic Resonance*, providing a look at modernist filmmaker and kinetic artist Len Lye; and *The Time Traveller's Guide to Hamilton Gardens*, a wander through the Hamilton gardens from its meagre beginnings as a rubbish dump to what is now recognised as one of the great gardens of the world.

Other festival highlights include *Stardust: A Story of Love and Architecture* about the architectural couple Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, spanning decades of their remarkable creative partnership that ignited a quiet revolution in architecture. Both *Prickly Mountain and My Design/Build life* and *The Harvard 5: a story of love, architecture, and a design revolution* too deal in themes of counter-cultural and experimental architecture and design in the United States.

For the first time the festival features historical autobiographical dramas, including *The Great Arch* which describes the remarkable true story of Danish architect Johan Otto Spreckelsen and the creation of Paris' monumental Grande Arche, and a dreamlike imagining of British Mexican surrealist artist Leonora Carrington in *Leonora In The Morning Light*, which features scenes in Xilitla, the site of British arts patron Edward James' surrealist sculptural garden in Mexico.

Photographers are celebrated in *Anna Mariani Photographic Notes* and *Peter Hujar's Day.* The former retraces the dirt roads taken by the photographer Anna Mariani, exploring the unique architecture of the Brazilian northeastern hinterland. The latter brings to life rediscovered transcripts from photographer Peter Hujar as he describes in minute detail the events of the previous day.

From Bauhaus to Art Nouveau, Netherlands to Antarctica, space to light, the festival offers a panoramic view of architectural evolution, providing insights into the brilliant minds and movements that have stretched the possibilities of imagination and shaped the world.

Big-hearted truths

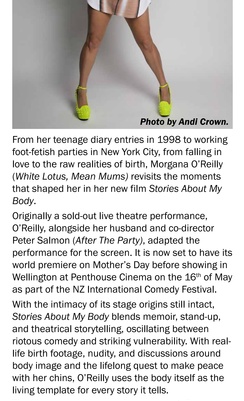

Photo by Andi Crown.

From her teenage diary entries in 1998 to working foot-fetish parties in New York City, from falling in love to the raw realities of birth, Morgana O'Reilly (*White Lotus*, *Mean Mums*) revisits the moments that shaped her in her new film *Stories About My Body*.

Originally a sold-out live theatre performance, O'Reilly, alongside her husband and co-director Peter Salmon (*After The Party)*, adapted the performance for the screen. It is now set to have its world premiere on Mother's Day before showing in Wellington at Penthouse Cinema on the 16th of May as part of the NZ International Comedy Festival.

With the intimacy of its stage origins still intact, *Stories About My Body* blends memoir, stand-up, and theatrical storytelling, oscillating between riotous comedy and striking vulnerability. With real-life birth footage, nudity, and discussions around body image and the lifelong quest to make peace with her chins, O'Reilly uses the body itself as the living template for every story it tells.

The film is a celebration of messy, magnificent womanhood. With the precision of stand-up and the intimacy of a confession, she traces life lived in skin: 78 organs, 206 bones, 32 teeth, 8.8 kilograms of armour, and two whole human bodies brought into the world.

Described by Parker Posey as "brilliant and beautiful", and "gorgeous, gross, and hilarious" by Carrie Coon, the film is set to be deeply personal, fearless, funny, and a must-see full of big-hearted truths.

Interstellar cinema

Still from The Rift.

Australasia's only planetarium film festival is coming to Te Ara Whānui ki te Rangi Space Place at Carter Observatory this month. The Dome Under Festival, an interstellar, immersive festival dedicated to fulldome cinema, makes full use of Space Place's 360° planetarium dome and its surround sound, and is the only place in Aotearoa to be able to view these films.

Dome Under originated in Melbourne and is now in its sixth year at the Museums Victoria Melbourne Planetarium. Here at Space Place, they're serving the best of the Melbourne Planetarium 2026 Festival, screening eight award-winning and highly commended art and science films from the festival lineup.

The festival offers up something for everyone, including two family-friendly screenings. Highlights include *Everest: Opera in the Planetarium*, an animated opera about the 1996 Mount Everest expedition; *Space Explorers: The ISS Experience*, which highlights the vital role of women in space as three astronauts prepare to depart the Space Station after a six-month stay; and *The Rift*, an evocative fusion of contemporary dance and cinematic imagery set across the diverse landscapes of Zimbabwe.

On between the 14th and 16th of May, tickets include entrance to Space Place's galleries and the opportunity to use their telescopes and gaze up at the stars on a clear night.

"Wellington is full of cinephiles who love film festivals, and this one is captivating," Wheako Pōnēke Wellington visitor and partnerships director Alicia Harris says. "We're so excited to invite Wellingtonians through our doors to get a glimpse of the future."

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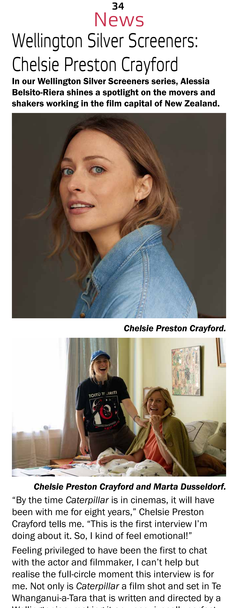
Wellington Silver Screeners: Chelsie Preston Crayford

In our Wellington Silver Screeners series, Alessia Belsito-Riera shines a spotlight on the movers and shakers working in the film capital of New Zealand.



Chelsie Preston Crayford.

Chelsie Preston Crayford and Marta Dusseldorf.

"By the time *Caterpillar* is in cinemas, it will have been with me for eight years," Chelsie Preston Crayford tells me. "This is the first interview I'm doing about it. So, I kind of feel emotional!"

Feeling privileged to have been the first to chat with the actor and filmmaker, I can't help but realise the full-circle moment this interview is for me. Not only is *Caterpillar* a film shot and set in Te Whanganui-a-Tara that is written and directed by a Wellingtonian, making it an unequivocally perfect instalment for our Silver Screeners series, but it is also a story about three generations of women living under the same roof. A tale that echoes my own.

"That's so cool that you grew up in a similar situation," Preston Crayford beams. "I struggle to find films that had that family dynamic."

Ahead of *Caterpillar*'s release in May, read all about the creative powerhouse behind it, along with her passions, her intentions, and her own story that inspired it below.

What sparked your interest in filmmaking? What do you love about it?

I've been an actor for all my life, really. And what we do as actors is we come onto a project that's already developed and formed, and we lend our voices to the wider vision. Sometimes you're really aligned with it and many times you're not and what you end up doing – particularly when roles for women are written by men – is massaging the writing to make characters feel like real women and stories feel believable. Filmmaking, for me, was about having total agency of my voice.

What have been some career highlights so far?

Definitely making this film is one of the hardest and most rewarding things I've done, aside from having children. My main career highlight is that I have not had to have another job. It's really, really, really challenging to survive as a creative in New Zealand and particularly as an actor, so there have been times that it's been hairy, but for a long time I've managed it. There are characters that I've really loved playing, there are amazing things that I've done, but the main thing for me is having been able to sustain a really fulfilling creative life and family life at the same time, because I wasn't sure that was even a possibility. I felt like it was one or the other when I was growing up and it doesn't have to be. That was kind of my life goal.

What prompted you to shift into directing? Was it something you'd always had a passion for?

No, it wasn't something that I consciously thought about in terms of the job title. It was more just a means of telling my story. I'm open to what the future holds, but I don't necessarily have designs on directing other people's projects. For me, it's just about having a voice. We all have stories to tell and that's what it was more about for me.

Tell me about your film, Caterpillar. What's it about?

It's a multi-protagonist story that follows three generations of women all living under one roof together. They're all at three very different, very pivotal life stages, and all of their needs are colliding as they often do in families. The story is about a time when their family is changing forever and how they all navigate that together and also in spite of each other.

I'm still not totally sure that my film passes the Bechdel Test in reverse. The cast is 90 percent women; there are some really amazing men in it as well. The story wasn't super intentional, and though it's obviously what I am interested in bringing to life, it wasn't pointed. I grew up in a matriarchy and what fascinated me was the complexity of female relationships, as I'm a mother and a daughter, and how we balance our many roles as women and the expectations that come with them.

What was your experience writing this story?

It was one of the hardest things I've ever done. It's really hard to write a feature film and screenplays. It blows my mind how saturated with content we are because that's the mind bend of film – you take years and years of your life and so much of yourself goes into it and then it's just that 90-minute thing that some people will see and many people won't see. Some people might watch it on a plane. It's pretty wild to think how much goes into all the stories that we get to watch. Over the course of those years that I was developing it, I was also working as an actor, which sort of became my day job, and raising my daughter. I felt like I was living what the film was about as I was writing it. Writing was a learning curve for me anyway. For me to actively do something that I'm not good at yet is so uncomfortable. Especially if you're reasonably confident in your field. It was really scary. There were some parts of the film that I couldn't write until I had learned them myself. For the climax of the film, I had a placeholder in that scene for years. I knew the structure, but I didn't know how to write it. It wasn't until I learned something through my relationship with my daughter that I could write it. I feel like these things are always showing up to teach you something as you're writing about them.

It sounds like a very personal, intimate process for you.

Yeah, massively. And also quite organic. I couldn't force things. I was annoyed with myself the whole time I was writing about it because it wasn't a super conscious choice to write. When you start out on something, you don't know what it is. The whole exploration of writing is finding out what it is and why this thing is presented to you. It's like pulling on a thread and your job becomes servicing the needs of the story. I was like, 'Why did I choose a multi-protagonist story as my first film to write?' It was challenging to write something that felt complex, but not complicated while balancing all the characters. How do you tell a story that is driven by one of the characters getting an illness that takes time, in 90 minutes? How do you deal with time? How do you weave something in a way that gets your meaning across? Now I feel like I started on a hard level, so when I go back in the video game, the next film will have a single protagonist and it'll be really simple! I wrote some TV, an episode of *Double Parked*, which was such a joy – it felt so easeful and pleasurable because all of the beats are written out for you, you know exactly what you have to do, and the characters exist. I wasn't wrestling the story.

How was filming in the capital? How would you describe Wellington's film industry?

So good. I don't really think of the Wellington film industry as separate. New Zealand's film industry is reasonably small and also excellent, so it was cool working in Wellington. It was very nostalgic. I drew a lot from my life growing up and the film is set in that world. It's a work of fiction, but it has grown from my life, my experiences, and my relationships. [Wellington] being where it grew from was essential. It's so specific. It was raised whether I could do this somewhere else, and that was a no, a deal breaker for me. It was a no brainer because, to quote Dennis Denuto, it's the vibe of the thing, you know? Some of the film we shot down the road from my mum's house that I grew up in. It was so engrained in the fabric of the film, so it had to be in Wellington.

What advice would you give someone who's starting out in the industry or wants to embark on their own project?

Oh my God. I don't know if I'm really qualified to give advice, but you have to keep going. It's such a massive undertaking to tell your stories and I think you just have to do the next part. It's like, don't look at the mountain, just take the next step, whatever that is. That's the only way to really bite off something like that. You don't know how how it's all going to pan out, you just have to take one step at a time.

Once Caterpillar is out there in the world, what's next for you?

I've been shooting since November and I've had to take time off to release *Caterpillar* and then I go back and finish the job, which is season two of a show I do called *A Remarkable Place to Die* in Queenstown. So, the juggle is real!

3 Reviews

Have You Seen My G-String?

Written by Margaret Austin
Directed by Ralph McAllister
Fri 19th Apr, 15th Oct 2026
Reviewed by Tanya Piejus

Photo by Karlum Lattimore.

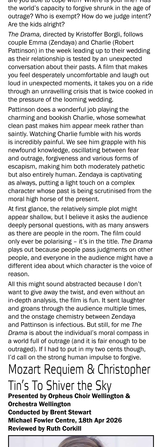
Margaret Austin's first solo show *Please Adjust Your G-String* was an engaging combination of stories, poetry, and musical moments from her time working at the Moulin Rouge and later in Paris, Germany and Australia. Much to the horror of her strait-laced Palmerston North family, she defied 1970s convention, quit their hometown, refused to have babies, and headed off on her own path. *Have You Seen My G-String?* serves as a prequel, filling in the first of her European shenanigans before she landed at the world's most famous cabaret.

Dashaying onto the stage in a sparkly, short lilac dress and matching scarf is a younger version of Austin with a dark 1960s hairdo. Her recollections begin with her days at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington as a student the English and philosophy and member of the Poon Boar Club, claiming the old 'Tip Nathan' as an independent state. "You mustn't do that", she was frequently told, but that mantra was firmly cast out in Austin's world.

We follow her to the summer of 1975 and Amsterdam, encountering women in red-lit windows for the first time. She starts writing poetry and we hear one of her early creations, sadly the only one in this show. Next up, she meets a dishwashing dancer who introduces her to a bar/brothel where she auditions and unsuccessfully becomes a stripper. "I'm learning health", she delightfully declares as she sashays out with tales of what happens on the stage of the Caress club. After more great work stories, encounters with African men, and tidbits about her early days as a celebrity interviewer, the tone takes a sombre turn as Austin's vulnerability comes to the fore. She courageously recounts her struggle between her journey with depression and her unexpected rescue from by a homeless man called Wayne. As ever, Austin is a skilled and entertaining raconteur and it's a privilege and pleasure to learn more about her adventures in life and love.

The Drama

106 minutes
R16
★★★★
Reviewed by Isabella Smith



Soprano Emma Pearson. Photo by Kurt Sneddon.

What kinds of skeletons in your partner's closet are you able to cope with? When is your line? Has the world's capacity to forgive shrunk in the age of outrage? Who is exempt? How do we judge intent? Are the kids alright?

The Drama, directed by Kristoffer Borgli, follows couple Emma (Zendaya) and Charlie (Robert Pattinson) in the week leading up to their wedding as their relationship is tested by an unexpected conversation about their pasts. A film that makes you feel desperately uncomfortable and laugh out loud in unexpected moments, it takes you on a ride through an unravelling crisis that is twice cooked in the pressure of the looming wedding.

Pattinson does a wonderful job playing the charming and bookish Charlie, whose somewhat clean past makes him appear meek rather than saintly. Watching Charlie fumble with his words is incredibly painful. We see him grapple with his newfound knowledge, oscillating between fear and outrage, forgiveness and various forms of escapism, making him both relatable and pathetic but also entirely human. Zendaya is captivating as always, putting a light touch on a complex character whose past is being dragged from the moral high horse of the present.

At first glance, the relatively simple plot might appear shallow, but I believe it asks the audience deeply personal questions, with as many answers as there are people in the audience. The film could only ever be polarising – it's in the title. *The Drama* begs our because people polarise themselves from the moral high horse of the present.

Kristoffer Borgli's relatively simple plot might appear shallow, but I believe it asks the audience deeply personal questions, with as many answers as there are people in the audience. The film could only ever be polarising – it's in the title. *The Drama* begs our because people polarise themselves from the moral high horse of the present.

Kristoffer Borgli's previous feature *Sentimental Value* and Pattinson is infectious. But still, for me *The Drama* is about the individual's moral compass in a world full of outrage (and it is fair enough to be outraged). If I had to put in my two cents though, I'd call on the strong human impulse to forgive.

Mozart Requiem & Christopher Tin's To Shiver the Sky

Presented by Orpheus Choir Wellington & Orchestra Wellington
Conducted by Brent Stewart
Michael Fowler Centre, 18th Apr 2026
Reviewed by Ruth Corkill

This evening pairs two large-scale choral works with unusually compelling origin stories: Mozart's Requiem, commissioned anonymously and left unfinished at his death, alongside Christopher Tin's *To Shiver the Sky*, a work brought to life through the largest Kickstarter campaign ever mounted to support a composer.

Mozart's iconic and distinctive *Requiem* opens the concert. The opening movement is particularly strong, Orpheus Choir balancing the painful and uncertain yet soothing quality of this sacred mass for the dead. As always, the *Lacrimosa* is a highlight, the ensemble and orchestra rising to the occasion affecting listening. The solo quartet, Emma Pearson (soprano), Charlotte Secker (alto), Roger Ivinski (tenor), and Robert Tucker (bass), work exceptionally well together, prioritising blend and ensemble over individual display.

Tin's *To Shiver the Sky* shifts the sound world entirely. The work traces humanity's enduring obsession with flight, charting our journey from imagined wings and myth to scientific discovery and space travel through a selection of historical texts. Drawing heavily on the language of film and video game scores, the work is unsurprisingly expansive and frequently sentimental. Yet its emotional directness proves effective, the composer's voice of great figures such as Leonardo da Vinci in *Sogno di Volare*, and Copernicus in *Astronomy*, become particularly and interestingly accessible through Tin's settings of their personal writings. Poirin is especially moving in the gentle tones voice of Daedalus, father of Icarus, delivering a beautiful and beautifully hope-filled ballad that somehow evokes the beauty of open sea and sky.

Tin's writing makes inventive use of the choir, employing it in musically different roles across the work. The early-music-inflected *Become Death*, setting Sappho's verses associated with Oppenheimer, is exhilarating and fills us with dread, its austere sound world brought to life by superb solo singing from within the choir. It is not all overly successful: the final movement, based on John F. Kennedy's speech "We Choose to go to the Moon" speech, and featuring unapologetic Americana and a children's choir, feels less authentic and undercuts the impact of what precedes it.

Even so, this is an ambitious, emotionally charged programme, performed with commitment and care, linked by two very different stories about how communities bring music into being.

Remodeling Murder

Written by Nic Scanlan-Dyas
Newman House Publishing
Reviewed by Jo Lucre

A blood-stained wooden mallet, a body found in the bedroom of Sibson Hall, a large country house with a locked door and windows – it all reads like a game of Cluedo. Dutifully on the case is Pat Hound the Detective Inspector, who is prone to eating doughnuts for breakfast, is in the throes of menopause, and feels as if a "universe-sized bottle of coke and Gold had just shaken her and dropped in a celestial mentos".

Remodelling Murder by Nic Scanlan-Dyas is an intriguing crime novel that unfolds dramatically, revealing everything that doesn't meet the eye. A carefully curated mystery surrounds the implausible death of the mallet-wielding victim, and there are little glimpses of the mystery company Yukiko Curiosity Design, tasked with remodelling Sibson Hall, mentioned in passing as "suicide".

Pat's internal dialogue gives the murder-mystery much of its dry humour and is a welcome balance against the unfolding tragedy and mounting tension. There's much here to enjoy, with layers of suspense and tension building as we learn about Sibson Hall's Japanese owners and their ties to the victim. It feels carefully constructed, an unfolding of who did what and why, played out with subtle nuances and underlying whispers of ghosts and repatriation. It makes for a refreshing departure from your usual murder mystery fare.

Remodelling Murder, Scanlan-Dyas keenly offers each character's narrative: those in opposition with each other, those whose voices are littered with clues, and those with secrets and motivations that largely tease the final surprising reveal – which is not so surprising when you go back and re-read sections to see what you missed.

What's interesting too is the journey of Pat as she navigates the minefield of menopause while remaining committed to the clues around her and keeping an ear to the ground for red flags.

Remodelling Murder is a twisted mystery where secrets disintegrate and reveal themselves as fast as Sibson Hall breaks its secrets and parts.

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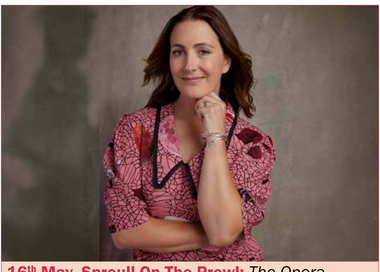
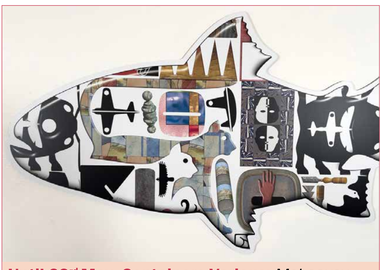
16th May. Turkey The Bird: *Hilltop Private Concerts, Upland Road, Kelburn* – 7pm. New Zealand's answer to Simon & Garfunkel, Kiwiana newgrass folk-trio Turkey The Bird will stun with their rich melodies, uplifting harmonies, and effortlessly smooth lyrics at this intimate house concert. Celebrate five years of Hilltop!



16th May. Sproull On The Prowl: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Brought to you by the NZ International Comedy Festival, the self-described walking tornado Hayley Sproull's new show features stifled farts, hall passes, sex clubs, and an exploration of the Indonesian bush.

9th-24th May. & Juliet: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – various times. What if Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* ended differently? Described as a jukebox musical, this bold production pulses with energy as it reimagines what would have happened if Juliet lived beyond the end of the play.
Photo by Hagen Hopkins Photography.



Until 23rd May. Containers Various: *McLeavey Gallery, Cuba Street, Te Aro.* A senior figure in the New Zealand art world, Richard Killeen pushes boundaries of painting into more experimental forms, using both digital media and the canvas to create works that are rich with familiar symbols.
Detail of Fishcatplane, 2025 by Richard Killeen.

16th May. Seaside Sloths Presents: A Study in Social Behaviour: *Raumati Social Club, Poplar Avenue, Raumati South* – 7pm. The genre-defying Kāpiti-based band are climbing down from their trees to bring you an evening of rolling bass and feel-good grooves.

9th May. Urban Wine Walk: *Ernesto's, Grey Street, Te Aro* – 12pm. Calling all vino lovers! Urban Wine Walk is an organised self-guided tour around the coolest Wellington venues to taste local wines and meet the winemakers, with all wine tastings included in the ticket.

What's on

Kāpiti

20th May. ThinkTech Kāpiti: *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – 5pm. As part of Māori Week 2026, ThinkTech Kāpiti is the district's flagship tech and innovation event, bringing together people shaping the industry across AI, infrastructure, game development, agritech, aerospace, and global markets.

Wairarapa

17th May. Steve "Dog" Hall & Karen Clarke Blues Woman: *Studio 73, Main Street, Greytown* – 4pm. Individually impressive and together formidable, Steve "Dog" Hall and Karen Clarke will take you on a musical journey through New Orleans, Mississippi, and Chicago to the heart of the blues.

22nd May. NZTrio He Taonga Wairere: Dreamscape: *Waihinga Martinborough Community Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough* – 7pm. Three accomplished musicians transverse vivid musical worlds where memory and imagination converge in this evening of classical music.

Events

9th May. Bretwoodown Bash: Armoured Combat Tournament: *Brewtown, Blenheim Street, Upper Hutt* – 11am. An all-out clash of steel at New Zealand's largest Buhurt Armoured Combat tournament, featuring a medieval market, blacksmith demonstrations, and a tavern.

10th May. Level up Platformer Exhibition: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 10am. As part of the New Zealand Games Festival, the Platformer Exhibition showcases PC Games, physical board games, and interactive experiences from the gaming community.

16th May. Thai Festival: Sawasdee New Zealand 70 Years of Friendship: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 10am. Organised by the Thai Embassy in Wellington, this event celebrates Thailand's rich culture through food, cultural performances, and other fun activities.

17th May. Walk In Wonderland: *Lower Hutt Event Centre, Laings Road, Lower Hutt* – 10am. Bring a gold coin donation along to thrift at Aotearoa's largest sustainable fashion market, featuring over 40 stalls selling preloved, upcycled, handmade, and locally made clothing.

Music

9th May. Foley: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Tāmaki-Makaurau indie-pop duo Foley are crossing back over the ditch from Sydney in celebration of their five-track EP *Like* on Actress.

9th May. The Pink Floyd Experience – The Wall: *TSB Arena, Queens Wharf, Te Aro* – 8pm. The ultimate tribute prog-rock band The Pink Floyd Experience returns to perform Pink Floyd's 11th studio album *The Wall*, replete with sound, lighting, and visual effects.

10th May. Sunday Jazz featuring Victoria Ferry and Ayrton Foote: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 2pm. Relax in the charming, Manhattan olde world atmosphere of the Undercurrent and enjoy the smooth sounds of Victoria Ferry and Ayrton Foote.

13th May. Saxcess: *St Andrew's on the Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 12:15pm. Four saxes bring you a colourful kaleidoscope of works from New Zealand composers and arrangers.

13th May. Bear's Den: *Sun Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. British country and indie-folk band Bear's Den bring their emotive storytelling and cinematic sound to Pōneke for the first time ever.

14th May. New Zealand School of Music Presents: Brass & Winds: *St Andrew's on the Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 12:15pm. Bring along a packed lunch and witness brass and wind students from the New Zealand School of Music perform a varied programme of works.

15th May. Regurgitator Jukeboxin' Tour: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. With an oeuvre spanning three decades, Australian art-rock giants are on tour celebrating the best of their catalogue alongside industrial punk three-piece Displeasure.

16th May. Bob McNeill: *Vogelmorn Upstairs, Mornington Road, Brooklyn* – 7pm. Bob McNeill, one of New Zealand's most popular folk artists, brings his acclaimed new album *Twelve dreams of the river* to an intimate concert at Vogelmorn Upstairs.

16th May. Slomosa: *Valhalla, Vivan Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Hailing from Bergen, Norway, Slomosa are bringing their revved-up stoner-rock to Wellington with their *Year of the Horse Tour* alongside veteran stoner band Sidewinder and stoner-doom act Mammuthus.

21st May. CAITLIN – Guardrails Tour: *Moon Bar, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 8pm. Ōtautahi-based singer CAITLIN is celebrating the release of her latest EP *Guardrails* on her first national tour, stopping in Pōneke for a night of indie-pop sensibilities.

22nd May. Jazz at St Michael's: *St Michael's Anglican Church, Upland Road, Kelburn* – 6pm. Some of Pōneke's finest musicians, the jazz quartet features Ella Sophie, Ayrton Foote, Lockie Bennett, and Elijah Mulhorn, who will perform a collection of songs from the jazz canon.

22nd May. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Titan: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. A mythical evening of concert music, the NZSO performs Thomas Adès' *The Origin of the Harp*, Korngold's Violin Concerto, and Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D Major, Titan.

22nd May. Clap Clap Riot: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. After a seven-year touring hiatus, Clap Clap Riot are on the road to celebrate their latest single *Like A Lover*.

22nd May. Wednesday: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. North Carolina fuzz-guitar collective Wednesday are gracing Wellington with a country-gaze extravaganza to celebrate their new album Bleeds.

23rd May. Teen Jesus and the Jean Teasers: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. ARIA Award-winning Canberra four-piece are showcasing their new album *GLORY (Deluxe)*, in what is set to be an evening full of their signature energetic riot grrrl, indie-rock.

23rd, 29th May. Marion Williams and The Yarra Benders: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Before taking a well-deserved break, Marlon Williams is on his *Tā Te Manawa* tour, celebrating his latest album *Te Whare Tīwekaweka* alongside music from his earlier albums.

Performance

14th-23rd May. Footnote New Zealand Dance Presents Modern God: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Six influencers collide in this high-energy dance-theatre work exploring fame, consumerism, and digital obsessions. Includes a special matinee show on Sunday the 17th of May.

15th May. QUEEROVISION: A Palestine Fundraiser: *Ivy Bar and Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. The drag community's answer to the 2026 Eurovision contest. Head down for an evening of drag excellence with all proceeds going to Justice for Palestine NZ.

15th, 16th May. Hilarious Hypnotist Show: *Lower Hutt Events Centre, Laings Road, Wairarapa Events Centre, Carterton* – 7pm. Viral comedy hypnotist Haiming Jiang brings his unique show combining hypnosis with laugh-out-loud comedy.

23rd May.33rd Jane. Not In Our Neighbourhood: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Te Aro* – various times. Brought to you by Taki Rua Productions, this documentary-style play, written by Jamie McCaskill, follows a group of women whose lives intersect at a moment of change.

28th May. Ireland: The Voyage: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. *Ireland: The Voyage* is an epic celebration of Ireland's history, heart, and heritage, told through authentic voices, live music, and world-class Irish dance.

Sports

9th May. Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse vs Northern Mystics: *Te Rauparaha Arena, Parumoana Street, Porirua* – 6pm. Set to be an exciting match between local team the Pulse and Tāmaki Makaurau-based team the Northern Mystics as part of the ANZ Premiership netball tournament.

17th May. Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse vs Southern Steel: *TSB Arena, Queens Wharf, Te Aro* – 4pm. The north and south collide in this game between the Pulse and Southern Steel as part of the ANZ Premiership netball tournament.

23rd May. Hurricanes v Highlanders: *Hnry Stadium, Waterloo Quay, Pipitea* – 5:30pm. The Hurricanes are set to face the Crusaders in round 12 of Super Rugby Pacific. Kick off at 7:05pm.

Galleries

Until 16th May. Perfection Salad: *Jhana Millers Gallery, Victoria Street, Te Aro.* Emily Hartley-Skudder and Judy Darragh explore taste and consumer culture through oil paintings and sculptural assemblages.

Until 16th May. A Place To Sit: *Twentysix Gallery, Constable Street, Newtown.* Artists Benjamin Cotter Dephoff and Jack Smith depict the small everyday rituals that ground us in their joint show, capturing quiet landscapes both domestic and out in nature.

Until 21st June. Peal the Bells: *Te Pātaka Toi Adam Art Gallery, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University, Kelburn.* Five different projects are brought together for *Peal the Bells*, exploring voice as an instrument both personal and collective.

5th-26th May. Identity Group Show: *Vincents Gallery, Willis Street, Te Aro.* Various artists express ideas around identity and what it means to them through collage, clay, paint, and drawing media in the Identity Group Show.

21st May-9th Aug. The Adam Portraiture Award 2026: *New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, Queens Wharf, Te Aro.* Finalists of New Zealand's most prestigious and popular portraiture prize will be on display – an important recording of the changing face of Aotearoa.

Festivals

Until 24th May. NZ International Comedy Festival: *Various locations and times around Greater Wellington.* The funniest month of the year is back. Brought to you by Best Foods Kitchen, the NZ International Comedy Festival showcases the best of comedy from local, national, and international talent.

9th May. Featherston Bookstown Kauhoe Festival: *Various times and locations around Featherston.* Your favourite smalltown literary festival is back with a stunning lineup at the Featherston Bookstown Kauhoe Festival.

14th-16th May. Dome Under Film Festival: *Te Ara Whānui ki te Rangi Space Place at Carter Observatory, Salamanca Road, Kelburn* – various times. Australasia's only festival dedicated to full-dome cinema. The festival films range from journeys to Mount Everest, Mars, and Zimbabwe, and feature opera, animations, scenes from outer space, and more.

14th May-1st Jun. Architecture & Design Film Festival: *Embassy Theatre, Cambridge Terrace; Light House Cuba, Wigan Street* – various times. Bringing together 23 feature films and five shorts, the Architecture & Design Film Festival celebrates notable architects and architectural form, design, creativity, and world-building.

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 12 May

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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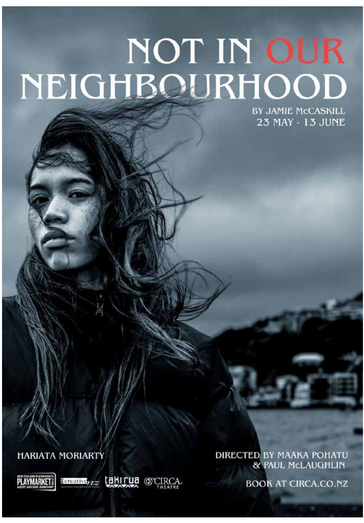

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