

Region 1 News

Eyes on Arlington

Issue 276

September 8, 2026



$$E=mc^2$$

$$3x + 5 = 20$$

$$5a - 3 = 2a$$

$$\pi = 3.141592$$

$$2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

Jump to page

[Music news 5](#)
[Close-up 7](#)
[5-star Lower Hutt 8](#)
[Nelson lifestyle 10](#)
[Family – school holidays 11-15, 17-26](#)
[Catholic education 16](#)
[Andy's top picks around NZ 28-29](#)
[Wellington sculpture series 30](#)
[Gallery News 31](#)
[Puzzles 32](#)
[Reviews 34](#)
[What's on 37-39](#)

News

A buzz about town



Bee-casso in the City.

Pōneke is set to gain a new swarm of residents, with more than 30 giant artist-designed bees preparing to land as part of Life Flight's free Bee in the City public art trail.

Presented by Mills Albert and developed with Wild in Art, Bee in the City is on from the 14th of September to the 8th of November, with buzzy friends located throughout the CBD and waterfront. Each giant bee is created by an artist and sponsored by a business or organisation. The whānau-friendly trail invites people to walk, explore, and see familiar parts of the city differently while raising awareness and funds for Life Flight's air ambulance services.

"Wellington has always embraced creativity, character, and a good reason to come together", Mark Johnston, chief executive of Life Flight Trust says. "The bees are joyful and impossible to miss, but they also carry an important message. Every sculpture gives us another opportunity to explain why Life Flight must be ready around the clock and how public support helps our teams reach people when minutes matter."

Download the free Bee in the City app or grab yourself a paper map from the Trail Hub at the Enormous Crocodile store, then follow the trail and discover the story behind each design, artist, and sponsor.

The sculptures are part of a wider programme that includes smaller 'learner bees', giving participating schools and young people across the region their own opportunity to create, contribute, and be part of the trail.

The giant bees will gather on Queens Wharf on the 21st and 22nd of November for a chance to see them all together before being auctioned on the 26th. Life Flight operates around the clock, helping transport critically ill and injured people to urgent medical care. Bee in the City gives Wellington a way to support that mission while celebrating the artists, schools, sponsors, and communities helping bring the trail to life.

Release the shadows



Steffen Kummerer from Obscura.

Shred Fest Worldwide is landing in Aotearoa to get you off the couch, out of the ordinary, and transport you to a sonic universe made of progressive, technical, melodic, and death metal.

German legends Obscura will headline Shred Fests throughout Australia before crossing the Tasman and embarking on a three-stop tour, bringing FVKVSHIMA – a Pōneke-based progressive metal band – along for the ride.

Happening on Wednesday the 16th of September at Valhalla, Wellington Shred Fest's roster also features local melodic death metal band Dark Divinity, known for their black metal tremolos and harsh vocal screeches.

"Metal gigs are always a good time", Your Mate Bookings tour agency founder Anthony Blayney says. They allow people to step away from their mainstream and mundane lives, "connect with their shadow self, and release anger, stress, and pain alongside the music."

Organised by Obscura's vocalist and guitarist Steffen Kummerer, the festival comes off the back of the band's seventh studio album *A Sonication*, released early last year.

Obscura are globally acclaimed for their boundary-pushing technical death metal that blends thrash with black metal and intricate progressive structures. FVKVSHIMA are known for their driving, mechanical powerhouse metal that layers lurching drop-tuned phrases with soaring apocalyptic textures.

"Heavy Metal is better therapy than the little white pills doctors shove into people's mouths", Blayney says. "Heavy music is therapy... Full stop! Heavy Metal doesn't get enough credit for how much it helps people."

Cover: Matilda the Musical

Regional News is written by journalists, designed by creative professionals, and not produced by AI.

All editorial pages are headed only in red, other colours are advertising features.

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

Available from stands at:

New World supermarkets

Published by:

Empson Publishing Ltd

PO Box 15163,

Miramar 6243.

Sales Manager:

Frances King

Ph: 04 384 5179

frances@regionalnews.kiwi

Sales Executive:

Sarah Collins

Ph: 04 801 1111

sarah@regionalnews.kiwi

Sales Executive:

Andy Nguyen

Ph: 04 801 1113

andy@regionalnews.kiwi

Editorial Email:

news@regionalnews.kiwi

Editor:

Madelaine Empson

madelaine@regionalnews.kiwi

Journalist:

Isabella Smith

isabella@regionalnews.kiwi

Design & Layout:

Todd Hatten

Adam Toh

RegionalNewsNZ

www.regionalnews.kiwi

ISSN: 2382-2384

THE White Room Gallery

147 The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington
Ph 04 383 6958 | www.whiteroomgallery.co.nz
 whiteroomgallery thewhiteroomgallery

Shows for whānau Workshops
FREE Outdoor Carnival
Evening Puppet Cabaret
19/20 Sept
Vogelmorn Bowling Club
www.wellingtonpuppetryfestival.com

Shoe Fitting a Specialty

BAMBINI
clothes kids love | newborn to teen

Kiwi owned

Proud to stock planet-loving brands Acorn, Bobux, Crywolf, Goldie & Ace, Huxbaby, Nature Baby, Pretty Brave, Toshi, and more – in store and online

Free Parking | Free Gift Wrapping
Capital Gateway L1, 34 Thorndon Quay, Wellington
Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun 10am-4pm
04 473 7380 | bambini.nz

A whole lot o' mischief



Whether you're seven or 70, the story of Matilda – an extraordinary girl with a vivid imagination, sharp mind, and psychokinetic powers – would've captured your mind and heart.

For the first time ever, Matilda and the 'revolting children' are set to hit the stage for *Matilda the Musical* at St James Theatre from the 23rd of September to the 11th of October, brought to you by Capital Theatre Trust and G&T Productions.

Inspired by Roald Dahl's beloved book and featuring unforgettable songs written by Tim Minchin, this delightful retelling is packed with high-energy dance numbers and more than a few pranks.

At the heart of the story sits Matilda who, with the help of her kind teacher Miss Honey and a motley crew of fellow students, dares to take a stand against the terrifying Miss Trunchbull and change her own destiny.

Matilda the Musical has taken the world by storm, travelling to 91 cities, winning over 100 international awards, and delighting more than 11 million audience members worldwide.

"Matilda is proof that being little doesn't mean you can't make a big difference. It's cheeky, heart-warming, and wildly entertaining – a must-see for the whole family," Capital Theatre Trust chairperson Sandy Brewer says.

Directed and choreographed by Hamish Mouat, with musical direction from Michael Nicholas Williams, Wellington's wealth of talented and exceptional young performers will bring the iconic and mischievous characters to life, from chocolate-cake chaos to alphabet acrobatics.

With dazzling choreography, clever storytelling, and a whole lot of youthful rebellion, *Matilda the Musical* is a joyous girl power romp, the perfect school holiday outing, and "an absolute cracker of a show" (*Daily Express*).

Plié it cool



NZSD classical ballet student Phoebe Ewington.

Photo by Stephen A'Court.

The New Zealand School of Dance (NZSD) will spring into Whirinaki Whare Taonga in Upper Hutt this September with an exciting programme of classical ballet and contemporary dance performed by all NZSD full-time students.

SPRING EXPERIENCE features four classical ballet works and four contemporary works that showcase the breadth of training at NZSD, from the technical precision and artistry of ballet to the creativity and individuality of contemporary dance. Audiences will also experience three world premieres, bringing fresh and original choreography to the stage.

NZSD director Garry Trinder says the annual Whirinaki season provides an important opportunity for students to develop their performance experience and connect with audiences beyond the school's Wellington home.

"*SPRING EXPERIENCE* brings together the extraordinary commitment of our students with a diverse programme that celebrates both the richness of the classical repertoire and the innovation of contemporary dance. With three world premieres alongside established works, there is something for everyone to enjoy."

For NZSD's pre-professional dancers, performing regularly is an essential part of their development, allowing them to put their intensive training into practice and build confidence as artists. Having the entire student body performing also creates a unique opportunity to see the breadth of talent developing within the school.

Whirinaki Whare Taonga is a valued cultural hub for the Upper Hutt community, and NZSD is delighted to once again share the energy, discipline, and creativity of its young dancers with local audiences.

SPRING EXPERIENCE runs from Thursday the 24th to Saturday the 26th of September at 7:30pm each night, with an additional matinee at 2pm on Saturday. Visit www.nzschooldofdance.ac.nz for more.

SNIPS

Flu jabs funded

All children aged six months up to their fifth birthday are now eligible for a free flu vaccine. Pharmac and Health New Zealand's decision to fund this group – alongside over-65s, those with certain health conditions, and pregnant women – comes following a recent increase in influenza cases, particularly among young children.

Khandallah Pool

Khandallah Pool will not re-open for the 2026/27 summer season as preparations continue for the refurbishment project. The next phase includes site surveys, investigations, and enabling works required ahead of construction, projected to start February 2027. The existing pool is to be demolished and replaced.

Fees increase

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has increased New Zealand citizenship application and product fees by 14.4 per cent. "This fee adjustment reflects the actual cost of delivering citizenship services and helps ensure those costs are met by the people using the service, rather than by taxpayers", Adrian Jarvis of DIA says.



News

But Why, Dad?



Photo by Cartwright Creative Imagery.

Curious kids, unite! (Grownups too.) Award-winning family entertainers Tom Knowles and Jeff Parsnips invite you to Circa Theatre these school holidays to laugh, sing, and explore every question under the sun, moon, and stars: from the biggest mysteries of the universe – like why is the sky blue and why do we dream – to the wonderfully silly things only you can think of... like, why does Dad always wear socks with sandals?

Trust me, kids. We all want to know the answer to that one.

“Kids ask the best questions,” *But Why, Dad?* co-creator Jeff, aka Jed Parsons, delights. “Some are impossible to answer, some are hilarious, and some stop you in your tracks. That’s where this show came from. We wanted to create something that celebrates this and gives us all permission to laugh, wonder, and keep asking ‘why?’”

Running in Circa Two from the 29th of September to the 10th of October, *But Why, Dad?* is a proudly local production that encourages tamariki to stand up, speak up, and, of course, ask questions. That’s how we learn more about ourselves and the world around us. Even if Dad doesn’t know all the answers, asking ‘why’ is the biggest superpower of all, and every ‘why’ in this show is an adventure waiting to happen.

Some of those adventures take the toe-tapping form of Tom and Jeff’s original songs. In fact, the lovable dads have just released their first single and music video together. Filmed at Orana Wildlife Park, *All The Things I Wish I Could Be* follows a dad who imagines all the animals he wishes he could be before his kid helps him realise that maybe the best thing to be is simply yourself. Now available to watch and listen to online, Tom says the song’s simultaneous release with the duo’s return to Circa feels like “the perfect way to celebrate”.

“We’ve always loved performing in Wellington,” Tom says. “Our season at Circa last year was one of the real highlights for us, so coming back with a brand-new show feels incredibly special.”

Would you know what to do if someone is injured?

+ First Aid Training

Petone: Thursday 1 October
Kapiti: Monday 5 October
Masterton: Friday 16 October

Electrical Workers
EWRB Competence Programme

Petone: Wednesday 14 Oct
Book online at: www.links-ltd.co.nz

LINKS
Training and Education

Freephone: 0508 487 246
training@links-ltd.co.nz
www.links-ltd.co.nz

SOCIAL CLIMBERS

By **Roger Hall**

23 Sep – 3 Oct

Gryphon Theatre,
22 Gurnee Street
Bookings:
0508 484 253
stagecraft.co.nz

Stagecraft

Directed by **Trudy Dalziel**

JAMES HENRY
PRESENTS

WAIRARAPA WINES

harvest
FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2027
MAKE HARVEST THE START OF YOUR WAIRARAPA ADVENTURE
wairapaharvestfestival.co.nz

Having Difficulty on the Stairs?

Maintain your independence, let Acorn Stairlifts keep you safe to enjoy your freedom!

- The only company to supply and install our own stairlifts
- For straight or curved staircases
- Indoor and outdoor stairlifts
- Free home assessment
- Fast installation
- Safe and reliable

Our customers love us! ★★★★★ Trustpilot

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE & QUOTATION
0800 223 057
OR VISIT: www.acornstairlifts.co.nz

RGP & THE WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION PRESENT

SMOKEFREE ROCKQUEST SOLO/DUO NATIONAL FINAL 2026

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 7PM • THE GREAT HALL, WELLINGTON

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY
BELLA WATSON • JOYEVA • LILY MOORE • MIND THE GAP
OSCAR WALSH • SOPHIE TOYNE • STELLA RILEY
& SPECIAL GUEST: **RHINI**

SMOKEFREE ROCKQUEST BAND NATIONAL FINAL 2026

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 7PM • THE GREAT HALL, WELLINGTON

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY
DEAF RACCOON • FORK • GO GETTER • GRIZZLYFISH
LUX • SIDETRACKED • TALKING FURNITURE • TROLLEY
& SPECIAL GUEST: **BORDERLINE**

ROCKQUEST

SMOKEFREE TANGATA BEATS NATIONAL FINAL

7PM • SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER THE GREAT HALL, WELLINGTON

FEATURING PERFORMANCES FROM:
COPIUM • DEFFEX • DNA • NGĀ HAU E WHĀ
RAU HUIA • RIBBIT • SUPA FLY • TENTATIONS
TEUILA • TUWHARETORIAN & SPECIAL GUEST: **A.R.T**

The lighthouse shines through

by **Madelaine Empson**



Photo by Ricky Situ.



Photo by Inge Sternagel-Silao.

Wellington Norwegian songwriter Hanne Jøstensen’s sophomore EP *Lighthouse* is filled with space, beauty, and calm. To unveil the intimate and enchanting new body of work, inspired by the island where she was raised that is home to 50 people and only accessible by boat, Hanne “wanted to put on something really special for the community”. On Sunday the 13th of September at St Hilda’s Island Bay Anglican Church, Hanne will be joined by “the most amazing musicians” – Simone Vitucci on cello, Paul Mouncey on bass, and Jim Walmsley on electric guitar, whose musical backgrounds cross classical, funk, rock, and Norwegian folk – for the first ever musical event on the South Coast Arts Trail.

“Our concert will bring everybody together to connect and close out a busy and beautiful weekend of arts”, Hanne says. “I want the audience to be swept away by the lighthouse rays, feel the stillness and beauty of vast snowy landscapes, to let go and be moved by the music together.”

I understand your grandfather was a lighthouse keeper. Is that where your love of the lighthouse began?

Yes, my grandfather was the lighthouse keeper on the tiny, remote island where I grew up on the north-west coast of Norway. My dad grew up in the lighthouse keeper’s residence and I grew up just down from it. The island was an important fishing village, located on an elevated seafloor, making the waters around it extra dangerous. Because it’s so remote, you’d expect the sea to be deep around there, but instead there are thousands of little islets and rocks around. So the lighthouse becomes critical, both to guide boats but also symbolically and as a destination and meeting point – be it to watch the weather, the sunset, or just to be in the presence of it. The lighthouse on the EP artwork is the actual lighthouse from my island. It was built in 1909 and is still operational, although it’s automated now and no longer requires a lighthouse keeper.

How have you translated the theme of the lighthouse into song?

From a lyrical perspective, I made the lighthouse the narrator. I gave it the voice. I did that because the story isn’t just mine, it’s bigger than me, and I wanted the lighthouse to tell its story.

Musically, you can hear a lot of interplay between the cello and the electric guitar, where the cello plays the part of the lighthouse with its sweeping movements, like the rays from the lighthouse searching the ocean. At the end of the bridge, after a dramatic clash between the forces of nature, the lighthouse shines through with three gentle, steady, high piano notes.

How does Wellington’s South Coast compare to the island where you grew up?

Both communities are exposed, share a love for the coast, the water, and a respect for the sea. When my mum came out to visit the first time, she could understand why I love it here on the South Coast.

An instinct for the underground



O’Flynn – a household name on the UK electronic dance scene – released his highly anticipated third solo album *Kairos* in July. Following the critical acclaim of his debut *Aletheia* (2019) and sophomore effort *Talia* (2021), the producer and DJ describes his latest work as a world unto itself.

“I made this album in the same way I made *Aletheia*, which was to listen to loads of music, travel to loads of places, and let the samples speak for themselves.”

Those real-world sounds include chance discoveries like the women drumming in a circle at a Moroccan café that inspired his 2015 track *Tyrion* and set the tone for much of *Kairos*.

“When I went to Morocco, we went to these cafés that have holes in the buildings to let air in, like a natural cooling system, and we heard these insane rhythms,” O’Flynn says. “I love going out to record stores and finding these raw samples, that’s really exciting to me.”

The album title references the Greek concept of a critical or appointed time, marking a pivotal moment in O’Flynn’s artistic journey. “*Kairos* is a return to the music I made with *Aletheia*, something I haven’t felt ready to come back to until now,” he adds.

O’Flynn believes that an album is not just a collection of tracks but a crafted world of meaning – which is especially important during this turbulent time.

“There’s a new urgency to create something meaningful in the midst of everything going on around us.”

Step into an album where adventure, discovery, and emotion collide across every track when

O’Flynn makes his New Zealand debut, playing Meow Nui on the 17th of September.

A leap of faith

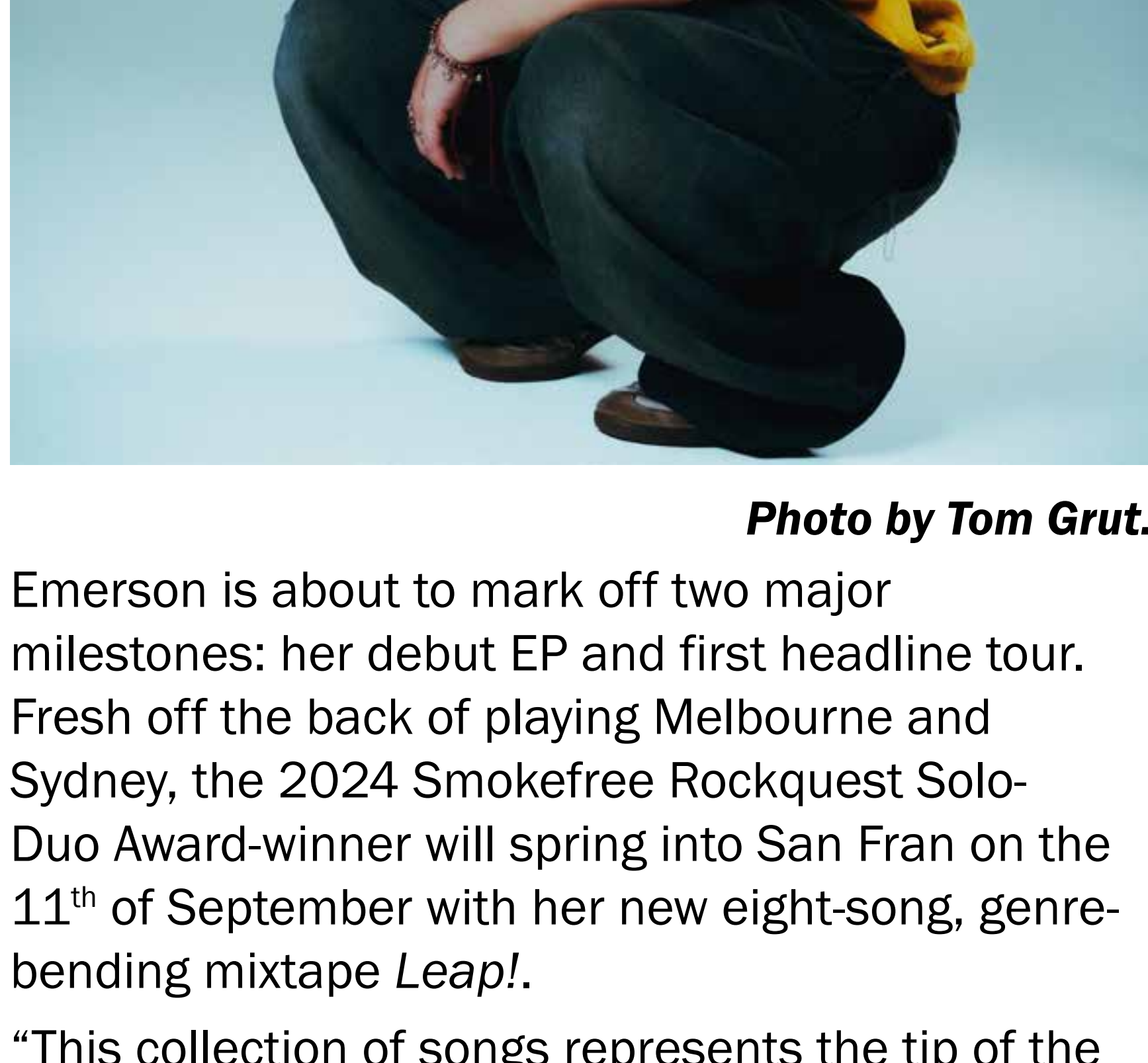


Photo by Tom Grut.

Emerson is about to mark off two major milestones: her debut EP and first headline tour. Fresh off the back of playing Melbourne and Sydney, the 2024 Smokefree Rockquest Solo-Duo Award-winner will spring into San Fran on the 11th of September with her new eight-song, genre-bending mixtape *Leap!*.

“This collection of songs represents the tip of the iceberg of my thoughts going through life as a teenager”, Emerson says. “Overall, it’s about the confidence I have in myself, but the uncertainty of how I am around others. The songs touch on self-doubt, self-motivation, and different ways I’ve given and taken love. It’s called *Leap!* because I started my solo project on a leap year and took a leap of faith, and I hope this EP can compel you to take that leap too.”

Co-written and produced by Melbourne-based Pip Norman, the focus track *Save Me* is about the instinct to shut something down and protect the hearts involved before it gets too serious. What if you don’t live up to the other person’s expectations?

“If you took the phrase ‘it’s not you, it’s me’ and turned it into a song, you’d have *Save Me*. Sometimes you can care about someone and still know that you’re not in the right place to be good for them.”

That butterfly-inducing, fluttery fear sounds like distortion, texture, feedback, a slightly syncopated drum pattern that almost trips over the beat. It sounds like instability, intentional chaos, the feeling of craving connection while trying to run from it.

Known for her infectious hooks, honest lyricism, and electric live energy, join one of Aotearoa’s most exciting emerging pop artists and her band in this celebration of taking chances and catapulting into the unknown.

[Back to contents](#)



Spirited storytelling



Over the years, the trio KITA have solidified themselves as a must-see live act with a truly massive sound. Made up of frontwoman musician and actor Nikita 雅涵 Tu-Bryant on vocals and guitar, Ed ‘Zuke’ Zuccollo on Moog synth and Fender Rhodes, and Rick Cranson on drums, they’re known for melding inspirations of folk, soul, pop, and psychedelia with spirited storytelling.

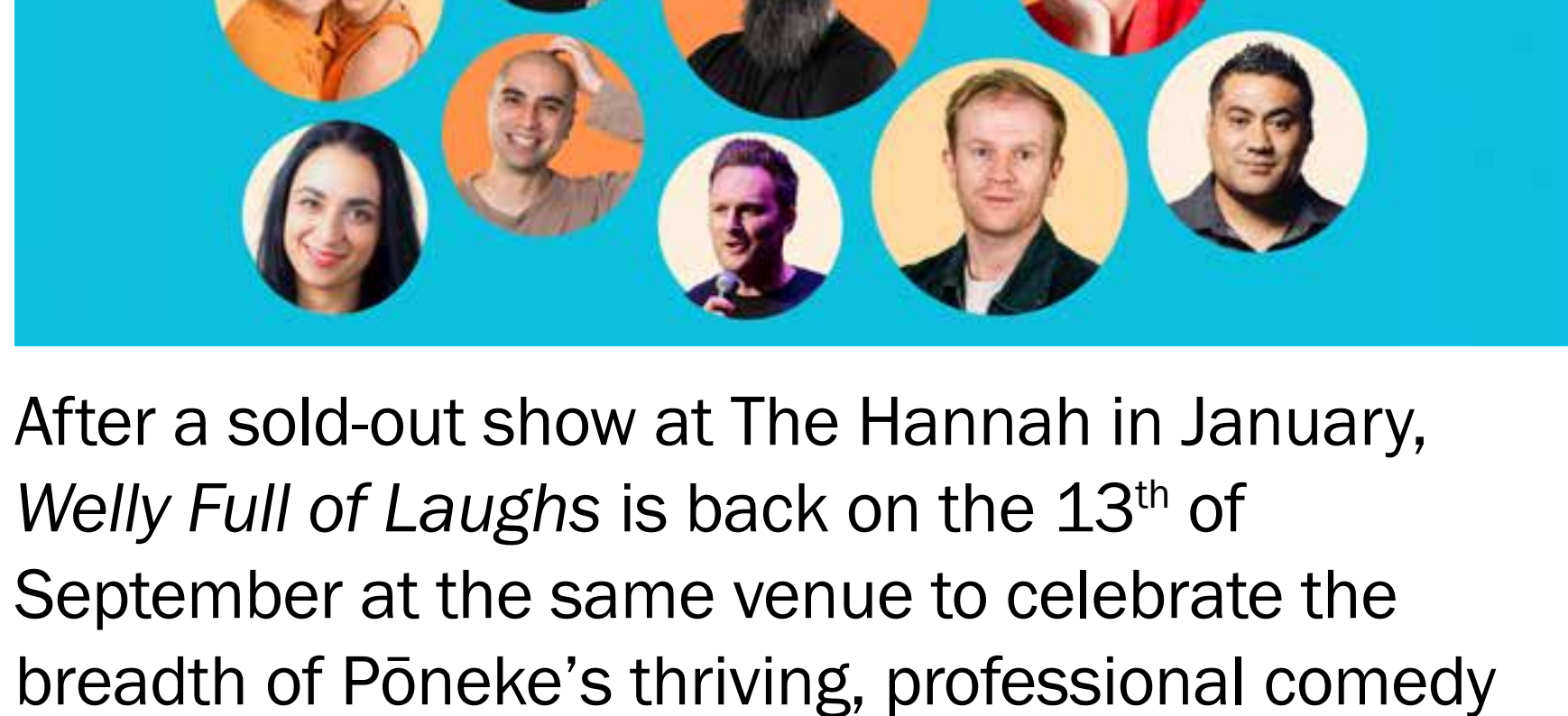
Nikita is in the middle of her artist residency at The Hannah, where she has been translating her debut arthouse film *LOVE LIVES HERE 愛住在這裡* for the stage. The narrative of the film was initially inspired by the band’s EP of the same name, which they toured nationwide in 2023.

To celebrate the stage adaptation, KITA are returning to San Fran, one of their favourite Pōneke venues, on Friday the 25th of September to perform the music that inspired the film, with the set curated to capture its emotional landscape. Excerpts will be augmented live, remixed by video jockey Elfling, with lighting from one of Aotearoa’s most prolific lighting designers Marcus McShane.

LOVE LIVES HERE 愛住在這裡 is a trilingual film that was three years in the making and completed in its entirety in 2025. It has since been making the film festival rounds, with a short version winning an award at the Brighton Rocks Film Festival in the UK earlier this year.

Head along and immerse yourself in the lush sounds of KITA live.

Welly Full of Laughs



After a sold-out show at The Hannah in January, *Welly Full of Laughs* is back on the 13th of September at the same venue to celebrate the breadth of Pōneke’s thriving, professional comedy scene.

Brought to you by production house Mon Platon, your MC of the night is Jerome Chandrahasen, who’ll be providing the in-between laughs as you watch performers swing from clown and sketch comedy to comedy songs and stand-up, and back again.

On the bill is queer sketch comedy duo Ginge & Minge (Nina Hogg and Megan Connolly), best known as bogan drag duo Jez and Jace; international burlesque sensation JoJo Bellini; 2025 Billy T Winner Hoani Hotene; Samantha Hannah, creator of the series *101 Things to Do in Wellington*; laugh-out-loud multi-hyphenated performer Jak Darling; Sameena Zehra, a Pōneke stalwart known for stand-up delivered with political comedy and absurd musings in equal measure; Li’i Alaimoana, a NZ-born Samoan comic who has been performing for over 16 years; Clarissa Chandrahasen, a hidden gem in the scene, known for observational and anecdotal comedy; Mike Fowler, a Pōneke regular who has performed for 10 years; Meaghan Fisher, a fresh face whose fast and observational humour makes her stand out; and Orin Ruaine-Prattley, back in Wellington after wowing Melbourne crowds.

Containing 13 acts showing off the best of Wellington’s vibrant comedy community, get ready for local references, razor-sharp wit, and a *Welly Full of Laughs*.

The aching unfulfilled

by Madelaine Empson



Tawhi Thomas as Uncle Vanya.

An enduring theatre classic is about to get an electric contemporary treatment in *Uncle Vanya*, Anton Chekov’s funniest tragedy, now set not in Russia but in a rural New Zealand vineyard where unrequited love grows on the vines like botrytis.

Running at Circa Theatre from the 12th of September to the 10th of October, this modern adaptation is directed by Andrew Foster and stars Tawhi Thomas (Ngāti Maniapoto) in the titular role. Uncle Vanya has spent years holding the family vineyard together with his nephew Sonny (Andrew Paterson), only to see that sacrifice threatened when Sonny’s father Alex (Peter Hambleton) returns with a much younger wife (Kali Kopae as Helena) and announces plans to sell the estate.

Foster says Chekov’s 1897 play features remarkably relevant, enduring themes like rising living costs, environmental anxiety, strains on healthcare, and an increasingly uncertain future. “*Uncle Vanya* characters are still very recognisable today, as they struggle to find footing in a rapidly changing world.”

Thomas thinks audiences will relate to the hot-mess-iness of his character, whom he describes as deeply troubled but deeply human, and very funny.

“He’s frustrated, disappointed, self-destructive, grieving the life he thought he might have had, and desperately trying to make sense of himself and the people around him. But what I really love about Vanya is that, even as everything is falling apart, he remains a pure truth-teller. He says the things other people are often too afraid, polite, or deluded to say.”

“I hope audiences can see beyond the chaos and recognise the enormous humanity underneath it”, Thomas continues. “The vulnerability, the humour, the longing, and the very ordinary desire to feel that your life matters.”

A bonkers but beautiful bond

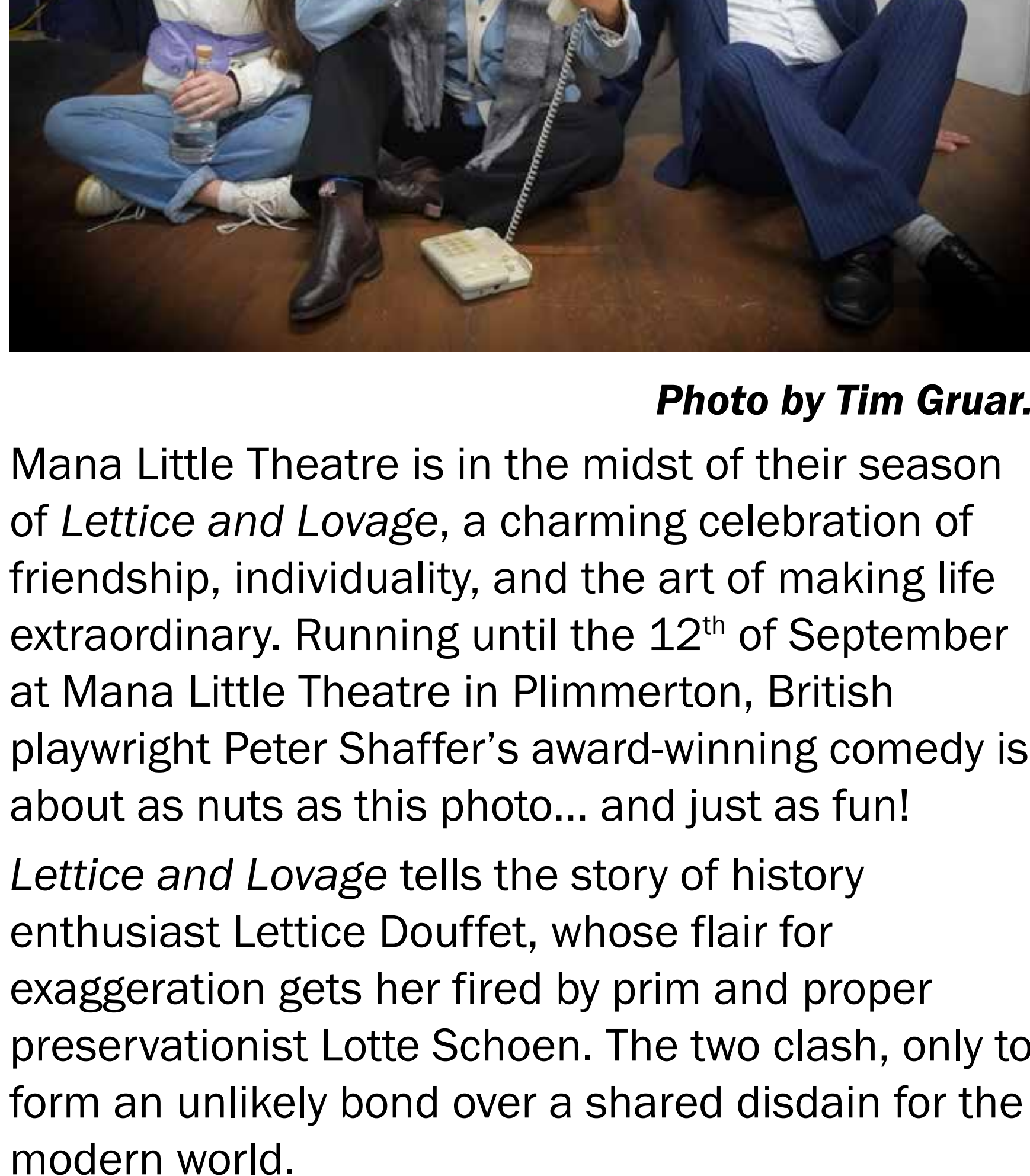


Photo by Tim Gruar.

Mana Little Theatre is in the midst of their season of *Lettice and Lovage*, a charming celebration of friendship, individuality, and the art of making life extraordinary. Running until the 12th of September at Mana Little Theatre in Plimmerton, British playwright Peter Shaffer’s award-winning comedy is about as nuts as this photo... and just as fun!

Lettice and Lovage tells the story of history enthusiast Lettice Douffet, whose flair for exaggeration gets her fired by prim and proper preservationist Lotte Schoen. The two clash, only to form an unlikely bond over a shared disdain for the modern world.

Sara Schroder has starred in Mana Little Theatre’s *Easy Money* and *The Miser* in recent years and will light *Lettice and Lovage* up with her take on the fabulous Lettice.

“The way I have described Lettice to everyone who asks is that she’s an eccentric, history-loving tour guide who loves to embellish the facts to make history more interesting than it already is”, Sara says. Some of Lettice’s lines are hard to remember, Sara chuckles, simply “because they’re so out-there crazy”.

Playing Lotte is Katherine O’Neil, who captures the awkward stickler to a tee, teasing out more of her likeable traits as the sparkling story goes on.

The whole cast is having a blast with the play, which director Lauren Ford-Jones says “reminds us of the joy and colour that creativity brings to our lives”.

“Audiences can expect plenty of humour, warmth, and some wonderfully larger-than-life characters.”

Close-up

by Madelaine Empson

An Evening with Che Fu & The Kratez



Che Fu wants audiences to come in ready to party when he plays Michael Fowler Centre on Sunday the 11th of October with his band The Kratez and some very special guests. Stretching the length and breadth of the country, the upcoming 10-date tour marks 25 years since the release of his seminal album *Navigator*. Threading themes of identity, resilience, unity, and hope across radio anthems like *Misty Frequencies*, *Fade Away*, and the unmistakable *Waka*, the album became a defining soundtrack for Aotearoa and solidified Che Fu as one of its most influential voices.

The New Zealand Music Hall of Fame | Te Whare Taonga Puoro o Aotearoa 2026 inductee would “love to see happy faces, grooving people, people who get lost in the moment and get taken away for a couple of hours” at this concert that brings *Navigator* to life in full alongside selections from the remarkable catalogue that followed. “There’s going to be so many things I’m going to touch on: the funk, the soul, the reggae, the hip-hop. If you’re into that, I hope you leave with a big smile.”

How does it feel to be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Navigator?

The record, 25 years... I never would’ve thought I’d be here talking to you about my record being around for 25 years. It’s a surprise, a good surprise. I guess it’s a testament to a lot of work that’s gone by and that was focused into that record. I think of all the people who I created the record with or who helped me take it to Aotearoa and the rest of the world. The shows we did off the back of that album were some legendary ones.

What most jumps out at you about that time? It must’ve been a whirlwind, going triple platinum, sweeping the New Zealand Music Awards, those legendary shows...

Just off top, I think of my youngest, Loxmyn – he featured on the album cover. At that point, I was a young dad. I was trying to juggle all these things and put out this record, but obviously my focal point was my child, my family, my wife, trying to be parents. I was also getting my band The Kratez together. At that point I didn’t really have a solid lineup, but on the back of the *Navigator* record I was able to get a bunch of guys that were keen to ride with me throughout.

Over the 25 years, The Kratez lineup has shifted a bit, so a lot of those original members are no longer playing with me – they went on to do their own individual things. We have jazz sensei Godfrey de Grut, he went on to be a big jazz lecturer at Auckland uni and was music director for a lot of huge events like Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park. Chip Matthews went on to play bass for a lot of other cool bands: Opensouls and more recently Tom Scott and his crew. The drummer Paul Russell, my best friend from the Supergroove days, was rocking on the West End performing *Stomp*. My current crew have been rocking with me for about a decade. That’s who I’m taking around the motu this October.

You’re mixing it up by going to some regional spots as well as the big cities?

That’s something we planned on doing to try and see the people who’ve been supporting the record all these years. I really wanted to get face to face with those cats as much as I could, just to say thanks.

You’ve got some amazing support acts as well! Sounds like it’s going to be epic.

I’m very spoilt, yes! We have some amazing guests. My good friend King Kapisi, who will always be riding with me. We’re a crew ourselves; we have a duo called Hedlok. When the stars align, we’re able to get together. The mighty Aaradhna, who I’m so stoked to have on board, and Betty-Anne. When Brent Eccles approached me and said, ‘Brother man, we’d like to offer you a show with guests on board with you on stage, similar to what we did with Supergroove last year,’ I felt like a kid in a candy store. I was able to select people who I really thought we’d vibe with on the road, especially with my band playing their tracks. The first two people who came to mind, other than my brother King Kaps, were Aaradhna and Betty-Anne. Obviously they’re complete stars, so I was so happy to be able to get that across the line.

What are the vibes like in rehearsals?

We’ve been learning Betty-Anne and Aaradhna’s tracks. The band room has a different type of energy, because obviously we’ve only been doing my tunes for the last however many years. We’re giddy little boys in the band room playing tracks we grew up with – especially in terms of Betty-Anne. And then Aaradhna’s tracks, which are just – come on! Her songs are crazy. Also, we’ve incorporated a really cool horn section, which is something new for us. It’s something we tried at the Aotearoa Music Awards this year, and man, it was so good. So we’ve been having a lot of fun and we’re really looking forward to bringing it to people.

Do the meanings of your songs change for you over time?

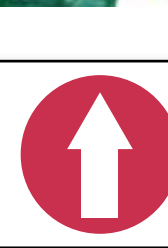
For me as a performer, I’m looking at delivering what you hear on the record every single time. That’s one of my things. Obviously there are live embellishments, but for the most part, I like to reproduce the tracks. I’ve recently really enjoyed seeing a lot of young people still enjoying my tunes, which is a great surprise to me. Also of late, something I’ve seen that has been really cool is parents and their kids at my shows. I tell you, as a songwriter and a performer, it fills me with a lot of joy. After all those years of playing that material, that’s the biggest change I’ve noticed. It’s pretty beautiful.

In terms of your songwriting and storytelling, what do you think Navigator would have to say about the world today?

Navigator was a concept record, a viewpoint of: what would our culture be like in terms of being moana Pasifika, tangata whenua, from Aotearoa, in the future? And bringing culture, technology, and nature together. When I think about the record and the moment in time that we live in now, I think some of the concepts I was touching upon are still relevant. Some things in particular come to mind: Toitū Te Tiriti. I spoke about that in a couple of my tracks, and to still see our people out there, grinding away, still pushing against the powers that be to move up and move forward... that’s still prevalent and alive. I’ve gone to some of these rallies. I was at Toitū Te Tiriti and they were playing my father’s music through the speakers. They asked me to get up and perform, so in that way, I think the record really resonated with them. For me to think that would happen 25 years ago? It’s a wonderful surprise.



[Back to contents](#)



5-star Lower Hutt

Love your garden



Green Valley Gardening attract clients who want to work with them for a long time. That’s because the team consistently delivers high-quality garden maintenance and landscaping at some of the most prestigious private homes, commercial properties, and diplomatic residences across Wellington, Hutt Valley, Kāpiti, and South Wairarapa.

With over 40 years of combined experience, every property in Green Valley’s portfolio receives a tailored maintenance programme, carried out by exceptional horticulturalists who take pride in their craft.

A typical programme might include lawn care, hedge trimming, topiary, weeding, pruning, fertilising, plant and soil health, green waste removal, and seasonal planting.

Green Valley can establish new gardens from scratch or refresh tired beds, with a particular passion for planting natives sourced from trusted Wellington nurseries.

Using quality products and eco-friendly tools, Green Valley Gardening will love your garden just as much as you do.

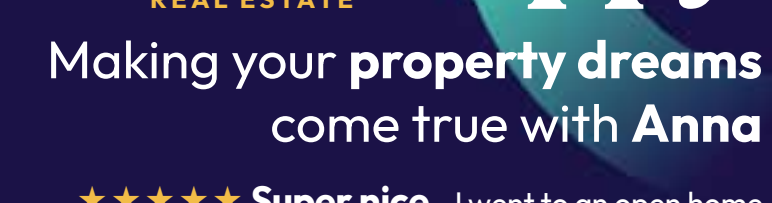
Exceptional resolutions



When employment lawyer Viv d’Or was 12, she watched a detective programme in which a judge tricked an alleged burglar into admitting his guilt. In that moment, the seed to become a lawyer was planted and didn’t stop growing until she enrolled to study law at Waikato University in 2008 – though not before spending many years as a registered nurse, kiwifruit orchardist, furniture and interior design retailer, TV producer, marketer, and restaurateur.

Now, Viv owns one of Wellington’s most successful employment law practices, serving employers and employees throughout New Zealand from her office in Petone. With the first consult free, Viv and her team at Resolve Legal Employment Law offer practical, resolution-driven advice regarding workplace bullying, personal grievances, disciplinary procedures, sexual and racial harassment, redundancies, dismissals, and good faith.

After 17 years, Resolve Legal remains committed to delivering exceptional services to clients, ensuring fee transparency, fair outcomes, and local representation.



Making your **property dreams** come true with **Anna**

★★★★★ **Super nice** – I went to an open home Anna was hosting, while I did not have interest in that property, Anna was able to show me another property, which I ended up having an offer accepted on. Anna was amazing to deal with, lots of communication, always kept me up to date on the vendor making their decision. And if it had not been for Anna, I would never have seen the property in the first place, so I will also be super grateful.



Anna Geremia-Young
Sales Consultant
anna.geremia-young
@tallpoppy.co.nz
021 118 5833
Bulsara T/A Tall Poppy
Licensed Under REAA 2008



Talk to us about **Insurance, KiwiSaver, and other investments** to help secure your financial future.

HUTT CITY FM PRESENTS
THE BUSINESS HOUR
WHERE UNDERDOGS RISE & ENTREPRENEURS DOMINATE
WEDNESDAY AT MIDDAY
ONLY ON HUTT CITY FM

There is a lot to consider when choosing a Financial Adviser.
Let's Work Together!
Robbie Schneider
Financial Adviser specialising with independent insurance and investment advice.
Host of The Business Hour on Hutt City FM 106.7 - Wednesdays at 12pm - Replays on Sundays 9am

Level 1, 3 Britannia Street, Petone   
04 939 6748 | admin@successionfirst.co.nz



NZ Employment Lawyers
We don't do drama. We do resolution, and we are great at it.



Bullying In The Workplace



Unjustified Dismissal



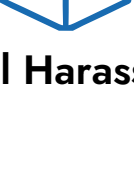
Personal Grievance



Redundancy



Disciplinary



Sexual Harassment

★★★★★ We have used Viv at Resolve Legal a few times, for hiring new staff and dealing with employment issues. Great advice each time, timely and available and leading to a positive result.

350 Jackson Street, Petone | Monday - Friday 8:30am-5.00pm
021 242 3200 | info@employmentlaw.co.nz | www.employmentlaw.co.nz

BUILD IT. RENOVATE IT. MAKE IT YOURS.
From the small jobs to the big builds, we do it all.

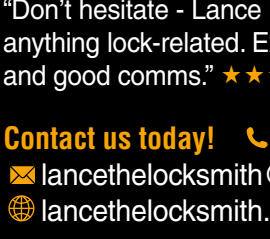


Ray and his team did a phenomenal job! Build It All Ltd came recommended to me by a work friend. Good price, excellent workmanship, on time, efficient and tidy. Couldn't have asked for a better job. Will definitely use again. ★★★★★



- Deck and Veranda Solutions for Year-Round Enjoyment
- Reclad Experts at Your Service
- Your dream home awaits

ray@builditall.co.nz | 027 433 7769
www.builditall.co.nz



"Don't hesitate - Lance is the go to guy for anything lock-related. Expert professional and good comms." ★★★★★

Contact us today!  **021 188 8048**
 **lancethelocksmith@gmail.com**
 **lancethelocksmith.co.nz**





NEED MORE SPACE?
SECURE STORAGE IN WAINUI



COMPETITIVE RATES



CLEAN & DRY STORAGE



SHORT OR LONG TERM

★★★★★ | **5 STAR SERVICE**

READY TO MAKE SOME SPACE?
Get in touch today!

Contact Richelle
 **021 367 659**
 **richelle@bamre.co.nz**
 **5 Waiu Street, Wainui**
 **wainuiselfstorage.co.nz**

News Advice from Alan

Body corporate rules

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



Operational rules for a body corporate are important because they help manage the use and enjoyment of units and common property. They can deal with practical matters such as noise, rubbish, parking, use of shared facilities, access to common areas, and conduct that affects other

owners or occupiers. However, operational rules cannot be used as a shortcut to give the body corporate wider powers than the law allows. Rule changes must relate to the management, use, or enjoyment of units or common property, or to the regulation of the body corporate. They must not be inconsistent with the Unit Titles Act, related regulations, or the general law.

A rule may be unenforceable if, for example, it interferes with an owner's voting rights; purports to levy or allocate costs for repair and maintenance in a way that is inconsistent with the Unit Titles Act; restricts an owner's ability to sell, lease, mortgage, or otherwise deal with their unit; gives a developer or manager special control rights not authorised by the act; prevents a use of the unit that is otherwise legal (e.g. Airbnb or Bookabach); or requires consent before leasing the unit when the body corporate has no power to impose those requirements.

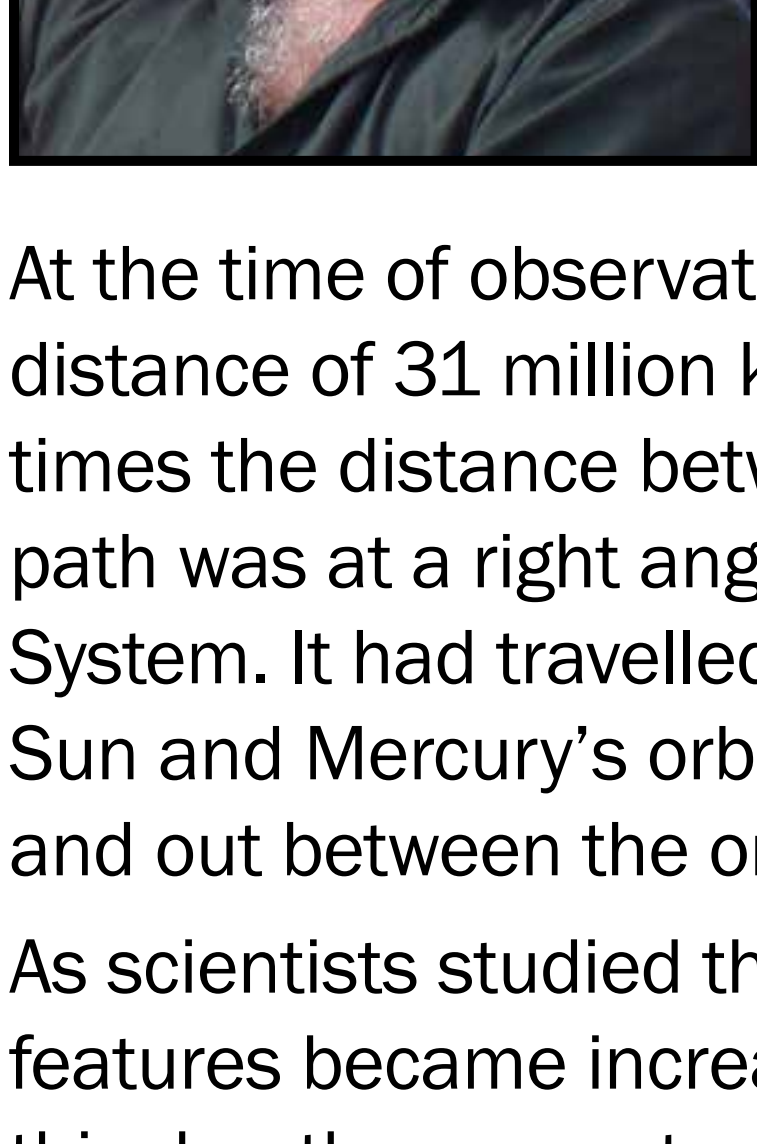
Even if it has been included in the body corporate rules for years and has been followed, that does not necessarily make it valid. The consequences can be significant. Unit owners might bring an action against the body corporate for acting outside its power and may claim costs against the body corporate for losses they have suffered due to the body corporate's unlawful actions or rules. Owners and occupiers may also mistakenly comply with restrictions that should never have been imposed and may claim against the body corporate for any losses they suffer.

Body corporates should review their operational rules regularly, especially before attempting enforcement or making updates that carry over older rules. Unit owners should also take advice before assuming that a rule is valid simply because it appears in the body corporate's registered rules.

Cosmic conversations

ET was here

by **Richard Hall, astronomical communicator**



In 2017, for the very first time, humans observed an object from interstellar space entering and then leaving our Solar System. Observed by the Pan-STARRS space telescope, it was called Oumuamua. This name is of Hawaiian origin and means 'a messenger from afar arriving first'.

At the time of observation, the object was at a distance of 31 million kilometres. This is about 85 times the distance between the Earth and Moon. Its path was at a right angle to the plane of the Solar System. It had travelled downwards between the Sun and Mercury's orbit. It then travelled upwards and out between the orbits of Earth and Mars.

As scientists studied this object, its apparent features became increasingly strange, and to this day, they cannot explain what they observed. Initially, the question was, is this natural object an asteroid or a comet?

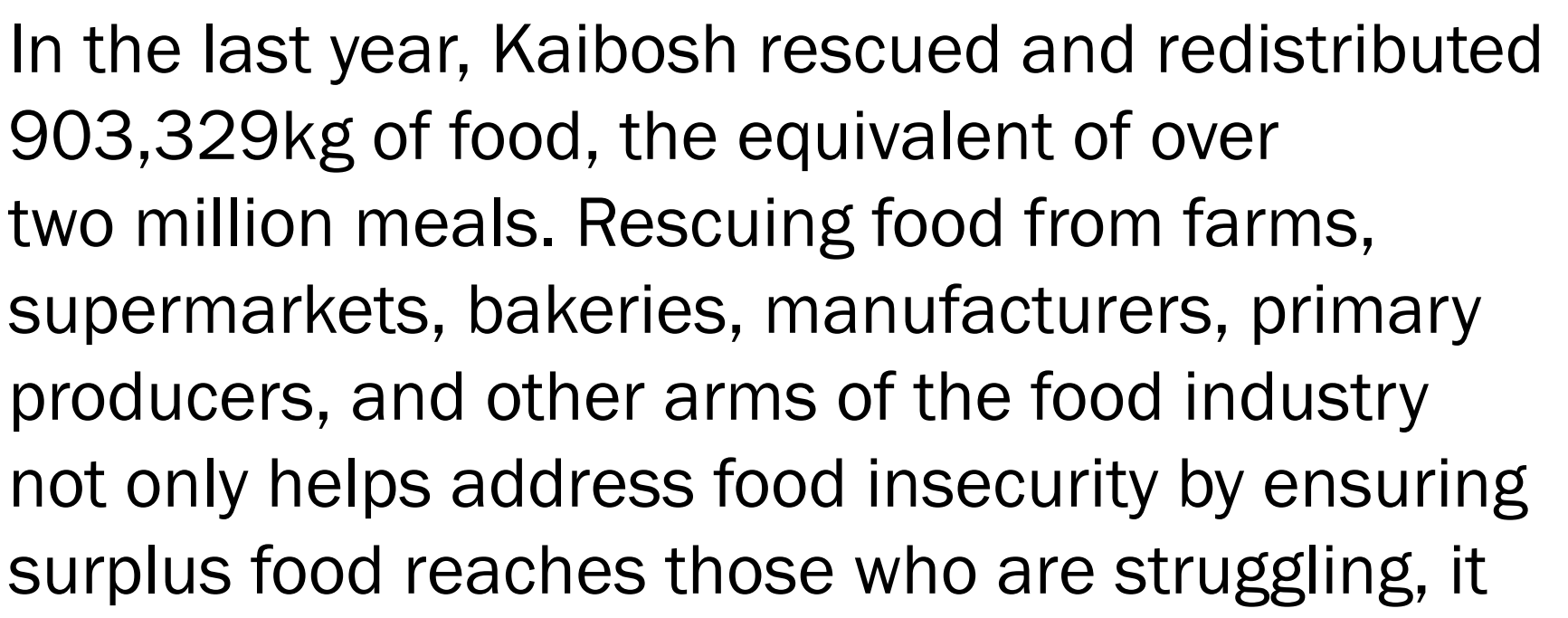
A comet is made of ice and, when close to the Sun, its outer layers vaporise and can create a tail. This tail, blasted by the solar wind, always points away from the sun. Oumuamua had a faint tail but, on its journey away from the Sun, this tail pointed towards the Sun. This is opposite to where a comet tail would be pointing. It looked more like an exhaust vapour trail.

Astonishingly, it was discovered that Oumuamua has a length-to-width ratio of about 10 to one. It was approximately 400 metres long but only 40 metres wide. Scientists cannot explain how such an elongated object could form, and how it could have enough strength to hold itself together in one long piece.

Amongst asteroids, we never see a length-to-width ratio greater than three to one. Only metal could sustain this shape. In addition, the object was rotating end over end on its axis every 8.1 hours. This rotation would have generated the effects of gravity at either end of the structure.

Harvard astronomy professor Avi Loeb suggests that it could be alien technology. He went on to say, "Thinking that we are unique and special and privileged is arrogant. The correct approach is to be modest and say: 'We're nothing special, there are lots of other cultures out there, and we just need to find them.'"

Boogie for kai



Since 2008, Kaibosh has been rescuing food destined to go to waste and redistributing it to community groups that support those in need.

In the last year, Kaibosh rescued and redistributed 903,329kg of food, the equivalent of over two million meals. Rescuing food from farms, supermarkets, bakeries, manufacturers, primary producers, and other arms of the food industry not only helps address food insecurity by ensuring surplus food reaches those who are struggling, it also helps reduce unnecessary emissions.

To raise much-needed funds to meet increasing demands for Kaibosh services, the team are hosting a spring-themed dance music festival: Spring for Kaibosh.

Co-organiser Laurie Hargreave says the idea for a DJ night came from wanting to put the community's skills to good use. "Filling dancefloors is what we do best. Minimising food waste and getting that edible food into the hands that really need it is what Kaibosh does best. A match made in heaven."

Expect house, breaks, techno, minimal, rave, bass music, and more from the lineup of Flatmate [pictured], Nam Chucks b2b Amira, Hexadecimal, Ché D, DJ Danger, and festival co-organiser Lee Slater AKA The Village Idiot. On the visuals are Cubeman, Metrokorg, and VJ Raskal, and the sound system is powered by local legends Torque Sounds.

Featuring spot prizes for best dressed and a raffle, dress up and head down to Moon Bar on the 12th of September and boogie late into the night to help feed those who need it the most.

Boogie for kai



Caru & Brandn Shiraz. Photo by Crystal Chen.

Once a year, the sculptures wake, the ground below trembles, the realm opens up again.

On Saturday the 26th of September, Carlucci Carnival is set to take over Ōwhiro Bay institution Carlucci Land mini golf, where the owner Carl has spent decades crafting dragons, gnomes, castles, and scrap metal giants out of reclaimed materials. This one-day, four-stage festival will transform the place into an otherworldly carnival, bringing together a full spectrum of drum and bass, jungle, dub, UK garage, hip-hop, house, techno, and live performances.

Headlining the 25-act bill is drum and bass connoisseur Alix Perez, one of the most respected producers the world over, who shares the lineup with Tāmaki Makaurau-infused UK garage duo Caru & Brandn Shiraz, awarded Best Electronic Artist at the 2026 Aotearoa Music Awards (AMAs); acoustic drum and bass performer DOCJOC alongside his collaborator Young Gho\$; and hip-hop trio Mokomokai, who received Best Hip Hop Artist for their album *PONO* at the 2026 AMAs – to name a few.

Carlucci Carnival is deliberately grassroots, independently run, and weighted towards Aotearoa artists. "There is more talent in this country than there are stages for it", organisers Jet and Felix of Rhythm Output say. "Carlucci is the one day a year we get to put all of that in front of a crowd this size."

Co-organised by Liam Gilligan, founder of events company Two Step alongside Rhythm Output, Carlucci Carnival is set to transport you into transcendent sonic realms.

Nelson lifestyle

Cool, calm, collected



The Nelson Tasman Region wears the badge as the sunniest part of the country, known for its stunning and varied scenery and for the relaxing lifestyle it affords. The bustling town of Nelson is famous for its vibrant arts community and stunning seaside vistas. Head further west into the Tasman region and you're spoilt for choice, with three of Aotearoa's most stunning national parks a stone's throw away. Life is a little quieter out in the country, where lifestyle blocks and farms abound.

No one knows the wider area better than Arizto Real Estate's Lillie Broster-Turley. Cool, calm, and collected, she takes the stress out of connecting you with your dream lifestyle and home. Based in Motueka, she works hard, knows the market, and prides herself on her communication skills, level of transparency, and the energy she puts into ensuring your property experience runs smoothly. Start your next Nelson Tasman chapter with Lillie Broster-Turley today.

Thoughtfully crafted



Locally owned Gibson family business Allwood Products is located in Richmond Nelson and was born out of recognising the gap in the market for high-quality shiplap rustic-style sheds, offices, studios, cabins, and sleepouts.

Allwood Products' modular kit systems come in various sizes and designs to cater to your specific tastes and needs, with options to modify, including altering the number of doors and windows or adding a mezzanine space, veranda, or deck. Dwellings and cabins can also be made to order. With no limits on the size of the structure, the bespoke designs can be delivered throughout New Zealand.

The kitsets include assembly instructions and all the fixing components necessary to put it together, though the Allwood Products team can build it onsite for you. Made with durable, chemical-free timber milled by Gibson Timber Ltd, Allwood Products are a beautiful addition, be it a humble garden shed, a studio, or even a home.

Sunny Nelson



Photo by Grant Stirling Images.

The sunniest place in Aotearoa, Nelson sits at the top of the South Island enjoying a Mediterranean climate, breathtaking surrounds, a buzzing art scene, and safe neighbourhoods.

Add in a wide range of fabulous schooling options, all the amenities of a city, and a laidback lifestyle, and you can see why people from across the motu are flocking to its plains. Whether you're after a townhouse, a lifestyle block, or a coastal or rural retreat, the diversity of the Nelson housing market caters to any and all lifestyles.

Outdoorsy folks, creatives, entrepreneurs, fishermen, scientists, manufacturers, and workers in primary industries will all find themselves spoilt for choice in Nelson, with a diverse economy not limited to the tourism that is famously booming in the region.

Locals still pinch themselves when they take stock of the abundant reasons why Nelson is the perfect place to work, raise a family, and retire.

Toby Hoebergen
Vega Mortgages Nelson Tasman

Home Loans
Business Loans
Kiwisaver

Residential & Commercial Mortgage Adviser
+64 27 928 0391
Toby.Hoebergen@vegalend.co.nz
www.vegalend.co.nz

vega



P&M FIREPLACES
HOME HEATING • SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

70 years in business as your fireplace specialists

WOOD FIRES | COOKERS | GAS FIRES | HEAT VENTS
RADIATORS | FLUE SYSTEMS | WETBACKS
ELECTRIC FIRES | PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

128 Tahunanui Drive, Nelson | 03 548 5742 | www.pmfirplaces.co.nz

ARIZTO

FIND YOUR PLACE IN NELSON TASMAN

From seaside vistas and vibrant town life to lifestyle blocks and country escapes, Nelson Tasman offers a way of life as varied as its landscape.

Based in Motueka, Lillie Broster-Turley knows the wider region and takes a cool, calm and transparent approach to helping people find their perfect place to call home.

Start your next chapter with Lillie.

Lillie Broster-Turley
020 4130 0125 | lillie.bt@arizto.co.nz
Arizto Ltd, Licensed REAA 2008

NZ made timber cabins for more space, more comfort, more living

Sleepouts, studios, sheds - modular kitsets built for Kiwi lifestyles

Available Nationwide

ALLWOOD PRODUCTS

03 547 7026
www.allwoodsheds.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND MADE

[Back to contents](#)





Family – school holidays



ROOF RACK CENTRE

Are you ready for summer?

We are, with our wide selection of:

Bike racks

Roof racks

Roof boxes



2 Centennial Highway, Ngauranga • Ph (04) 477 6911 • www.roofrackcentre.co.nz



Ye Olde Pinball Shoppe - Olde-school family fun
Open every afternoon and evening | YOPS.nz
Bond Street, Wellington - close to the new library



Family – school holidays

Kia ora tonu ai te reo rangatira



He reo tuku iho, he reo mō āpōpō – celebrating Te Wiki o te Reo Māori through learning, connection, and the continuation of our reo.

For many of us, the desire to learn te reo Māori sits quietly within.

You may have grown up hearing the reo around your kaumātua but never learned to speak it yourself. You may want to understand more when you return to your marae, strengthen your connection with whakapapa, or give your tamariki and mokopuna something you wish you had been given.

Others have already begun their reo journey and are ready to take the next step.

Whatever brings you to te reo Māori, there is a place to begin and a pathway to keep moving forward. Or perhaps you have already begun your reo journey and know there is still more waiting for you.

Learning te reo Māori at Te Wānanga o Raukawa is about much more than learning words and sentences. Te reo carries our stories, our tikanga, our ways of seeing the world and the voices of those who came before us. As our confidence in the reo grows, so too can our confidence in who we are and where we come from.

That journey looks different for everyone.

Some people are beginning with their first words and conversations. Others are ready to build greater fluency and confidence. For those already strong in te reo, postgraduate study provides opportunities to deepen their knowledge, challenge themselves, and contribute to the ongoing revitalisation and development of our language.

Our range of reo Māori programmes provides pathways across different levels of study, with options designed for people balancing learning alongside mahi, whānau, and everyday life. Online and flexible study options can make it possible to begin your journey wherever you are in Aotearoa and beyond, while more intensive pathways are available for those wanting to immerse themselves further.

You do not need to wait until you know enough. You do not need to be whakamā about what you were not taught. You simply need somewhere to begin.

Every new kupu spoken around the dinner table matters. Every conversation between generations matters. Every person who chooses to learn, speak, and share te reo Māori helps strengthen its place within our homes, workplaces, marae, and communities.

During Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, we celebrate how far our reo has come. But we can also ask ourselves what part we might play in where it goes next.

The journey belongs to you. And perhaps the reo you learn today will become the reo your mokopuna grow up hearing tomorrow.

Find the pathway that is right for you at Te Wānanga o Raukawa.

TE WĀNANGA O RAUKAWA
E Kore Au E Ngaro

STUDY WITH US...

KIA RANGATIRA TE TŪ

Your greatest story begins with you. Discover your stories through iwi and hapū studies while developing your te reo Māori.

Choose from a range of interest areas including Education & Teaching, Health & Wellbeing, Environmental Management, Creative & Performing Arts, Māori Business, Law & Management, Te Reo Māori and Culture & Industry all embedded with Mātauranga Māori.

ENROL NOW FOR 2027

WANANGA.COM | 0800 WANANGA

Family – school holidays

Ake ake ake!



Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week) is coming to town, officially beginning on Monday the 14th of September. This year's theme Ake Ake Ake – which can be translated to forever and ever – highlights the resilience of the language and the people who continue to speak, celebrate, and allow te reo Māori to grow and flourish.

From homes where te reo Māori has always been spoken, to communities beginning their reo journey, every town, street, workplace, and marae has a role to play in the future of the language.

Te reo Māori is an official language of Aotearoa and is a taonga that deserves protection and promotion. Each year Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) calls on classrooms, businesses, whānau, communities, sports clubs, and individuals to embrace te reo, whether through learning new kupu (words) and integrating them into everyday use, running a launch day parade, installing bilingual signage, greeting customers in te reo, singing waiata, or sharing local stories and histories.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori celebrates communities already leading the way, including official bilingual towns like Ōtaki, where the language can be heard on the streets as part of everyday life, demonstrating what's possible for other towns.

Keep an eye on event calendars in your community or visit www.reomaori.co.nz, which is jam packed with resources and ideas to get you started on organising an event yourself. Kia kaha te reo Māori!

Whānau wellbeing



Kōkiri Marae is passionate and dedicated to serving the needs of its community. Structured yet flexible, focused yet holistic, the compassionate and knowledgeable team offer a range of community, social, and hauora services.

With measles present in communities, the Kōkiri Marae clinical campervan will be onsite at a series of events in September to provide free vaccinations to whānau who may be unable to access them through their GP or medical centre.

This includes two Free Ride events, with the first happening at Walter Nash Park in Taitā on the 16th of September and the second at Avalon Park in Lower Hutt on the 30th of September. Free Ride is a project run by Healthy Families Hutt Valley trialling free access to bikes in the community to improve mental and physical wellbeing, create connection, and provide transport that reduces the burden on household budgets.

Kōkiri Marae's hauora services encompass a wide range of options to at-risk Māori and their whānau, extending across all four hauora wellbeing principles: physical, social, spiritual, and mental and emotional.

They also provide outreach diabetes and immunisation services, sexual and reproductive health services, stop-smoking programmes, the car seat rent-to-own scheme, and the Rangatahi Tū Rangatira National Programme.

From pēpi and tamariki through to rangatahi, pakeke, and kaumātua, Kōkiri Marae provides holistic and comprehensive hauora services for the whole whānau.



MEASLES IS HERE

ARE YOU PREPARED?



Find out if you & your whānau have had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine



Not vaccinated or don't know? Come see us, we can check for you



Stay home if you're unwell. Call your GP or Healthline 0800 611 116



KOKIRI MARAE EVENTS

Walter Nash Park
In Partnership with **FREE RIDE**
16th September – 2pm to 5pm
All vaccinations – criteria apply

The Dowse - Pride Event
19th September – From 530pm
All vaccinations – criteria apply

Avalon Park
In Partnership with **FREE RIDE**
30th September – 11am – 2pm
All vaccinations – criteria apply

Avalon Pavillion
8th October – 10am to 2pm
Childhood Immunisations, Flu, Covid & MMR



www.health.govt.nz/measles

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

Family – school holidays

New Wellington school rapidly gathering steam



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fees-free excellence for all.

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

No school zone. Real focus. High expectations.

- Knowledge-rich curriculum
- Te reo Māori and Latin
- Minimal device use
- Strong parent partnership

Find out more at www.altum.school.nz



Book a Tour



Altum
CLASSICAL ACADEMY



Family – school holidays

T.REX arrives in Pōneke



Looking for a school holiday outing that's truly out of this world? Space Place has an exciting new

planetarium show arriving these school holidays.

Perfect for dinosaur-obsessed tamariki and adults alike, *T.REX: The Greatest of All Tyrants* takes you on an incredible journey through time to meet one of Earth's most iconic predators. Sit back and relax in the planetarium as stunning CGI visuals share the life cycle of the famous Tyrannosaurus rex, including fascinating new insights into their early and teenage years. Narrated by New Zealand's very own Sam Neill (*Jurassic Park*), the film also follows the remarkable story of three children in North Dakota who discovered a teenage rex fossil on a family hiking trip. The film is recommended for ages five plus.

Space Place's school holiday planetarium schedule includes extended opening hours and increased screenings of whānau-friendly films. Catch *T.REX* screening every day of the school holidays, plus *Te Whānau o te Rā Family of the Sun*, the sing-along show perfect for under-sixes, screening each morning at 10:15am.

For an exclusive 20 percent off entry to Space Place, whānau can take advantage of the Take a Red Rocket to Space discount, available when also purchasing a round trip on the Cable Car.

For whānau seeking a more relaxed visit these school holidays, Low Sensory Hour on Sunday the 4th of October offers an accessible planetarium and gallery experience with reduced sensory stimulation. Learn more at spaceplace.nz

Grow, learn, flourish



Hutt City Kindergartens (HCK) has a long and proud history in Te Awakairangi / Hutt Valley since 1928.

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.

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.

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'.

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

NARRATED BY SAM NEILL

T.REX

GREATEST OF ALL TYRANTS

Part of Wheako Pōneke Experience Wellington. Principal Funder Wellington City Council.

Best suits ages 5+

Book now at spaceplace.nz

Space Place



At Hutt City Kindergartens, our qualified & passionate kaiako work alongside tamariki and whānau to create warm, inclusive environments where children thrive.

22 kindergartens
across Upper Hutt,
Stokes Valley,
Central Hutt,
Western Hills and
Wainuiomata

Nature-inspired
Froebelian learning
environments and
committed to
Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Strong
partnerships with
whānau and our
communities,
affordable fees and
20 Hours ECE



WWW.HUTTKINDERGARTENS.ORG.NZ

Te Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Te Awa Kairangi

Make a splash!



A young boy's got his heart set on popping the perfect bomb (or manu!) in the water. Guided by his Nan – a former champion and his biggest cheerleader – he learns to trust his own instincts and discover his own awesome style. The result? The boldest, most breathtaking bomb dive into Soundings Theatre, Te Papa with Royal New Zealand Ballet (RNZB) this spring.

The Bomb is the “perfect Kiwi cross-generational story about a summer spent conquering your fears, popping manus, and embracing what makes you You”, RNZB principal Joshua Guillemot-Rodgers says. In choreographing the 40-minute magical ballet, which comes “hot off the back of our awesome *Dazzlehands* collaboration with Wellington author and illustrator power duo Sacha Cotter and Josh Morgan, and Huia Publishers” and is based on their book of the same name, Joshua was inspired by the power of laughter. “Especially when it comes to engaging our tamariki with ballet.”

Joshua calls *The Bomb* an “inspiring, beautiful story with real heart” that enabled him to tap into the funny side of an artform that’s not traditionally considered comedic. “I think it’s cool to really home in and show that side”, he delights, “to people that aren’t expecting it!”

RNZB will debut *The Bomb* across six free performances at 10:30am, 12pm, and 2:30pm on Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th of September. Seats are on a first come, first served basis, so get in quick to learn how “finding your own voice is the key to making the biggest splash!”

Catholic education

A Catholic education equates to a holistic education, with many schools in the Greater Wellington region creating an environment that not only fosters academic excellence, but also the spiritual, emotional, physical, and social dimensions of each student.

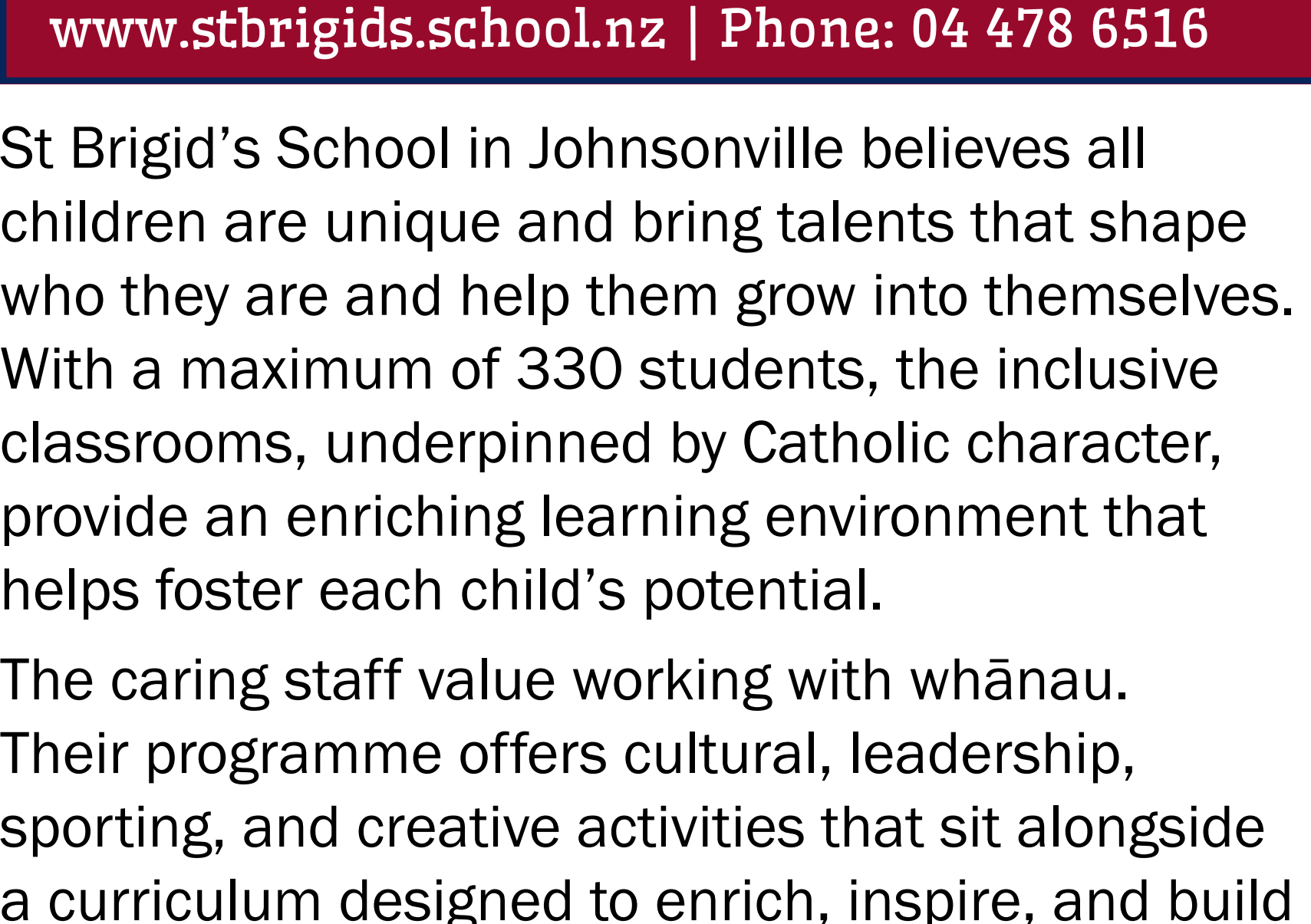
Catholic schools provide a tightknit community for their students. Rooted in Gospel values, they teach children to become responsible, thoughtful, curious, and compassionate.

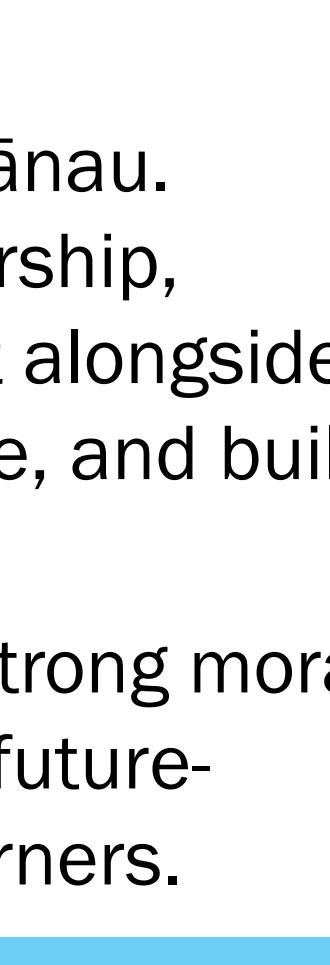
The small class sizes ensure each child’s unique talents are fostered, growing them into confident people with a strong sense of self and solid, community-minded values. Students attending Catholic schools generally achieve greater academic results than the rest of the country, including in NCEA. The focus on aiding children to reach their potential means that cultural, sporting, creative, and leadership activities also play an important part of every curriculum.

Aotearoa has a rich tapestry of schools, giving parents plenty of choice. Catholic teachings are universal and the values resonate with many Kiwis. Add this to a proven track record of academic success, cultural inclusiveness, strong pastoral care, and community engagement, and the child’s future is assured. Find out more about some of the fantastic Catholic schooling options available in Greater Wellington on this page.

Johnsonville


St Brigid's





Strength of character and gentleness of heart.

Jennifer Ioannou
Principal

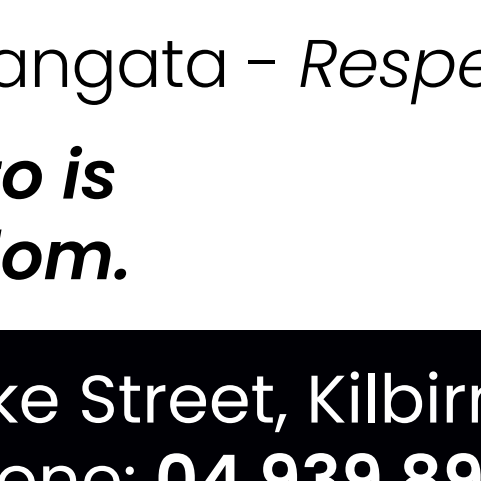
9-11 Phillip St, Johnsonville, Wellington
www.stbrigids.school.nz | Phone: 04 478 6516

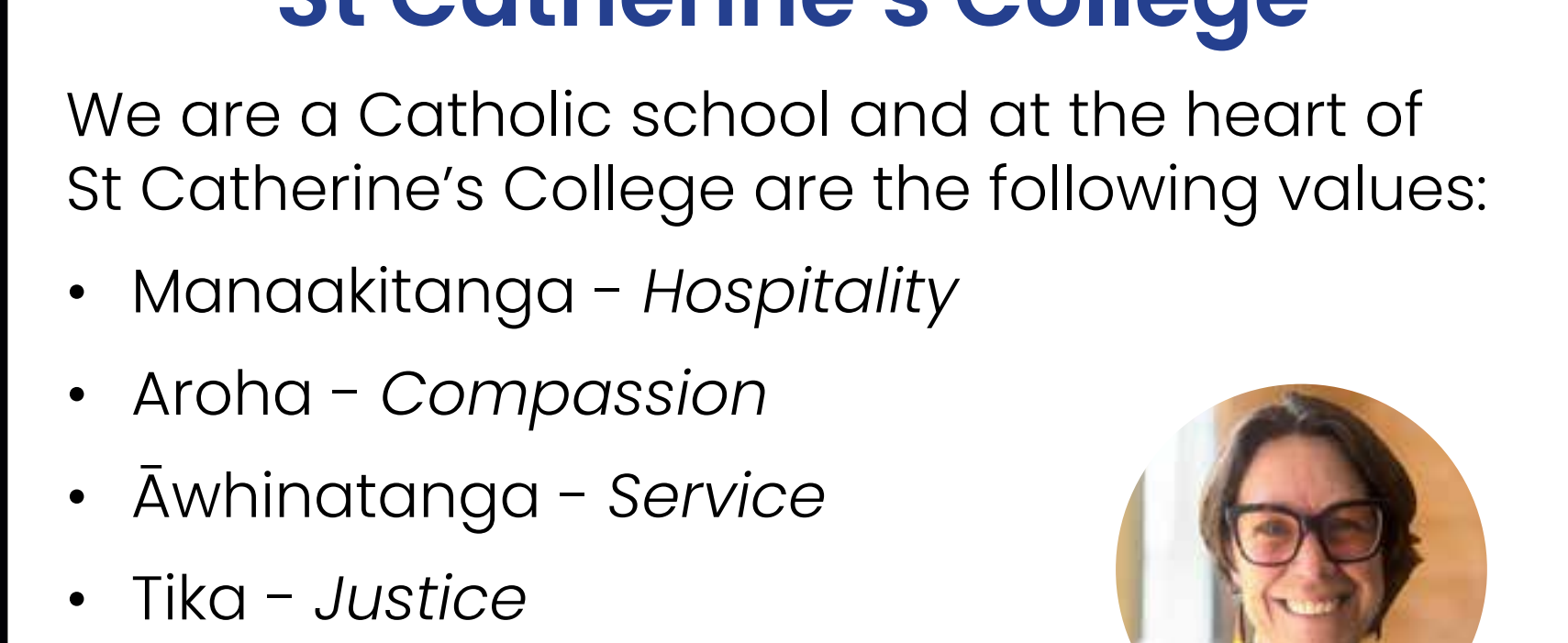
St Brigid's School in Johnsonville believes all children are unique and bring talents that shape who they are and help them grow into themselves. With a maximum of 330 students, the inclusive classrooms, underpinned by Catholic character, provide an enriching learning environment that helps foster each child's potential.

The caring staff value working with whānau. Their programme offers cultural, leadership, sporting, and creative activities that sit alongside a curriculum designed to enrich, inspire, and build confidence.

This multicultural primary school has strong moral foundations, helping children become future-focused, kind hearted, and lifelong learners.

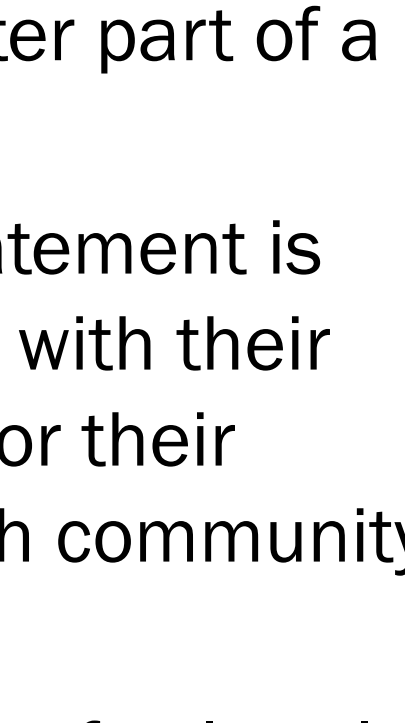
Kilbirnie


St Catherine's College



We are a Catholic school and at the heart of St Catherine's College are the following values:

- Manaakitanga – *Hospitality*
- Aroha – *Compassion*
- Āwhinatanga – *Service*
- Tika – *Justice*
- Te Tapu o Te Tangata – *Respect*



Our school motto is
Mercy and Wisdom.

Amélie Kelder
Principal

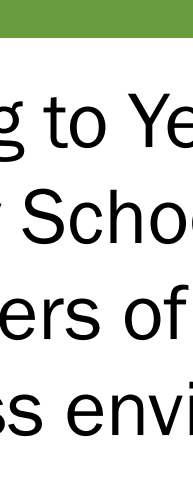
14 Upper Bourke Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington
Phone: 04 939 8988
www.stcatherinescollege.school.nz

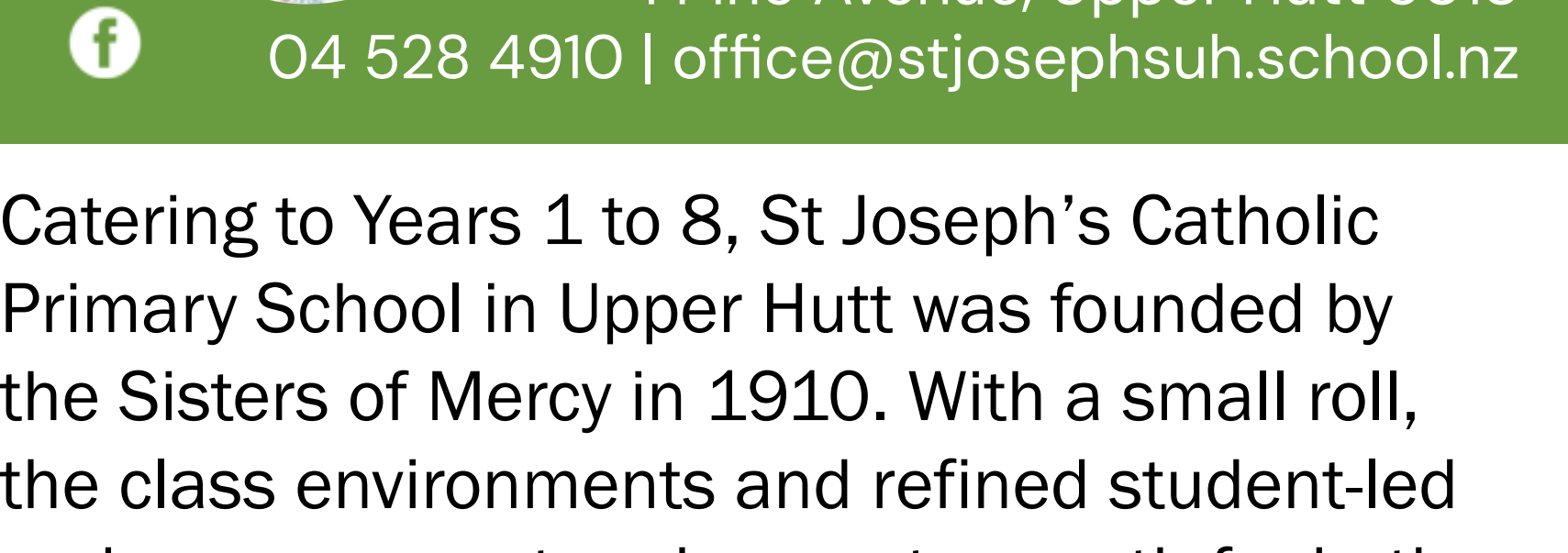
Established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1950, St Catherine's College has been providing Wellington girls with an exceptional education through Catholic social teachings for the better part of a century.

The St Catherine's College vision statement is to empower our students to connect with their cultural identity, take responsibility for their learning, and work for justice through community actions.

The school offers an extensive range of cultural, sporting, and creative co-curricular activities, and the small class sizes allow teachers to cater to the needs of each student, ensuring they feel supported to reach their goals in all aspects of their lives.

Upper Hutt


ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
UPPER HUTT



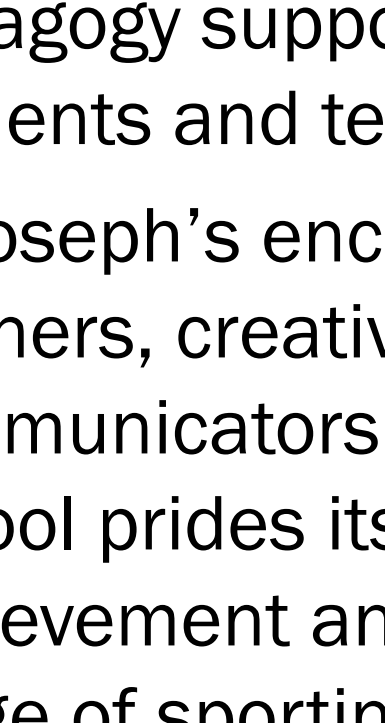
Maia – Determination
“No matter how great the challenge, we never give up”

Whakaute – Respect
“We respect the worth of ourselves, of others, and of our environment”

Auahatanga – Creativity
“We dare to be creative”

Aroha – Love
“We demonstrate love through our words and our actions”

Hiranga – Excellence
“We strive for personal excellence in all we do”

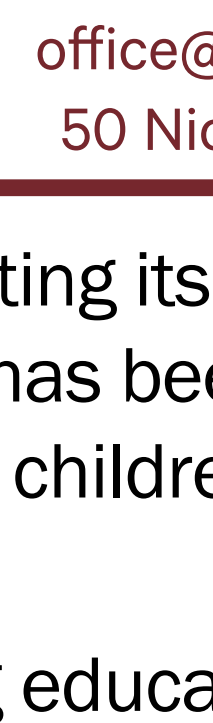


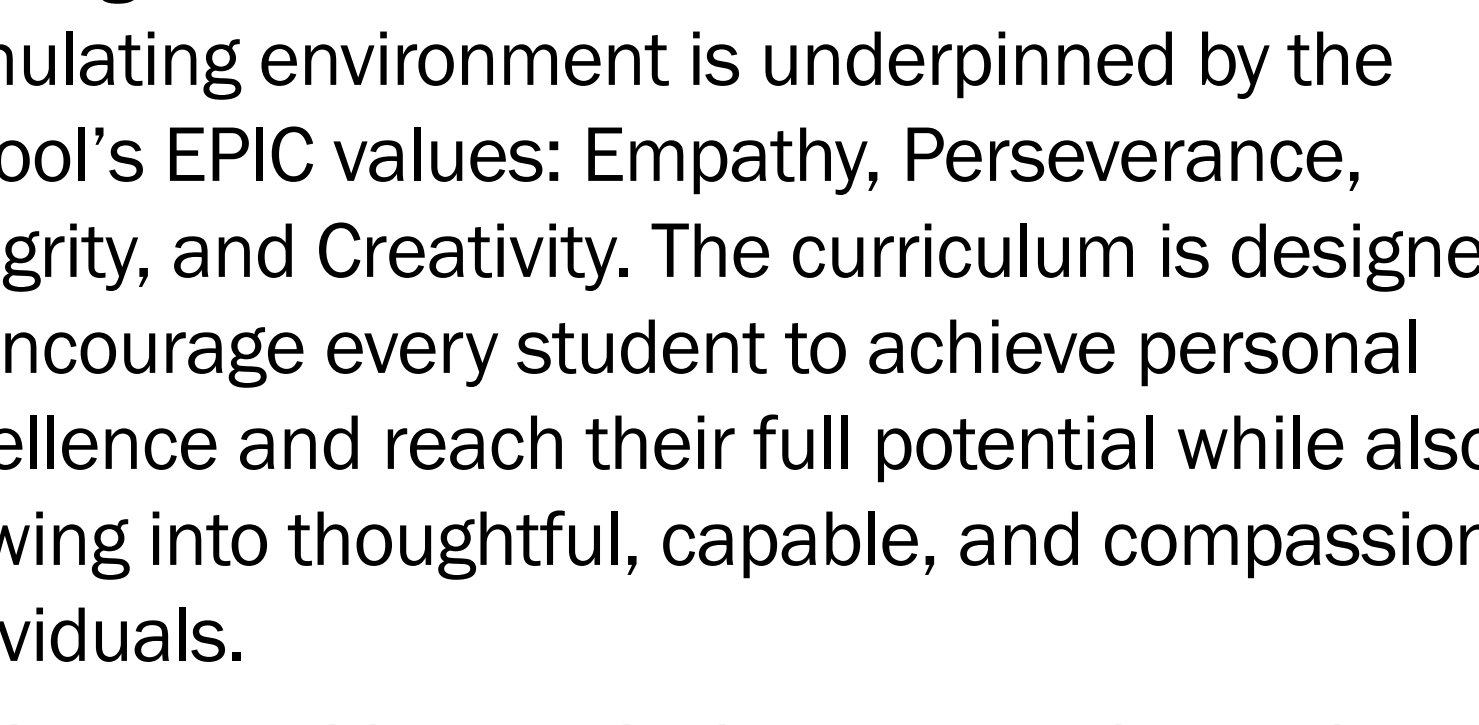
Andrew Herrick – Principal
1 Pine Avenue, Upper Hutt 5018
04 528 4910 | office@stjosephsuh.school.nz

Catering to Years 1 to 8, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Upper Hutt was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1910. With a small roll, the class environments and refined student-led pedagogy support and promote growth for both students and teachers alike.

St Joseph's encourages its students to be curious learners, creative and reflective thinkers, skilled communicators, and committed team players. The school prides itself on high standards of student achievement and behaviour and offers a wide range of sporting, arts, and cultural co-curricular activities in order to help students find and excel in the things they love.

Khandallah


St Benedict's School
Khandallah



At St Benedict's, we are proud to maintain a consistently high level of academic achievement in all areas of learning. Our curriculum is designed to encourage every student to succeed and grow with confidence.

We challenge our learners to achieve personal standards of excellence and to reach their full potential.

75th Jubilee Celebrations – Labour Weekend 2027

office@st-benedicts.school.nz | 04 479 6878
50 Nicholson Road Khandallah, Wellington

Celebrating its 75th jubilee this year, St Benedict's School has been developing children's minds and growing children's hearts for three quarters of a century.

Offering education to Years 1-8, the inclusive and stimulating environment is underpinned by the school's EPIC values: Empathy, Perseverance, Integrity, and Creativity. The curriculum is designed to encourage every student to achieve personal excellence and reach their full potential while also growing into thoughtful, capable, and compassionate individuals.

Book a tour with our principal to experience the welcoming atmosphere of St Benedict's School yourself.

[Back to contents](#)



Family – school holidays

The value of the arts



Taupo-nui-a-Tia College, Twelfth Night. SGCNZ VUW National Shakespeare Festival.

158,500 young people have come through Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's (SGCNZ) festivals and programmes in the organisation's 35-year history. Now, from more than 5,000 talented young actors and student directors who competed across the SGCNZ Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) Regional and National Festivals, 46 rangatahi have been selected for a rigorous course designed to enrich and challenge each of them to achieve way beyond what they believe is possible.

SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production (NSSP) features five days of workshops and rehearsals, with three groups destined to deliver 40 minutes each from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Twelfth Night* under the direction and mentoring of Grace Hoete, Danny Mulheron, and James Wenley respectively. A selected student costumier and student composer will colour the scenes. Public performances will take place on the 2nd of October at 7pm at Tāwhiri Warehouse in Newtown and on the 3rd of October at 7:30pm at the VUW Memorial Theatre in Kelburn.

SGCNZ CEO Dawn Sanders says it is “very special to see the instant camaraderie, communication, collaboration, compromise, and creativity oozing throughout the course”, adding that what rangatahi learn will stand them in great stead in any occupation or workplace. “Such is the value of the arts.”

SGCNZ is delighted that The Freemasons Foundation has come on board as a significant donor for NSSP.

Get ready to geek out



Welly-X: Comic and Pop Culture Expo is back for its second year. Having moved to a brand-new venue, it's set to be bigger and better than ever!

Organised by Foxtail Events and held at the award-winning Kai Tahi building in the heart of Porirua City, there's something for every eclectic collector and pop culture enthusiast at Welly-X, be you a Trekker, a Whovian, a Web-Head, or one of Lady Gaga's Little Monsters.

Going from 10 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon on Saturday the 26th of September, visitors can walk down memory lane browsing comic books, vintage toys, rare memorabilia, and timeless pop culture treasures from every era, or meet local vendors, creators, and artists selling unique and exclusive items.

This comic and pop culture event is the ultimate experience for longtime collectors and fandom newbies alike. Take your time and make a day of it by grabbing a bite at the Kai Tahi Food Court, which offers a range of eats that'll have you travelling round the globe from the comfort of the spacious dining area.

Get ready for a fun, family-friendly day filled with retro treasures, fandom culture, and great community vibes. Whether you're into comics, gaming, anime, movies, or all of the above, Welly-X: Comic and Pop Culture Expo is the perfect place to geek out, get nostalgic, and score something special to take home.

Mark your calendar, gather your crew, and come celebrate your fandom in style!

He Tohu

A DECLARATION | A TREATY | A PETITION



He whakapapa kōrero, he whenua kura –

Talking about our past to make a better future

1835 He Whakaputanga o te Rangitiratanga o Nui Tirenī – Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand

1840 Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Treaty of Waitangi

1893 Women's Suffrage Petition – Te Petihana Whakamana Pōti Wahine

See these iconic documents up close at the National Library of New Zealand | FREE ENTRY

The He Tohu exhibition is presented by Archives New Zealand Te Rūnanga o Te Kāwanatanga and the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, which are part of the Department of Internal Affairs

St Mary's College Wellington students viewing the original Waiyapapa of Te Tohu o Waitangi. Photographer: Nick Beatty

NATIONAL LIBRARY
NEW ZEALAND

ARCHIVES
NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Government
Te Kaitiaki o Aotearoa



Make your visit last a whole year!



Family memberships just \$115

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

Check out visitzealandia.com

Family membership includes 2 adults + 5 kids.

Ts and Cs apply. See website for details. Add additional adults to a family membership for just \$48 and additional kids for just \$15. Family members must reside in the same household.

ZEALANDIA
TE MĀRA A TĀNE

Family – school holidays

Where nature meets adventure



Photo by Georgia Stewart x Fujifilm.



Photo courtesy of Zealandia.

The school holidays can feel endless when you're trying to keep the kids entertained affordably. Just five minutes from central Wellington, Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne offers the kind of outing that ticks all the boxes: it's fun, affordable, and gives the whole family a chance to get out into nature together.

What makes it even better is the family membership, where two adults and up to five kids can enjoy unlimited general admission for a whole year. These days, it's rare to find activities for a family that are affordable and last year-round, and unlike a one-off day out, a membership means you can return again and again! Whether it's for a quick weekend wander or a whole afternoon adventure, get the family out in the fresh air and let the kids run wild!

The sanctuary itself feels like stepping into another world. With its predator-exclusion fence keeping native wildlife safe, kākā whistle and 'skrark' from the treetops, tuatara bathe in the sun, and tīeke/saddleback call from the forest floor with their distinctive raucous chatter. At night, kiwi roam the forest floor and ruru/morepork swoop silently through the trees.

And there's always something different to discover. One visit might mean spotting a kākā high in the canopy, while another could reveal a tuatara basking beside the track or a cheeky tīeke hopping through the undergrowth. For kids especially, there's something magical about knowing that these are wild animals living right in the middle of Wellington. It's nature with a sense of adventure, and you never quite know what you'll see.

Over the school holidays, the team at Zealandia have turned things up a notch with activities especially for younger visitors. Kids can get stuck into craft projects or settle in for one of the energetic puppet shows by the talented Stringbean Puppets. Kids Night Walk experiences run throughout the holidays, providing a chance for tamariki to see some of the amazing wildlife that only comes out at night. Zealandia members get a discount on tour experiences too!

After exploring the tracks or racing around the valley, everyone's bound to be hungry. Luckily, Rātā Café is right there with cabinet treats, hearty lunches, and great L'affare coffee to restore the grownups. Sitting out on the deck with a muffin while the kids relive their favourite wildlife-spotting moments is a great way to end the outing. It also means there's no need to pack a full picnic or rush home when little legs start getting tired.

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

Have you organised childcare? Book now!

Out of school care individually tailored to your needs!

- Before School Care • After School Care
- School Holiday Programmes

Contact us for more information:
Email: aboutkidzoscar@gmail.com
St Brendan's - 027 616 0235 | Paparangi - 04 461 6347

Your local tech people

We understand that technology can be frustrating. We're here to make it simple again.

Did one tuition we can provide

One-on-one tuition for computers, smartphones, tablets and apps. Learn at your own pace, in your own home, with no embarrassing questions.

Reach out today!

- **We come to you** - No need to pack up your computer or drive anywhere. We visit your home at a time that suits you.
- **Plain English always** - We never make you feel silly for asking questions. Everything explained clearly, without jargon.
- **Priority response** - For urgent issues, we aim to respond as quickly as possible. Just let us know it's urgent when you call.
- **Upfront pricing** - We give you a clear estimate before we start. No hidden charges, no nasty surprises.

0800 115 229 | support@techman.nz
www.ithd.nz | www.techman.nz

SPRING EXPERIENCE

24-26 September
Whirinaki Whare Taonga
Upper Hutt

BOOK ONLINE
nzschooldance.ac.nz

COBBLESTONES
WAIKARAPAPA'S HERITAGE VILLAGE

10am - 3pm
\$5 per adult, Children free

SPRING FAIR

Farm Animals - Entertainment
Food and Games
Saturday 3rd October
168 Main St, Greytown

FRIGHT NIGHT
AT THE MUSEUM

8.00PM SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER
TICKETS \$20.00 AT eventfinda.co.nz

169 MAIN ST, GREYTOWN

Bee part of the buzz

Free giant Bee sculpture trail
14 Sept - 8 Nov, Wellington

beeinthecity.org.nz

A Wild In Art event supporting Life Flight Presenting partner

Family – school holidays



Par2 Minigolf

Minigolf has been a staple of Napier's Marine Parade since the 1940s. What began simply as a large putting green has developed into Par2 Minigolf, guaranteed fun for you and the kids. Located adjacent to the local isite, you'll enjoy panoramic views

of the coast of Hawke's Bay while you compete on one of two courses: Pacific Pro-Am or Deco Drive. The former is a quintessential minigolf course, full of wacky angles, tricky water hazards, and tree obstacles. Deco Drive is a complex course with organic curves and harsh slopes.



Hawke's Bay Museum

There is always something new and exciting to discover at the Hawke's Bay Museum. This award-winning museum is made up of three distinct buildings – an art deco masterpiece, a modernist gem, and a light-filled gallery that looks out across

the Pacific Ocean. The museum's collections tell historic stories of the region and beyond, including the 1931 earthquake that devastated the region and the legacy of art deco architecture that is still celebrated today. Their fabulous shop also sells a range of beautiful cards, gifts, books, and mementos.



Faraday Museum of Technology

Ignite your imagination at the Faraday Museum of Technology, where hands-on adventures await visitors of all ages! Discover interactive exhibits where you can touch, play, and explore the wonders of science, technology, and history in exciting ways. From

historic appliances and engines to energy sources and games, there's so much to see and uncover. A magical place where history comes to life anew, the Faraday Museum of Technology offers an experience you won't forget that's perfect for families and anyone with a curious mind!



The National Aquarium of NZ

The National Aquarium of New Zealand is home to saltwater, freshwater, and land animal exhibits from New Zealand and around the world. The 1.5-million-litre Oceanarium, which you can experience with a walk through an underwater viewing

tunnel, showcases the variety of aquatic species that exist in Hawke's Bay, including stingrays, kingfish, hāpuku, snapper, and more. Watch the famous little penguins feed and play in the Penguin Cove, and connect with native wildlife like tuatara and kiwi.

Photo by Molly Rose Nilsson.



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

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

Call 0800 84 74 88
or visit napiernz.com

i site Visitor Information

NAPIER

Family – school holidays



Kennedy Park

Located near the heart of Napier, Kennedy Park is an accommodation option that's fun for the whole whānau. There is so much to do onsite that you'll be tempted to spend entire days on the premises. Kids and adults will love the heated swimming complex, basketball

half court, and giant outdoor chess board. Stroll the gardens or relax at the café while the tamariki let loose at the adventure playground and on the colourful jumping pillow. Spend time in the games room playing pool, table-top games, or air hockey together as a family.



Napier Aquatic Centre

You don't have to wait for hot summer days to enjoy a day in the water. Napier Aquatic Centre is open year-round for water-based exercise and fun. Three pools means everyone can jump in – choose from the five-lane 25-metre lap pool for walking and lane swimming, the

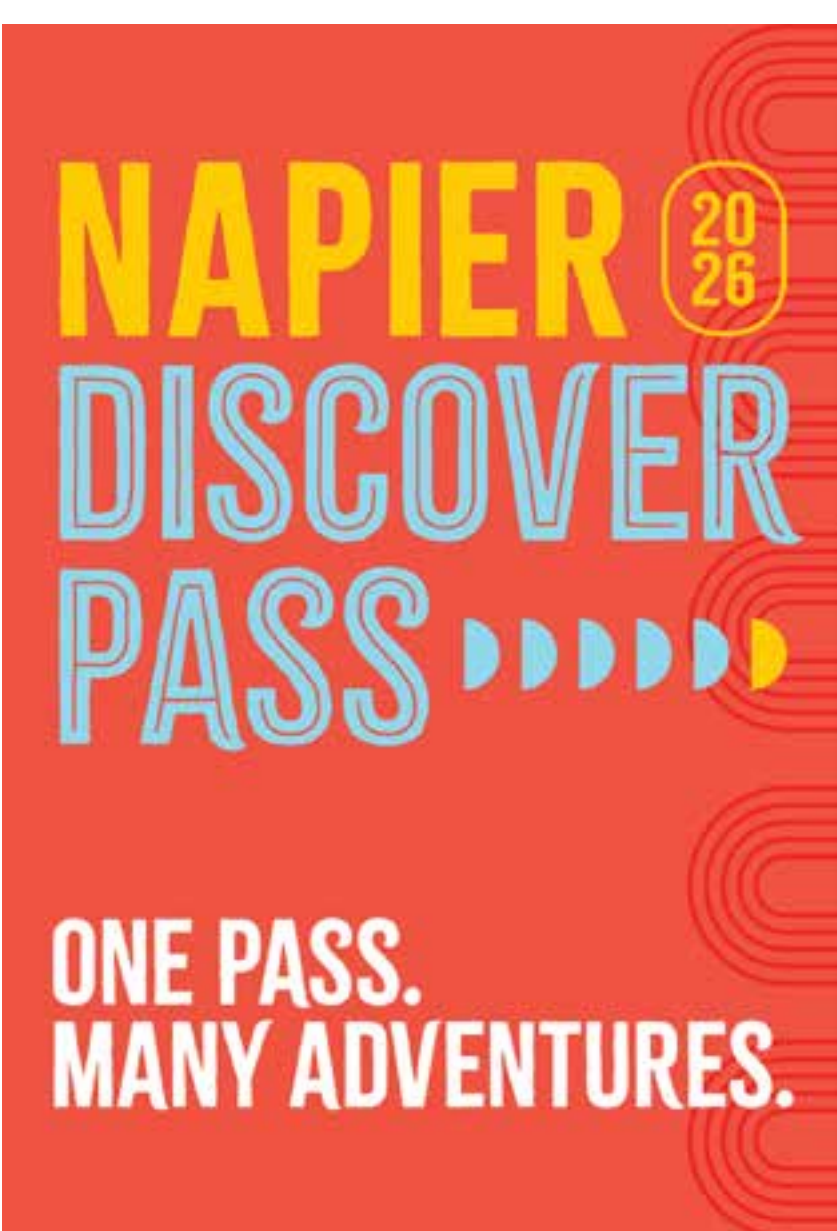
disability-friendly six-lane Ivan Wilson Pool, or the learners' pool complete with toddler pool and mini waterfall. The complex also features waterslides, a spray park open from October to March, a beautiful outdoor area, and relaxing spas. Jump in and have fun!



Ocean Spa

Ocean Spa is Napier's premier heated pool and fitness complex located on Marine Parade. Boasting open-air, heated, and chlorinated pools and spas with panoramic ocean views, visitors can enjoy a range of options from the toddler pool to therapeutic pools

with water fountains and pool jets. Visitors can unwind in spacious outdoor spa pools and refuel with a coffee or bite to eat at Bach Café. Centrally located, Ocean Spa is the perfect spot to relax and re-energise, rain or shine.



Discover Napier pass

Get adventurous and explore Napier with one simple pass! Take a journey through some of Napier's favourite attractions, from relaxing coastal experiences to hands-on discovery and family-friendly fun. Visit five iconic venues across Napier, uncover marine life, roll into skate

sessions, tee off by the sea, and bring fascinating machines to life. Choose where to return for a bonus visit and make the most of every experience. Get your pass at www.napiernz.com or instore at the Napier isite.

PUTT, PLAY AND ENJOY THE VIEW!
ARE YOU THE NEXT RYAN FOX?

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

PAR² MINIGOLF MARINE PARADE

Open 7 days | 9:30am - 4.00pm
www.par2golf.co.nz | 06 834 0248

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

Family – school holidays

Inside your imagination



A little secret about Rotorua is that from this Kiwi town you can travel through time and space, around the world and to places unknown...

photographically, that is! 3D Trick Art Gallery is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and features over 50 life-size, realistic 2D paintings that come alive through your camera and your poses, changing them to 3D imagery. All you have to do is jump in to create epic pictures and fun memories.

There are five themed sections in the gallery. In Classic Art, visitors can step inside famous paintings. Kiwi Life is inspired by New Zealand culture and history. Visitors can explore glaciers and outer space while putting their creativity to the test in the Challenge section. Create your own mythical story in the Fantasy area. Grand Nature celebrates New Zealand's natural landscape.

Escape from the jaws of a giant crocodile, make a break from a great white shark, or leap from the clutches of a goliath octopus. Scale mountains and traverse waterfalls. Fancy a trip to the Moon? Or perhaps you'd prefer to explore Venice, a glacier, or fly away in a hot air balloon. Talk about an Instagram-worthy vacation!

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

Puppet festival fever!



The Wellington Puppetry Festival returns to the Vogelmorn Precinct with more puppetry and wonder over the weekend of the 18th to the 20th of September.

This year's festival is dedicated to Puppets for Peace, with a jam-packed programme of workshops and live puppet shows that will inspire the community and help nurture the growth of puppetry arts in Aotearoa.

Fun for kids, teenagers, and adults alike, drop in Saturday morning for a free junk puppet carnival out on the Vogelmorn green, featuring hands-on junk puppet-making workshops, recycled paper crafts, roaming puppets, a *Little Landscapes* show, Teatro Lambe Lambe (tiny theatre), street musicians, and a chill zone for mums and bubs. The café will be serving up delicious things, and you can also grab ice cream from the van parking up out front!

Both Saturday and Sunday offer a selection of ticketed children's shows, including festival favourite Toro Pikopiko using traditional Māori kare-ao puppets to tell an interactive pūrākau; an audio-described show for low-vision and blind audiences; and *The Fish*, a specially commissioned work by Joey Sheppard funded by the Peace and Disarmament Education Trust that showcases giant fish puppets, shadow play, crankies, and physical theatre.

The Wellington Puppetry Festival gets a little wilder after 5:30pm at the Saturday evening cabaret, with bold, funny, and surprising stand-up puppetry. Head along this spring to celebrate community, peace, and puppetry in all its forms!

3D TRICK ART GALLERY

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
An experience you will never forget



THE PERFECT PHOTO-OP!
Get ready to step into the picture-perfect world

IMMERSE YOURSELF
An activity for all ages and abilities



171 Fairy Springs Rd, Rotorua | Ph 07 349 0920 | www.3dtrickart.co.nz | info@3dtrickart.co.nz

Family – school holidays

Ika and awa



With school holidays around the corner, Aotearoa's premier freshwater centre awaits. Tongariro National Trout Centre supports freshwater conservation efforts in the region and beyond, educating countless visitors about the need to create a sustainable fishery resource. Located just south of Tūrangi on SH1 in an attractive bush setting, the popular centre offers something for every family member to learn about and enjoy.

Kids' fishing experiences open this spring, offering a guided flyfishing adventure with a professional angler at one of the stunning ponds. The experience also includes admission to the museum for the child anglers, where they can learn about the history of trout and flyfishing on the Tongariro River; the freshwater aquarium, where they'll find giant kōkopu, kōura, tuna, and kōaro – to name a few endemic species; and the rainbow trout hatchery facility, built in the early 1920s. Be sure to bring a picnic to devour on one of the lovely nature walks!

Patch of paradise



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 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, 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.

With spring around the corner, Bay of Islands Holiday Park has been busy planting herbs and veggies in the onsite greenhouse, where guests can help themselves to fresh kai. Book online and visit this little patch of paradise.

Majestic manu



Taking a drive on the Otago Peninsula in Ōtepoti Dunedin is spectacular on its own, but what awaits you down the end at Taiaroa Head, where the harbour opens out to the Pacific Ocean, is even more awe-inspiring.

The Royal Albatross Centre is located on the windswept headland beside the only mainland toroa (northern royal albatross) breeding colony in the world. These majestic manu with three-metre wingspans return to Taiaroa Head each spring to reunite with their lifelong mates after spending a year alone at sea.

At the Royal Albatross Centre there are 60-minute and 90-minute fully guided tours featuring views from the glassed observatory and a presentation on albatross breeding cycles and the rich history of the headland. With the new breeding season underway, what better place to take the kids over the school holidays than this iconic wildlife attraction where they can get up close with the world's largest seabird.

Kids rainbow trout fishing

SCAN ME!

100% SUCCESS RATE

Bookings required • troutcentre.com

Tongariro
National Trout Centre

07 386 8085
manager@troutcentre.com
257 State Highway 1, Tūrangi

Visit the only mainland breeding colony of Northern Royal Albatross!

ROYAL ALBATROSS CENTRE

Book a tour with us
www.albatross.org.nz
03 478 0499

LIDO AQUATIC CENTRE

Relax, swim, soak or work out!
Have fun with your family at
Palmerston North's Lido Aquatic Centre!

PALMY 50 Park Road, Palmerston North | Phone 06 357 2684 | www.lidoaquaticcentre.co.nz

Bay of Islands Holiday Park

Relax, Enjoy & Explore the beautiful Far North with us at Bay of Islands Holiday Park, Haruru (4kms from Paihia)!
DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR SPRING DEAL: STAY 3, PAY 2 (valid until 30th September 2026)

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

Family – school holidays

Get your thrills



Wellington Rafting has changed its name to Wellington Adventure Centre to better reflect the wider range of experiences they offer beyond their epic whitewater rafting expeditions.

Located just 45 minutes north of Wellington in Trentham Upper Hutt, Wellington Adventure Centre hosts a range of outdoor adventure activities, including canyoning, abseiling, electric mountain biking, rafting and biking combinations, and their popular high ropes and river package, which combines canyoning and white-water rafting in a single adventure.

Rain or shine, the untouched river valleys in the Kaitoke and Akatarawa regional parks and Tararua Forest Park make for thrilling landscapes for adventure-seekers wanting to ride fast-flowing rapids on rafts or inflatable kayaks, to abseil down the side of a rockface, to canyon through hidden ravines, or all of the above.

Wellington Adventure Centre has been developing the ultimate rafting expedition for the bold and intrepid: a premium, multi-day Grade 4-5 white-water rafting adventure that begins with a helicopter flight from Carterton into the Mid Waiohine Hut, which lies deep within the heart of Tararua Forest Park.

The first day features over five hours on the water before arriving at Totara Flats Hut, where guests will enjoy a fully catered camp experience hosted by their guides. For hunting and fishing enthusiasts, the expedition can be tailored to allow additional time to explore. The Waiohine Gorge is an untouched wilderness graced with crystal-clear emerald waters, ancient native forests, and abundant wildlife, including trout, tuna (eel), and kōura.

The Mid-Waiohine Multi-Day Helicopter Access Wilderness Rafting Expedition is designed to be a world-class adventure, combining remote access, challenging white-water, and breathtaking scenery that creates an unforgettable journey.

Head further out west to Paekākāriki and swap water for airborne adventures. Wellington Adventure Centre's Fly By Wire experience gives participants the gift of flight in an adrenaline-fuelled rocket-shaped aircraft that soars high above the hills and looks out over the glistening Tasman Sea.

Participants are hoisted eight to 70 metres high into a canyon and let loose to steer the plane like a bicycle, reaching up to 120 kilometres and experiencing full g-forces as they speed and swoop in this world-first Fly By Wire plane. Strapped in and headfirst, adrenaline seekers ranging from 15 to 82 years old have gotten their thrills on this rocket ride, making it an epic way to experience the natural beauty of the Kāpiti coastline.

The rivers, hills, coasts, and valleys that surround Wellington are jam-packed with possibilities.

Wellington Adventure Centre has got all the gear and all the ideas to get you outside and making the most of what's on offer in the backyard.

With new branding, new experiences, and more energy than ever, get in touch with Wellington Adventure Centre who can take your outdoor pursuit to the next level.

WELLINGTON ADVENTURE CENTRE

Ready to get your adrenaline flowing? Up your adventure game!

- Whitewater Rafting Tours • Inflatable Kayaks/Double Duckie Tours
- Helicopter access Whitewater Rafting • Canyoning • Abseiling

Mid-Waiohine Multi-Day Helicopter Access Wilderness Rafting Expedition
This premium Grade 4-5 whitewater adventure begins with a helicopter flight from Carterton into the Mid Waiohine Gorge Hut, deep within the heart of the Tararua Forest Park.

FLY BY WIRE

The Kiwi rocket ride where you can become a pilot without any experience

Strapped into a rocket-shaped aircraft, hoisted 8 to 70 metres high into a canyon and let loose to steer like a bicycle. Speeds of up to 80-120kmh, pulling up to 3 g

Must be over 15 and weigh under 130kg.

Bottom of Paekākāriki hill.

BOOK NOW to enjoy our adventures! 0204 RAFT IT (0204 7238 48) | www.wellingtonrafting.nz | www.flybywire.co.nz

Family – school holidays

We train, you gain



Would you know what to do if someone was injured? Links Training currently offers first aid training for individuals or workplaces. Businesses are welcome to attend their public classes, all of which are NZQA assessed. Public classes are run throughout the lower North Island. The next class is in Petone on Thursday the 1st of October, Kāpiti on Monday the 5th of October, and Masterton on Friday the 16th of October. This eight-hour class will give individuals the skills and confidence to assist during a medical emergency.

Knowing how critical it is for Electrical Workers to renew their compliance on time in order to continue to practice, Links also offers an electrical compliance programme. This training consists of four hours of ECT training with two hours of CPR and basic first aid. Links is an Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB) training provider.

In conjunction with *Upstage Electrical Training, the next EWRB Petone date is on Wednesday the 14th of October. Book in early and find other dates and venues at

www.links-ltd.co.nz

Stories of the sea



KidzStuff Theatre for Children will swim into the Tararua Tramping Club in Mount Victoria these school holidays with a bright and beautiful puppet show. Created by internationally renowned theatre puppeteer Peter Wilson, directed by Jacqueline Coats, and performed by Amalia Calder, *Rainbows and Fishes* weaves English, te reo Māori, and Sāmoan into a heartfelt tale of change, colour, and creation.

A small island in the Pacific Ocean was once home to a happy group of people who had everything they needed. They grew veggies and fruit to eat, caught fish, played games together, and told stories of old and new. Sometimes they sang those stories. One song was about a time when the Rainbow Fish lost its colours and the other fish had none. A time when the wind created great mischief for the people of the island and the fish in the sea...

Best suited for ages four to nine, *Rainbows and Fishes* runs from the 26th of September to the 3rd of October, Saturday to Saturday at 10am with no show on Sunday and Monday.

Did you say chocolate?



Sweet & Co: Choc, Layered & Loaded.

Yes, we did! ChoctoberFest, the most delicious festival of the year, returns from the 1st to the 31st of October 2026! With 29 Porirua bars and eateries serving 24 unique drinks and 20 decadent baked goodies packed full of Whittaker's chocolate, even the biggest chocoholics will be satisfied!

Now in its fifth year, the festival sees businesses competing to produce the best chocolate drinks and baked goods, all containing Whittaker's goodness. Customers rate their favourites and the winning creations are crowned in early November. There will be something for everyone – hot and cold drinks, imaginative baked creations, vegan options, gluten-free choices, and even cocktails.

And, you can also win this ChoctoberFest! The amazing prizes up for grabs include a Whittaker's Factory Tour, invitations for a VIP Whittaker's Experience at Pātaka, vouchers for participating cafés, and 100 scrumptious Whittaker's Peanut Slabs.

Visit poriruacity.govt.nz/choctoberfest to find out what's on offer, and where.

REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR 2027!

DRAMA CLUB!

CLYDE QUAY SCHOOL HALL
FOR AGES 5 TO 15

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS OR AFTER SCHOOL!

Class groups: Ages 5+ | Ages 8+ | Ages 12+
Pay-what-you-can: \$12-\$30 per session

www.belcampbell.com/dramaclub | 021 296 9284

www.kidzstufftheatre.co.nz

Rainbows and Fishes

Directed By Jacqueline Coats

By Peter Wilson

26th September - 3rd October 2026
4 Moncrieff St, Mount Victoria, Wellington
Show time 10am

Kidz Stuff

TE TIRA PŪORO O TE TAUAARANGI
AIR FORCE BAND

AIR FORCE
in Concert

feat.
Bret McKenzie

Michael Fowler Centre
Wellington
8 November 2026
2:30pm

Book now at Ticketmaster
*Booking fees apply

ticketmaster PHANTOM

Porirua
Choctober Fest™

1-31
October
2026

Enjoy 44 indulgent drinks and baked treats, all featuring iconic Whittaker's chocolate!

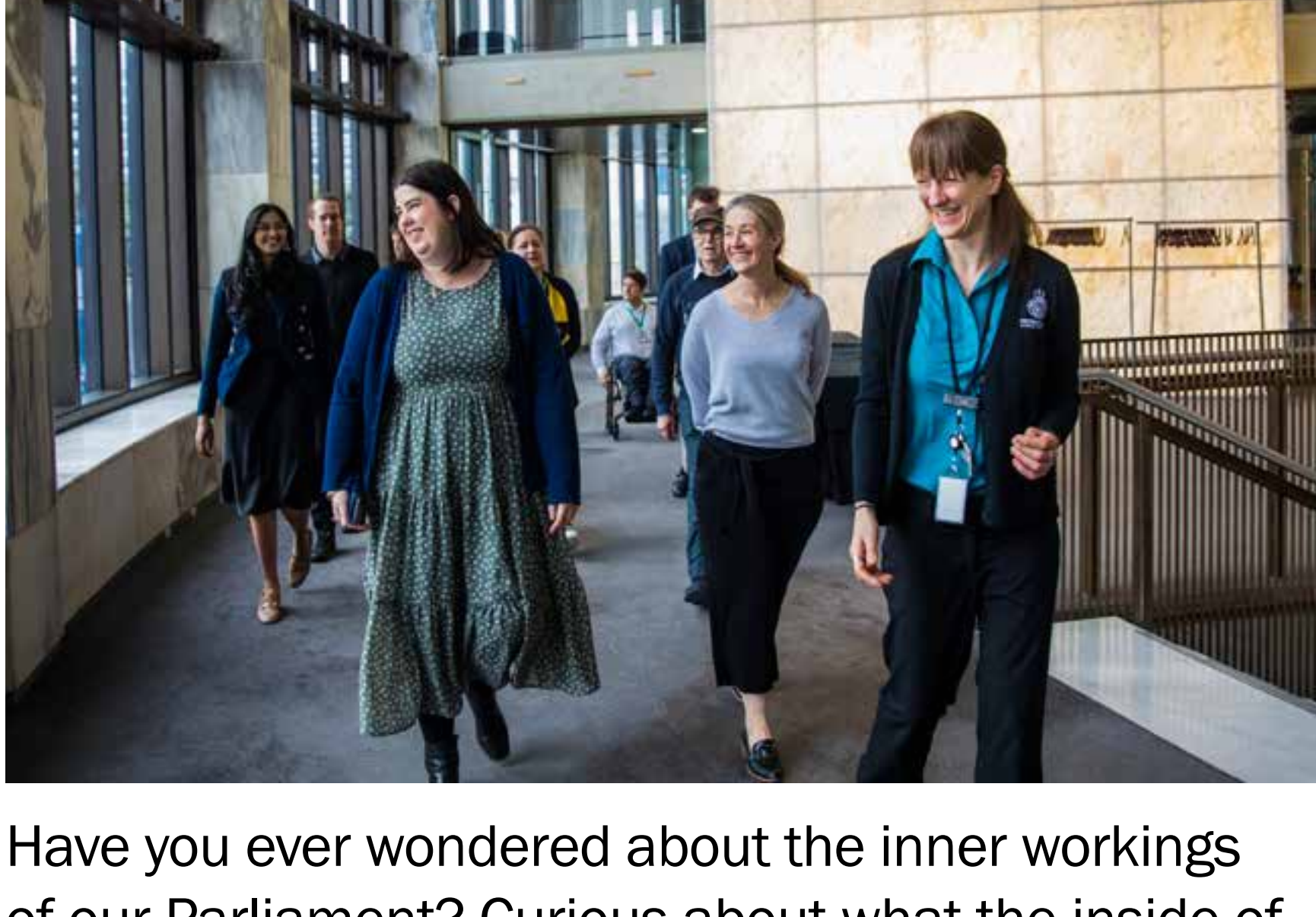
Proudly supported by
Whittaker's SINCE 1976

poriruacity

poriruacity.govt.nz/choctoberfest

Family – school holidays

See inside

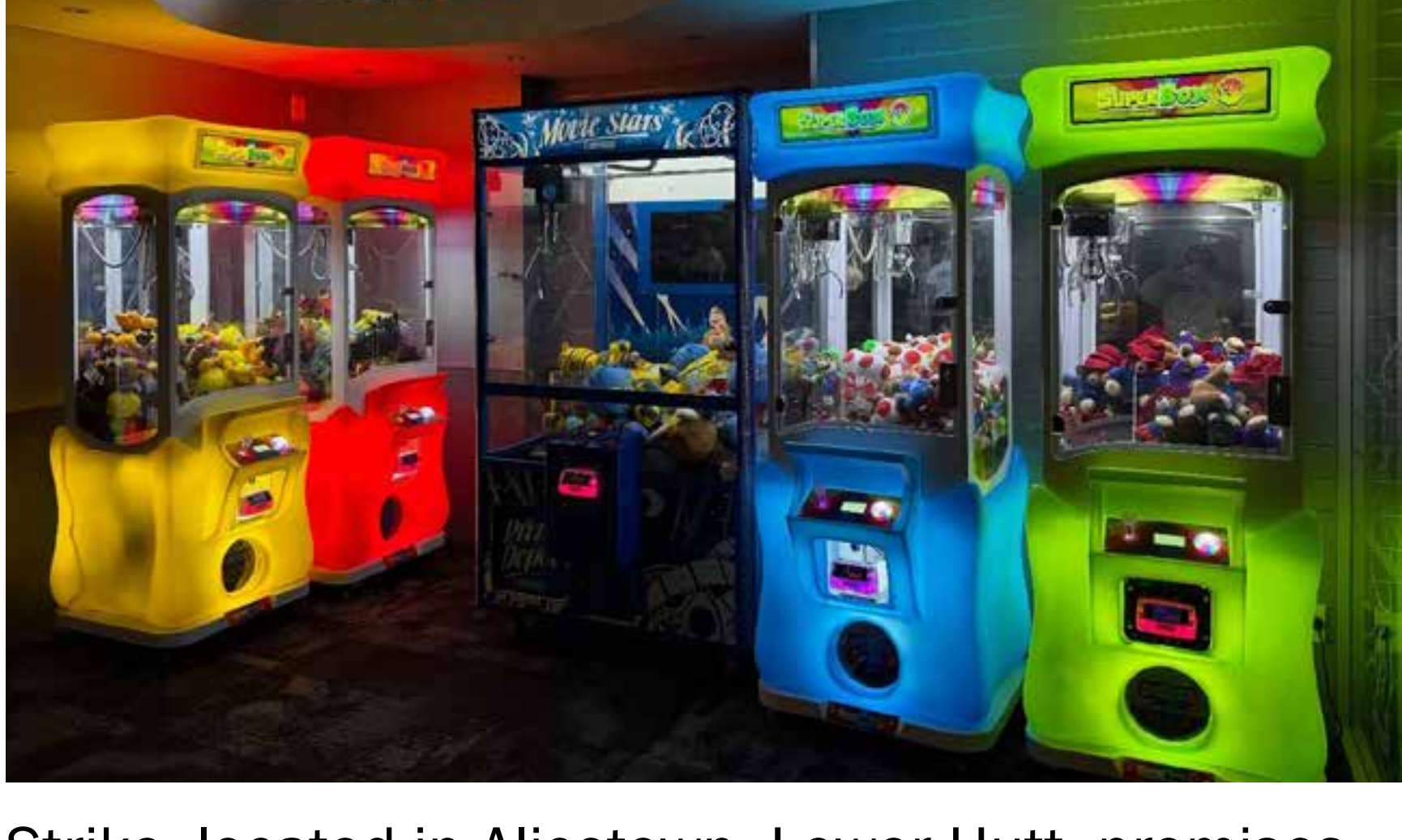


Have you ever wondered about the inner workings of our Parliament? Curious about what the inside of the iconic buildings looks like? Take a tour of New Zealand Parliament and step into the heart of our democracy – literally.

A tour with our knowledgeable guides brings you into the spaces where New Zealand's democracy happens and helps connect what you see inside with the people, processes, and decisions that shape our country. Whether you want to learn how to have your say, understand Parliament's role in our history, or simply explore, there's a tour for everyone, with in-person guided options and bespoke or private tours for your group available.

There are plenty of different ways to discover more about Parliament: from the outdoor self-guided trail and tours for tamariki and their families to tours that tell the history and workings of Parliament through our art and artifacts. We also have tours highlighting the contribution of women and Māori in Parliament since its inception in the 19th century through to present day.

Triple-threat fun



Strike, located in Alicetown, Lower Hutt, promises a full day of fun with the triple threat of tenpin bowling, laser strike, and arcade games.

Bring along your mates and enjoy the 18 tenpin bowling lanes on offer, each decked out with glow light ambience, lined with video screens, and accompanied by awesome music. Grab a pizza, a burger, or a basket full of tasty bites off the menu while you're at it before heading to Wellington's largest arcade, featuring over 50 top-notch games to test your skills against, including Aotearoa's largest claw machine.

For some more heart-pounding action, dive into a mission inside the laser strike dark maze, where the enemy threatens the Earth and you're the chosen recruit.

With options to select one activity or enjoy the whole package, spending time at Strike is fun for the whole whānau. Head along these school holidays and immerse yourself in the action!

Right up your alley



Lanes Bar and Bowling is fun for the whole family... until the sun goes down and it becomes an R18 venue at 9pm.

Located on Wakefield Street, Lanes has all the right equipment to guarantee a good time: 15 automated blue-lit tenpin bowling lanes, two interactive darts boards, one of the largest collections of pinball machines in the country, three pool tables, foosball and air hockey tables, and a shuffleboard.

The well-stocked bar and menu stacked with burgers, wings, pizzas, and bite-sized snacks makes Lanes a one-stop shop for an entire evening. An excellent place to host functions, you can hire a VIP bowling lounge with four private lanes, a private bar, your own bartender, and antipasto boards upon arrival.

Whether it's an afternoon bowling with the kids or a late night beside the pool table with your mates, Lanes Bar and Bowling is sure to be right up your alley.



NZ PARLIAMENT TOURS

Step inside the buildings at the heart of New Zealand's democracy with our knowledgeable guides. Discover the spaces where democracy happens and connect what you see with the people, processes, and decisions that shape Aotearoa. Along the way, get up close to familiar spaces, see artworks and objects from the Parliamentary Collection, and hear the stories behind the iconic architecture.

04 817 9503 | tour.desk@parliament.govt.nz

Book online: parliament.nz/visit



Looking for fun these school holidays? Bring the kids down for non-stop excitement with bowling, lazer tag, and a huge arcade.

www.strikenz.co.nz

info@strikenz.co.nz



Open daily from 11am these school holidays! Bowling from \$12 plus pinball at Wellington's largest pinball venue. Fun for all ages on Wakefield Street.

www.thelanes.co.nz

In town for the school holidays? Park with us!

Nights Only \$7.00 7pm til 8am

68

TARANAKI STREET CAR PARK

near Dixon St & Courtenay pl
next to Les Mills Gym

PARKING

68 Taranaki Street

FROM **ONLY \$2.00** per half hour

Early bird special: \$13/day on the roof top park

Shoppers Parks on lower level for 2 Hrs at normal rates

Hotel Special \$25 per 24hrs (multiple entry)

\$16 (\$18 multiple entry) Early Bird before 10am till 7pm, \$24 Max per weekday, \$7 Overnight, \$3 weekends first hour, then \$2 per hour, max \$7

Monthly rates available 0508 447 275

[Back to contents](#)



Occult romance



Still from *Practical Magic*.

It's been 28 years since *Practical Magic* first took to the big screen and inspired a generation to get witchy and join a coven.

A zany, occult romance and celebration of sisterhood, the second instalment *Practical Magic 2* is set to arrive in cinemas this September. Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman return as sisters Sally and Gillian Owens alongside a cast of characters both new and familiar (Dianne Wiest as Aunt Jet and Stockard Channing as Aunt Frances). The sequel finds the Owens family still plagued by the multi-generational curse that prevents them from ever falling in love by dooming that inamorato to an untimely death. But now, Sally's grown children (Kylie and Antonia played by Joey King and Maisie Williams) are destined to share the same fate, unless the three generations of women work together to confront dark family secrets and break the spell once and for all.

The Richter City Roller Derby will be hosting a special fundraiser screening of the film on Thursday the 10th of September at Lighthouse Cinema Petone. Included in the ticket is a spooky gift pack full of witchy snacks and enchanted drinks to enjoy during the movie.

Formed in 2007, Richter City are a diverse skater-owned and operated flat track league based in Pōneke who promote the sport and spirit of roller derby and foster a safe space for LGBTQIA+ athletes. All proceeds go to flights and accommodation to compete in tournaments in Perth and Brisbane later this year.

His Royal Badness



It's been 10 years since one of the most iconic artists of all time, His Royal Badness: Prince, departed this world. In honour of the *Kiss* singer, Film Talks – organiser of Wairarapa-based film events including the Wairarapa Film Festival and Cinémathèque Wairarapa – is hosting a special screening of the 1984 rock musical drama *Purple Rain* on Friday the 11th of September at Regent 3 Cinemas in Masterton.

Directed by Albert Magnoli, Prince's debut film follows a rising Minneapolis musician, known as The Kid, as he navigates a tumultuous home life, band tensions, romance, and rivalry through the power of music. Featuring a GRAMMY® and Academy Award-winning soundtrack, *Purple Rain* remains a landmark of music and cinema that captures Prince at the height of his power.

"It's hard to believe it's been 10 years since Prince left us," Film Talks director Jane Ross says. "*Purple Rain* is a particular favourite soundtrack of mine and I know there are so many Prince fans who will be thrilled to have the opportunity to experience this incredible film again on the big screen. For me, this celebration is a chance to remember Prince, his music, his creativity, and the enormous impact he continues to have on all of us who love his work."

Audiences are invited to attend a *Purple Rain* dinner experience at Café Strada before the film starts, featuring a menu inspired by the songs, characters, and world of the film.

Guerrilla films



***Pixel Pixies* filming *You'd Make A Good Tree*.**

For 23 years, the Vista Foundation 48Hours competition has been the cornerstone of Aotearoa New Zealand's film industry and the largest guerrilla filmmaking event in the country. Participating teams are tasked with writing, shooting, and editing a short film within a 48-hour window.

This year's sprint took place between the 31st of July and the 2nd of August, with 529 films submitted – 176 of those from Te Whanganui-a-Tara-based teams.

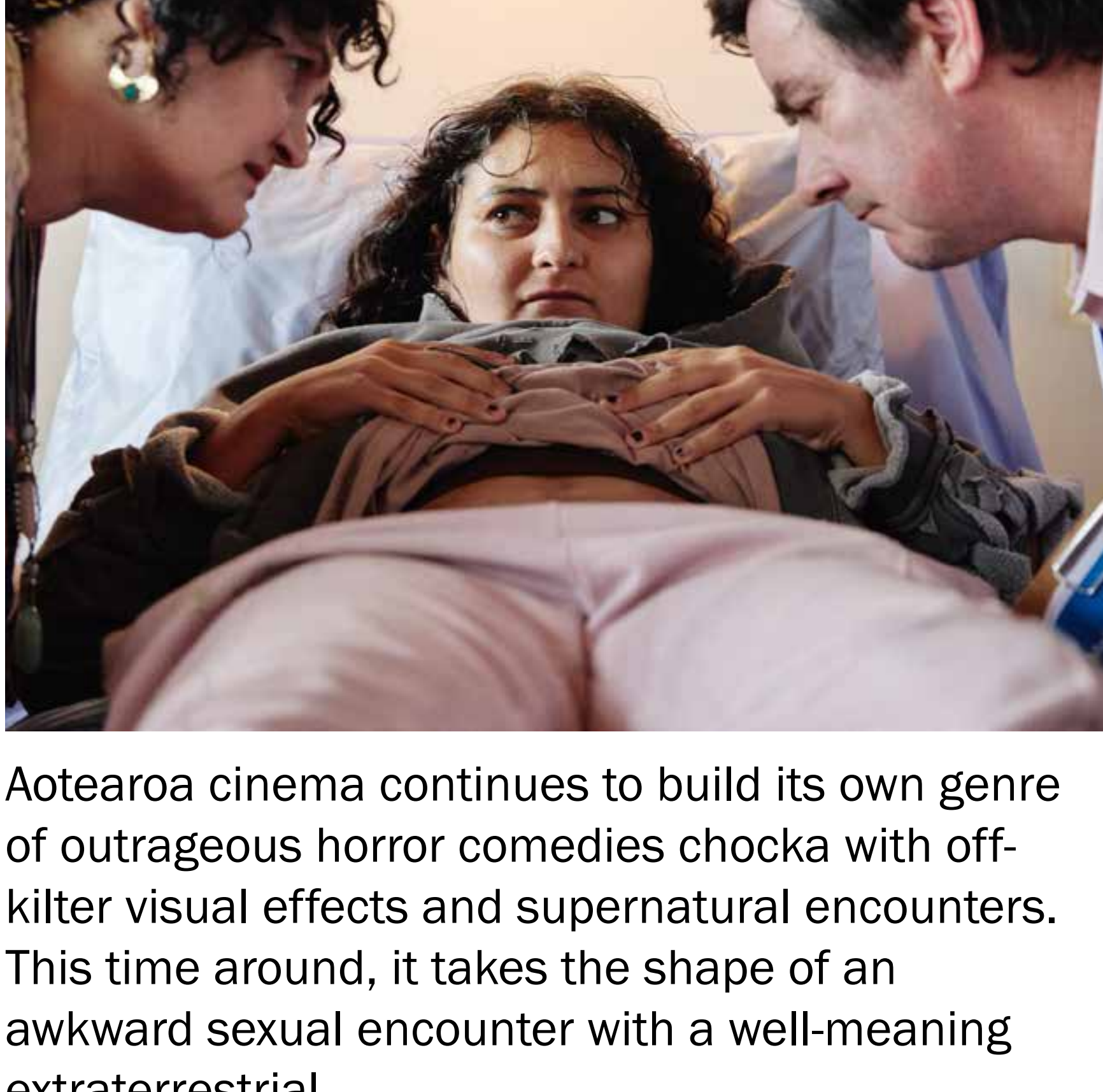
The Wellington regional finals are set for the 23rd of September at Embassy Theatre, where the top 14 films will screen, prizes are rewarded, and teams are selected to go through to the national level.

This year's Wellington judges are made up of an incredibly talented bunch of actors, directors, sound designers, producers, illustrators, and cinematographers: Ashleigh Roworth, Awa Puna, James Hayday, Betsy Bauer, Chia-Chi Hsu, Mark Papalii, Fifi Colston, Grayson Gilmour, Rachel Fawcett, and Brandon Te Moananui.

"Every year I'm blown away and deeply inspired by what Wellington's teams pull off in 48Hours," Wellington regional manager Thomas Coppell says. "This year's finalists represent an exciting turning point as a new generation of talent takes over 48Hours Wellington and I can't wait to share their fresh energy with a packed Embassy Theatre later this month!"

The national grand finals will be held at Embassy Theatre on the 17th of October. Head along to the Wellington regionals and support your local filmmakers!

Mum, I'm Alien Pregnant



Aotearoa cinema continues to build its own genre of outrageous horror comedies chocka with off-kilter visual effects and supernatural encounters. This time around, it takes the shape of an awkward sexual encounter with a well-meaning extraterrestrial.

Directed by Kiwi duo THUNDERLIPS (Sean Wallace and Jordan Mark Windsor), *Mum, I'm Alien Pregnant* takes audiences into Aotearoa suburbia where messy, millennial underachiever Mary (Hannah Lynch) lives with her overbearing mum Cynthia (Yvette Parsons). When Ann (Jackie van Beek) and her half-alien son Boo (Arlo Green) move in next door, Mary accidentally winds up alien-pregnant. What ensues is a slimy, uproarious film that marries pregnancy body horror with Kiwi humour and self-deprecation as Mary and her useless baby-daddy deal with skeptical doctors, parental boundaries, and a long-term alien-childcare plan.

The full-length feature builds on THUNDERLIPS' 2024 short film *Help! I'm Alien Pregnant*, "this time ramping up their signature boisterous energy, exploring the pitfalls of hosting a parasitic life form", 2026 Whānau Marama New Zealand International Film Festival (NZIFF) programmer Jordan Salomen says.

The film did the festival rounds abroad as well, including at the Sundance, Sydney, Melbourne, and Fantasia International film festivals. Kristy Puchko of *Mashable* said, "If you're going to promise a weird-ass movie, you better deliver weird-ass. And I'm pleased to report that *Mum, I'm Alien Pregnant* does just that."

Beaming into cinemas on the 10th of September, head along for an unforgettable experience guaranteed to make you squeal and squirm.

[Back to contents](#)



Andy's top picks around NZ

How lucky we are



Andy came to Aotearoa from Vietnam as an international student and fell in love with the lifestyle, nature, culture, and people. 12 years on, he is a registered Kiwi citizen who is proud to officially call New Zealand home.

Over the last decade, he has travelled extensively around the country, learning about its rich, layered history and a few exciting facts along the way, including that the South Island kōkako bird was last seen near Reefton on the West Coast nearly

two decades ago, and that New Zealand is closer to the South Pole than the Equator if you stand at Stirling Point in Bluff – just to name a few.

Everywhere he goes, Andy is met with breathtaking landscapes, be it the rugged snowy mountains of the Southern Alps, the ancient native forests of the North Island, the rumbling thermal activity of the Central Plateau, or the dizzying number of pristine beaches that are to be found at every point of the compass. Arriving at these destinations, there are always local stories and people who make the experience that much richer and only deepen his understanding of the land.

It begs the question, why have so many Kiwis spent more time travelling overseas than right here in Aotearoa? If tourists are catching long-haul flights from the other side of the world to visit these sites, why aren't we making the most of our own backyard? With flights getting more expensive and some of the world's most highly sought-after destinations just a short boat, car, or plane ride away, it seems mad to not go and experience a bit more of the country and perhaps learn more about yourself along the way.

This summer, take a special trip closer to home where the budget doesn't have to stretch as far. Read Andy's 2026 Top Picks for the perfect starting point to discover your next adventure, be it in the mountains, by the sea, or in one of our fabulous towns and cities.

See what the rest of the world is talking about when they tell us how lucky we are.



Andy's top picks around NZ



EST. 1874

Kaiaua

BAY VIEW HOTEL

BAR AND RESTAURANT

Established in 1874, we proudly serve great food, cold beer & live entertainment with a big garden bar, right on the Hauraki Rail Trail & the East Coast Road.

943 East Coast Road, Kaiaua, Hauraki District | 09 232 2717

①



Welcome to Ōtorohanga Kiwi Holiday Park!



Affordable, fun and spacious group accommodation. 28 bed lodge with bunk rooms & 13 bed Park House, both with bathrooms & kitchens.

Plus a range of other accommodation & camping options available. Heated indoor/outdoor Swimming Pool & Spa Pools for year round fun.

**20 Huiputea Drive, Otorohanga
021 873 981 | www.kiwiholidaypark.co.nz**

②



SPLASH

into the spring holidays at the AC Baths Taupō!

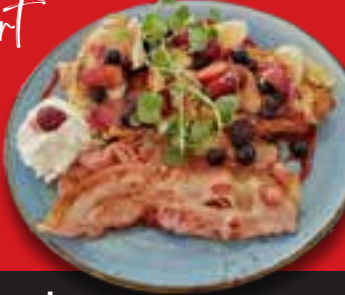


For more information, and for pricing visit: **www.taupo.govt.nz/recreation**

③



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



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

④

BUSHY PARK HOMESTEAD

WHANGANUI

Located 25 minutes north of Whanganui, The Homestead and grounds offer a truly unique experience.



Spring is here.. Come and visit, staying at our SPECIAL Midweek DBB-package!
Café open for groups of 10 or more, please phone or email with your inquiry.

06 342 9879 | bushyparkbbwanganui@gmail.com

⑤

BUS STOP CAFE



A quirky café & hidden secret

Recharge with food, coffee & our Kiwi hospitality on your road trip!

**www.busstopcafe.nz | 021 650 636
55 Sims Road, Te Horo Beach, Kapiti Coast**

⑥

THE LOLLY JAR



The ultimate DIY pick 'n mix

ENJOY FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$50

Open 7 days a week from 10am - 4pm
**130 Main Street, Greytown | 06 304 8436
thelollyjar.co.nz**

⑦

SHANTYTOWN

HERITAGE PARK



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

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

⑧



Fuel up with authentic Neapolitan wood-fired pizza, crafted in our elegant food truck by a passionate French family using top NZ and Italian ingredients—full Neapolitan flour, for the best quality!

**021 925 674
dolcepizzanz@gmail.com
6 Rapuwai Lane, Lake Tekapo**

DOLCE PIZZA

⑨

CAIRNMUIR MOTOR CAMP



- Powered / unpowered / tents / caravan / motorhome / non self-contained
- Standard cabins for singles / couples / families
- Playground / communal facilities / dump station
- Closest to Lake Dunstan Trail + Kawarau Gorge Trail
- 8kms from Cromwell

**219 Cairnmuir Road, Bannockburn, Cromwell
Phone 027 479 3471 | cairnmuirme@slingshot.co.nz**

⑩



EST. 1961

ROBERTS FAMILY FRUIT

Country Store • Earnsclough • Central Otago



A rider-friendly place to stop, eat, and rest!

- Real Fruit Ice Creams
- Coffee • Gifts and much more...

**554 Earnsclough Rd, Alexandra, Central Otago
03-449 2067 | shop@robertsfamilyfruit.co.nz**

⑪



soigné

(adj.) possessing an aura of sophistication in dress, manner or design; presented or prepared with an elegance attained through care for finer details.

OBJECTS OF ART

Cromwell Heritage Precinct ... objects-of-art.co.nz

⑫



1-4 OCT 2026

TE ANAU TUF UKULELE FESTIVAL

- JAM ON THE DAM
- TAPAS N TUNES
- HAWAIIAN HIGH TEA
- 18 WORKSHOPS
- 2 BIG CONCERTS
- FLASH MOB
- CAFE STRUMS
- HELI-STRUM
- SHOWCASE
- OPEN MICS

**TICKETS ONLINE NOW!
www.teanauukulelefestival.co.nz**

⑬

Mararoa Cottage

Te Anau, Fiordland



Cosy self-contained accommodation for two in a rural setting near Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland National Park

BOOK NOW FOR YOUR 2027 MAGICAL FIORDLAND GETAWAYS!

1128 Hillside Manapouri Road, Te Anau
info@cottage.co.nz

⑭



FINALISTS 2024 2025 2026



Nestled in the foothills of the majestic Takitimu Mountains, we serve hearty far cooked with love, using locally-sourced gourmet ingredients whenever possible.

**027 336 6131 | brunelpeakscfe@xtra.co.nz
6 Monowai Borland Rd, Monowai, Northern Southland**

⑮



nkmp NGA KETE MATAUIRANGA PŪNAMU CHAUNTABLE TRUST



Toi Toi Maori Art & Gift Shop

Shop with purpose. Give back to community.

Toi Toi is proudly a social enterprise, with profits going directly back into our community to support whānau in need.

**03 218 6488 | www.nkmp.maori.nz
119 Dee Street, Invercargill**

⑯



Bluff Maritime Museum



Situated in New Zealand's Southernmost Port, our sustainable museum provides an insight into Bluff's Maritime History.

Summer opening hours apply from October 1st:
Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm | Weekends 12.30pm-4.30pm
Admission \$5.00, Children \$2.00

**241 Foreshore Road, Bluff 03 212 7534
bluff@bluffmuseum.nz | [f Bluff Maritime Museum](https://www.facebook.com/BluffMaritimeMuseum)**

⑰

Back to contents



Wellington sculpture series

Green Islands

by **Isabella Smith**

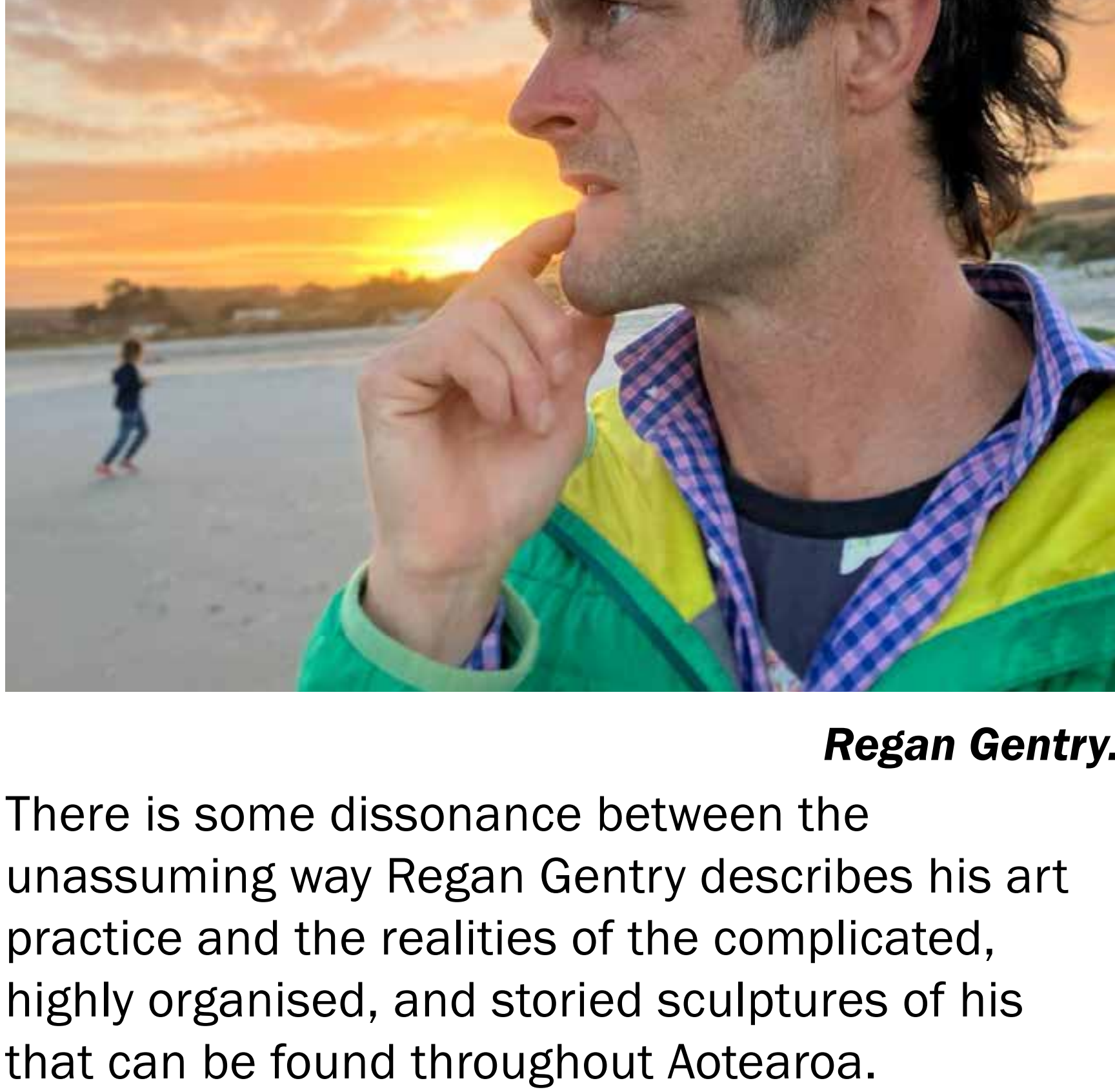
In this new series, Isabella Smith talks to the artists behind the sculptures dotted around our city.



Photo courtesy of the Wellington Sculpture Trust.



Photo courtesy of the Wellington Sculpture Trust.



Regan Gentry.

There is some dissonance between the unassuming way Regan Gentry describes his art practice and the realities of the complicated, highly organised, and storied sculptures of his that can be found throughout Aotearoa.

His works are always site specific, preceded by a dearth of research, technically and materially complicated, and full of wry humour.

“I usually see my role as a conductor or amplifier of the existing elements and histories of the place,” he says, citing previous roles as a workshop technician at Massey University and an install technician at Te Papa, “where both are best executed by being invisible in the final presentation of the given work.”

“Let the work be the voice for the idea.”

The resulting sculptures prompt the public to rethink histories, urban spaces, and how they interact with their environment.

In 2008, *Green Islands* became the first sculpture commissioned by the Wellington Sculpture Trust as part of the Four Plinths Project occupying the Te Papa forecourt. The concept grew out of the practicalities of the location: a treeless, wide-open space prone to big weather. It consists of four native trees and plants – toetoe, pōhutukawa, harakeke, and tī kōuka – made out of Number 8 fencing wire, stainless steel staples, and galvanised pipes and plates.

“I’d started getting interested in urban design and how civic sculpture was integrated into it.” The tree choices were selected for their structural variety and informed by the planting of the surrounding area: durable flora that can survive Wellington’s coastal winds. Shortly after installation, he said, “I guess that makes my plants the ultimate!”

The tallest tree stands at four metres; the scale needed to prevent the works from getting drowned out. “There was also a good design aspect that was to make the plinths rather spiky so as to limit drunken curious interactions.”

Earlier, Regan had made a smaller version of the wire tree system for Connells Bay Sculpture Park on Waiheke Island, where “a farm being turned back into a nature resort triggered the idea,” Regan says. “The basis of it was to draw a tree with a pencil, then make a 3D version of it by using the fencing wire that was being removed from the farm.”

“I just had ideas bouncing around in my head, like any artist. It was a busy period of making all sorts of kooky things for whatever show or project I could get into.”

But the reality of *Green Islands* is over 4,000 kilometres of Number 8 wire wrestled with and shaped into four elaborate structures which saw Regan modify two existing pneumatic pliers designed to clip the wires (“they were the hero of the job”) and, in the end, develop a long-term problem with RSI.

“It’s mostly resolved these days due to more measured application of effort. Maybe I’ve grown wiser as I’ve aged. The tree design couldn’t be assessed by an engineer, so they were built to a logic of what seemed to work.”

Regan studied the look of a natural pōhutukawa when fabricating the wire structures and discovered the hairy aerial root masses produced by the tree that eventually wrap around the trunk, run down to the ground, and thicken. It inspired the meshing of the wire, “the way the wire is so flexible as a singular strand yet becomes so strong as a collective”.

The pōhutukawa did “get thoroughly tested” on the waterfront. During a storm in the middle of the night on Christmas eve, it was folded over. “I managed to re-erect the work over the following few days. It was challenging, but it has survived ever since.”

In 2010, the trees shifted after the two-year tenure on the plinths ended. They now line the zig-zag path that leads from the Lady Norwood Rose Garden to the herb garden on the hill, their ghostly presence iterated in a different way now they are surrounded by swathes of green foliage.

“Maybe there’s something about the monochromatic wire that fools the brain into thinking the pieces are otherworldly, like they’re oversized drawings that have jumped into the real world.”

Growing up in Hawke’s Bay on a farm, his father was an engineer. He has always been more interested in the practical side of art. “Continuity of style between projects has never been a strong point”, he says, more inclined to spend time in his workshop pushing materials and tools to their limits to see what’s possible. This has seen him craft fragile sculptures out of pumice with a lathe, and push the artistic possibilities of gorse wood through crafting replicas of domestic and rural objects out of the scrub plant: an exercise in the ongoing battle against the ecological pest across Aotearoa’s colonial history.

At art school Regan related more to the “technical nerds” than the academics. “If you need to write a whole book to explain your art, it’s probably not going to be accessible to many people”. He didn’t really take his cues from high art either, but mentions Jean Tinguely’s kinetic sculptural machines made from found objects and scrap metals as a source of inspiration, often obtaining his own materials from refuses and skip bins.

These days, “Making things has remained a central element of my life, but the art side isn’t as obvious as it was”, Regan says. “While design, sensitivity to particularities, and aesthetics have remained, the playing of the art game has fallen away. My wife and I had a little boy nine years ago. Ros is an excellent art teacher, and I have been the primary caregiver, homemaker, and renovator – the creator of our immediate world. Best job ever.”

His young son is currently busy working on an exhibition featuring 40 sculpted heads the size of marbles that are all attached to one larger head. “I don’t know where the hell the ideas come from”, he says.

As he’s oft described as one of Australasia’s leading proponents of public art, I ask him what makes it so important.

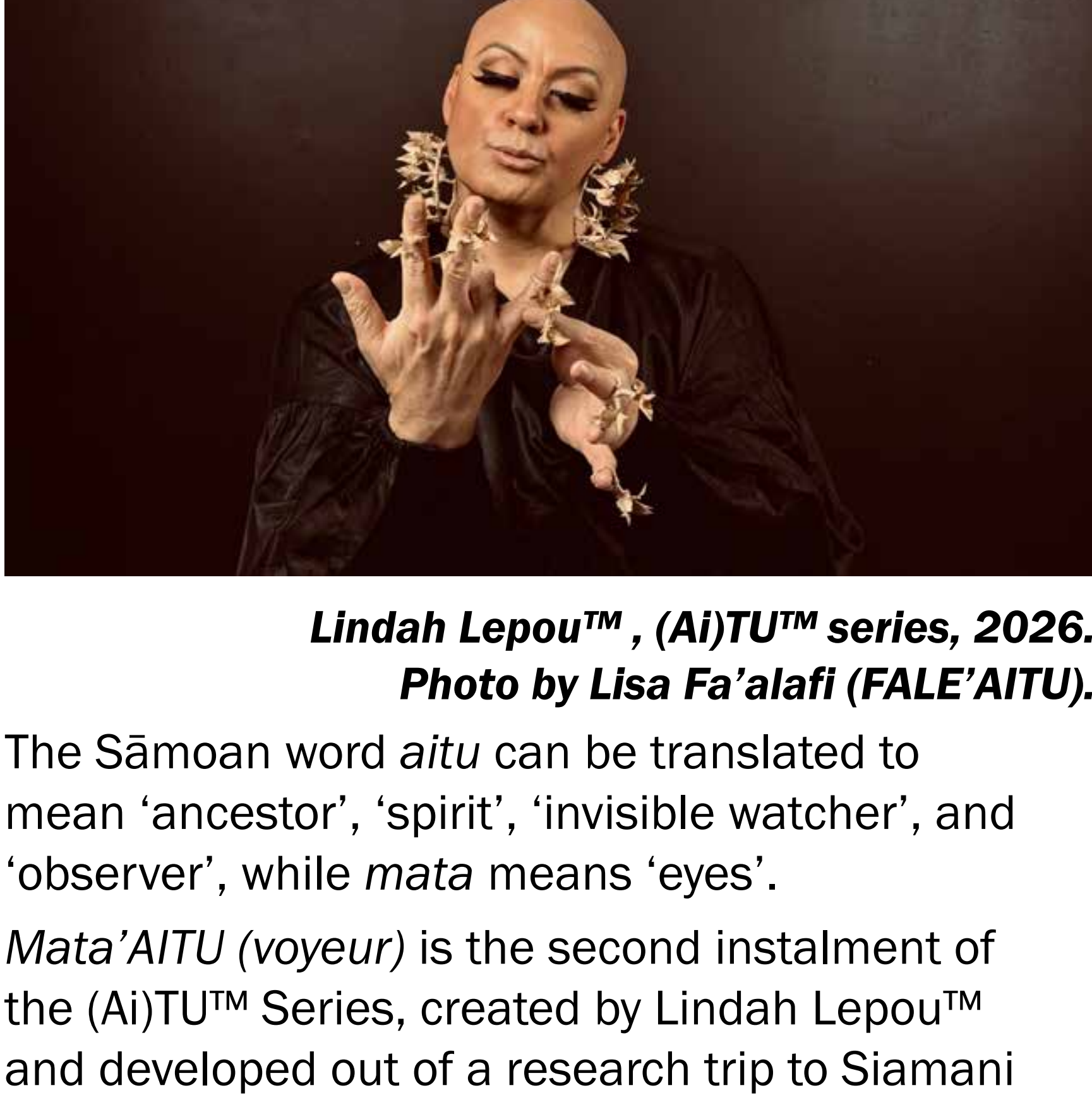
“Public art brings a little magic into the otherwise practical and pragmatic dry world. It does it in a variety of ways depending on the piece, the place, and the people. My relationship has changed since doing the *Green Islands* project in that I’m currently a consumer of these ideas and magical moments rather than creator. But that gives space for other things to happen.”

“Who knows how the next chapters will unfold, but I’m gonna be engaged, living it and loving it. I’m glad I tackled it when I did, it’s quite a mad thing to have pulled off. Physically it would be very challenging to repeat at my age, though I’m sure I’d find a way.”

[Back to contents](#)



Flip the gaze



Lindah Lepou™, (Ai)TU™ series, 2026.

Photo by Lisa Fa'alafi (FALE'AITU).

The Sāmoan word *aitu* can be translated to mean ‘ancestor’, ‘spirit’, ‘invisible watcher’, and ‘observer’, while *mata* means ‘eyes’.

Mata'AITU (voyeur) is the second instalment of the (Ai)TU™ Series, created by Linda Lepou™ and developed out of a research trip to Siamani (Germany). There she retraced the footsteps of her ancestor, Tolio, a 10-year-old boy taken from his parents in Sāmoa and brought to Siamani, where he was part of a Sāmoan ‘troupe’ put on display in a Völkerschau, a human zoo, and made to perform. In Siamani, she examined ethnographic histories and the colonial violence of human zoos where Indigenous peoples were displayed, watched, and dehumanised.

The (Ai)TU™ series looks at the psychology of voyeurism, developed by the likes of Jean-Paul Sartre, Sigmund Freud, Richard von Krafft-Ebing, and Alfred Binet. By tracing the digital world back to its roots within human zoos, she recognises a continuation of the same behaviour and business model that perpetuates colonial violence,

fetishisation, and surveillance in today’s talk shows, reality TV, pornography, social media, and AI algorithms.

The exhibition begins examining the Colonial Gaze. Using AI, she activates the static image that captured Tolio, transcending the power dynamics to see him walking out of the human zoo enclosure. Linda describes this as “generative AI regenerating (Ai)TU™”.

Next, she observes the Cinematic Gaze that developed out of technological advancements, screening controversial filmmaker Robert J Flaherty’s 1926 film *Moana*, which shows Linda’s great-great grandmother Fa’agase making siapo (Sāmoan tapa), captured for Western audiences who have consumed the footage for 100 years.

The exhibition ends with *Fa’afafine*, “a satirical flipping of the gaze onto our Western society and culture”, where Linda puts herself “on display, to be consumed by global audiences of voyeurs”.

While the concept and business model hasn’t changed at all, “The power dynamic appears to have shifted”, Linda says. “The digital space provides a more level playing field where I – the artist, the fa’afafine, the Samoan, etc – can choose and control what and where I share my image and/or story in the world (or not).”

As a fa’afafine artist and fashion designer, Linda has been registering her names, concepts, and digital assets for nearly two decades to safeguard them against individuals, countries, and corporations that steal Indigenous identities, cultural practices, and rituals.

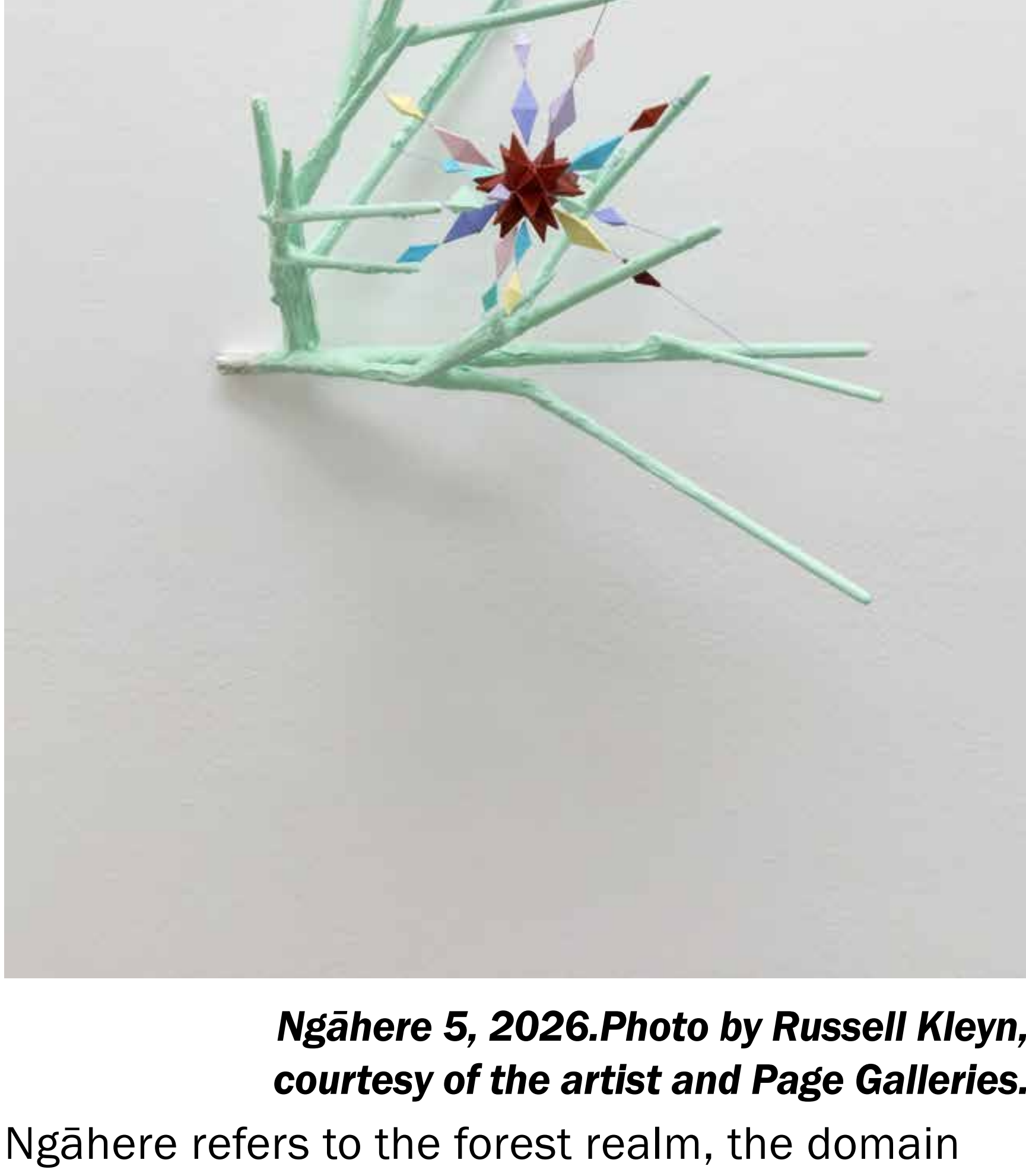
“In 2026, none of that has changed; it has just evolved technologically, where our ancient names, images, stories, songs, art, gods/goddesses, etc, are stolen in digital formats.”

Works of remembrance and resistance honour *aitu* and fa’afafine as multidimensional gender archetypes – transporting, transforming and enduring.

“Being fa’afafine in today’s society is automatically a ‘disruption’. My mere existence is ‘a problem’... for a society that can only control what it can pigeonhole. As a multidimensional artist and entrepreneur, this keeps my life experience open and fluid enough to weave in and out, up and down, my own gafa (lineage, whakapapa) *aitu* with little to no fear.”

Posing the question, have we evolved or devolved? Linda Lepou™’s exhibition *Mata'AITU (voyeur)* is on at Pātaka Art + Museum until the 8th of November.

Nature, bound



Ngāhere 5, 2026. Photo by Russell Kleyn,

courtesy of the artist and Page Galleries.

Ngāhere refers to the forest realm, the domain of Tāne Mahuta and Tāne Whakapiripiri, significant atua within Ngāi Tūhoe and wider Māori oral histories. “Tāne is associated with many foundational acts”, says Ngataiharuru Taepa – husband of exhibiting artist Saffronn Te Ratana – including the separation of Ranginui and Papatūānuku, bringing the three kete of knowledge to Earth, and placing the stars within the celestial realm “before the kete overturned, scattering the smaller stars across the sky to form Te Ikaroa, the Milky Way”.

The term ngāhere can also be understood through its composite parts: ngā, meaning the plural definitive article ‘the’, and here, meaning ‘to bind’ or ‘bonds’. In her latest exhibition *Ngāhere*, on at Page Galleries until the 19th of September, Te Ratana continues to explore the relationship between celestial and terrestrial realms.

In this sculptural body of work, the artist uses paintbrushes, acrylic, paper, and cotton to create delicate, colourful clusters reminiscent of branches that weave together birds and stars and geometric forms. “Te Ratana foregrounds knowledge embedded within the natural world”, Taepa says. “Informed by both oral histories and written research, she creates a discourse around tribal narratives, environmental relationships, and systems of knowledge”.

These works propose a world view in which whenua, trees, stars, cosmos, birds, ancestors, and people exist within a living interdependent network. Through a distinct Tūhoe lens, Te Ratana’s creative practice demonstrates how ancestral narratives and wisdom are vital frameworks for understanding the contemporary world and in turn pushes the possibilities of what Māori painting can be.

Excitable Alphabet



Tumble and Fall, 2026. Photo by Joseph Kelly.

Long-time collaborators poet Jenny Bornholdt and artist and sculptor Anton Hart share their latest exhibition *Excitable Alphabet* at Bowen Galleries until the 19th of September. Both based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, the collaboration grew out of Jenny sending Anton little pieces of writing – “sometimes just a line or a few words” – and Anton responding to them through sculpture.

Bornholdt’s words transform as Anton translates them into three-dimensional totem-like sculptures and slick, grooved discs. “I tend to look at the words almost as shapes or objects. A word can have a particular weight, rhythm, or feeling”, Anton says. “I’m not illustrating the poems. I’m trying to find another way for them to exist, and hopefully to let people engage with the written word in a completely different way.”

Working mostly with 3D printed sand, but also with bronze, vinyl, and wood, the letters are stacked directly atop each other without gaps, creating a “physical block of language”. While the sculptures are made using a very digital process, they don’t feel computerised, instead carrying a softness and imperfection.

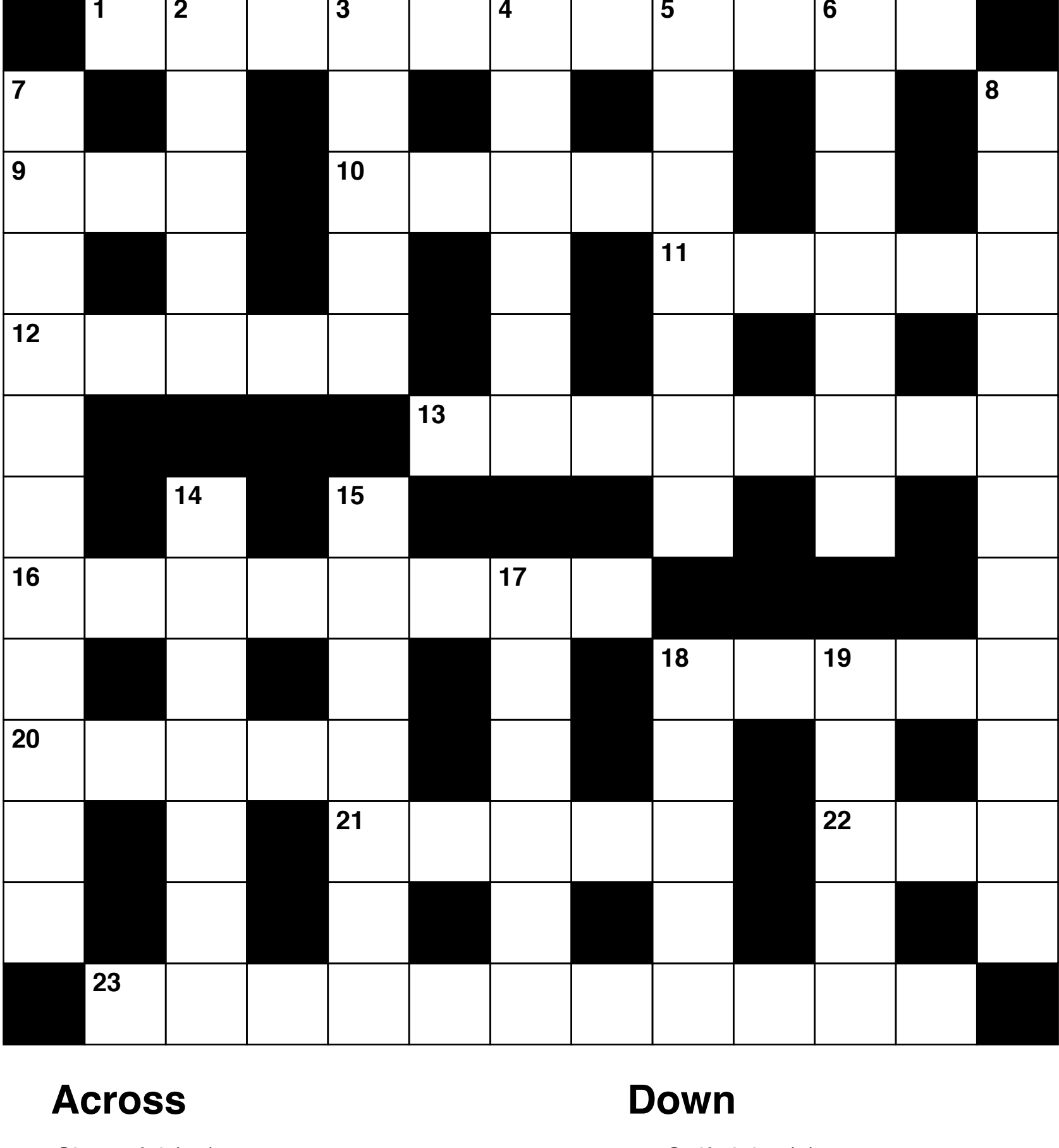
“From one angle, the words disappear and you’re looking at what can seem like quite simple geometric forms. As you move around the sculpture, the words are gradually revealed.”

The moment of seeing the letters form words cannot be undone. It marks a moment of recognition that reveals the semiotic way we interact with and derive meaning from the world around us. But the sculptural forms are anything but static; *Excitable Alphabet* gives the letters lives of their own, reflecting Jenny’s playful use of words and the possibilities of transforming language into form.

[Back to contents](#)



Puzzles



Across

- 1 - Shameful (11)
- 9 - Disapproving sound (3)
- 10 - Buyer (5)
- 11 - Sporting stadium (5)
- 12 - Piece of writing (5)
- 13 - Until now (8)
- 16 - Concurring (8)
- 18 - Extremely small (prefix) (5)
- 20 - Removes the lid (5)
- 21 - Circle a planet (5)
- 22 - Additionally (3)
- 23 - Abashed (11)

Down

- 2 - Golf clubs (5)
- 3 - Courageous (5)
- 4 - Opposite of an acid (6)
- 5 - Annoying pain (7)
- 6 - Discard from memory (7)
- 7 - Room used by astronomers (11)
- 8 - Double entendre (4,2,5)
- 14 - Liberty (7)
- 15 - No pears (anag) (7)
- 17 - Quantity (6)
- 18 - Nocturnal insects (5)
- 19 - Long for (5)

See them shine bright



Smokefreerockquest band finalist Grizzlyfish from Ōtūmoetai College, Bay of Plenty.

After more than 1,100 acts, comprising over 3,700 student performers who brought their original music to 37 live events across 22 regions, 25 finalists are set to perform at the 2026 Smokefreerockquest and Smokefree Tangata Beats national finals. Held across three nights from Thursday the 17th to Saturday the 19th of September at Massey University’s Great Hall, it’s the first time in two decades that the finals are in Wellington.

Kicking it off is the Solo/Duo National Final, where one of seven singer-songwriters will be crowned national winner of the category. Friday will see eight bands battle it out in the Band National Final, before 10 artists perform on Saturday night to determine the Smokefree Tangata Beats champion, which celebrates the unique cultural identity of the South Pacific.

This has been a long journey; the first and second place winners of the regional finals submitted performance videos to a panel of musicians and industry leaders. Almost 100 acts were assessed before the top 55 acts were announced, then the top 25 were announced to go through to the finals. The national winners will join an impressive list of Smokefreerockquest alumni including Aldous Harding, Bic Runga, The Black Seeds, Six60, and Marlon Williams.

Judge and alumni Riiki Reid says, “I know that this year’s contestants will become very familiar faces within our music industry and community from here on out; that’s how much belief I have in these young musicians. I can’t wait to see them shine bright.”

Girls to the front



2ofhearts have been organising underground gigs in Singapore for a while now. But their upcoming shift on Saturday the 19th of September at Valhalla marks their first international event, and it’s set to be an epic evening celebrating all female-fronted indie, alt-rock, and progressive metal acts.

Don’t Tell Me To Smile features a curated lineup of Pōneke bands: Dystonia, Diplopoda, Boyband, and JQIME. Expect dreamy melodies, dirty riffs, loud guitars, infectious hooks, and unapologetic energy. Organiser Alyssa Tavarro says, “In a scene that’s male dominated, it’s a nice gesture and celebration to give light to the rare female-fronted bands we have in Wellington.”

The JQIME duo have a strong presence, known for their self-produced 70s R&B-inspired indie-pop and for their positive and empowering performances; solo post-modern pop-funk artist Diplopoda rips into those suppressed emotions and reminds you that to be seen is to feel; alternative hard rock and metal band Dystonia delivers high-energy, catchy, and melodic grooves that leave you wanting more; and Boyband brings their blend of pop, neo-soul, and alternative music to the stage.

Alyssa says Don’t Tell Me To Smile is a good way for audiences to experience different genres. “And on top of being a female-fronted gig, I think it’s a great way to bring all the other genre communities together to support each other.”

This one is for the girls who turn the volume up, take up space, and aren’t afraid to get a little loud.

With your signage, packaging, print and design
0800 774 683

RealFinance
fast and flexible finance
0800 21 21 21
a registered Financial Service Provider - FSP3821

Back to contents



Funny and full of heart



Depression and comedy aren't so much oxymorons as they are comfortable co-parents in *STILL HERE* by Dave & the Daves. Written and performed by Australian theatre-maker Dave Houston with accompanying musician Stephen 'Stretch' Teakle, this TAHI New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance international offering is a funny, moving, and unforgettable show that puts mental health front and centre.

The titular Dave and his Daves are Uncle David, Rave Dave, Davo, Darvid Uluru Crystal, psychiatrist Davina Davis, and several other Dave derivatives who perform six original songs spanning genres and intensities – from psyched-up folk to garage rock, grunge to hip-hop and the sweetest of lullabies. Woven together with heartfelt storytelling, stand-up, and direct address, all of the music explores OG Dave's experience navigating life with depression.

In *STILL HERE*, clowning and comic characters meet raw truth and vulnerability. The result is "a roller coaster of emotions", as one audience member put it, calling the solo show a must-see that had them snorting with laughter one minute and in tears the next.

Another proclaimed, "Oh my god. You got me, you bugger. I've been on Sertraline (an antidepressant) for six years. I haven't cried in that time, but you got me tonight. What you did up on that stage was amazing. (You can use that if you want!)"

STILL HERE runs at BATS Theatre from the 9th to the 12th of September, with a post-show facilitated wānanga on the 10th for World Suicide Prevention Day.

Ōtepoti indie folk legends



The Broken Heartbreakers wish to introduce themselves to the living room of your interior life and rearrange the furniture.

Songwriters Rachel Bailey and John Howell began their music journey together in Auckland in 2002. The next 20 years saw hundreds of gigs across multiple continents, four studio albums, a rotating cast of band members, and the continued evolution of their sound. Now, they've released *Imagine If We Could Just Keep Driving*, their fifth studio album and first in a decade. Filled with "Deeply insightful and incisive songs, crafted with care from the stuff of life" (*13th Floor*), it has been described as "Their finest yet" (*RNZ*).

Blending the bleak with the beautiful in typical Broken Heartbreakers' fashion, the album has spawned a nationwide release tour with full band that promises an indie aural feast at Vogelmorn Upstairs on the 12th of September.

Rachel and John have lived all over the world, from Europe to Rachel's birthplace of the Irish Republic, Melbourne to John's hometown of Dunedin, where they currently reside. But they are beyond fond of Pōneke.

"The booth seats up the back of JJ Murphy & Co. on Cuba Street are the closest we've found in NZ to a traditional Irish snug – a good spot for plotting insurrections and other less lofty pursuits," John says. "If I have time, I love to walk down through the Botanic Garden through the Bolton Street Cemetery over the motorway and down past the Beehive – a crazy juxtaposition of eras and energy. Feels like 'peak Wellington' from an outsider's perspective."

Once-in-a-generation voice



On Sunday the 13th of September, world-renowned GRAMMY® Award-winning bass opera singer Jonathan Lemalu ONZM will be accompanied by the Virtuoso Strings Orchestra in the enchanting setting of St Andrew's on the Terrace.

Nine songs have been composed especially for Lemalu's voice, all written by Virtuoso Strings director of music Craig Utting. The songs include settings of poems by James K. Baxter, Erick Brenstrum, Dylan Thomas, Rudyard Kipling, and Denis Glover's famous *The Magpies*.

Lemalu studied law at the University of Otago before pursuing postgraduate vocal studies at London's Royal College of Music, where he was awarded the prestigious Tagore Gold Medal and The Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Rose Bowl, and most recently was appointed deputy head of voice.

Students of Virtuoso Strings will also take part, with solos from violinist Dylan Gao and former student and soprano Kitty Sneyd-Utting, who'll perform Arvo Pärt's serene *Spiegel im Spiegel*, the beautiful *Bachianas Brasileiras* from Heitor Villa-Lobos, and Camille Saint-Saëns's *Rondo Capriccioso* for violin solo.

"Jonathan Lemalu will be the star of the concert", says Jo Reeve of Virtuoso Strings Charitable Trust.

"This is an opportunity to experience the voice of a once-in-a-generation operatic bass singer. There has been nobody else from New Zealand with a voice like his since Inia te Wiata, who died in 1971."

Established in 2013, Virtuoso Strings – Te Paemanu Korihi brings together young people from a rich tapestry of backgrounds to collaborate and foster musical growth, intercultural understanding, and lifelong friendships.

The next generation



Six of Aotearoa's finest young musicians will perform with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra in *Emerging Artists* at the Michael Fowler Centre on the 23rd of September. Aged 15 to 17, the talented soloists will tackle a programme of music by classical giants Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Vaughan Williams, Brahms, Prokofiev, and Shostakovich, accompanied by the orchestra and led by NZSO principal conductor-in-residence Hamish McKeich.

Elise Tan performs the tense and sardonic first movement of Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1. Alex Wu will perform the third movement from Vaughan Williams' haunting Oboe Concerto.

Catherine Harrison performs the third movement of Tchaikovsky's deeply expressive Violin Concerto. Jerry Wang plays the dramatic first movement of Brahms' First Piano Concerto. Steven Song will perform the second and third movements from Prokofiev's exuberant Piano Concerto No. 1.

William Ding performs the second and third movements from Prokofiev's exuberant Piano Concerto No. 1.

The concert also features 13 exceptional young musicians. Side by side with the orchestra, they will perform the fourth movement of Schubert's Second Symphony and *Blind is the Gardener* by Nicholas Graham Brownlie, one of the two 2025 recipients of the prestigious NZSO Todd Young Composer Award.

Many musicians who have taken part in *Emerging Artists* in the past have gone on to perform in other NZSO concerts, with the NZSO National Youth Orchestra, and with orchestras around the country. Come celebrate the next generation of performers.

Bug Songs Not Love Songs

Written by Phoebe Caldeiro, Lia Kelly, and Alayne Dick

Directed by Alayne Dick

BATS Theatre, 25th Aug 2026

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus

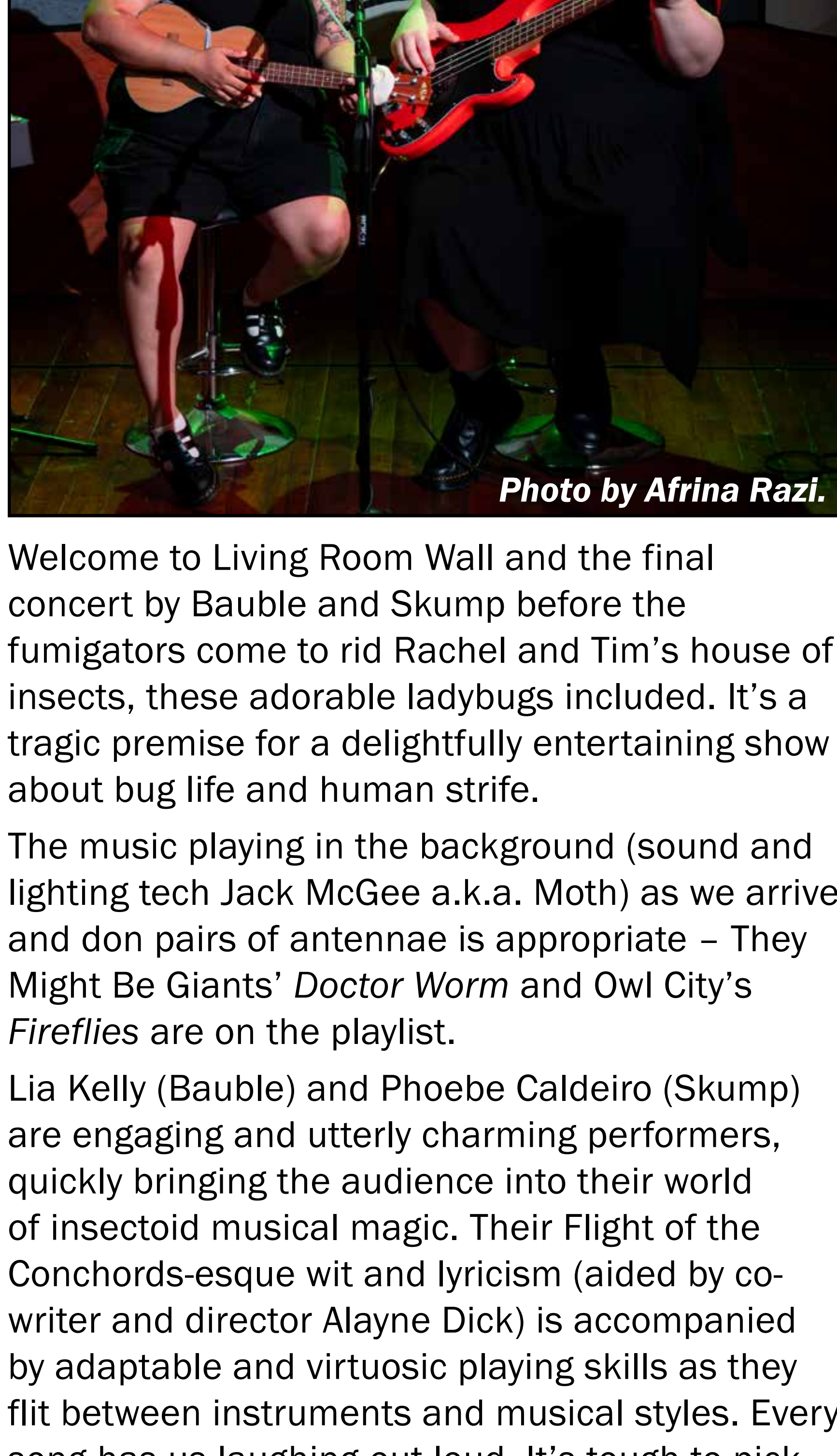


Photo by Afrina Razi.

Welcome to Living Room Wall and the final concert by Bauble and Skump before the fumigators come to rid Rachel and Tim's house of insects, these adorable ladybugs included. It's a tragic premise for a delightfully entertaining show about bug life and human strife.

The music playing in the background (sound and lighting tech Jack McGee a.k.a. Moth) as we arrive and don pairs of antennae is appropriate – They Might Be Giants' *Doctor Worm* and Owl City's *Fireflies* are on the playlist.

Lia Kelly (Bauble) and Phoebe Caldeiro (Skump) are engaging and utterly charming performers, quickly bringing the audience into their world of insectoid musical magic. Their Flight of the Conchords-esque wit and lyricism (aided by co-writer and director Alayne Dick) is accompanied by adaptable and virtuosic playing skills as they flit between instruments and musical styles. Every song has us laughing out loud. It's tough to pick a favourite but *It's Hard Being a Bug* had me giggling insanely as Skump's and, increasingly, Bauble's obsession with lemons overtakes the existential dilemmas of arthropod life. Sadly, we don't get to hear such bangers as *Six Legs*, *Seven Things to Hold* as the unfolding human conflict going on below – carefully scored on points by Skump – brings the fumigation ahead of schedule and we have to fast forward to crowd favourite *Praying Mantis Wedding* and a small-tear-inducing pair of songs about how the duo met and fell in love.

Kate Anderson's set design particularly deserves mention as her backdrop evinces the top-down view of a suburban living room with simplicity and clarity. Her birthday card mini-set for *It's Your Special Day* is inspired, has hilarious insect puns, and allows for funky head-bopping choreography from our performers.

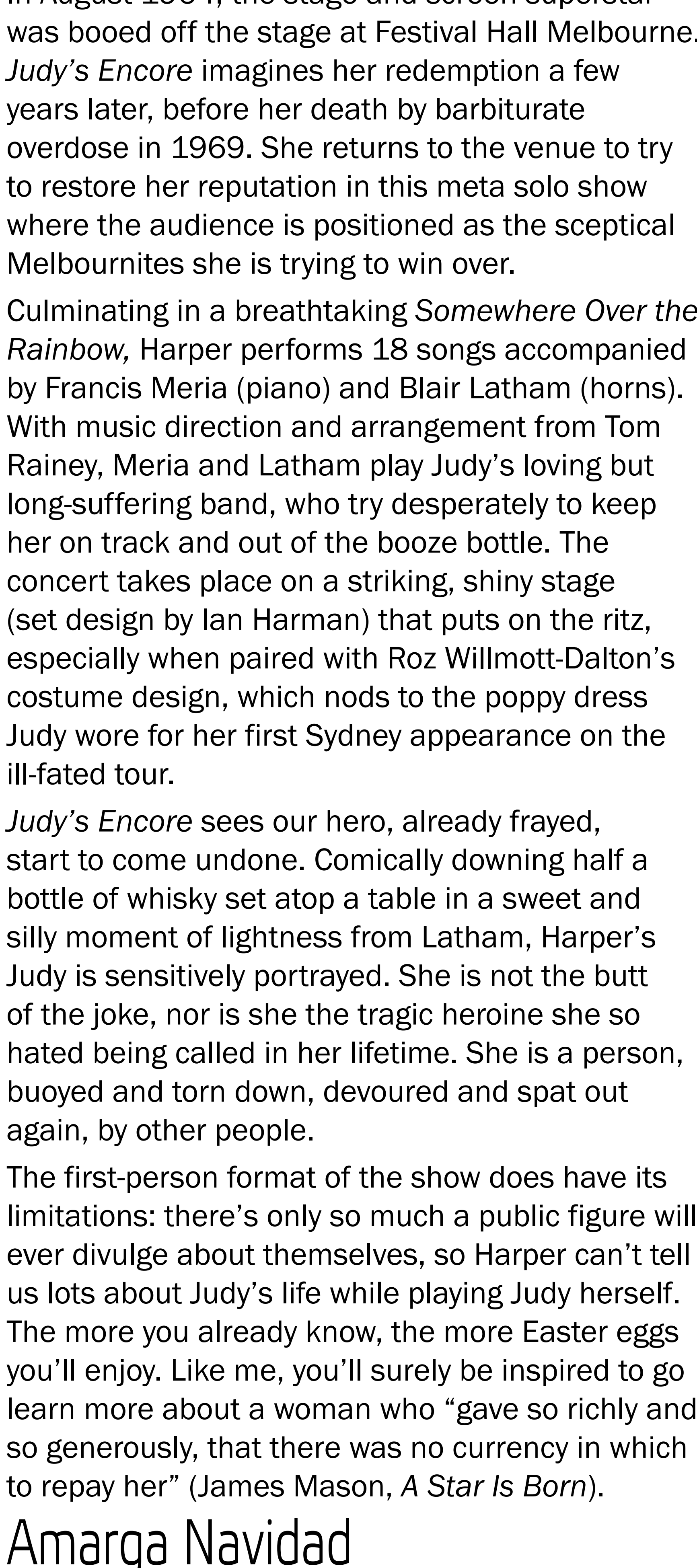
From a clever homage to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, to the sub-plot of a failing human relationship, to the polished and clever anthems, *Bug Songs Not Love Songs* is entomological ecstasy from go to whoa.

Judy's Encore

Written by Ali Harper

Running at Circa Theatre till 26th Sep 2026

Reviewed by Madelaine Empson



Judy Garland, “the greatest entertainer who ever lived – or probably will ever live” (Fred Astaire) made so many comebacks, “what more could you possibly want?” So quips a magnificent Ali Harper in *Judy's Encore*, a night in concert with *The Wizard of Oz* star where the sequins are sparkling and the stakes are sky-high.

In August 1964, the stage and screen superstar was booed off the stage at Festival Hall Melbourne. *Judy's Encore* imagines her redemption a few years later, before her death by barbiturate overdose in 1969. She returns to the venue to try to restore her reputation in this meta solo show where the audience is positioned as the sceptical Melbournites she is trying to win over.

Culminating in a breathtaking *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, Harper performs 18 songs accompanied by Francis Meria (piano) and Blair Latham (horns). With music direction and arrangement from Tom Rainey, Meria and Latham play Judy's loving but long-suffering band, who try desperately to keep her on track and out of the booze bottle. The concert takes place on a striking, shiny stage (set design by Ian Harman) that puts on the ritz, especially when paired with Roz Willmott-Dalton's costume design, which nods to the poppy dress Judy wore for her first Sydney appearance on the ill-fated tour.

Judy's Encore sees our hero, already frayed, start to come undone. Comically downing half a bottle of whisky set atop a table in a sweet and silly moment of lightness from Latham, Harper's Judy is sensitively portrayed. She is not the butt of the joke, nor is she the tragic heroine she so hated being called in her lifetime. She is a person, buoyed and torn down, devoured and spat out again, by other people.

The first-person format of the show does have its limitations: there's only so much a public figure will ever divulge about themselves, so Harper can't tell us lots about Judy's life while playing Judy herself. The more you already know, the more Easter eggs you'll enjoy. Like me, you'll surely be inspired to go learn more about a woman who “gave so richly and so generously, that there was no currency in which to repay her” (James Mason, *A Star Is Born*).

Amarga Navidad

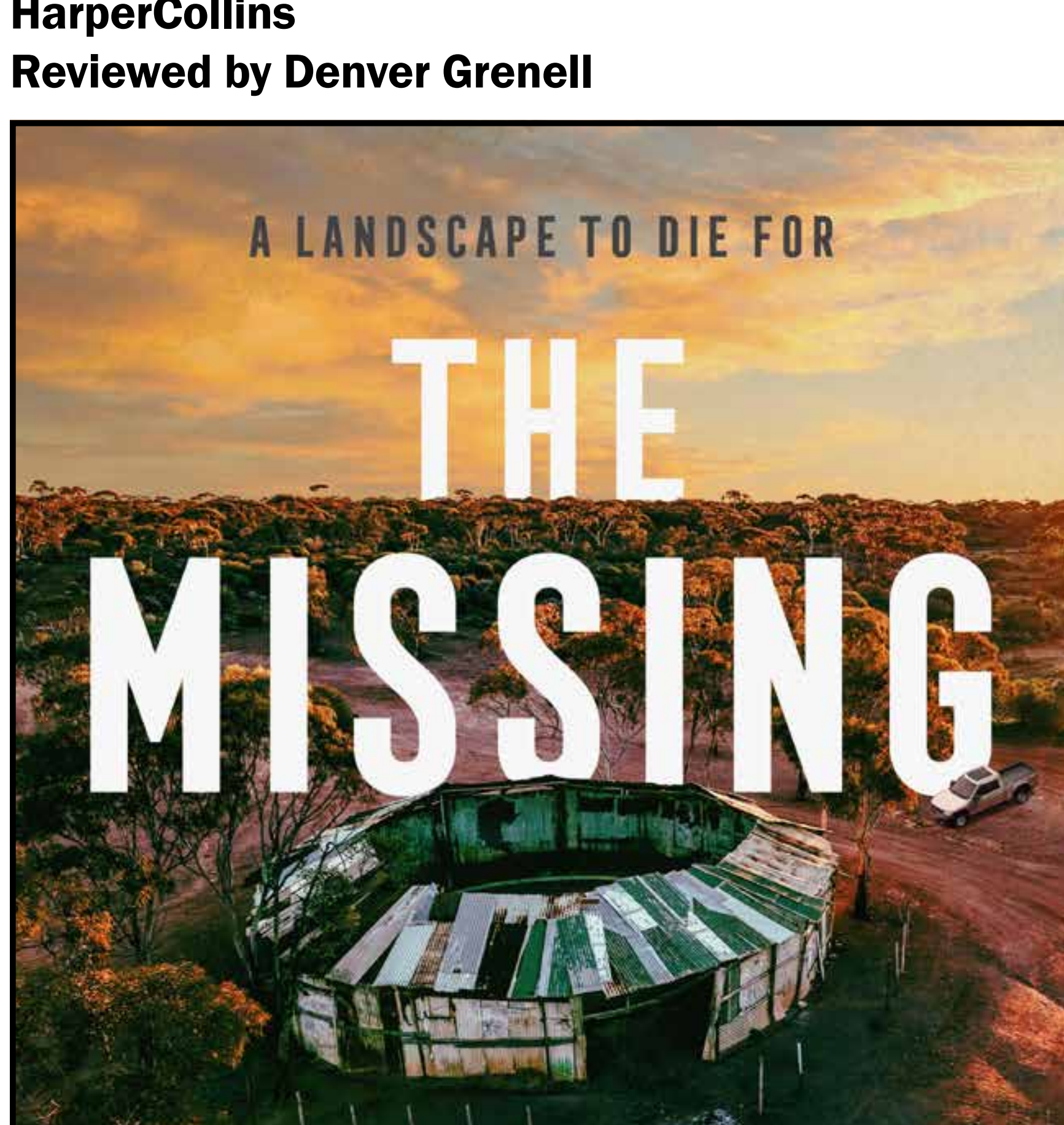
(Bitter Christmas)

111 minutes

M15

★ ★ ★ ☆

Reviewed by Isabella Smith



Pedro Almodóvar's latest film contains many of the hallmark features that make his cinema so discernible: vibrant colours, eccentric and strong female protagonists, queer themes, politics of the gaze. This time, however, he turns the camera on himself to produce a scathing self-portrait that deals with the problem of vampirism in filmmaking.

The story intertwines two parallel plotlines set 20 years apart. Characters and events tug at and mirror each other and are influenced by Almodóvar's own experiences, making the way life informs fiction not just a fact but the film's mechanism.

Raúl (Leonardo Sbaraglia), a film director (his hair impossible not to recognise as a nod to Almodóvar's own shock of silver) experiences creative crisis writing his new script in the apartment he shares with his devoted (but mostly ignored) partner Santi (Quim Gutiérrez). Drawing from his own situation and the life updates from Mónica (Aitana Sánchez-Gijón), his longtime PA – on sabbatical to care for her girlfriend whose son is undergoing a life-threatening surgery – he writes into being the anxiety-riddled indie film director Elsa (Bárbara Lennie) who has been reduced to making TV ads and can't shake terrible migraine attacks. She meets her partner Bonifacio (Patrick Criado) at a hen's night, where he performs a quintessentially Almodóvarian striptease to Grace Jones' *Libertango*, after which she invites him to feature in an underwear advertisement.

She too largely ignores her partner (a revelation of the director's own dwindling feelings about Santi) and is inspired to write a new script based on the lives of two bereft friends she is caring for on the Canary island Lanzarote. When Mónica reads Raúl's script she immediately recognises herself and her partner.

The film explores the ethical problem and betrayal of repurposing another person's trauma to propel a story while also highlighting the way fiction can pick and choose, stretch and bend those lived experiences. It is a self-conscious critique of Almodóvar's own cinema which is filled with stories about the lives of women – though the women who populate his films are one of the reasons I go back time and again to his films.

While I'm always a fan of the cerebral, the cleverness sometimes got in the way of me experiencing any real affinity or depth of emotion toward the characters, and I still can't work out the title. But that didn't deter my enjoyment of getting to step foot in the colourful and strange world of Almodóvar.

The Missing

Written by Fleur McDonald

HarperCollins

Reviewed by Denver Grenell

Fleur McDonald's latest rural crime story *The Missing* invites the reader to tread the dusty streets of Kalgoorlie and its desert surroundings in Western Australia.

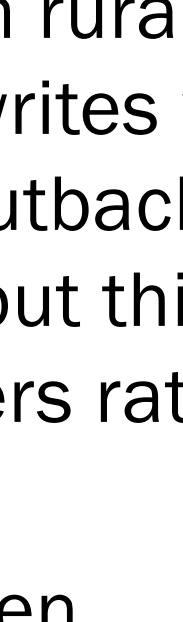
During Missing Persons Week, teenager Max disappears after a late-night party. Local detectives Angie Sullivan and Jack Higgins (from McDonald's previous Kalgoorlie book *The Prospect*) are assigned the case, but come under pressure from Max's parents and Lily, a tenacious radio show host who has been digging into the town's growing list of unsolved missing persons cases.

The book tackles two timelines: the investigation into Max's whereabouts and Max's story leading up to his disappearance. The latter plot offers insight into Max and his desire to escape Kalgoorlie and his domineering father. It is interesting as it allows us to see Kalgoorlie from the perspective of the town's youth, some of whom, like Max, yearn for something beyond the town's borders.

Unfortunately, the main storyline, which takes up most of the book, is hindered by stock characters who are difficult to distinguish from one another. Angie and Lily have such similar backstories (both came to Kalgoorlie after broken relationships) that they seem identical, with only their job descriptions separating them. Jack also has a similar backstory, and while this points to the town's transitory nature as a place where people come to escape their problems or forget the past, the sameness doesn't do the lead characters any favours. McDonald, who pivoted from rural romance to rural crime in recent years, writes with a strong sense of place, particularly of outback Australia and the people who inhabit it, but this applies largely to the peripheral characters rather than the core cast.

McDonald's writing brings to mind Stephen King's maxim that “the road to hell is paved with adverbs”, which I agree with. Coupled with a denouement that strains plausibility, *The Missing* missed the mark for me. But McDonald has sold over a million books and has another due out next month, so I am clearly in the minority here.

[Back to contents](#)





GoodFor™

Looking to inject new life into GoodFor Wellington Wholefoods Refillery on Jessie Street, Alison Aldred took over ownership earlier this year. With over 600 products ranging from flours, herbs, rice, pasta, tea, and grains to Ecostore products, homewares, face creams, and deodorants, GoodFor Wellington is an incredible supplier of all things organic, minimal waste, and locally sourced.

Their excellent range of staples make pantry shopping a breeze, whether you're making a simple pasta or want to mill your own grain for an afternoon spent baking. At the same time, they're always on the lookout for interesting items they know customers will appreciate like their freeze-dried strawberries soaked in matcha-infused chocolate. They've got weekend brunch

sorted too, supplying a variety of freshly baked Shelly Bay Baker bread, including their Sprouted Multigrain Sourdough and beloved Everything Bagels.

You can use a paper bag, purchase a jar, or bring in your own to stock up on products from the bulk bins – including over 50 herbs and spices – which reduces waste, cost, and allows you to select your own quantities. Bring in a bottle and top up your cooking oils, vinegars, and washing detergent liquid, or grab all the cereals, dried fruits, and nuts you need for the perfect granola.

Providing products that are good for your health and good for the planet is at the heart of everything GoodFor Wellington does. Open seven days a week, why not pop instore for a visit and join the community?



Our products

GoodFor Wellington likes to support local and NZ organic and spray free products where possible. We are always on the look out for new interesting items we can all appreciate. We have a great range of the staples to make pantry shopping a breeze.

Keep an eye on our Instagram and Facebook pages for updates on new products.

Visit us in-store

We're open 7 days a week.

You can call us anytime within store hours on (04) 801 5742, or visit us between the following hours:

10am-6:00pm weekdays
10am-5:00pm weekends

Proud to sponsor the training of a horse at Wellington Riding for the Disabled. www.wellingtonrda.org.nz/home



GoodFor Wellington - Wholefoods Refillery | 21 Jessie Street, Te Aro, Wellington | Phone **04 801 5742**
 @ www.instagram.com/goodfor_wellington/ | goodforwellington.co.nz



Piopio man to lead farming solution through genetic excellence



Chairman of directors of the recently created 'Livestock Genetics New Zealand Ltd' (LGNZ) Mr. Jason Hill of Aongatete, Katikati, announced the initiative stating that the immediate need for a viable solution for agriculture is imperative.

The revenue creators of our farming businesses, the livestock, are in a precarious position. A genetic solution is required to be swift and financially robust. The network of 22 regional directors are actively farming in most regions of New Zealand and hold 'skin in the game' and therefore are sensitive to the vagaries of their agriculture businesses. They range through commercial farmers to astute animal breeders across topography and breed difference to understand the genetic requirements of most producers.

LGNZ is expanding the focus on wealth creation from animal genetics identifying the most optimal animals within breed and species. The resulting environmental and financial fitness of these defined animals are the base-stone for farm operational efficiency and profitability. LGNZ is fully funded and operational. The prime focus is about adding genetic and financial value to capital stock, marketable animals and subsequent product.



Jason Hill stated that the directors are inclusive within an existing client base that practice genetic selection with the proven Falkirk Index New Zealand System (FINZ) that has been operational for some 38 years. The time has come for farmers to take control of their industry and deliver quality product to market that backs claims of excellence. To market by specification. It is time for farmers to be offered a choice between a high-cost system to one of wealth creation.

It is my pleasure to announce that Ian Walsh, the originator of FINZ and Falkirk Scientific Foundation (FSF), has been appointed as Director General of LGNZ. His 65 years of active farming and genetic innovation within animal breeding holds few peers. His 96 international visitations to South Africa and Australia, serving an expanded client base across the breed/species barrier is unique and holds no bias in the search for the most optimal sheep and beef animals.

Dr Clive Dalton (researcher) testifies;

"Ian has always been an innovator in the industry, he was one of the small group of farmers who were our research mentors, as they were always years ahead of us in their thinking. There is no way Ian or Falkirk will lose focus about what is important to hill country farmers"

Stompie Olivier from ZA confirms;

"One day, one man, I have learnt more about genetics than from all the other advisors in my breeding career"

Denys Wells states;

"Selecting for excellence is key. Experiencing the benefits have been psychologically rewarding. The system is based on practical knowledge backed by scientific facts.

Johan van der Nest explains;

"Ian would be the foremost livestock appraiser/

selector in the Tri-Nations, his 3-dimensional view of an animal is unique, coupled with Epi-genetic knowledge, pragmatism and commercial reality, he has no peer."

Richard Warren confirms;

"Our association with Ian Walsh and Falkirk Genetics represents an integral part of a solution to the declining standards of meat and wool production in New Zealand"

Ian commented;

"My immersion within the industry has enabled me to define the genetic health and wealth of the national flock and herd. By definition only 20% of animals and product are breedable and fit for purpose. This factor has declined rapidly since 2011, when 50% of animals held this status. It is crucial that positive action is taken now as the latest generation of farmers are threatened by escalating operation costs and regulatory demands that destroy profit margins.

The understanding that a bundle of traits interfaced in synchrony deliver longevity, strong immune system, survivability and lifetime high productivity, is crucial. These factors generate high quality product that is proofed by an established client base. Genetic prepotency is a key outcome of this natural selection process. This genetic initiative is the antithesis of the mandated regime that commercial farmers and breeders are currently subjected to experience."

Ben Parsons, Rotorua states;

In my opinion Falkirk has the capability of revolutionizing farm breeding systems. New Zealand's agricultural future depends on leaders like Ian Walsh of Falkirk enabling producers to define marketable produce that is in demand world-wide. Through Ian's expertise with his livestock assessment system, it has enabled us to drive our business forward to new levels of performance and profitability"

FALKIRK
QUALITY ANIMAL GENETICS

Contact **Ian Walsh** for more information

0274 809 807 | falkirk1@xtra.co.nz | www.falkirkgenetics.co.nz

What's on



12th Sep. Hannah Virk: *Churton Park Community Centre, Lakewood Avenue, Churton Park – 4pm.* Help Hannah Virk celebrate the release of her third studio album *Half of My Cup* at a fun and friendly open mic event that showcases local creativity. Whether you're keen to get up on stage or just sit back and enjoy the vibes, this cosy afternoon will be sure to fill your cup to the brim.



23rd Sep. Spring Equinox: *Stonehenge Aotearoa, Ahiaruhe Road, Carterton – 6:30pm.* Witness the equinox sunset, explore the night sky with a captivating audio-visual presentation, and connect with ancient traditions to celebrate spring's arrival. On the equinox, day and night are the same length, signalling that from here on out, the days will finally start to get longer and longer!



19th Sep. Rufus Mundy: *Hilltop House, Upland Road, Kelburn – 7pm.* Rufus Mundy is a contemporary singer-songwriter whose original songs draw on the rich tradition of folk music. His thoughtful lyrics and memorable melodies reflect the personal and political while exploring themes of social justice, protest, love, and our shared humanity, delivered with warmth, insight, and a quiet sense of humour.



Until 30th Sep. Spring Festival – Te Wā o te Kōanga: *Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā, Glenmore Street, Kelburn – various times.* Throughout September, you'll find much-loved open days, guided walks, talks, and experiences, alongside new collaborations connecting the Botanic Garden with the garden of knowledge. Join the spring festivities come rain or shine!

Photo courtesy of WCC.



12th Sep. Saturday Laughs with Hayley Sproull and Alan McElroy: *Petone Working Men's Club, Udy Street. Lower Hutt – 7:30pm.* Alan McElroy, Cohen Holloway, and Hayley Sproull [pictured] bring funny to the forefront for a fantastic few hours. You've probably heard or seen Sproull across national radio and TV, McElroy on stages all over Welly, and Holloway in some serious cinematic sensations.



11th Sep. Thickums – Thick, Round & Juicy: A Fat Cabaret: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro – 8pm.* With a voluptuous cast dripping in talent, this cabaret celebrating curvy creatives will feature drag, burlesque, and much, much more. Hosted by Willy SmacknTush, catch Linda Tofana, Wilhelmina Weeds [pictured], Danny Baitman, Isadora, and Eddie D'amore at their best.

Photo by Lioness Photography.

What's on Wairarapa

11th Sep. Purple Rain: *Regent 3 Cinema, Queen Street, Masterton* – 6pm. 10 years after the passing of Prince, FilmTalks celebrates his extraordinary music, creativity, and enduring legacy with a screening of the film that introduced the world to his unforgettable talent.

11th Sep. Kenny Mill: *Club Wairarapa, Essex Street, Masterton* – 7:30pm. Performing favourite bangers from across the decades, Kenny Mill will keep all ages boogieing.

20th-27th Sep. Martinborough Music Festival: *Various locations and times in Martinborough.* 12 musicians from across New Zealand, Australia, and the world come together alongside guest composer Victoria Kelly at this 10th annual music festival.

Kāpiti

13th Sep. Waikanae Music Society Presents: Andrew Joyce and Jian Liu Cello and Piano: *Waikanae Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa Street, Waikanae* – 2:30pm. Two of Aotearoa's finest musicians join forces to perform a variety of works, from Baroque delights to exotic and rhythmic Spanish folk songs.

19th Sep. Spiritual Fair Aroha Vibration: *Ōtaki Memorial Hall, Main Street, Ōtaki* – 10am. Indulge, enjoy, nurture, and spoil yourself with divine energies, personal spiritual card readings, treats, healing modalities, and so much more.

Events

10th Sep. Practical Magic 2: *Lighthouse Cinema Petone, Jackson Street, Lower Hutt* – 5:45pm. Tuck in for a cosy yet spooky evening watching *Practical Magic 2* at this fundraiser supporting the Richter City Roller Derby league travel squad.

12th-13th Sep. South Coast Arts Trail: *The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington* – 10am. Whether you're walking, cycling, or just out for a weekend drive, this is your chance to explore the art and stories from the artists that make the Island Bay community unique.

12th-13th Sep. Hutt Valley Horticultural Society Spring Show: *Walter Nash Centre, Taine Street, Taita* – 12pm; 10am. Enjoy spring in full bloom at this extraordinary celebration of flowers and plants.

23rd Sep. Vista Foundation 48Hours Wellington Regional Final: *Embassy Theatre, Kent Terrace, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Watch short films crafted in 48 hours by local amateur and professional filmmakers as part of the Vista Foundation 48Hours Film Challenge.

Music

11th Sep. Emerson: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. 2024 Smokefree-rockquest Solo/Duo Award-winner Emerson brings her infectious pop hooks, heartfelt lyricism, and captivating live performance style to Wellington along her *Leap! On Tour*.

11th Sep. The Golden Awesome, Beach Balls, Ceramic, S.L. Reflex: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Shoegazers The Golden Awesome play Welly alongside psych rock outfit Beach Balls, 80s-infused trippy synthsters Ceramic, and mystery electro pop group S.L. Reflex.

11th Sep. The New Zealand Swing Quartet Presents: Music of New Orleans: *Rogue & Vagabond, Garret Street, Te Aro* – 9pm. Experience a portrait of the soulful, vibrant New Orleans music made famous by icons Sidney Bechet, Louis Armstrong, Kid Ory, Jelly Roll Morton, and more.

12th Sep. Spring for Kaibosh: *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 7pm. Don't miss this fantastic fundraiser for Kaibosh featuring heaps of stellar DJs spinning all night long, lights and visuals from the legendary Cubeman and Metrokorg, and sonic sweetness from Torque Sounds.

12th Sep. The Broken Heartbreakers: *Vogelmorn Bowling Club, Mornington Road, Brooklyn* – 7:30pm. Ōtepoti's longstanding indie folk favourites have emerged from the mists with their new album *Imagine If We Could Just Keep Driving*.

13th Sep. Virtuoso Strings Orchestra with Jonathan Lemalu: *St Andrew's on The Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. New Zealand-born GRAMMY®-winning bass Jonathan Lemalu will perform an exquisite concert alongside the Virtuoso Strings Orchestra.

13th Sep. Hanne Jøstensen: *St Hilda's Island Bay Anglican Church, The Parade, Island Bay* – 7pm. Experience singer-songwriter Hanne Jøstensen's intricate 2026 EP *The Lighthouse* along the South Coast Arts Trail.

15th Sep. New Zealand School of Music – Te Kōkī Presents: Film Scores Live: *Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington, Kelburn Parade, Kelburn* – 6:30pm. Experience original scores and compositions brought to life via projected film scenes and live performances by the NZSM orchestra.

16th Sep. Shred Fest: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. The renowned travelling metal festival will storm across New Zealand, delivering an unmatched celebration of technical excellence, intensity, and musical precision.

17th Sep. O'Flynn: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. O'Flynn has become one of the UK's most respected producers and DJs. Catch him along his first ever NZ tour.

17th-19th Sep. Smokefreerockquest and Tangata Beats National Finals: *The Great Hall, Buckle Street, Mount Cook* – 7pm. After months of regional heats and finals, New Zealand's premier youth music competition will showcase top music creators from across the country, competing live for national honours.

19th Sep. Don't Tell Me To Smile: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. This all-women-fronted band gig is for the girls who turn the volume up, take up space, and aren't afraid to get a little loud.

19th Sep. Super Trouper ABBA Tribute: *Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Logan Street, Upper Hutt* – 8pm. Get ready to sing your heart out to the megahits of Swedish supergroup ABBA!

23rd Sep. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Emerging Artists: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. Aotearoa's brightest young musicians perform as soloists and side by side with the NZSO in a concert celebrating the next generation of classical musicians.

25th Sep. KITA: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Melding inspirations of folk, soul, pop, and psychedelia, KITA frontwoman Nikita 雅涵 Tu-Bryant revives the live-in-concert version of her vulnerable ambitious work-in-progress *LOVE LIVES HERE 愛住在這裡*.

25th Sep. Vampire Disko: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 9pm. Wellington's newest night of goth, post punk, EBM, dark synth pop, industrial, and wave music will get the city's ghouls and ghosts dancing till dawn.

Performance

Until 12th Sep. Lettice and Lovage: *Mana Little Theatre, Sunset Parade, Plimmerton* – various times. This comedy stars Lettice Douffet, an eccentric, history-obsessed tour guide who embellishes facts for tourists. When strict preservationist Lotte Schoen fires her for lying, the two clash, only to form an unlikely bond over a shared disdain for the modern world.

12th-13th Sep. Royal New Zealand Ballet Presents: The Bomb: *Soundings Theatre, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington Waterfront* – 10:30am, 12pm, 2:30pm. This free 40-minute children's ballet follows a young boy determined to perfect the ultimate manu into the water.

12th Sep-11th Oct. Uncle Vanya: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* is a masterpiece of drama – an aching, darkly comic portrait of wasted potential, thwarted love, and the quiet heroism of endurance. Enjoy a modern treatment under Andrew Foster's direction.

13th Sep. A Welly Full of Laughs: *The Hannah, Cambridge Terrace, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. After a sold-out January showcase, more of Pōneke's best professional comics come together for an epic night of funnies.

18th, 19th Sep. Weekend Laughs: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Katy Borrows and Emma Jean MC a Friday lineup of Goth 2 A Flame, Ben Stokes, and Ed Amon, and a Saturday lineup of Guanny Liu-Prosee and Advait Kirtikar, with Siobhan Barnard, Morgan Hunter-Bell, and Ben Tafau joining the bill both nights.

23rd Sep-12th Oct. Matilda The Musical: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – various times. Inspired by Roald Dahl's beloved book and featuring original songs by Tim Minchin, this smash-hit stage spectacular is packed with high-energy dance numbers, unforgettable songs, and more than a few pranks!

24th-26th Sep. New Zealand School of Dance Presents: Spring Experience: *Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt* – various times. This year's programme brings ballet's richness to life alongside cutting-edge contemporary dance works.

26th Sep-3rd Oct. Kidz Stuff Theatre for Children Presents: Rainbows and Fishes: *Tararua Tramping Club, Moncrieff Street, Mount Victoria* – 10am. Created by internationally renowned theatre puppeteer Peter Wilson, *Rainbows and Fishes* is a fun puppet show for the whole whānau!

29th Sep-10th Oct. But Why, Dad?: *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. This brand-new Kiwi kids' comedy concert dives into the wonderful, sometimes wobbly world of emotions, discoveries, mistakes, and mysteries.

2nd, 3rd Oct. Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand Presents: National Shakespeare Schools Production: *Tāwhiri Warehouse, Newtown; VUW Memorial Theatre, Kelburn* - 7pm; 7:30pm. 46 talented young students will perform 40-minute adaptations from *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Twelfth Night*.

Galleries

Until 19th Sep. Ngāhere: *Page Galleries, Victoria Street, Te Aro.* Saffronn Te Ratana's newest exhibition continues her exploration of the relationships between the celestial and terrestrial realms.

Until 19th Sep. The Excitable Alphabet: *Bowen Galleries, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro.* Anton Hart and Jenny Bornholdt present their new joint exhibition *The Excitable Alphabet*.

Until 8th Nov. Mata'AITU (voyeur): *Pātaka Art + Museum, Parumoana Street, Porirua.* Award-winning fa'afafine artist Linda Lepou™ shares her world of Pacific couture while exploring issues of colonisation, exploitation, and voyeurism.

Festivals

9th-19th Sep. TAHI: New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance: *Various locations and times in Wellington.* Discover extraordinary artists and stories from Aotearoa and beyond that will make you laugh, cry, reflect, connect, and perhaps see the world a little differently.

18th-20th Sep. Wellington Puppetry Festival: *Various locations and times in Vogelmorn Precinct.* The Wellington Puppetry Festival is a community-led celebration of puppetry in all its forms: traditional and contemporary, tiny and giant, for tamariki and adults!

26th Sep. Carlucci Carnival: *Carlucci Land, Happy Valley Road, Ōwhiro Bay* – 3pm. Once a year, the sculptures wake; the ground below trembles; the realm is open once again at this multi-stage electronic music festival.

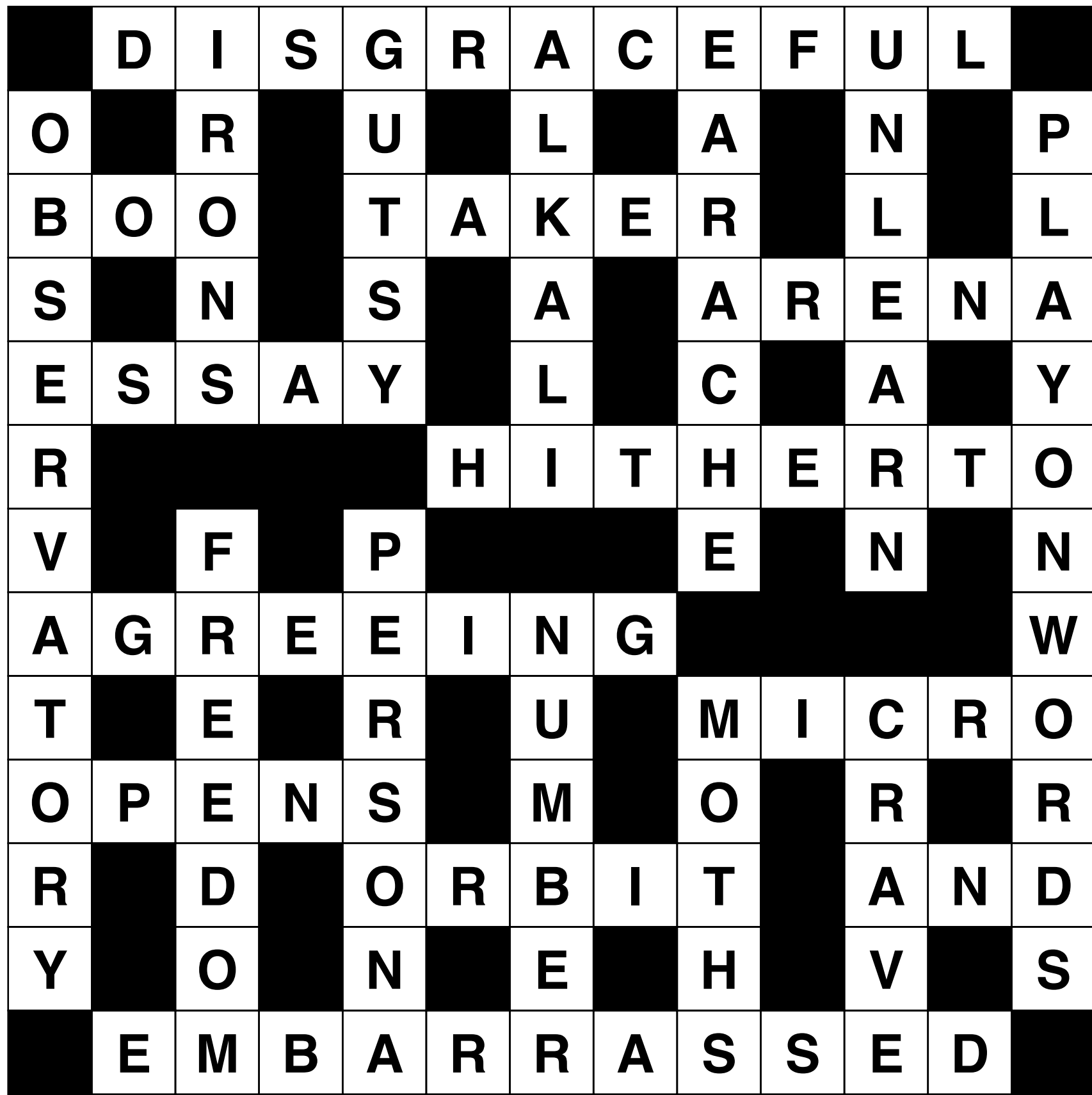
**For your inclusion in the what's on listings
email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close
off for the next issue's listings is noon
Tuesday 15 September**

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

Regional News

Connecting Wellington

Answers to the puzzle on page 32



Porizua Motors
Proud to support the NZ Prostate Foundation & Blue September



Vehicle Maintenance **WOF Due?** **Ad Hoc Vehicle Repairs**

We Service all makes & Models of Vehicles.
Contact us for a booking.

★★★★★
Great service, good price, car has never run so well.
-Nigel Jakobs, Customer

www.poriruamotors.co.nz | 04 237 7979

ROB'S JOBS
BUILDING AND CARPENTRY LTD

Servicing Kapiti Coast to Wellington
Commercial ✓
Residential ✓

Rob's Job's Building & Carpentry
Your Experts In Building



Phone 0210 818 1735 | www.robsjobsbuilding.co.nz  

WINNERS OF A DOUBLE PASS TO

The Food Show

28-30 August 2026
Wellington
Hrny Stadium

Phillip Wiggins - Brooklyn
Brian Johnson - Trentham
Olga Dimitriov - Southgate
Mary Barcaly - Raumati Beach

Southern

WE'RE HIRING

PLUMBERS

Join our Wellington team

Plumber Drainlayer or
Plumber experience required

APPLY TODAY

Southern Plumbing & Gasfitting Ltd

If you know someone looking to improve their lifestyle or training pass this on.
CVs to manager@southernplumbing.co.nz

0800 484 353 | info@southernplumbing.co.nz
www.southernplumbing.co.nz

100 YEARS STRONG.
WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

STIHL SHOP Kapiti
- Garden Machinery Retail & Repair

STIHL MSA 60 Battery Chainsaw Kit
(Charger & Battery)
RRP \$537 \$645



10 Te Roto Drive, Paraparaumu 5032
Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm, Sat-Sun: 9am-3pm,
Hols: Closed
Call 04 212 5570
www.stihlshopkapiti.nz

STIHL SHOP - Father's Day Promotion

STIHL GTA 30 Battery Chainsaw
Pruner (Charger & 3 Batteries)
RRP \$595 \$650

FREE ADDITIONAL BATTERY WORTH \$55

Promotion is valid from 26 August - 7 September 2026
or while stocks last. Offers are available in-store or
online at participating retailers.
STIHL and STIHL SHOP reserve the right to change the
scope of supply where necessary.

INTEREST FREE TERMS AVAILABLE*

Lending criteria, \$50 annual Account Fee,
fees, Ts&Cs apply.

APPLY TODAY

*Minimum spend applies. \$55 Establishment Fee applies to your first Long Term Finance (LTF) transaction. \$35 Advance Fee applies to subsequent LTF transactions. Standard interest rate of 28.95% p.a. applies to outstanding balance at the end of LTF interest free period. Other interest rates and fees may apply. Click here for full Ts&Cs.

Rossini's petite messe solennelle
little solemn mass?
a glorious choral contradiction

Saturday 10 October, 7 pm | Alan Gibbs Centre
Tickets \$40/\$30 from supertonic.org.nz



{supertonic}

Just Blinds Custom made Wellington Blinds



Exciting new fabrics • Wide range of blinds • Colour consultancy • Installation - Repairs • 3 year guarantee
Showroom: 405 Hutt Road, Alicetown
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4.30pm, Sat 10am-2pm
sales@justblinds.co.nz | Tel 04 472 9920 | www.justblinds.co.nz

FREE measure and quote!

21ST-27TH SEPTEMBER
THISTLE HALL
OPENING EVENT: 7PM 21ST SEPT

NON DISCLOSED ARTIST

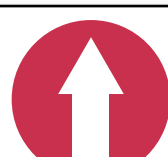
MULTI ART EXHIBITION

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO!

[@nondisclosedartist](https://www.instagram.com/nondisclosedartist)
[nondisclosedartist.co.nz](https://www.facebook.com/nondisclosedartist)



Back to contents





The breakthrough
from down under,
for down under.

MYREGYNA[®] By Dr.
IONA
WEIR

Intimate support for life after menopause

Unichem[®] *life* Pharmacy

Get 20% off your first order at myregyna.co.nz

*Always read the label and use as directed.
If symptoms persist, see your healthcare professional. Weir Science Ltd, Auckland.*

TAPS-FP3023