

# Regional News

*Wilmington*

Issue 237

February 11, 2025





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## News

### Ahoy, me hearties! *by Tanya Piejus*



Margaret Mahy's much-loved children's story, *The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate*, will be sailing the seas of Khandallah Park as KAT Theatre's 25<sup>th</sup> outdoor summer play from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

Jaron Peek plays the Sea Captain and Mr Fat in Tim Bray's stage adaptation. When Peek secured the roles, his mum went out and bought him a copy of the book to celebrate. "She put a little blurb inside the cover. It was very sweet of her," he delights.

"Children's pantomime is always fun as you get to go incredibly big. The Sea Captain is the narrator of the show, so I warm up the crowd and get the kids to participate. Then Mr Fat is the closest the show comes to having a villain. He's a terrible, capitalist joke of a man."

First Mate to Peek's Sea Captain is Krzysztof Kowal, returning to the KAT stage after playing the King of Hearts in last year's musical version of *Alice*. "I'm also a tree, a road worker, and a river! The story is new to me, but I love how whimsical it is. The Pirate Mother is a lot like my mother, very otherworldly and adventurous."

Not only do Peek, Kowal, and the rest of the six-strong cast get to act some classic characters, they sing and dance as well. Rich with songs by Kapiti-based composer and lyricist Christine White, Bray's adaptation is tuneful, playful, interactive, and fun for all the family.

So, gather your own mums, family, and friends, grab a picnic, and join KAT Theatre for an open-air, high-seas adventure!

### Looking for a laugh?



**Keegan Thomas.**

Trade your binoculars and magnifying glasses for sunnies and something to sip because *Laughs On Tour* is bringing some of comedy's brightest newcomers and dazzling stars to Abandoned Taproom Petone over the last three Saturdays of summer.

The 15<sup>th</sup> of February will be headlined by multi-talented comedy sensation Hayley Sproull, best known for ZM's *Fletch*, *Vaughan & Hayley Breakfast Show*, *The Great Kiwi Bake Off*, and *Have You Been Paying Attention?*, not to mention *Taskmaster NZ*, *7 Days*, and *Golden Boy*. Local legend Kipling DC – winner of Best Joke at the 2020 Wellington Comedy Awards – will pick up the role of MC for the evening while 2017 Billy T nominee Li'i Alaimoana and entertainer extraordinaire Keegan Thomas fill out the remaining slots.

Ben Hurley heads a night of comedy gold on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. With an impressive career spanning more than 20 years, he's a favourite across the country both on the stage and telly. Joining him is 2023 ONZM recipient and winner of Female Comedian of the Decade at the NZ Comedy Guild Awards Michèle A'Court. Rounding out the lineup is rising star Callum Wagstaff, 2022 Raw Comedy Quest finalist and winner of Best Comedian at the 2024 Palmerston North Comedy Awards.

The final instalment on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March features Irish standup comedian Alan McElroy, recent winner of Best MC at the 2024 NZ Comedy Awards; 2025 Billy T nominee and 2022 Raw Comedy Quest winner Hoani Hotene; Krystine Nation, known as Real Life Wife on the internet; and Mike Fowler, who won Best Debut Wellington at the 2019 NZ Comedy Fest and Best Up & Comer at the 2020 Wellington Comedy Awards.

See summer out with *Saturday Laughs*, bringing three weekends of standout stand-up to Wellington as part of the 2025 New Zealand International Fringe Festival.

Cover: Antonio!, New Zealand Fringe Festival.

**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**

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**Empson Publishing Ltd**

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Miramar 6243.

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**www.regionalnews.kiwi**

ISSN: 2382-2384





# The Birthplace of Brilliance



## MESSY FRIENDS.

If you're ready to get freaky, funky, or fabulous then you're in luck, because Fringe season is upon us! Bursting into Aotearoa's culture capital on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, the New Zealand Fringe Festival will surprise, shock, and stagger your senses with more than 170 events until the 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

In its 35<sup>th</sup> year, the 2025 festival will be bolder, brighter, and more beautiful than ever before.

Brandishing the theme Birthplace of Brilliance, this year's event will perpetuate its reputation as an

incubator for both emerging and established talent by showcasing a vibrant mix of theatre, music,

dance, comedy, and immersive experiences that highlight fresh perspectives, ignite imaginations,

and push the boundaries of live performance.

"For 35 years New Zealand Fringe has been a hotbed of innovation, creation, and emerging talent, giving birth to many of our most notable artists both in Aotearoa and around the world," festival director Vanessa Stacey beams. "We are so excited to share our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the largest open-access, multidisciplinary arts festival in New Zealand for your entertainment and so you can say, you saw it here first, at the Birthplace of Brilliance!"

In the three-week season, the events range from whānau-friendly showcases to racy burlesque shows, interactive outdoor spectacles to moving theatre and dance pieces, chortle-inducing comedy shows to offbeat and off-the-wall improv gigs, and so much more. Fringe 2025 will host theatremakers from around the world, including Australia, the UK, Sweden, Korea, and the US. Not to mention award-winning talents and some of Aotearoa's own stars and local Pōneke legends joining the fray. With different genres, styles, admission options, and over 40 venues between the CBD all the way to Paekākāriki to choose from, this year's programme is a choose-your-own adventure.

Whether you're a longtime Fringe-goer or new to the festival, 2025 will be an unforgettable celebration of artistic excellence, community connection, and unbridled innovation.

Clown in a gown

Photo by Shaun Vadella.

Roll out the red carpet and bow down to "the queen of all *Drag Race* queens" (*New York Magazine*). The inimitable, all-powerful Bianca Del Rio is sauntering into Wellington's St James Theatre on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February with her sixth stand-up world tour *Dead Inside*.

"I'm coming out of my crypt and hitting the road again to remind everyone that I'm still dead inside," Bianca beams. "If you enjoy irreverent humour, like sparkly costumes, and are *not* easily offended... this is the show for you!"

*Dead Inside* brings out the best in this dimple-cheeked, larger-than-life drag queen as she sashays and segues between topics spanning pop culture to politics, current events to cancel culture. Through the eyes of someone who is dead inside and trying to find the humour in everyday life, Bianca delivers her signature snarky frankness and politically incorrect humour with impeccable timing, always ensuring she gets down and dirty with her audiences during the show.

Fans can expect their favourite self-proclaimed "clown in a gown" to return to the stage with the same lightning-fast wit and razor-sharp tongue they've grown to love since she first appeared on the world stage in season six of *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Since snatching the top place on the season six podium, Bianca has gone on to host shows of her own like *The Pit Stop* and Hulu's *Drag Me to Dinner*. She has three feature films under her rhinestone belt, plus a slew of worldwide comedy tours, including *Unsanitized*, during which she performed to sold-out crowds in 99 cities across 27 countries, and *It's Jester Joke*, which made Bianca the first drag queen to headline Wembley Arena and Carnegie Hall.

Dubbed one of *New York Magazine's* Most Powerful Drag Queens, Bianca Del Rio is fierce, funny, and fabulous. Don't miss this outrageous and shocking drag icon at the top of her game and in the flesh.

## SNIPS

### Best and worst


Results from Consumer NZ's annual insurance satisfaction survey have found MAS and FMG to top the list for customer satisfaction across the trifecta of car, house, and contents insurance, both earning People's Choice. Big brands State and AMI scored below average for house and contents, with four banks – ANZ, BNZ, Westpac, and ASB – underperforming for car insurance.

### Alcohol policy

Feedback is being sought to help shape the sale and supply of alcohol in Porirua. Council's proposal includes applying conditions to priority areas and amending the hours in which alcohol can be sold. Visit [porirua.govt.nz/consultation](http://porirua.govt.nz/consultation) to have your say by the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

### Pill proposal

Te Pātaka Whaioranga – Pharmac is consulting on funding the new progestogen-only oral contraceptive pill desogestrel (branded as Cerazette), which about 43,000 people would benefit from in the first year of funding. Public consultation is open until the 18<sup>th</sup> of February at [pharmac.govt.nz](http://pharmac.govt.nz)



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# News

## Stomp, clap, sway



**LAC Shaun Anderson. Photo by Nick George Creative.**

With a crash and a clash, a boom and a bang, the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Band marches into Carterton Events Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March with music spanning genres, eras, and styles. From marches to movies, classical to country, swing to Scottish bagpipes, this big band, boomtown, bopping 65-strong ensemble will appeal to all tastes.

Leading Aircraftman Barbara Graham will lead the RNZAF Band with her soaring vocals, delivering Antonín Dvořák's *Song to the Moon* to enraptured audiences. Sergeant Murray Mansfield will appear in his role of resident bagpiper alongside the beloved RNZAF drumline.

The soloists taking to the stage include Corporal Oscar Lavén performing Mozart's acclaimed Bassoon Concerto, and Sergeant Ben Hunt and Corporal Mike Costeloe with an explosive rendition of *Green Hornet Theme* from the *Kill Bill* soundtrack. The world-class military ensemble will also present a range of works from Shostakovich and Holst through to jazz standard and pop hits.

The RNZAF has been a vital unit of the New Zealand Defence Force for 85 years. It has also been a valuable part of our national identity, performing and holding significant commemorations across the motu and the world. When it isn't enticing audiences to shake their tailfeathers, the RNZAF Band maintains a busy schedule of ceremonial duties, including parades and services.

Stomp your feet, clap your hands, and swing your hips: the RNZAF Band is coming to town!

## The thread of life



*Appeso Ad Un Filo (Hanging By A Thread)* journeys to Wellington from Italy, carrying with it echoes of storytelling and puppetry traditions that reverberate back centuries.

The ancient artform of puppetry has long been seen around the globe, serving as a way to communicate the ideas and needs of human society. The modern marionette is thought to have originated in Italy during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, becoming vital in the development of commedia dell'arte and other theatrical traditions we still draw on to this day.

Di Filippo Marionette was created in 2012 by Remo Di Filippo, with Filipina Australian creative Rhoda Lopez joining just two years later. Together, crafting their own puppets, the duo has performed in some of the most celebrated festivals in the world, garnering awards and applause for their distinctive style. Di Filippo and Lopez break down the barriers between manipulator and puppet, interacting with the characters directly as they bring them to life on stage and adding a new layer of humanity to each story.

*Appeso Ad Un Filo* is an enchanting cabaret-style show without words in which playful marionettes share their stories through poetic movement and expressive music. Described as a rare and precious show, this magical experience will enchant children and enable adult audiences to dream awake.

Coming direct to Vogelmorn Upstairs on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February following a tour of over 30 countries, Di Filippo Marionette's *Appeso Ad Un Filo* is an adventure into the heart and soul of humanity.

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Nostalgic nous *by Madelaine Empson*

Penny Cain (vocals, guitar, keys), Linda Baran (bass, keys), Nick Ford (guitar, keys), and Wade Byers (drums, electronics) are Other Voices, a band that formed in 2018 to do just what it says on the tin: cover the music no one else does.

An alternative to the cover bands out there who kill it with mainstream songs, Other Voices – who are all Gen Xs – seized the opportunity to satisfy not just Christchurch’s post-punk fanbase, but their own nostalgic needs. As their audience has grown, so too has their repertoire. For the past couple of years, they’ve toured a tribute of The Cure and Siouxsie and the Banshees across the main centres of Aotearoa, selling out every show.

Now, they’ll perform a *Post-Punk Showcase* in Wellington at Valhalla on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February featuring authentic renditions of original songs by not just The Cure and Siouxsie and the Banshees, but Echo & the Bunnymen, Joy Division, The Smiths, Killing Joke, Bauhaus, New Order, and more.

Wade says like most great music, post-punk – which picks up where punk left off in the late 70s – crosses generations. Its unique sound blends punk experimentation with even more unorthodox chord progressions and song structures, which makes it very fun to play live. Joy Division is Wade’s favourite band to cover thanks to the challenging but rewarding drum parts. As for his favourite song, that’d be the driving and powerful *Don’t Fall* by The Chameleons.

“If you asked me tomorrow it would probably be something else”!

## Toe-tapping, heart-warming

*by Madelaine Empson*



Guitarist Mark Mazengarb is not a professional promoter – “just passionate about bringing good bluegrass and country music to New Zealand”.

Like many, he explains, he discovered the brilliant American family band The Petersens on YouTube and was immediately hooked. “To me, you can’t beat the timeless combination of strong vocal harmonies, good songs, and instrumental mastery.”

And so, Mark undertook the (somewhat daunting) task of getting the six-piece to our shores, where they’ll play Lower Hutt’s Little Theatre on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

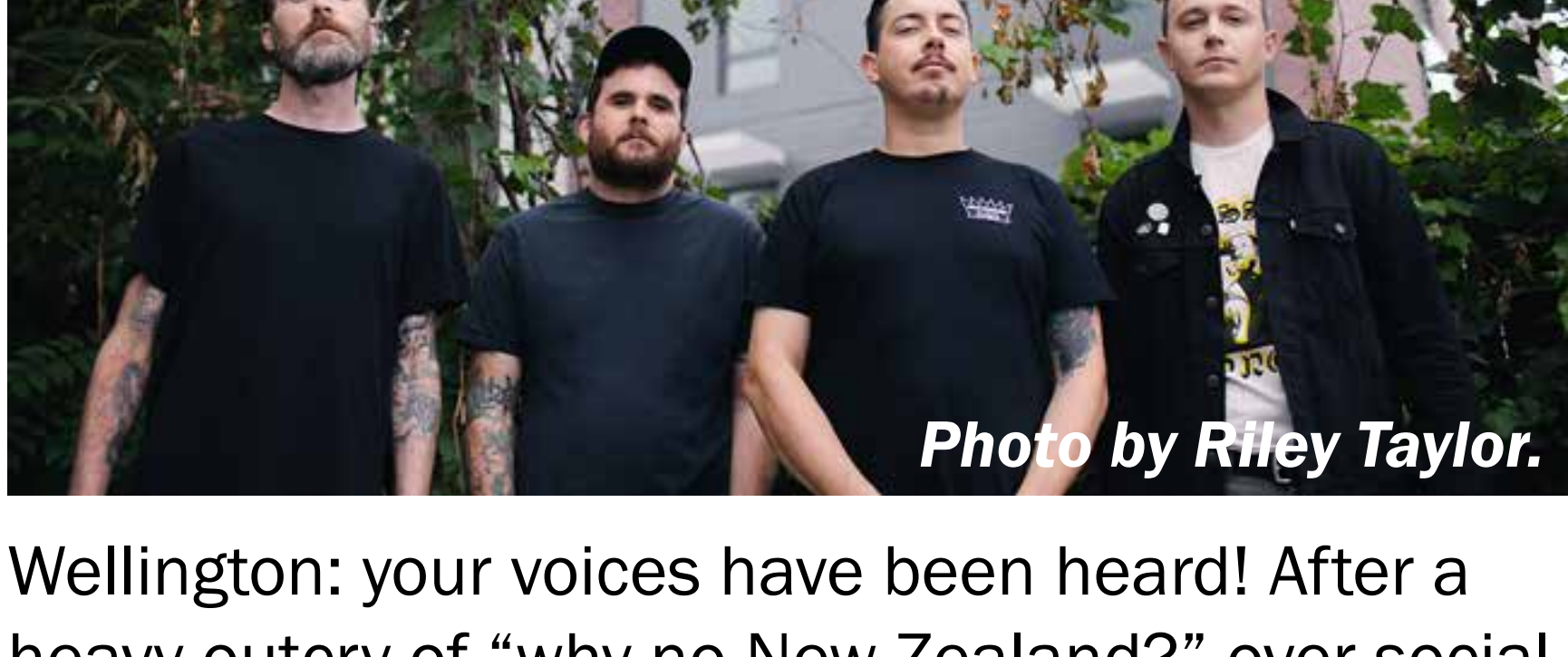
“I’ve really tried to find venues that will match the music, and create that intimate setting that this music fits so well.”

The Petersens have toured throughout Ireland, Finland, Canada, the UK, and the United States. Banjo player and singer Ellen Haygood – the second-oldest Petersen sibling – says being invited to New Zealand is a dream come true for the family.

“We’ve heard nothing but amazing things from our friends who have visited and our fans who live there. It’s an honour to share our American roots music with new friends in such a beautiful place, and we’re looking forward to all the shows. Playing in the capital city of Wellington is a particularly special honour.”

Known for their tight harmonies, engaging stage presence, and capacity to build a connection with audiences, the show will span gospel, bluegrass, country, and folk covers and originals, with silken vocals and heartfelt stories spun throughout.

## The envelope of evolution



Wellington: your voices have been heard! After a heavy outcry of “why no New Zealand?” over social media, and a hearty and healthy dose of emails requesting one of Fat Wreck Chords’ most exciting live acts head to our shores, Sticky Fingaz Tour Management is stoked to announce...

The Flatliners are coming to Wellington! Now approaching 25 years of hammering out bombastic tunes all over the globe, the Canadian DIY punk rockers will play Pōneke for the first time ever in a monumental show at Valhalla on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February.

Meeting as teens and still with their OG lineup of Chris Cresswell (vocals, guitar), Scott Brigham (guitar), Jon Darbey (bass), and Paul Ramirez (drums), The Flatliners have consistently pushed the envelope of evolution. From the furious, breakneck pace of their seminal ska punk album *Destroy To Create* (2005), which launched them like a ballistic missile onto the map, to the musical growth of their critically acclaimed punk rock masterpiece *Cavalcade* (2010), to their latest effort *New Ruin* (2022), described by *New Noise Magazine* as “a chaotic good time” filled with anthems that are “a blast to shout along to”, The Flatliners’ sublime career is a testament to their perseverance and dedication.

When it comes to their live shows, no surprises that The Flatliners come out swinging, as they’ve proven with all the ragers they’ve recently played across Australia with Hot Water Music. Catch their high-octane Aotearoa debut tour: sweat towel and throat lozenges recommended!

## Making waves



After making waves in New York City and at the 2024 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, a queer punk pirate musical is sailing home to Wellington for its Aotearoa premiere. Saluted as “A treasure chest of musical comedy” (*West End Best Friend*) and “the cult classic that we all deserve” (*Broadway Baby*), *Antonio!* sails into The Hannah Playhouse from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of February this New Zealand Fringe Festival.

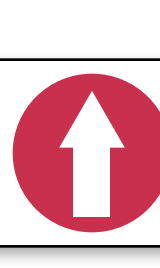
With a stiff sea breeze behind them and buoyed by an idle thought – what if all of the queer-coded Antonios in Shakespeare’s plays were actually one gay pirate searching for love – book writer Ania Upstill brought music writers William Duignan and Andy Manning together to create *Antonio!* remotely from the far-flung lands of New York, Wellington, and Glasgow. Battling Zoom lag over the high seas, the crew kept toiling away and have emerged with a hotter-than-ever version of this “straight-up furious 60 minutes of chaotic joy”, Duignan describes.

“It is beyond exciting to bring the show back to Aotearoa, where the three of us met in 2021 while performing in *Once at The Court Theatre*”, Upstill says. “This show is a love letter to Kiwi creativity, queer identities, and the power of music to bring us all together.”

Upstill and Duignan both appear in *Antonio!*, which features an all-queer cast and a raw, unapologetic sound that crackles with electrifying energy in a story of identity, freedom, and rebellion.

“I love strapping on those leather high-heel boots and rocking out”, Duignan continues. “To release all that pent-up energy from the daily grind is utterly liberating. And to do it with these powerhouse legends of musical theatre, mind-blowing.”

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## Epic romance



On a dark and stormy night, a ship washes ashore, its crew floundering to safety. From the wreckage emerges the pirate Gualtiero, shipwrecked on the lands of his most-hated enemy Ernesto and his star-crossed lover Imogene.

Vincenzo Bellini’s opera *Il Pirata* is a tale of woe and passion, an epic romance that has stood the test of time. With an Italian libretto by Felice Romani, *Il Pirata* comes to Days Bay over Valentine’s Day weekend for three performances on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> of February.

The opera will be fully staged by producer Rhona Fraser on the picturesque terraces of Canna House accompanied by an orchestra of 14 musicians led by conductor Mark Carter and joined by a chorus of young singers and local soloists.

In the lead roles are three of Aotearoa’s most esteemed opera singers, returning to Wellington for this sweeping performance. Rebecca Ryan, New Zealand’s great coloratura soprano, sings the role of Imogene, trapped in a loveless marriage and torn between her first love Gualtiero and her husband Ernesto. Zachary McCulloch of Invercargill fills the role of the pirate Gualtiero, caught in a battle with Ernesto in the hopes of winning back his lost love. Completing the triangle is Wellington baritone Kieran Rayner as Ernesto, mistrustful and doomed to misfortune.

Pack a picnic to enjoy Glyndebourne style in the garden during the interval between act one and two of the tumultuous, passionate, and all-encompassing *Il Pirata*.

## Summer Hummer



**Cassie Henderson.**

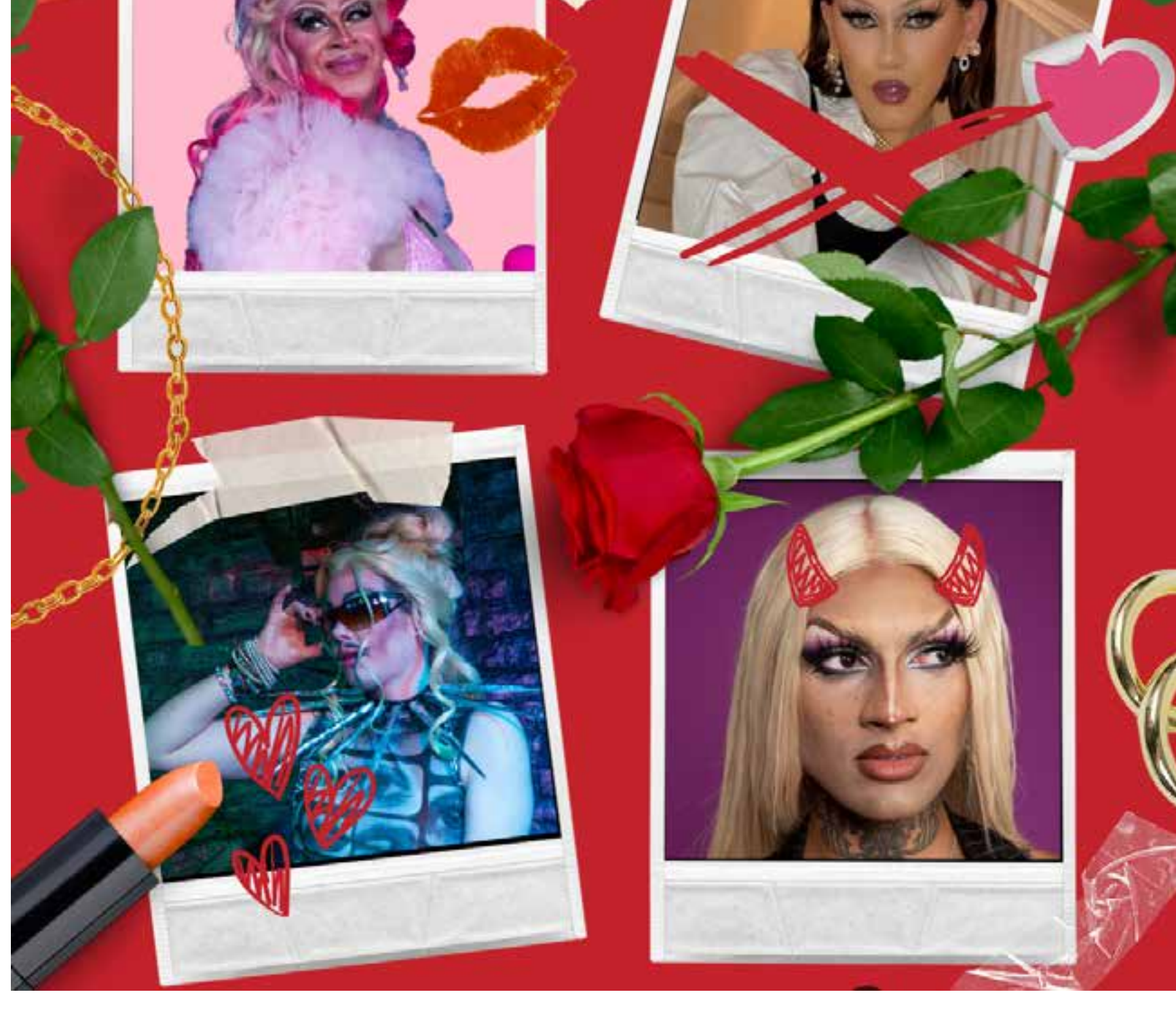
From the late 90s through to the 2000s, Summer Hummer was one of New Zealand’s biggest music festivals. It came back with a bang in 2024, and now, in 2025, it will make Masterton’s Queen Elizabeth Park Sports Ground reverb with the sound of local legends and one chart-topping queen from day until dusk on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

Aotearoa’s biggest up-and-coming female artist Cassie Henderson takes to the stage as headliner. The it-girl behind the single *Seconds to Midnight*, which held the top spot on NZ charts for more than 14 weeks, has been playing some of the summer’s biggest festivals, earning a special place in the hearts of fans for her soulful and captivating performances.

Rounding out this year’s lineup are a rowdy bunch of Wairarapa noisemakers ready to tear the house down. Catch The Dead Zephyrs, DJ Broderbeats, Seki Bradaz, The Coffin Fits, Pat for President, Monty Fairbrother, Cantaloop, MC Elite Band from Makoura College, and Rathkeale College’s Park Drive.

“This event is more than a concert – it’s a testament to the strength of our amazing community and the support we receive”, Elevate Wairarapa Community Trust chair Stella Lennox says. “We’re so proud to support our talented local musicians and give them a platform to perform alongside an incredible artist like Cassie Henderson. It’s going to be an unforgettable day”. Soak in the vibes of the alcohol and smoke-free, family-friendly festival that is *Summer Hummer*.

## Va-va-voom



Searching for a show to get your heart pumping? To give you those *Looney Tunes* heart eyes? To make your head spin and fill your belly with butterflies? *Heart Throb – The Breakup Drag Show* will give you all the feels. An Ivy Bar and Cabaret drag show to make you go AWOOGA, get ready for powerful ballads, 2000s love anthems, and screw-you songs to scream to.

Whether you choose to bring a date, come with your pals, or need a night to fly solo, *Heart Throb* is the place to be for an unforgettable night of love, lust, heartbreak, and revenge! This isn’t a Valentine’s Day show just for lovers, this is for anyone and everyone: femme fatales, lonely hearts, and revenge-era baddies.

The star-studded cast of bodacious babes is guaranteed to make your heart go va-va-voom. Sitting on the throne as organiser and reigning Mx Capital Drag is Faux Femm. As the author of the poignant breakup poetry book *Goodbye, For Now*, you know she’ll pierce your heart. Slay West, the current Mx Congeniality, is a fierce Tiwha, lip-sync master, and self-proclaimed horn dog who is ready to steal the show. Foxy G Cleopatraptra will serve her lethal looks, seductive moves, and lips that could make anyone weak at the knees, while Rocky Rhodes, the charming heartbreaker who’ll have you swooning and second-guessing your love life, closes out the lineup.

Lover or hater, cynic or hopeless romantic, *Heart Throb* will have you screaming, crying, throwing up.

## From apathy to awakening



*Don’t Look Now*: an anthology of short plays on climate issues is coming to communities across Pōneke at Newtown Community Centre on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, Vogelmorn Bowling Club on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and Strathmore Park Community Centre on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. Written by Angie Farrow and directed by David O’Donnell, these koha-entry plays will be followed by refreshments and a kōrero on how we might affect meaningful change.

“We are constantly being told that we must act now if we are going to slow the progress of a warming planet, but what does action mean”, Farrow asks, adding that since most of us know what climate change is, *Don’t Look Now* is “more concerned with the shifts of heart and mind that will help us do something about it”.

Diving into the humanity at the heart of the matter, these plays follow multiple characters you’d find in your own community – from the old woman who climbs up a tree as it faces an arborist to the parent concerned about the radical ‘greenwashing’ of their daughter.

“These are short plays but they say so much about our human responses to the environmental crisis – our mixed emotions, our protests, actions, inactions, fears, frustrations, complacency, doubts”, director David O’Donnell says, describing Farrow’s writing as “funny and true, full of colourful characters, with a playful sense of the absurd”.

These plays ask how we might “flick the mental switch from apathy to awakening”, Farrow continues, and “convert our sense of terror into positive action”.

“If nobody else in the room is prepared to act, how might one person find the courage to go it alone?”

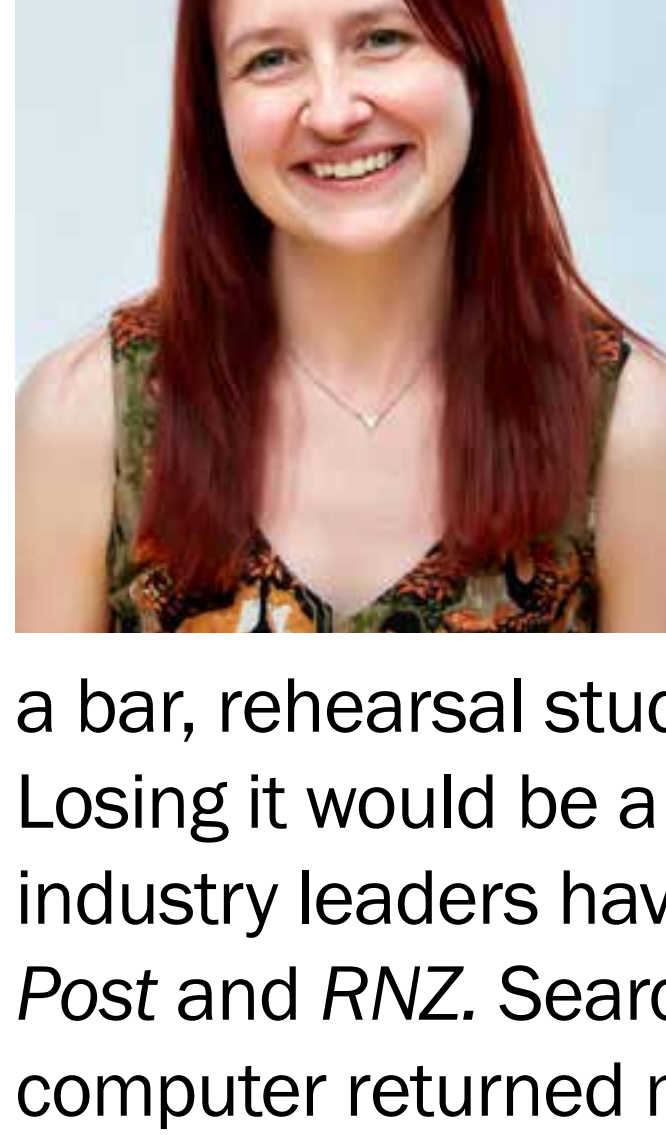








## A word from Maddi...

Te Kāhui Auaha *by Madelaine Empson*

Just as I sat down to write yet another column about Taylor Swift (how cool is she though), I got the news that Te Kāhui Auaha is facing potential closure. Te Auaha is Wellington's only creative polytech and a premier venue for the arts, with two theatres,

a bar, rehearsal studios, a cinema, and a gallery. Losing it would be a devastating blow, as many industry leaders have reflected on in articles by *The Post* and *RNZ*. Searching 'Te Auaha' on my work computer returned more than 300 articles and listings we've written about the shows, events, and exhibitions that have taken place there in the seven years it's been running so far.

Throwing my hat in the ring as the editor of *Regional News* and a theatre reviewer, I'd like to reflect on my top five shows and moments at Te Auaha. Being moved to tears by Trick of the Light's portrayal of grief in *The Griegol*, seeing the space transformed by Indian Ink's *Mrs Krishnan's Party*, feeling pins and needles during WITCH Music Theatre's *Sweeney Todd*, singing along to *The Addams Family*, *A New Musical* with the exceptional cast of Te Auaha Musical Theatre students, and cracking up at one of my favourite Kiwi comedians, Guy Montgomery, with a very special friend of mine.

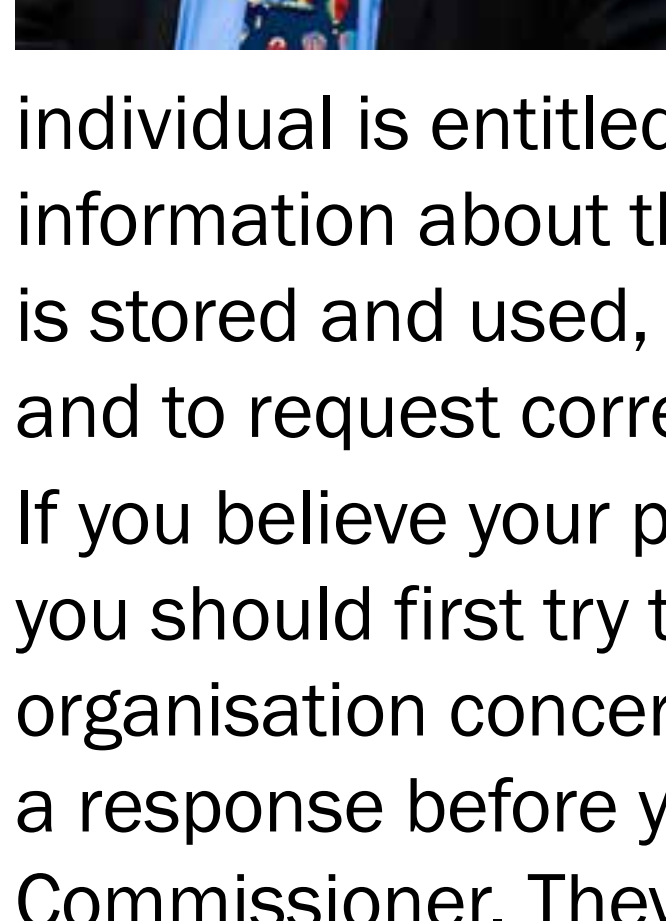
I myself have actually performed at Te Auaha. Last year on a complete whim, I decided to compete in a spoken word poetry event at The Fringe Bar, despite not having dabbled in the artform for over a decade. Most people just get drunk after a breakup, but okay. I rather nervously performed a poem I'd written called *Very Important Donut* and from there was invited to compete in *The Anti-Slam: Worst Poet Wins* at Te Auaha. Tasked with writing literally the worst poem my brain could buy, I created this super weird monologue piece that riffed off a niche *Friends* reference. Sadly, my poem actually scored very highly, thanks in large part to a judge dressed as Christopher Luxon giving me 10 out of 10 because he "really likes *Friends*". Scoring highly means your poem is good, and to be clear, that is bad. I lost the competition spectacularly. Aces!

Speak to any Pōneke creative and they'll have come through Te Auaha's doors in one way or another. I hope this vital institution can keep those doors open.

## Advice from Alan

## The Privacy Commissioner

*by Alan Knowsley, consultant, Rainey Collins Lawyers*



What does the Privacy Commissioner do? The Privacy Commissioner investigates complaints about privacy breaches, enquires into some privacy matters even if no complaint is received, and generally monitors compliance with the Privacy Act. Every

individual is entitled to know why and when information about them is being collected, how it is stored and used, to access the information held, and to request correction if it is wrong.

If you believe your privacy has been breached, you should first try to resolve matters with the organisation concerned. Wait at least 30 days for a response before you complain to the Privacy Commissioner. They are unlikely to investigate matters more than 12 months old and you must have suffered some harm from the breach before they will look into it. They are also unlikely to investigate if the organisation has already resolved the matter, e.g. apologised, changed its processes to prevent a repeat, or provided compensation. The Privacy Commissioner cannot force anyone to pay damages or a fine or even to accept their findings, but it is unusual for an organisation to ignore the findings.

An organisation has 20 working days to respond to a request for access to or correction of information. Some extensions are possible in limited circumstances, but the organisation must explain why it needs an extension and when they will provide the information. Access to information can only be refused in specific situations.

During an investigation, the Privacy Commissioner will look at opportunities to resolve issues in a way acceptable to both parties. They will look at which principles of the Privacy Act may have been breached and seek relevant information before reaching a view on whether there has been an interference with privacy. A conciliation conference might be arranged to attempt a resolution.

If a complaint is not settled, the Privacy Commissioner will provide their view on whether there has been a breach and a certificate that the matter has been investigated by them. A claim to the Human Rights Review Tribunal for a breach of privacy cannot be brought without such a certificate.

## A laughing matter



*Michèle A'Court. Photo by Kate Little.*

Keen to crack into comedy? Jostling to be your group's jester? Fancy finding the funny in everything? Then take your chance to learn laughs from the best at Wellington Comedy's Q&A sessions with comedy queens Hayley Sproull and Michèle A'Court.

Run as casual chats at The Fringe Bar with some Kiwi comedy icons, these Q&A sessions are a friendly way to learn some tricks on working in comedy, writing for television, overcoming stage fright, and pick up some tips about how two of our country's top talents climbed the comedy ladder. Taking the reins first at 1pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February is Hayley Sproull. With a career in both stand-up and radio, Sproull is best known for ZM's *Fletch*, *Vaughan & Hayley Breakfast Show*, *The Great Kiwi Bake Off*, and *Have You Been Paying Attention?*, not to mention *Taskmaster NZ*, *7 Days*, and *Golden Boy*. Up next on her agenda is serving as this year's upcoming *Best Foods Comedy Gala's* MC.

The godmother of Kiwi comedy will be in the hot seat at 2pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Michèle A'Court [pictured] has been performing on our screens and stages for over 30 years, garnering ONZM status for services to comedy along the way. Voted Best Female Comic at the New Zealand Comedy Guild five years in a row, and named Female Comedian of the Decade in 2010, A'Court is the best of the best when it comes to cracking wise.

Giggle, guffaw, and get stuck into questionnaires with these comedy extraordinaires.

## Saxophone superstar



"The sheer beauty of his sound is simply superb, and his flawless technique clearly matches his musicality which is never at fault", Hubert Culot of *Musicweb International* says of superstar saxophonist Nobuya Sugawa.

The multi-award-winning virtuoso will be coming to Aotearoa for the first time as a guest international tutor for the NZ Classical Saxophone Summer School, delivering three shows across the motu while on our shores, including one at Pōneke's Old St Paul's on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February at 7:30pm.

Sugawa is revered in the world of classical music for his beautiful delivery of some of the most technically demanding works in the saxophone repertoire. He has earned critical acclaim for both his solo career and for playing alongside the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Eastman Wind Ensemble, NHK Symphony Orchestra, and Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra. Not to mention for his time as the soprano saxophonist for the Trouvère Quartet and his 20-year role as the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra concertmaster.

Accompanying Sugawa's Aotearoa concerts is award-winning pianist Minako Koyanagi, his wife and collaborator for over 30 years. A virtuoso musician in her own right, Koyanagi has had works dedicated to her by composers the world over. The pair will be joined by top Australasian talent the Akari Saxophone Quartet, Dutch Australian saxophonist Niels Bijl, and Kiwi saxophonists Simon Brew, Tomomi Johnston, and Michael Jamieson.

Become enraptured at this sensational saxophone soirée.



# Close-up

by Madelaine Empson

## He shoots... he scores!



Nine-year-old Joaquin Hollis has been selected as one of just 10 players under the age of 10 to represent New Zealand at the prestigious Barcelona Academy World Cup this April. I sat down with the young striker – who plays at Wellington Olympic AFC – and his dad Sam to talk about the huge score and the help they need to get to Barcelona. You can pitch in by searching ‘Support a Rising Football Star’ or ‘Joaquin Hollis’ at Givealittle.co.nz.

### **How did it feel to be selected for the Barcelona Under-10s Football World Cup!**

Joaquin: It was very, very cool! I was really happy that happened.

### **Where were you when you got the news?**

J: I was here at my dad’s house.

Sam: I got the phone call on a Saturday evening, the day after the camp had finished. Joaquin had gone back to his mum’s place (we are separated) so I called her – she brought Joaquin here so we could tell him the news together.

### **And how did you celebrate?**

J: I haven’t really celebrated yet. I’m going to Auckland tomorrow, to see my family friends and grandparents. I’m probably just going to celebrate there.

### **Was it always a goal of yours to go?**

J: That was my dream, to go to Barcelona.

### **How long have you been playing football?**

J: I only started football two years ago. I was playing rugby for like, three years before that.

### **What do you most love about football?**

J: I have no idea! [Laughs] I just started liking football.

### **How many times do you play a week?**

S: At school, what do you do every lunchtime, every day?

J: Play football!

### **How about outside of school?**

S: He’s training a couple of times a week – with one of the coaches every Monday – and will be back into the David Ball Academy on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. David Ball is a former Phoenix player, originally from the UK, who was part of the Manchester City Academy. He’s running an academy in Wellington, basically to help bring up youth football here. He’s got it going on and knows what he’s doing. Joaquin started last year in term four, he did a six-week programme, and we thought it was really beneficial for him.

### **You were selected for the Barcelona Under-10s Football World Cup at the Barça Academy camp, which you went to in January. Please tell me about the camp.**

J: On the first day, we did ball control. After every little bit of the training, we do a little game at the end, two games at the end, and we verse different teams, and you have the older team and the youngers.

We did advantages and disadvantages. We played some games, there was one team and another team in each group, and there was a person that had a different bib on, and they helped the team that had the ball. And it was the team that had the most seconds with the ball who won. There was a countdown every five, 10 minutes.

On the third day we did shooting, finishing, and scoring. It was kind of like a full-on game day.

And then the last day, we did everything together.

Ball control, ball positioning, advantages and disadvantages, and shooting, all together.

And then at the end we did a champion’s league game. You know how there were the four teams that I said? There were four teams, and there was a semi-final. Everyone was in the semi-final, and whoever won got to the final. And then the people that lost the semi-finals went to third and fourth place. Our team came third.

It was really, really fun.

### **What was your favourite thing that you did?**

J: Probably the finishing, shooting, and scoring.

### **And who’s your favourite football player ever?**

J: Messi!

### **What does the trip to Barcelona look like?**

J: You get to go to the training facilities there, play there, and then the world cup, you verse different academies from around the world. Then you get to play at another facility where the real Barça team [Futbol Club Barcelona] plays.

### **Will you have any free time?**

J: Yeah, the world cup is four days and then the other six days you get tours of Barcelona and you get to watch a game.

### **What are you most excited about?**

J: The game. Oh no, probably the world cup first and then watching the game.

### **What is your dream from there?**

J: Play in Barcelona one day, on the first team, that’s my dream.

### **A question for Dad: what do you need to get Joaquin to Barcelona?**

S: Obviously it comes at a huge cost. He’s got an Instagram page,

@joaquinholisfootball, and we’ve got a Givealittle page set up, which has had a bit of traction. It’s been really nice to see donations coming in. I’ve sent loads of emails out for potential sponsorships and still waiting to hear back about some grants, but have had Liquorland Miramar come back saying they’ll put \$500 towards it. Amazing. We’ve been contacting local businesses to get vouchers, anything and everything to put towards raffles.

We’re trying to cover all our bases and just make it happen. Get the word out there however we can!

### **And finally, what does it mean to you that Joaquin has been handpicked for the world cup?**

S: It was a pretty surreal phone call. I couldn’t speak a word! I was kind of confused, we were under the impression they were picking certain kids for an experience clinic at the end of the year, so we were aware of that, but they hadn’t mentioned there would be a world cup in April. They’d never been to New Zealand before, so they weren’t sure what the quality was like here of young footballers. A week in Wellington and they saw a few select people that they thought stood out, like Joaquin. She told me he’d been selected for the end-of-year thing and said, ‘We’ve also got a world cup in April... you’re the first parent we’ve called’. I was a little bit shaky.

Started getting a bit teary. It was very special.

Joaquin deserves it. He works very hard. He’s only been playing football for two years, but I can see how passionate he is about it. When he’s on the pitch with his mates and he scores a goal, whether that’s to tie the game, win the game... you can just see it. How much it means to him. I might not be a football guy myself (I played rugby growing up), but I love getting out on the pitch and kicking the ball around with Joaquin. He can get me all tangled up in my feet with his footwork. He runs rings around me!

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2025 season

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Written by Noël Coward

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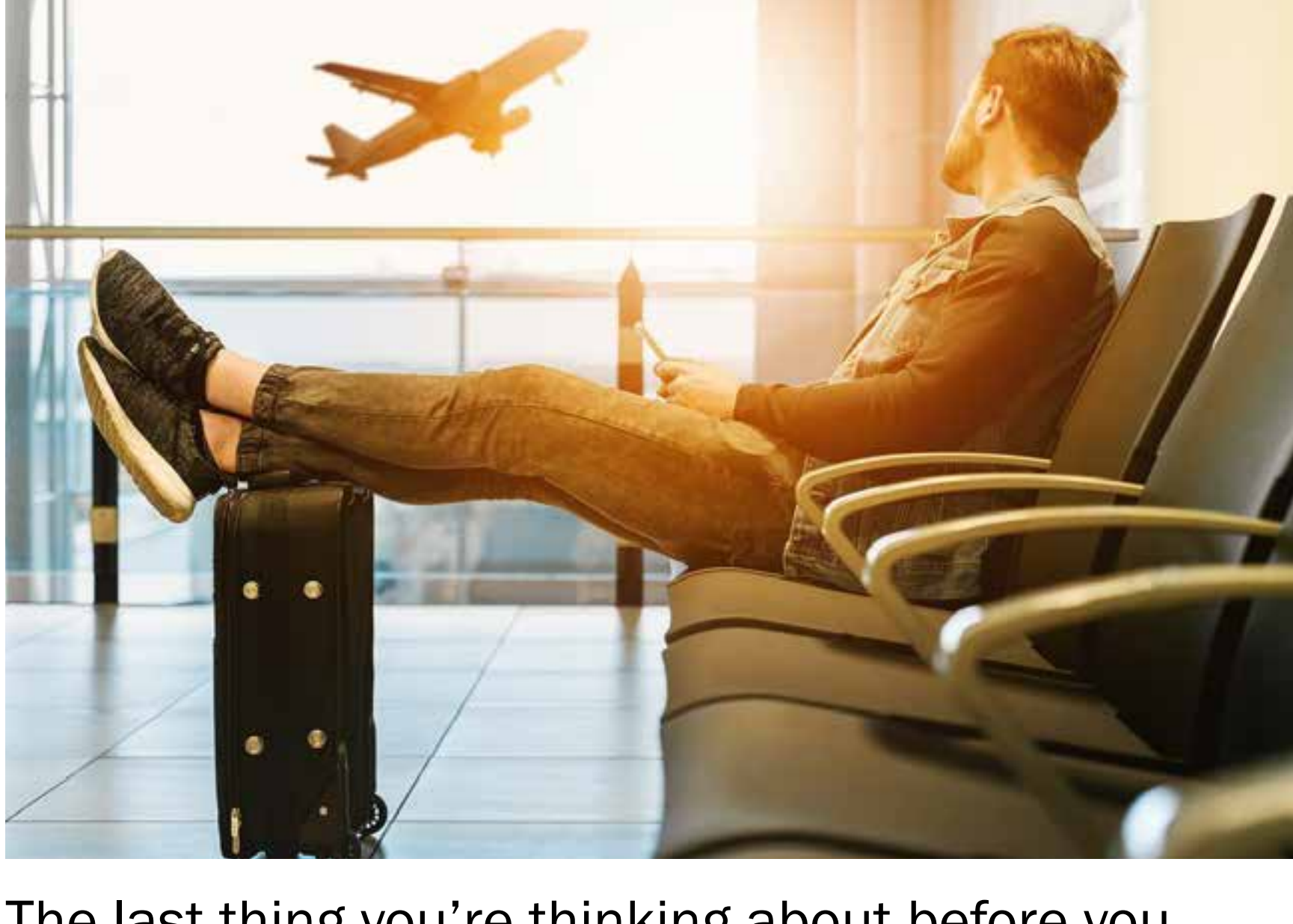
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# International travel

## Just in case



The last thing you're thinking about before you embark on a holiday is what could go wrong – and you shouldn't be thinking about it while you're galivanting across the globe or sipping Mai Tais by the sea either. That's why buying travel insurance is important: so you don't have to worry and can have peace of mind during your vacation.

Travel insurance needs to provide cover in more ways than one to protect you from a variety of out-of-pocket expenses. Typically the three things that need to be insured are you, your belongings, and your expenses. From trip cancellations and delays to lost or stolen luggage, a stomach bug to a trip to the emergency room, any unforeseen circumstance becomes a lot more manageable when you have insurance to fall back on for compensation.

There are so many different travel insurances on the market now, so it's necessary to do your research before selecting a plan. You can buy your desired plan from insurance companies, banks, travel agents, holiday companies, and online comparison websites, but make sure to check reviews to make sure you aren't getting scammed. Compare plans to see what kind of coverage each company offers. You may need more of one type of coverage depending on where you're going and what you're doing during the trip.

Get travel insurance before you leave so you can be fully in the moment during your trip.

## Next level family adventures in Niue



There comes a time when a family holiday shifts from kids' clubs to creating lifelong memories experiencing epic adventures together. This is where Niue takes active family holidays to the next level – both above and below the water!

Swimming with whales, catching huge fish, diving or snorkelling in gin-clear water, caving, great walks, and nighttime hunts for the giant coconut crab are just a few of the family experiences on offer in Niue.

After a quick three-and-a-half-hour flight from Auckland, you are greeted with not only warm temperatures all year round, but a warm and hospitable welcome. Driving or biking the 64-kilometre ring road is easy and discovering the tracks and sites becomes an addiction. Niue is only one island, so one giant resort to uncover.

As the world's largest raised coral atolls, Niue is unlike other Pacific Islands with amazing giant rock pools within the reef to snorkel in, as well as caves and chasms to discover and explore. Guides take you outside the reef to dive, snorkel, and swim with the resident dolphins and seasonal whales. Most days, you'll find yourself packing your snorkelling gear and setting off on your own adventure down the 30-plus sea tracks Niue has to offer.

Families have a choice of different accommodation types, from resorts to self-catering homes. As your adventure comes to an end, you'll start planning your next trip to this diverse paradise. It's a destination you'll be drawn back to... just like the migrating humpback whales.

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



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## Light up the night



Wellington Lantern Festival promises to be both a visual feast and a culinary delight as it lights up the Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

From 5pm, musical artists and performers will bring life to The Soundshell, while food and cultural activity stalls across the street at the Anglican Chinese Mission Church will ensure guests have plenty to experience.

Become immersed in Chinese culture by enjoying dragon dancing, lion dance performances, traditional singing and dancing from local artists, Tai Chi exhibitions, and so much more. When you get peckish, grab some fantastic street food from one of the stalls to travel to Asia with your tastebuds.

Before sunset, be sure to make your way to the lantern-making stall with your tamariki. Children will have the opportunity to craft lanterns, adding a touch of their own magic to the event. Once it gets dark, the lanterns will be lit up, illuminating the garden and transforming it into an ethereal dreamscape.

Lantern festivals like Wellington Chinese Community Groups Trust's date back over 2000 years and are rooted in various legends and traditions. As a time of collective joy and personal reflection, the festival lanterns symbolise and celebrate good fortune, familial and community unity, strength, and the triumph of light over darkness. The 2025 festival bookends the Lunar New Year celebrations and ushers in a joyous Year of the Wood Snake.

Light up the night at Wellington Lantern Festival.

## Absolute perfection







Retreat with your crew to your own private corner of New Zealand and enjoy the serenity and tranquillity of Arapata Estate. Perfect for large friend groups, family holidays, workshops and retreats, or gal pal getaways, this breathtakingly beautiful location will make any experience special. With two exquisite boutique accommodation options located within the lush rolling hills of Hawke's Bay, you'll be perfectly positioned to experience the best of the region's wineries, eateries, activities, attractions, and centres.

Ngamoe Lodge strikes the perfect balance between elegance, sophistication, and comfort. The four king bedrooms have ensuites, while the living areas are comfortable, spacious, and inviting, with the latest modern amenities plus a gorgeous central fireplace. A fully equipped kitchen with open gas hobs and state-of-the-art appliances makes cooking an absolute joy. Outside, the veranda enjoys seating overlooking the Heretaunga Plains and the private courtyard provides a relaxing al fresco dining space, framed by peaceful scenery and equipped with a gas BBQ. Picture long evenings in good company watching the sun go down and the stars come up.

As tasteful as it is restful, Arapata Lodge is blessed with both character and style, plus contemporary amenities and furnishings guaranteeing a luxurious stay. Three king bedrooms – one with an ensuite – plus a fourth with ensuite above the barn means this option can sleep up to eight guests. The main living area is ideal for socialising, featuring a comfortable sitting room framed by an open fire. The kitchen is fully equipped with everything you need for a weekend spent enjoying the company of loved ones, while the sprawling front deck and intimate rear deck are ideal for evening barbecues. Relax in the quiet peaceful surrounds and listen to the birdsong, play pétanque, or chill under the grape vine pergola. When night falls, soak your troubles away in the outside bath on the rear deck, a blanket of stars twinkling overhead.

Both accommodations come complete with a full laundry, Sky TV, and unlimited wireless broadband... not to mention exquisite views you could get lost in for hours. Located three kilometres from Havelock North and a brief 25 minutes from Napier means you'll be well connected to any and all activities... if you can bring yourself to leave!

A perfect escape with your friends and whānau, settle into the unparalleled beauty and unmatched atmosphere of Arapata and Ngamoe Lodge.

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# New Zealand Fringe Festival

## Wit and whimsy



Dearest gentle reader, Are you enamoured by the wit and whimsy of the hit Netflix series, *Bridgerton*? Inspired by the grandeur and romance of it all? Enticed and delighted by its scandalous affairs? If so, we implore you: secure your place at a one-of-a-kind spectacle this New Zealand Fringe Festival.

The ton is already abuzz with anticipation, and it would be positively scandalous to be left out of *Abridged-erton*, an improv comedy driven by women and crafted from audience suggestions.

“Period dramas can be dismissed as a frivolous women’s interest but it is a very legitimate genre that offers more than just escapism”, director and debut Fringe performer Megan Ritchie says. “We felt strongly about making a show that celebrates women’s passions and perspectives. We love how *Bridgerton* combines humour with powerful storytelling, it’s the perfect inspiration for a longform improv show.”

Producer and performer Lucie Richardson says it’s truly special to be creating a show with an all-female cast.

“I think women feel like they need more permission to try comedy than men. We’re so proud to have made a show where we can take up space and showcase our skills. We want to remind young women that improv isn’t just for a select few – it’s for everyone, especially those who’ve been historically left out of the conversation.”

Make haste to BATS Theatre from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February for this ballroom blitz of twists, turns, and giggles galore.

## Set to stun *by Madelaine Empson*



“A wonderful coincidence of timing and events” inspired Rachel Winter Hase to write *The Fabulous Fabelinskys*, a comedy-drama featuring breathtaking circus acts.

Set in a travelling circus in the 1890s and starring Rachel, 2022’s Best in Fringe, alongside hula-hoop extraordinaire Laura Oakley and Billy T 2025 nominee Booth the Clown, the show follows family circus act The Fabelinskys. Papa and Mama and their two adult daughters have always pretended to be Russian, except Papa has just died, leaving the three women to negotiate not only who they can be, but how they can survive without him.

Rachel, who had been working with Laura since 2023, resonated with the concept of a show based on the fallout from the death of a circus patriarch and was able to make it a reality under expert guidance during Gary Henderson’s Writing For Theatre paper at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington.

“I used to have a duo circus act with my ex-husband and after we split I definitely had some issues trying to refind my identity without him, so I think *The Fabulous Fabelinskys* connects very much to that too.”

Directed by Jen McArthur and featuring original music played live by renowned aerialist and circus performer Jackson Cordery, the show is set to stun at Te Auaha from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February this New Zealand Fringe Festival.

“It is a beautiful fusion of family drama with spectacular circus acts and I think people are going to fall in love with it!”

## I don’t wanna miss a thing



Isolation. Loneliness. Doomscrolling in the wee hours. We’ve all had sleepless nights where we’ve stared at our screens or our ceilings, problem-solving imagined scenarios, replaying our cringiest encounters, thinking about a crush, or feeling lonelier than we’d care to admit. Traditionally, no one is privy to our innermost thoughts in these vulnerable moments. Until now.

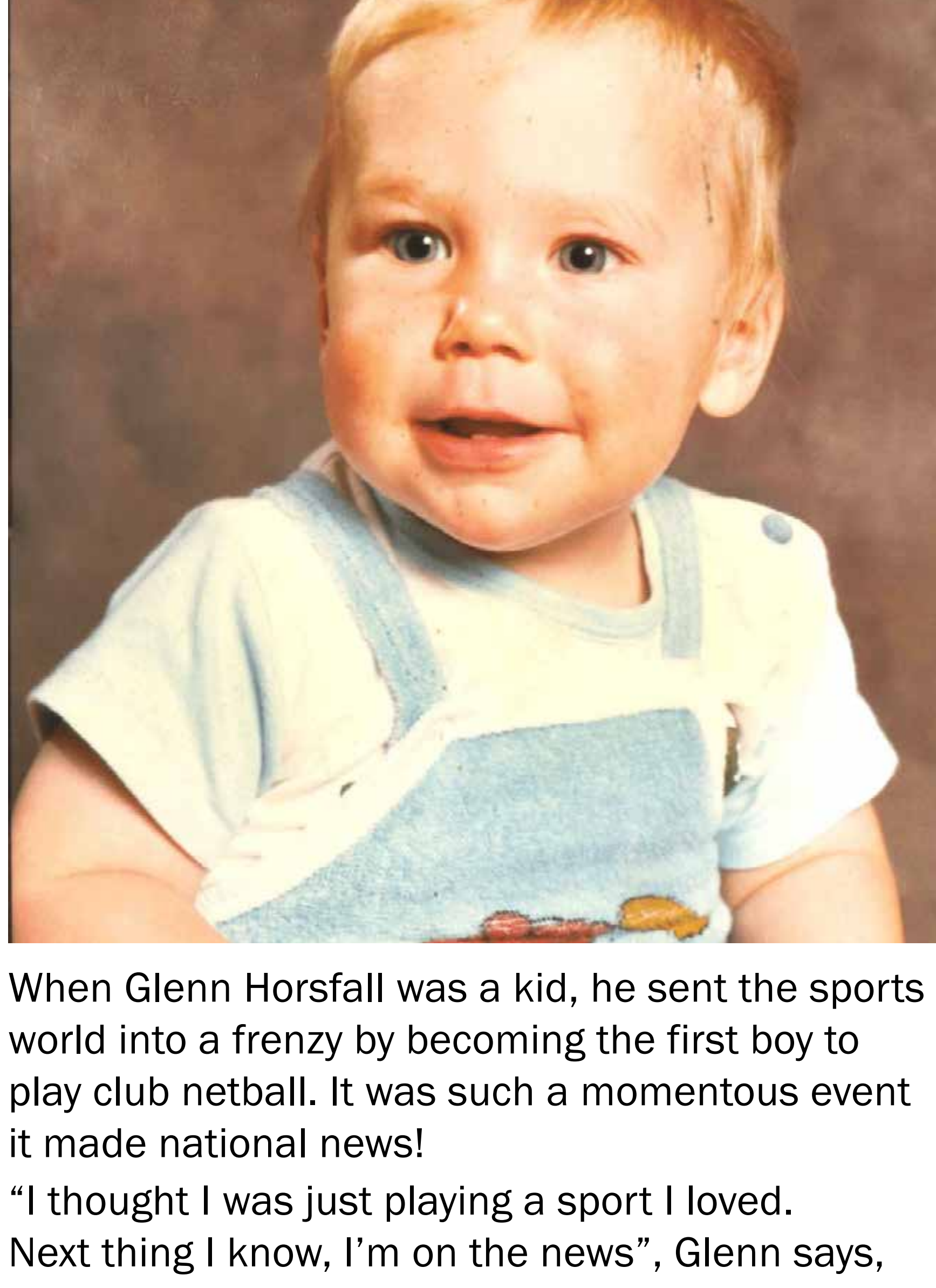
Stay up with Lia Kelly as she fills the sleepless hours of the night during *The Night is Always Darkest*, a seven-hour event at two/fiftyseven that kicks off at midnight on the opening (February 14<sup>th</sup>) and closing (March 8<sup>th</sup>) night of this year’s New Zealand Fringe Festival.

“I wanted to put onstage something audiences or even just regular humans never see”, Lia says of the hybrid live and digital event, which audiences can walk in or out of at any time or livestream.

Directed by Rosie Glover, the unique experience also aims to explore some of the less-catastrophic elements of mental health struggles. Many shows explore panic attacks and moments of crisis, but very few explore the other 98 percent of the mental health journey. *The Night is Always Darkest* takes a light-touch approach to a sleepless night and feeds into discussion around isolation and anxiety in a soft and accessible way.

Speaking of soft! With magical production design by award-winning lighting designer Izzi Lao and AV and digital wizardry from Campbell Wright, Lia’s beautiful world will be filled with nap zones, blankets, hot choccies, and even coffee for those who don’t want to miss a moment!

## This Wasn’t the Plan



When Glenn Horsfall was a kid, he sent the sports world into a frenzy by becoming the first boy to play club netball. It was such a momentous event it made national news!

“I thought I was just playing a sport I loved. Next thing I know, I’m on the news”, Glenn says, recalling the newspaper feature *Glenn Bends Gender Roles* and a segment on the *Holmes* show. “At 11 years old. It was bizarre.”

It wasn’t the first and wouldn’t be the last bizarre or unexpected thing to happen to Glenn, who’s “gone from wearing a bib on the netball court to singing show tunes as a Huhu Grub”.

While he (probably) won’t be dressed as a bug this time, Glenn says his one-man cabaret show is all about “embracing the chaos, finding the humour in it, and learning that the best stories come from the moments you least expect”.

Directed by Nick Lerew and featuring live accompaniment by Hayden Taylor, *This Wasn’t the Plan: A Musical Theatre Cabaret* employs a format rarely seen in New Zealand, blending Glenn’s own script with beautiful songs from well-known musicals. Audiences can expect hilarious, heartfelt, and often humbling stories from this performer – who you may recognise from WITCH Music Theatre’s *Into the Woods* and *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* – as he examines what it means when the script of life is rewritten.

“It’s been a wild ride, and this show is my way of sharing it all.”

Catch *This Wasn’t the Plan* at Thistle Hall Upstairs on Friday and Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a bonus final performance on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.



# For the love of art

## Summer shows



*Detail of Summer Orchid Bouquet by Janet Brady.*

The New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts has spread out across Wellington, presenting exhibitions in hotspots throughout the city centre. Currently on display is an artist showcase at Double Tree by Hilton until March and *Toi i te Waru* at Parliament's Te Papakura until the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.

The artist showcase at Double Tree presents selected works by invited artists over a three-month period, with the first session displaying pieces by Jacky Pearson and Svetlana Orinko.

Pearson's watercolours – done both on location and in the studio – are in the style of direct realism. “I try to paint a feeling. I love the natural landscape and used to work as a soil scientist,” she says.

“Painting is my way of studying nature. Of particular interest are shadows, with their range of tones, colours, reflected light, and edges.” She received a merit in the International Watercolour Society exhibition in 2022.

Orinko is a world-renowned artist who has established herself as a leading master of watercolour and oil mediums over her career. “I see beauty in the simple things,” she says. “I am attracted to any subject matter that contains a strong abstract pattern and displays interesting, beautiful colours. There is a poetry in simplicity.”

*Toi i te Waru* presents a collection that captures the essence of summer and showcases the work of almost 50 artists from across the motu. A snapshot of New Zealand's contemporary creative output, *Toi i te Waru*'s styles and mediums are vast and varied.

## A creative kaleidoscope



New Zealand is creative to its core, with our capital city considered a hub for the arts. From performance to puppetry, music to movement, Wellington has it all and some, including a thriving local visual arts scene. Celebrating creativity in the capital and around the motu, Art Shows Across Aotearoa will present the annual Wellington Art Show on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

Over 5000 original artworks and more than 120 artists will transform Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre into a kaleidoscopic dreamscape for one weekend. The contemporary artworks will span styles, genres, colours, materials, and mediums, with pieces from both emerging and established Kiwi creatives. In fact, the artists will be onsite and available to chat about their practice, process, and pieces.

From pottery and jewellery to statement sculptures, paintings, and mixed-media creations, collectors of all calibres will find something special. Alongside a pre-buy art voucher and a buy-now, pay-later option, collectors can also take advantage of the premium package that offers a VIP preview on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

Participating artists will also have the opportunity to enter the competition for the prestigious Stuff Art Aotearoa Gold Award for Art Excellence, with one finalist chosen from each art show location. These works will be bought by the Academy of Fine Arts and displayed at Parliament next year.

Get stuck in at The Wellington Art Show to discover Kiwi creativity.

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 Saturday 1st March, 2025, 10am - 8pm  
 Sunday 2nd March, 2025, 10am - 5pm  
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**New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts**

**DOUBLE TREE by Hilton**

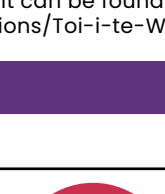
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**Artist Showcase**  
 Jacky Pearson + Svetlana Orinko  
 November 2024 – March 2025  
 Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Wellington  
 Showcasing leading contemporary New Zealand artists in this beautifully restored hotel.  
 Members of the public may now view during the day without needing to book. Please speak to reception on entry.

**Toi i te Waru – Art in the heat of summer**  
 20 December 2024 – 30 April 2025  
 Where: Te Papakura Gallery in the Beehive  
 The name of this exhibition has been gifted by Ngā Rotonga Ao Māori at New Zealand Parliament, and reflects the warmth and joy the summer months bring.  
 Links to information about the exhibition and opening times for tours of Parliament can be found at [nzafa.com/Exhibitions/Toi-i-te-Waru](http://nzafa.com/Exhibitions/Toi-i-te-Waru).

Contemporary New Zealand art

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## Modern Narcissus



According to the ancient Greek myth, Narcissus was so beautiful that he became transfixed by his own reflection and tumbled headfirst in the water.

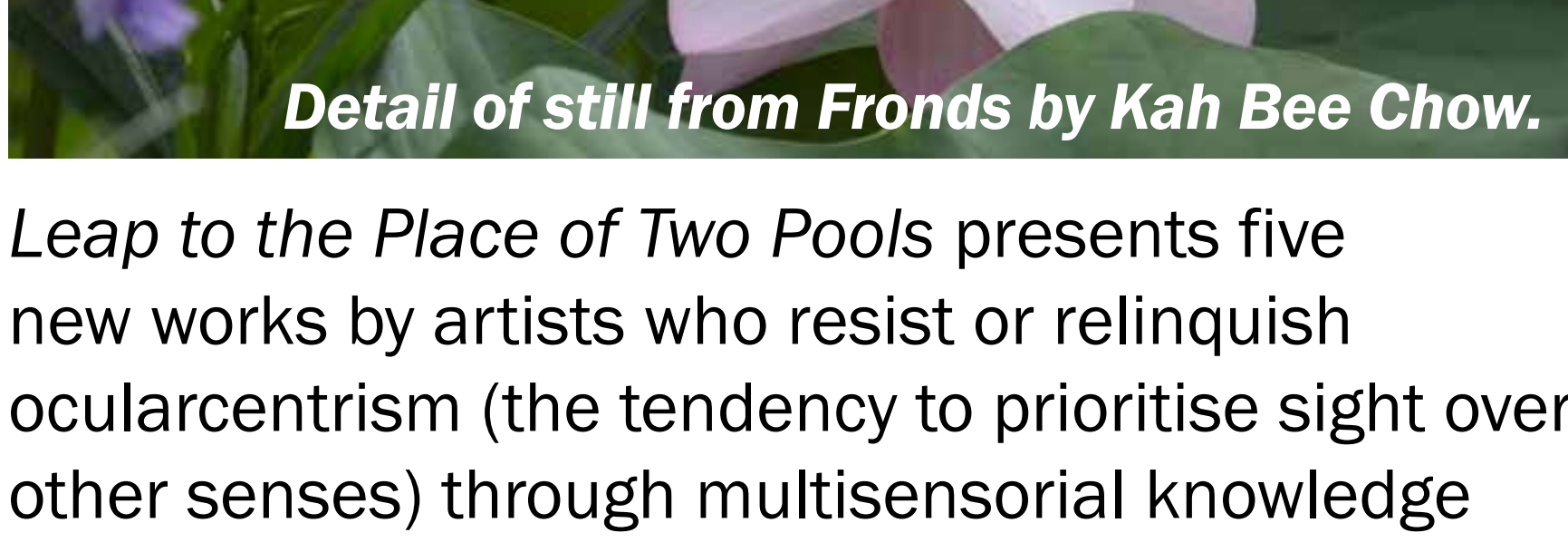
Kiwi artist Wesley John Fourie is interested in the contemporary forms of narcissism. Looking into a webcam and broadcasting online is equated to staring at one's own reflection, but with a greater potential audience. His new exhibition *HYPERBALLAD*, presented via the Courtenay Place Lightboxes and Masons Screen in collaboration with City Gallery Te Whare Toi, reimagines the myth of Narcissus through contemporary internet culture and pop music.

Aptly beginning the day after Valentine's Day and running until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, "the work questions where and how we find validation and connection with others as well as ourselves", City Gallery senior curator Aaron Lister says. "It's an expression of our digital lives and experiences, especially related to questions around connection and the vulnerability that comes with reaching out in these new ways".

Fourie's performances were shot in the artist's studio in Ōtepoti using nearby objects as prop microphones. In each video, the modern Narcissus sings along to love songs dedicated to someone or something both real and abstracted on the other side of the screen. Part cathartic rambling, part karaoke goodness, Fourie takes on the role of the jester, the popstar, anyone seeking their 15 minutes of fame.

Silent stills of the videos acquire new meaning in Courtenay Place, at the epicentre of Wellington's nightlife, a space where people go to look and be looked at, where human connections are forged and broken, and where everyone is part of a collective experience but, ultimately, alone.

## Beyond boundaries



**Detail of still from *Fronds* by Kah Bee Chow.**

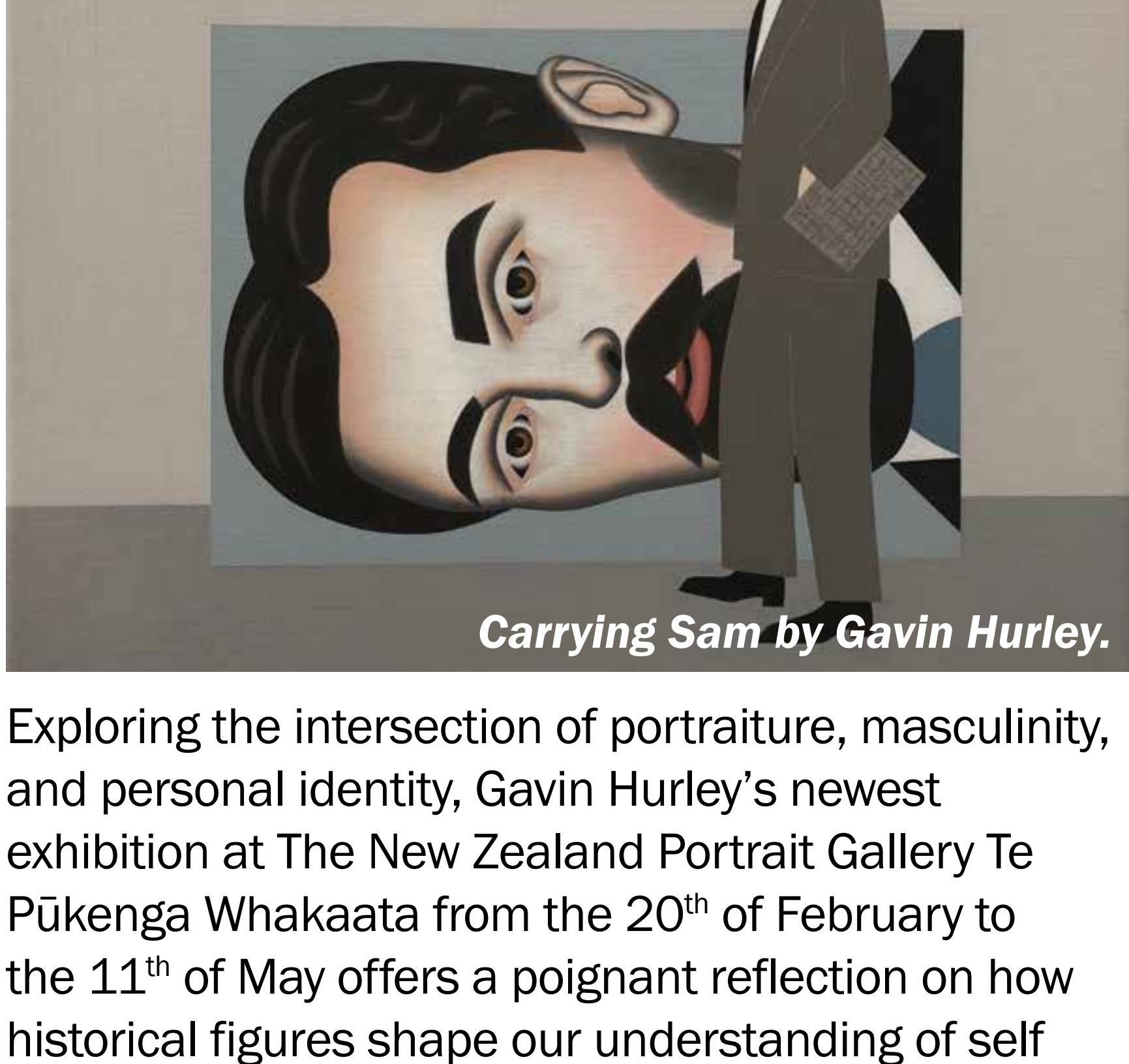
*Leap to the Place of Two Pools* presents five new works by artists who resist or relinquish ocularcentrism (the tendency to prioritise sight over other senses) through multisensorial knowledge systems.

Settling into Adam Art Gallery Te Pātaka Toi until the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, *Leap to the Place of Two Pools* is the latest edition of CIRCUIT's annual series designed to develop new artist commissions based in the moving image with an international curator. This year's exhibition features Malaysian Kiwi artist Kah Bee Chow who is based in Sweden, Iranian-born Aotearoa-based artist Selina Ershadi, Oglála Lakłóta and California-based creative Kite, Auckland artist Sonya Lacey, and Ōtautahi-based artist James Tapsell-Kururangi (Te Arawa, Tainui, Ngāti Porou), with curation by Erin Robideaux Gleeson who is based on Dakota lands of Mní Sóta Makhóche (Minnesota).

"Each artist gives personal meaning to the title or curatorial prompt", Robideaux Gleeson says. "Approaches range from animation to documentation of performance to archival footage to AI rendering. Some works have significant periods of full darkness or full light. Sound is variant and subtle. Sometimes text and voice is used where the image was insufficient or unfindable. The works also speak to a wide range of topics including exploring embodiments of whakapapa and tikanga, land sovereignty, dream time and space, the loss of a loved one, and fragmented memory."

While the viewing conditions rely on a screen and seeing audience, Robideaux Gleeson says, "the artists bring uniquely personal reasons for emphasising the unseen and unknown". In both making and viewing, they ask how to honour what cannot be seen.

## Being boys



***Carrying Sam* by Gavin Hurley.**

Exploring the intersection of portraiture, masculinity, and personal identity, Gavin Hurley's newest exhibition at The New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata from the 20<sup>th</sup> of February to the 11<sup>th</sup> of May offers a poignant reflection on how historical figures shape our understanding of self and society.

*Gavin Hurley: Growing Up* "shows how masculine stereotypes have evolved in recent times from traditional typecasting that emphasised stoicism and bravado to a more fluid understanding that embraces the complexity of our identities", the artist says.

In this collection, Hurley posits figures such as ship captains and explorers, who were once considered as the pinnacle of masculinity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, into stylised portraits that blend historical and pop culture elements. In this way, the artist dissects the cultural legacy of these figures to create a fragmented view of collective history – one that challenges how these personas have been constructed, performed, and reinterpreted across time.

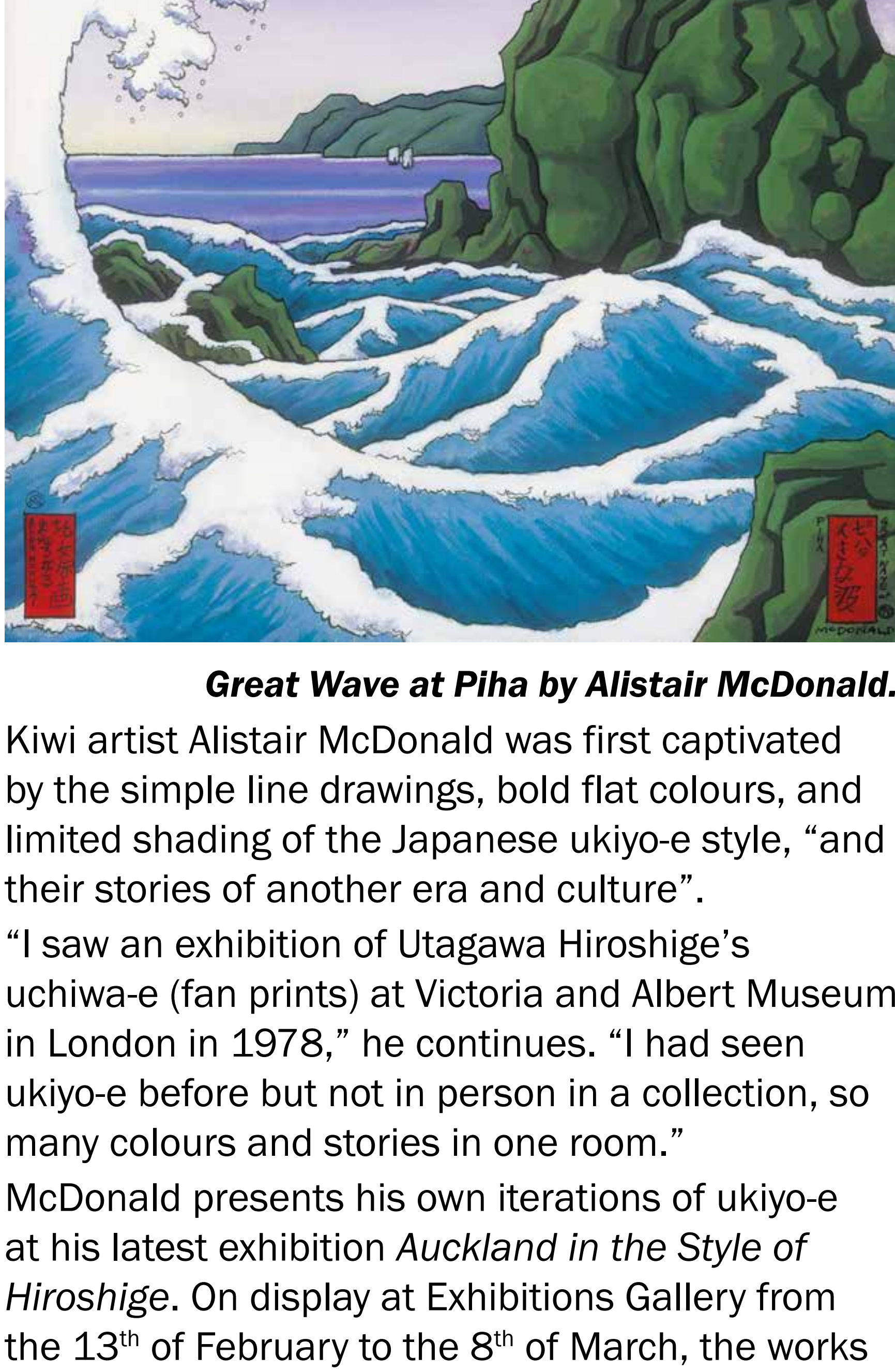
"Monolithic ideals of masculinity from the past have both shaped personal and cultural identities but are now crumbling to allow in more nuance", the artist adds.

Included in *Gavin Hurley: Growing Up* is his ongoing bearded boy series, which frames a young boy experimenting with various identities, articulating a sense of identity performance and the complexity of growing up.

"Hurley's portraits invite us to reflect not just on inherited cultural ideals, but on the way we navigate such expectations, confront them, and ultimately transform them in our own lives," New Zealand Portrait Gallery director Jaenine Parkinson says.

"Hurley takes us on a journey to examine the good, the bad, and the nuance in the figures who have historically been lauded through portraiture".

## The world in other ways



***Great Wave at Piha* by Alistair McDonald.**

Kiwi artist Alistair McDonald was first captivated by the simple line drawings, bold flat colours, and limited shading of the Japanese ukiyo-e style, "and their stories of another era and culture".

"I saw an exhibition of Utagawa Hiroshige's uchiwa-e (fan prints) at Victoria and Albert Museum in London in 1978," he continues. "I had seen ukiyo-e before but not in person in a collection, so many colours and stories in one room."

McDonald presents his own iterations of ukiyo-e at his latest exhibition *Auckland in the Style of Hiroshige*. On display at Exhibitions Gallery from the 13<sup>th</sup> of February to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the works present views of modern cities across Australia and Aotearoa.

"I've tried to imagine how the great artists Hiroshige and Hokusai might have seen Auckland today," McDonald says. "I wanted to show these 24 views as a collection; they become more of a statement when viewed together."

McDonald's repertoire is diverse, as he also paints New Zealand landscapes in an expressionist style to "tap into our national affection for our countryside". He sees his art practice as a way to indulge both his left and right brain, with his process consisting first of problem-solving and technicality that gives way to pure creativity. He considers his moderate colour blindness an attribute as it gives him a point of difference. "There is no temptation to do other people's realism, which is liberating", he says. "For me, art asks us to imagine the world in other ways".





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# Wairarapa lifestyle



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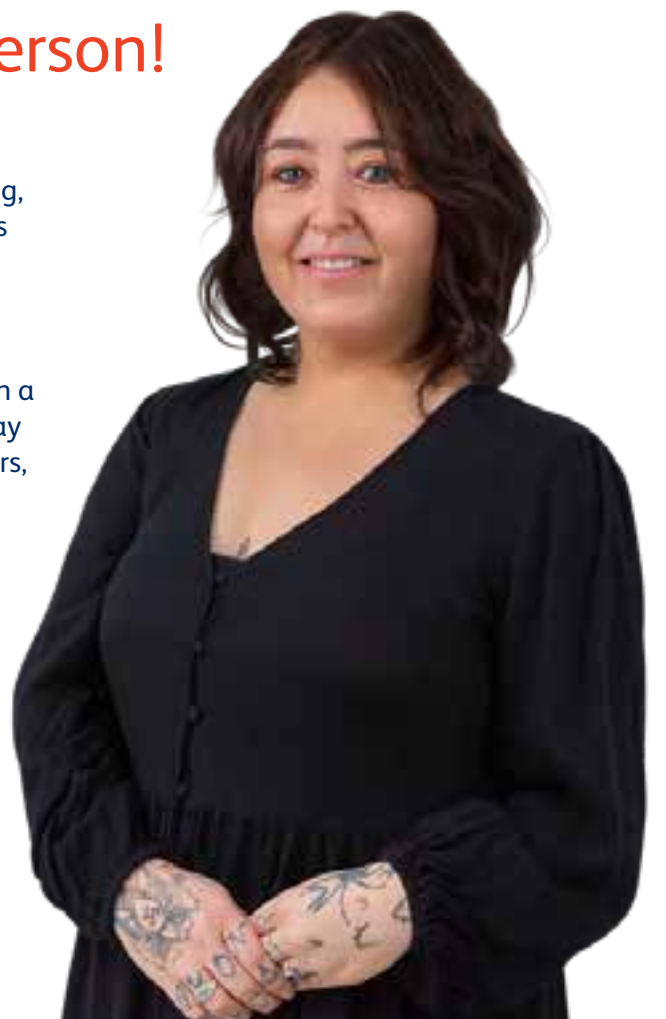
Whether you're buying your first home, selling a family treasure, or just window shopping for a new place to call yours, I'm here to make it easy and maybe even a little fun. I know this area like the back of my hand (I could probably find my way around blindfolded) and I'm backed by the powerhouse team at Property Brokers, who've got my back every step of the way.

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# Wairarapa – buy, build, renovate

## Committed to their community



Seeking legal advice when making a property transaction can seem daunting, but the team at First Property Legal are there to help in any way they can. They are committed to understanding your needs, whilst taking a budget-friendly approach.

First Property Legal specialise in residential property transactions, which include buying, selling, and refinancing residential houses, residential investment, and residential lifestyle properties. They provide fixed-fee residential conveyancing, particularly ideal for anyone looking to buy their very first home in beautiful Wairarapa. First Property Legal specialise in KiwiSaver withdrawals, HomeStart, and Kainga Ora first home purchases. The team has developed systems and precedents that enable them to process transactions quickly and efficiently. Based in Masterton, they service the whole Wairarapa region at competitive prices with no surprises. As a division of Gawith BurrIDGE, a law firm that has been operating since 1875, First Property Legal are supported by a legacy of trust, excellence, and extensive knowledge. Thanks to this connection to Gawith BurrIDGE, the team have forged lasting and crucial relationships with key people and organisations, including banks, real estate agents, and local councils. They are committed to their community and can help you become a part of it too.

First Property Legal are integrally involved in the wider Wairarapa, using their intimate knowledge of the people and the lifestyle to create a modern, friendly, and dynamic legal practice dedicated to helping first-home buyers join their perfect neighbourhood.



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# Wairarapa – buy, build, renovate

## Move up the property ladder



When you own your own home and you're ready for a new project, what do you do with your equity? That's when it's time for a change.

At WBS, our lending team are all experienced in arranging lending for people who are looking to rebuild, renovate, or buy a second home. These clients are usually at a point where they are in a good financial position and ready to move up the property ladder.

Mortgage and lending specialist at WBS, Rose Stevens, says she enjoys working with people taking these next steps in their lives.

"Often (but not always) these people are in their fifties. They're at the stage when they have equity in their existing property and they want to do something new," Rose says. "I like dealing with these clients because they're like us, like our lending team. They're in our age group. We can put them at ease because we're at a similar stage of our lives."

The people approaching WBS about lending for secondary projects are often reaching the point where they're setting themselves up for retirement. The team also have many younger clients looking to renovate a house they've bought, or to rebuild a home.

"The best first step for any property change is to come and discuss your plans with us. We'd be more than happy to talk through your plans, and we'll do our best to sort out your borrowing needs."

## Hassle-free move



Making the move to Wairarapa is becoming more popular as city-dwellers trade alarm clocks for birdsong and the morning commute for a cup of joe on the veranda. Though some of the peaceful towns are just over an hour away from Wellington, the trip over the Remutaka Ranges can be a bit daunting when all your belongings are in tow.

You may be tempted to hire a trailer and throw your furniture in the back, but with all the tricky hairpin turns, it's much safer to opt for a furniture moving service who can safely pack up everything you need and ensure it all arrives in one piece.

Furniture Removal Solutions (FRS) is a family-owned and operated business with over four decades of combined experience. Based in Masterton, the friendly and professional team operates across Wairarapa and provides hassle-free moving experiences.

Whether you're moving locally or out of town, from an apartment to a home or an office to a new business location, FRS is equipped to help. No job is too big or too small – they can assist with large-scale items or help you box up your small breakables to ensure they stay intact. The team can lend a hand from start to finish, including with packing, unpacking, and cleaning. They can even help you find a storage space to keep your items somewhere while you take stock of what you need. If it's peace of mind you're after, FRS is committed to helping you settle in.



Craig and Hilary Amundsen

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# Wairarapa – buy, build, renovate

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Whether you're starting a renovation, building from scratch, or finally addressing that pesky issue, COMAG Wairarapa are experts in residential and commercial plumbing, gasfitting, drainlaying, and heating installation.

Operating from Masterton, COMAG service homes and businesses across Wairarapa. As a team of locals serving their community, they take pride in delivering a reliable and professional service on time and to the highest quality.

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Hand in hand with plumbing, COMAG's drainage services include drain laying and repairs, drain clearing and unblocking via CCTV inspection, and septic tank and wastewater treatment. If you have or need a rainwater harvesting system, effluent field, or commercial separation system, the friendly team will get the job done in no time.

Gasfitting and heating services are a COMAG specialty – from fireplaces to central heating solutions, water heating systems to commercial kitchen setups.

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Codde Aluminium is an approved fabricator for OMEGA Windows and Doors. As the owners and operators of the sustainable Kiwi brand's Wellington franchise, Codde Aluminium supplies a fantastic range of aluminium joinery fabrication options to builders as well as homeowners.

Codde Aluminium offers a range of services, including double glazing, retrofitting, and repairs and maintenance. From a broken pane to secure locks, animal doors to new seals, a single window replacement to new joinery for your home, as well as conservatories, Aaron, Ariel, and the team will ensure every project is completed efficiently, effectively, and excellently.

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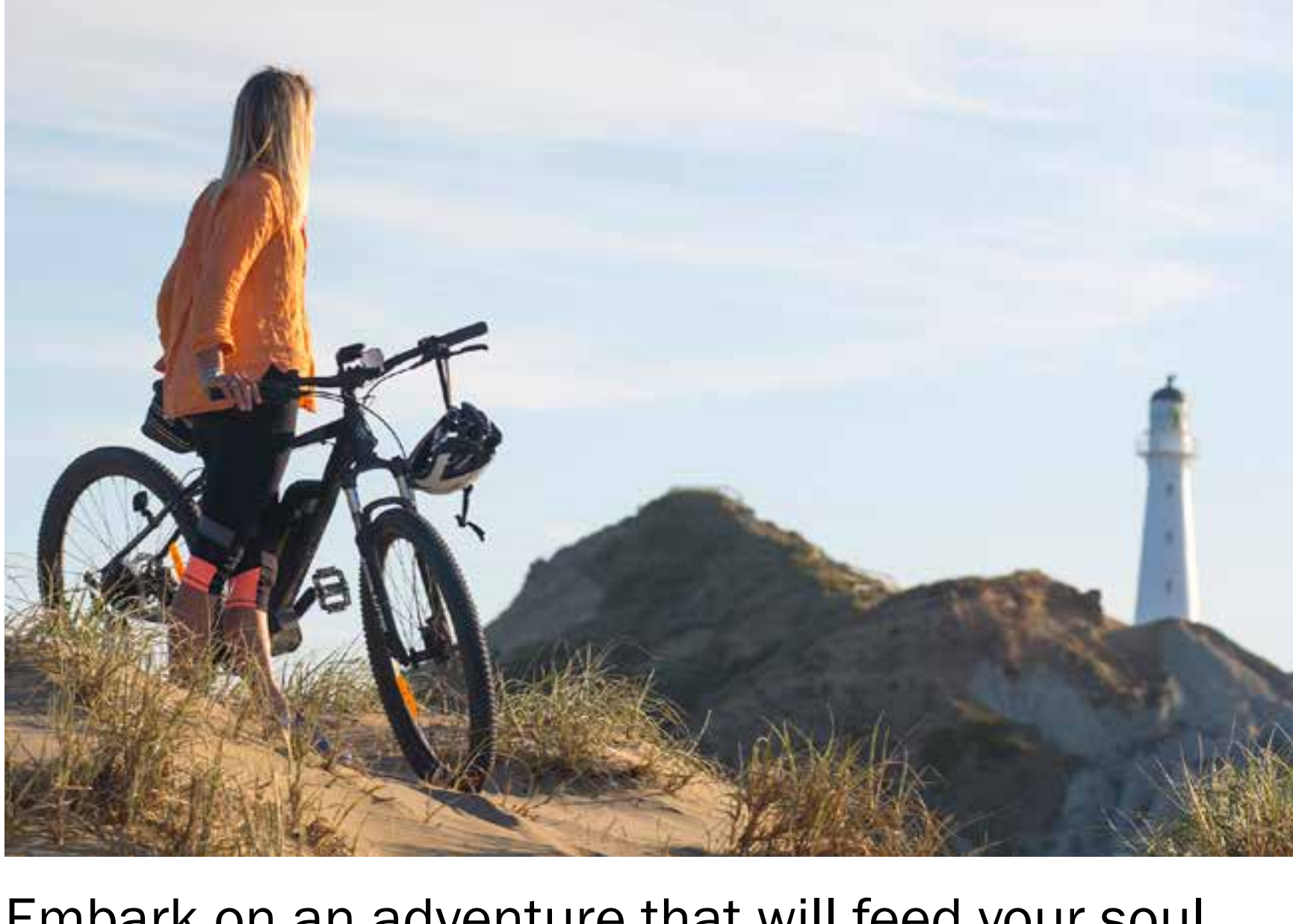
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# Wairarapa weddings

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The Loop-de-Loop adventure is the ultimate excursion, traversing 65 kilometres of breathtaking terrain over three days. Starting out in Tinui, the first day takes you on an easy, leafy ride through the valley and up the hill to The Sows Ear in Rahu, where you'll enjoy a BBQ and some drinks before hitting the hay. On day two, you'll cover 34 kilometres of ground, travelling up and down hills and past beautiful panoramas to your beach accommodation at Castlepoint. On the last day, you'll complete the loop with a solid 11-kilometre ride. If you're not ready to leave, you can even extend your stay in Castlepoint for another night.

The four-to-five-hour Day-Tripper option is perfect if you're limited for time but still want a taste of the full experience.

Whether you're free for only a day or an entire weekend, have your own bike or need to rent one, are an expert cyclist or an amateur, Rahu Coastal Loop will take you over hill and dale across some of Wairarapa's most scenic spots and luscious landscapes.

## Inspired by you



Choosing a dress is one of the most important decisions of your wedding. Not only does it set the tone for your wedding day, but it plays a huge factor in how you'll feel too. From walking down the aisle to tearing it up on the dancefloor, first looks to photoshoots, your dress will be with you through it all, ensuring you look and feel beautiful.

Whether you already have an idea in mind or are coming in without a clue, Carolyn's Bridal Studio can navigate the selection process with you.

At your initial bridal appointment, Carolyn will work closely with you to discover the best dress to fit your style and personality. During the session, you'll have the option to try on the exquisite range of Tania Olsen dresses. They span all sorts of sizes and styles, ensuring there is something for every bride, regardless of what look you have in mind.

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If you already have a dress – whether it's from the studio, a different store, or a family member – Carolyn can perform any alterations you may want to the design to ensure the perfect fit.

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# Wairarapa weddings



## Wedding checklist

### 2-3 months before the wedding

- Mail out invitations.
- Compile gift register.
- Select gifts for attendants.
- Complete trousseau and organise honeymoon clothing.
- Commence a beauty treatment programme.
- Groom to finalise his party's attire with matching shirts, ties, shoes etc.
- Pre-book accommodation for out of town guests.



### 1 month before the wedding

- Have hair styled and try on hairpiece.
- Final fitting of wedding gown and bridesmaids' dresses.
- Finalise accommodation for out-of-town guests.
- Record gifts as they arrive.
- Check that insurance is adequate.
- Attend parties and functions in your honour.
- Confirm details with photographer.

### 2 weeks before the wedding

- Collect Marriage Licence.
- Check that everyone is aware of their procedures and duties.
- Confirm hairdresser and beauty appointments for your wedding day.
- Discuss seating arrangements at reception.
- Arrange transport for out-of-town guests and elderly relatives.
- Groom should have a haircut.
- Groom to organise fees for celebrant or clergyman so best man can deliver.

### 1 week before the wedding

- Advise caterers of final numbers.
- Remind attendants of rehearsals.
- Try on wedding dress once again with full wedding day make-up.
- Check on delivery of cake, flowers, and hire suits.
- Pack for honeymoon.
- Give gifts to attendants.

### 1-3 days before the wedding

- Attend rehearsals.
- Have a quiet dinner out together.

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# Wairarapa weddings

## The perfect fit



Lingerie and swimwear are precise garments that should complement your figure and give you confidence. Shalari Boutique Lingerie & Swimwear advocates just that.

Customers are the main focus at Shalari Boutique. Tina, alongside her devoted team of Jenny and Michelle, provide outstanding service to ensure you leave with the best possible results and satisfaction. That's why they offer a fitting experience.

Around 80 percent of women are wearing the wrong size bra. It's not a one-size-fits-all garment, as we are all different shapes and sizes! For the best support and comfort, you should get properly fitted. Shalari Boutique's fitting experience removes any ambiguity and helps you understand what your lingerie should do for you.

There are many signs of an-ill fitting bra. If the underwire feels uncomfortable; the straps are too tight, too loose, or ride up; there are signs of bulging over the cups or they gape; the centre front is too loose or too tight; or the band is digging in or riding up, odds are you're not wearing the correct size and shape.

A well-fitting bra should mean you barely feel it all. It should follow the contours of your body and in doing so, offer better support. Shalari Boutique's fitting experience is comprehensive, giving you the knowledge you need to never be uncomfortable again.

At Shalari Boutique you'll find just what you needed in the perfect fit.

## Made for you



The most important thing to consider when choosing your wedding dress is how it makes you feel. Most brides go to a fitting with one style in mind and end up choosing something completely different once they begin trying dresses on.

Trends, outside opinions, and traditions are all valuable insights, but what matters most on the day is that you feel comfortable, confident, and beautiful in your dress.

It's next to impossible to tick these boxes when shopping online. If you can't try the dress on, there is no way for you to see how it looks and fits. Fast fashion websites use cheap fabrics and mass produce garments, which means nothing is made to measure or made to last. Not to mention the environmental, ethical, and economic impacts. Even if the website has a Kiwi or Australian domain, odds are the clothes aren't made locally. The low price tag can be enticing, but you'll most likely spend more to get it altered than you would have buying a quality dress... if it can be adjusted at all.

You can get exactly what you envisioned made to your measurements by getting your dress handmade by a seamstress – plus, you're supporting the local economy. Evans of Masterton works closely with local dressmakers, who use their exquisite range of bridal fabrics, tulle, patterns, and more. The friendly staff can help you with your questions and recommend the best materials so that come the big day, your dress will fit like a glove and you'll feel drop dead gorgeous.

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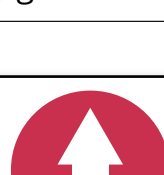
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# Luxury honeymoon destinations



## Luxury meets comfort

Lake Tekapo Cottages are the perfect blend of luxury and comfort, and ideal for any manner of romantic getaways. Affordable and located in proximity to everything Lake Tekapo has to offer, each of the seven units is thoughtfully decorated. With capacities ranging from one or two people all the way up to seven guests, the cottages include modern amenities, a cosy atmosphere, and stunning lake views. Some of the units even give guests access to a luxurious spa pool.

Spend the day exploring one of New Zealand's crown jewels and soak the night away staring at the stars.



## Paradise found

Escape to Waiheke Island for a romantic getaway at The Moorings. Overlooking the mesmerising Matiatia Bay, these twin studio apartments are stylish and comfortable, ensuring your Waiheke sojourn will be nothing short of perfection.

The Moorings are surrounded by native bush yet nearby vineyards, breathtaking beaches, and the main village of Oneroa. Side by side with a shared courtyard and deck looking out across water and featuring a kitchenette and open-plan living and bedroom layout, The Moorings are all but made for sitting back and sipping wine while soaking in the picture-perfect panorama.



## Living luxe

Perched high above the sea overlooking the glittering Nelson Tasman coastline is Clifftops Retreat, a luxury, self-contained cottage just five minutes from the seaside village of Māpua.

Located in the sparkling Ruby Bay, Clifftops Retreat is one of New Zealand's most exclusive stays. More than just accommodation, this boutique villa offers an entire experience complete with fine wine, drinks, delicious snacks, and goodies throughout the entire booking. Sit back each evening in the spa pool to watch the sun dip beneath the emerald sea, the pink and periwinkle hues of the sunset, and the twinkling dance of the stars overhead.



## Lavender dream

Lavendyl Lavender Farm is one of the most idyllic wedding locations, while Dylan's Country Cottages, which lead onto the farm, are simply magical for a honeymoon or romantic getaway.

Cosy and rustic, Dylan's Country Cottages are located beneath the spectacular Seaward Kaikoura Mountain range. They're fully self-contained and offer some of the most serene panoramic views. Each cottage has an upstairs mezzanine bedroom with beds made from Macrocarpa grown on the property, while the French doors in the lounge open onto the exquisite garden. With an in-house meal service to boot, you don't ever have to leave!



## A perfect day in a perfect place

Imagine seeing Akaroa Harbour twinkling in your fiancé's eyes before saying those two fated words: I do. Mt Vernon Lodge is a picturesque wedding venue like no other. With a ceremony on private estate lawns boasting panoramic sea views, a reception hall for up to 130 guests, and onsite lodge accommodation for up to 50 guests, what more could you ask for?

From ceremony to reception, the team at Mt Vernon Lodge can arrange everything for you or let you take the reins. Whatever you choose, you'll experience "a perfect day in a perfect place" at Mt Vernon Lodge.

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# Kapiti weddings

## Say "I do"



If you are after a fairytale wedding, then look no further, because Tatum is straight out of a storybook. Picture tying the knot on the ample lawn stretching out before the thoughtfully restored homestead or nestled under a towering tree somewhere in the sprawling acres of bush-clad landscape. Whatever you have in mind, it'll be picture-perfect at Tatum.

Tatum is located just an hour from Wellington in Manakau. Built in 1912, it was once the residence of the eccentric Major and Lady Tatum, who loved the property and their community. It was turned into a wedding venue in 2012, but the restoration process didn't begin until 10 years later when it was bought by the Wayne Bishop Group in 2022. Now recently reopened and fully refurbished to highlight its original charm while being retrofitted with modern amenities, Tatum offers an all-inclusive wedding package complete with a purpose-built interior and exterior space.

A wedding at Tatum is a resort-like experience since you won't have to worry about a thing on your big day. The package includes exclusive use of the entire venue and the services of experienced wedding planner and personal event stylist Michelle Sue, who will ensure everything runs smoothly for you and your party. As a progressive event experience, you can keep everything in house and use the catering team helmed by chef Ray Parimathawut and choose any extra services you'd like too. Add on vintage vehicle hire, special photo shoots, a picnic setup, a firepit experience, and a DJ playing classics on vinyl. Your guests can even stay onsite with you after dancing the night away under the stars. Alongside the included romantic bridal suite, there are also boutique rooms, glamping options, and 29 newly constructed units available.

Book in for a no-obligation meet and greet and venue walkthrough so you can get a sense of the beautiful location. Once you can picture your elegant and memorable wedding at Tatum, you won't be able to stop yourself from saying "I do"!



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# Wairarapa – events

## Bacchanalian revelry



Wairarapa Wines Harvest Festival is a modern-day Bacchanalia, Ancient Rome's ode to the god of wine and revelry. Celebrating the beginning of the grape-picking season, Provincial Insurance Brokers present a festival that brings together the region's premier wineries, renowned food producers, and local musical talents on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February at The Cliffs Riverside Reserve.

A festival highlight is the Meet the Makers feature, which gives guests the unique opportunity to engage with winemakers while enjoying specially curated food pairings. On this year's menu are scrumptious delights from local favourites Korky's Catering, Kiwi Kai Catering, Caveman BBQ, and Mamma Mia Italian Street Food, plus coffee and sweet treat trucks.

This year's Wairarapa Wines Harvest Festival features 14 participating wineries showcasing the breadth and diversity of the region's vino production. Find your favourites or try new flavours from Big Sky Wines, Cambridge Road Vineyard, Colombo Martinborough, Coney Wines, Fairmont Estate, Gladstone Vineyard, Grava, Johner Estate, Le Grá Vineyard Winery, Matahiwi Estate, Ngā Pari, Stad\_ko Wines, Te Herā Estate, and URLAR Gladstone.

Music will serenade festivalgoers from start to finish, starting with Will Prior and moving on to The Winesome Lost, Urban Eshra, and The Noodles before closing out the revelry with Love Shack.

Gather, sip, savour, and dance the day away at Wairarapa Wines Harvest Festival.

## Grit, sweat, and wool



The Golden Shears competition gives New Zealand's toughest shearers, woolhandlers, and pressers a chance to shine. The annual championship will run at Masterton's War Memorial Stadium from Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February to Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

The Golden Shears offers spectators three days of non-stop action and entertainment culminating in a heart-stopping final. Here, six competitors are pitted against each other with 20 sheep to shear and an entire stadium watching on.

From 7:45am on Thursday morning, there will be woolpressing, woolhandling, and shearing heats for novices and juniors with women's, men's, and pairs categories. That afternoon will see the student shearing challenge and intermediate shearing heats. The next day starts with open woolhandling heats and senior shearing heats followed by the open woolhandling top 20. Friday night sees the top 30 open shearers competing, the trans-Tasman woolhandling test, and the women's invitation final.

Saturday morning is the last chance for some competitors to excel in their disciplines with semi-finals for junior and senior woolhandling followed by finals in the afternoon. Junior and intermediate shearing semi-finals and finals, including senior shearing, will also take place that afternoon.

Saturday night is action-packed with the National Circuit final, Māori/Pakeha Team event, trans-Tasman shearing test, open woolhandling, and open shearing final. Those who can't make it on the day can watch it live on YouTube.

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## The 2025 concert season



Aurum Trio.

The Waikanae Music Society's eight-concert season opens on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February with a recital from Auckland violin and piano duo James Jin and Xing Wang performing sonatas by Mozart and Beethoven as well as some charming Chinese works.

March the 16<sup>th</sup> is a delightful mix of mainly French Impressionist music from the Aurum Trio (flute, harp, and cello). The April 27<sup>th</sup> concert *A Touch of Italy* features soprano Lilia Carpinelli and pianist Matteo Napoli.

The Amici Ensemble are a permanent and popular feature of the series. On May the 18<sup>th</sup>, Donald Armstrong will be joined by Alexander McFarlane, Andrew Joyce, and Jian Liu for a concert of piano quartets by Françaix, Faure, and Brahms. The June 29<sup>th</sup> concert features the esteemed Flanders Quartet from Australia, with special guest Michael Houstoun performing Dvořák's brilliant piano quintet.

The Ghost Piano Trio return on August the 3<sup>rd</sup> to perform Beethoven's famous 'Ghost Trio' alongside music by Takemitsu and Shostakovich. On August the 24<sup>th</sup>, one of Waikanae Music Society's Charitable Trust 2018 scholarship winners, Tony Yan Tong Chen, will return to perform a piano recital of music by Beethoven, Chopin, Scriabin and Ravel.

The 21<sup>st</sup> of September is a rare treat – a performance of Schubert's iconic *Octet for Wind and Strings* by the well-known Aroha String Quartet, joined by NZSO and Orchestra Wellington musicians on clarinet, bassoon, horn, and double bass.

All concerts are held in the Waikanae Memorial Hall at 2:30pm on Sundays.

## From start to finish



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Whether you need a kitchen for your new build or you think your current kitchen needs a refresh, Kitchen Creators can help you turn your vision into reality.

Owners Craig Wattam and Pat Thomson are the heart and soul of the business and are fully involved with the entire process as design and installation team leaders. Their team will work with you to establish your requirements for the kitchen to suit your lifestyle, as well as any aesthetic choices you've envisioned for your new space.

There are so many aspects to think about when designing your kitchen, which is where the experience of the Kitchen Creators team really add value. The kitchen manufacture happens onsite behind the showroom, where they have an excellent quality control system to ensure the installation process will go smoothly. If you'd like help with the removal process, Kitchen Creators can organise that and recommend sub-trades.

Kitchen Creators can also assist you with other customised joinery requirements such as bathrooms, laundries, wardrobes, bookcases, and more.

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# Kapiti lifestyle

## Keeping it coastal



**Paekākāriki Escarpment Track.**  
Photo courtesy of Kapiti Coast NZ.



**Queen Elizabeth Regional Park Coastal Track.**  
Photo by Capture Studios.

Beaches and bush, culture and cuisine, flora and fauna, suburban hubs and scenic hotspots, the Kapiti Coast has everything you could want and some. Long, sandy beaches, cute cafés, creative spaces and boutiques, and an abundance of wildlife and natural beauty all come together to shape a lifestyle that champions quality over quantity and enjoyment of the simple things. Comprising Paekākāriki, Raumati, Waikanae, and Paraparaumu, which are dotted along the seaside like a string of pearls, Kapiti is just an hour north of Wellington. Despite the short drive, the weather is completely different thanks to the mountain range that traps in temperature and weather to create a beautiful microclimate that's often substantially warmer and sunnier than whatever is going on in the capital!

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

On-the-water fun is always within reach in Kapiti. Whether you're in for some kayaking and paddleboarding or you'd all like to charter a boat and spend the afternoon fishing, want to frolic about on the shoreline, or prefer to while away the day soaking in the sun's rays, the golden sand and calm, shallow ocean make it perfect for all ages and abilities.

Culture vultures, art aficionados, history buffs, and foodies will love Kapiti too. There are plenty of museums and galleries strewn throughout the towns, each one showcasing something different albeit just as intriguing. Whether you're interested in vintage transport or the local inhabitants, enjoy contemporary creations or find traditional practices intriguing, you can travel back in time or embark on a journey to a whole new world. Cafés, bars, restaurants, pubs, and eateries are hidden all over and serve up cuisines from around the world as well as comfort foods. Enjoy brunch by the beach, a locally sourced lunch, an afternoon aperitif at a trendy hotspot, and dinner from far, far away all in one day.

Across the channel lies Kapiti Island – an ecological jewel in Aotearoa's crown. A visit to the Island with Kapiti Island Nature Tours offers a unique opportunity to encounter some of New Zealand's endangered wildlife and appreciate the lush flora and fauna of this natural taonga.

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

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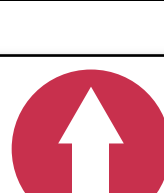
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Pat was working in Western Australia doing mining when he was looking for a change. "I met a group of scaffolders who sold the job to me really! I jumped into it back in 2011 and I haven't looked back since." After six years of scaffolding work in Australia, Pat and his family decided to move back to Aotearoa and settle down. From there he reached the peak of qualifications working for another company, so starting his own business was a natural progression. Today, he runs his own residential and light commercial scaffolding firm, plus offers consulting to clients who own their own equipment, providing them with safety training courses and helping them keep their gear up to date and working the way it should.

Through Prime Scaffold, Pat can assemble and dismantle both fixed and mobile options using aluminium ring lock to keep you stable, ensuring you or your team will be able to finish any job safely and efficiently. The mobile options are great for residential and handyman projects, giving you the flexibility to move the scaffolding yourself.

With friendly and professional customer service and a wealth of experience, Prime Scaffold will provide ultimate peace of mind.

## Pick your power



Kiwis should be prepared for an increase in electricity costs following the Commerce Commission's decision to allow increased investment in the electricity network.

Starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, the average electricity bill will increase by \$10 per month to cover investments in national and local electricity lines infrastructure. This increase will not be felt evenly across the country, with some areas seeing as much as a \$25 hike.

"While the need for infrastructure investment is clear if lines companies are to deliver the service we need in the future, it's unfortunate that this comes during a cost-of-living crisis", Powerswitch general manager Paul Fuge says. "According to Consumer NZ, around 20 percent of households are already struggling to pay their power bills."

The Commission's decision sets a 44 percent maximum allowable revenue increase for Transpower over the next five years and a 47 percent maximum increase for local lines companies, with increases projected to be roughly five dollars per month in the following four years.

What you can do now to try and mitigate the situation is to use tools like Powerswitch to compare providers and lock in better rates, as well as consider adopting cost-saving options including time-of-use power plans, solar, and more efficient appliances.

"Changing can save you hundreds of dollars a year," Fuge continues. "Currently on average consumers using our free and independent Powerswitch service are saving \$500 per year."

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# Looking to the future, preserving the past

## Nature's home



Only minutes from the centre of Wellington, a lush native forest sits waiting for you to explore. Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne is a 225-hectare ecosanctuary located in a hidden valley surrounded by the world's first predator exclusion fence. This special fence keeps mammalian predators out, providing rare and threatened native species with a safe place to call home.

The fence has allowed this groundbreaking conservation project to exist for over 25 years. Some initiatives have included reintroducing native wildlife and plants back into the area, some of which were previously absent from mainland New Zealand for over 100 years. As their numbers increase in the sanctuary, the manu/birds fly beyond the fence and into the city. Years of community trapping and habitat restoration now means they can call Wellingtonians' backyards home, creating one of the only cities in the world where native bird biodiversity is increasing.

Only two kilometres from downtown Wellington, the award-winning sanctuary provides the opportunity to get up close with these rare and endangered species living in the wild. The 8.6-kilometre fence surrounding the sanctuary creates a feeling of stepping back in time as you enter through the gates. But how did a sanctuary happen to form in the heart of our capital city?

The valley of the sanctuary has a rich history, making it possible for this project to fall into place in a time when it feels like nature is often disregarded. The arrival of European settlers saw the burning of much of the original forest and the valley turned into farmland. In the early 1870s, part of this farmland was taken over to construct a water reservoir for Wellington City. In 1978, engineers found the dam to be an earthquake risk, the lake behind the dam was lowered, and in 1991 the upper dam was decommissioned. After this, sanctuary founder Jim Lynch began writing a proposal for the project.

It all started with a simple word: imagine. "Imagine a secret valley in the heart of Wellington with a world-first fence providing sanctuary for precious native species" is how the pitch for the sanctuary began. The community rallied around that word, and "imagine" soon became a 500-year plan of regeneration. The proposal was backed, a charity created, and a world-first fence was designed, prototyped, and completed in 1999. This valley has only been regenerating for 25 years, but we are already seeing that when you make a space for nature, that nature will return.

Choosing places like Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne to visit means you are directly contributing to our conservation mission, helping native species return home for the first time in many years and for nature to return to our capital city.

Don't sit on the fence – visit today! Find out more at [visitzealandia.com](http://visitzealandia.com)





# Destination: New Zealand



Aotearoa New Zealand is a relatively young country as far as humans are concerned. Though the story of the land stretches back millennia, the story of our people is less than 1000 years old. That doesn't mean New Zealand isn't chocka with history, heritage, and tradition though. In fact, our past is fascinating – take a trip across the motu to discover all the wild facts and weird history about the place we call home!

From the top of the North Island Te Ika-a-Māui to the bottom of the South Island Te Waipounamu, our country is rich in cultural patrimony. Across the motu, you can discover Māori culture and history. The first master navigators sailed the south seas in great waka originating from East Polynesia, arriving in Aotearoa between 1250 and 1300 CE. The first Europeans began arriving in New Zealand as early as the 1600s, changing the landscape dramatically by building cities, farming great tracts of land, and mining the mountains and valleys. Both of these people laid the building blocks for what would become our innovative and interconnected society today. Through tours and experiences, historical sites and museums, you can also learn about Aotearoa's first settlers.

Our history can be seen all over the country. You can explore the goldfields in the bottom of South Island, the first European buildings at the top of the North Island, Māori settlements and sacred sites, historic towns and city centres, forts and bases constructed during WWII, and so much more. There are over 6000 heritage locations to visit and hundreds of museums recounting everything we know about the past.

And that's not all: Aotearoa New Zealand has been around a lot longer than its people, so make sure to explore our natural environment too. From nature reserves to national parks, geological wonders to wildlife sanctuaries, you could spend a lifetime exploring the beautiful country we call home.



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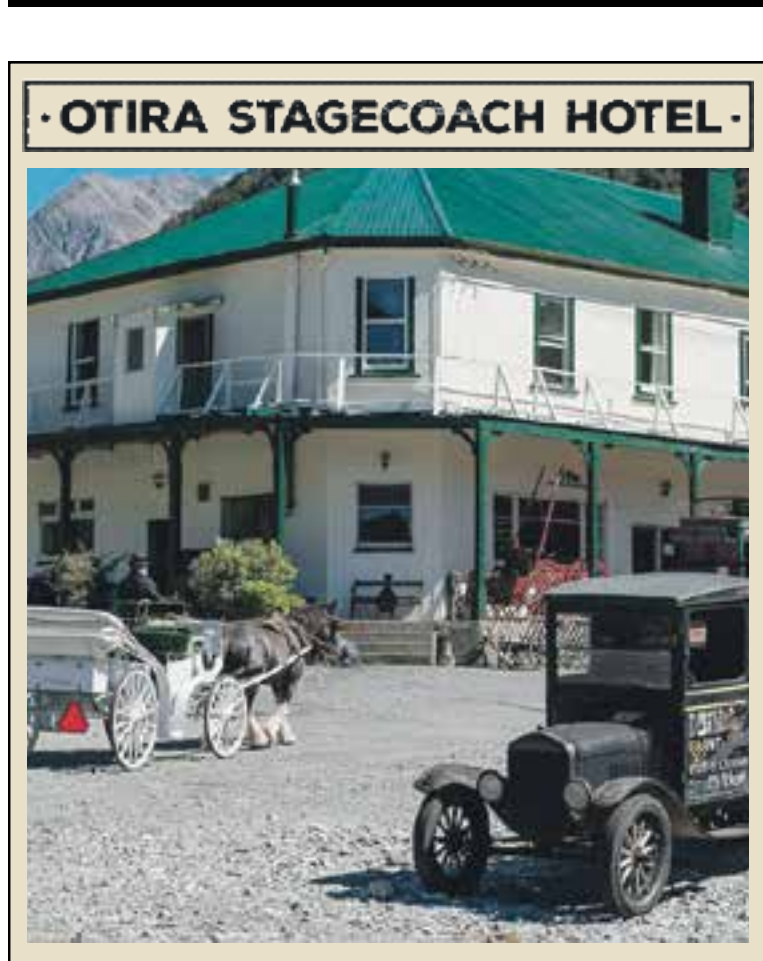
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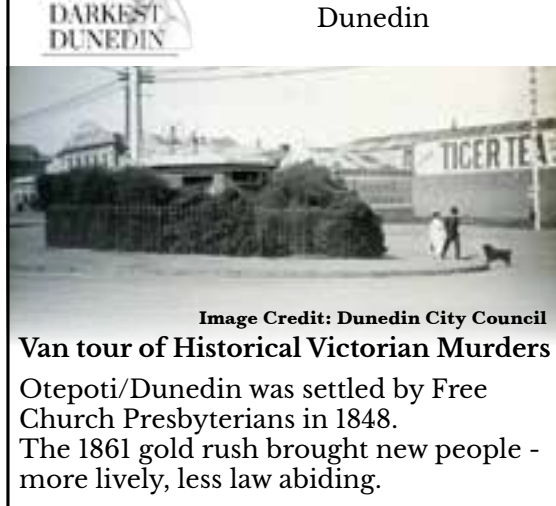


Image Credit: Dunedin City Council

**Van tour of Historical Victorian Murders**

Otepoti/Dunedin was settled by Free Church Presbyterians in 1848. The 1861 gold rush brought new people - more lively, less law abiding.

Drive through the Northern Cemetery and then around various spots where historical murders took place.

Tour is 1 hour 30 minutes  
 Pickup: The Octagon 5:30pm

Book at:  
[www.darkestdunedin.co.nz](http://www.darkestdunedin.co.nz)  
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# Looking to the future, preserving the past

## Step into history



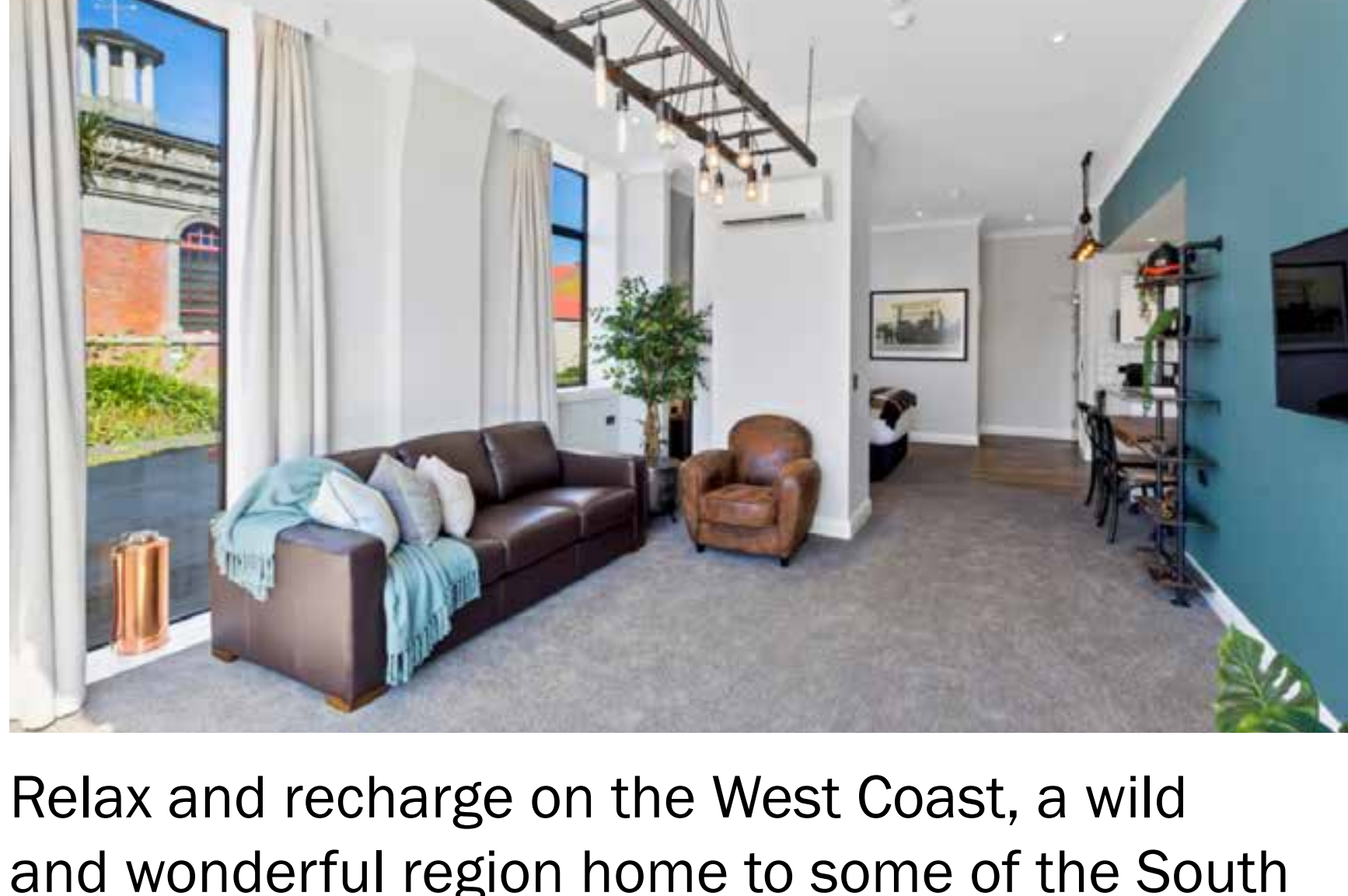
Discover where history and adventure meet at Founders Heritage Park, Nelson's unique heritage village. This immersive experience blends authentic historic buildings, hands-on activities, and a vibrant artisan community, creating the perfect day out for all ages.

Stroll past heritage cottages, explore a working printery, or step inside a vintage plane cockpit. Ride the heritage train, experience the thrill of the fire station, and uncover Nelson's maritime legacy at the Port Museum.

Enjoy a freshly brewed craft beer at the Beer & Hop Museum, relax in the scenic gardens, or browse artisan studios filled with handcrafted treasures. With a playground, boutique shops, and a welcoming café, there's something for everyone.

More than a museum, Founders Heritage Park is a hub for events, markets, and celebrations, and a unique venue for festivals, weddings, and corporate functions. Step back in time and explore Founders Heritage Park today.

## West Coast staycation

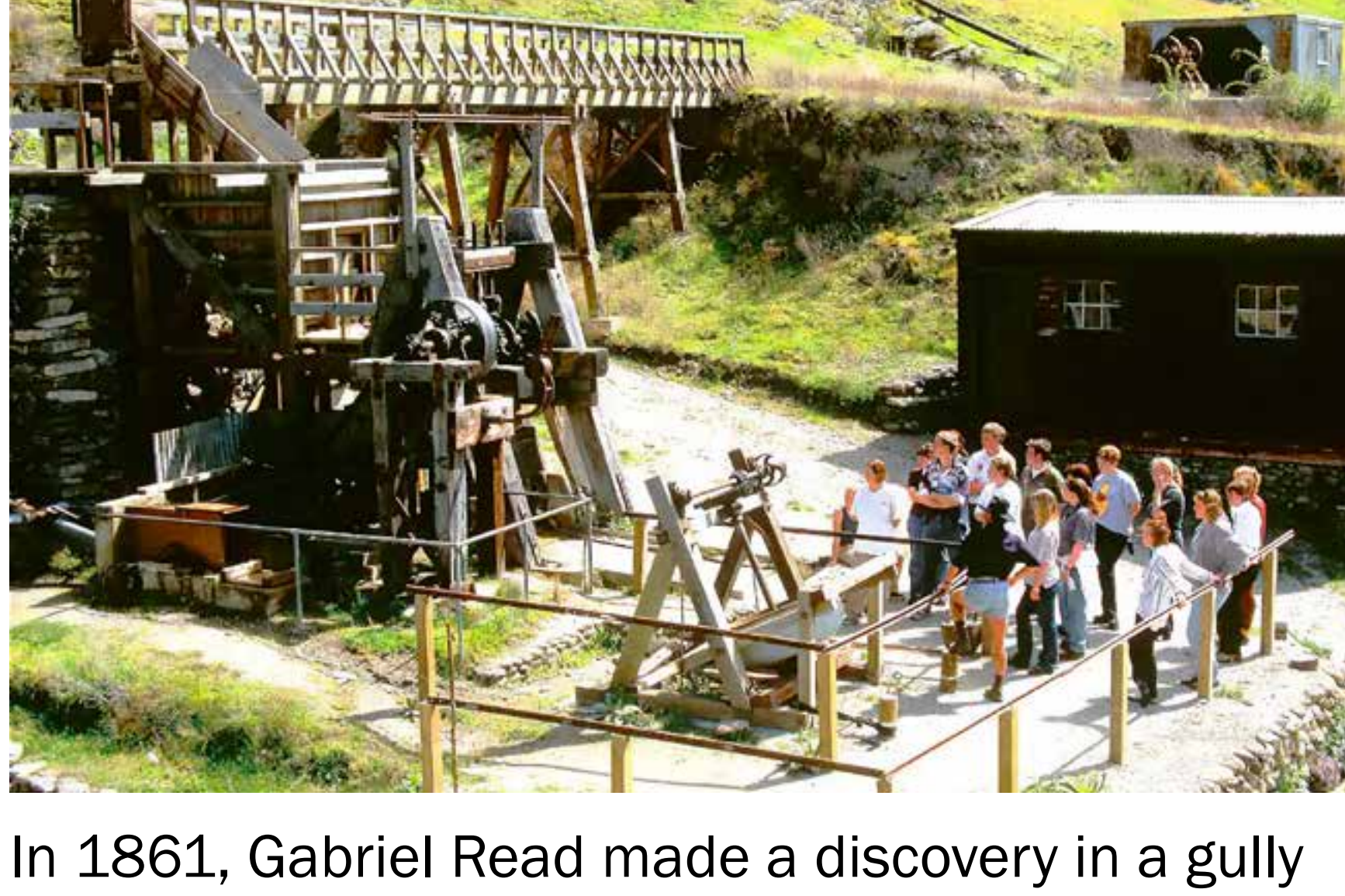


Relax and recharge on the West Coast, a wild and wonderful region home to some of the South Island's most breathtaking scenery, exhilarating activities, and charming towns. Hokitika is central to everything this slice of paradise has to offer, and nestled right in the centre of town is Hokitika Fire Station Boutique Accommodation.

Located on the same site as the original 1866 fire station, each self-contained apartment is named after a former fire chief and has its own flair and feel, accented by original brickwork, historic photographs, and firefighting memorabilia. As the only Qualmark five-star accommodation in central Hokitika, it goes without saying that all five apartments offer character, class, comfort, and charm by the truckload.

Sleeping 22 guests, the Fire Station is perfect for group bookings and romantic rendezvous. Sit back and relax next to the fireplace on the outdoor patio – perfect for catching those famous Hokitika sunsets and starry skies.

## All that glitters



In 1861, Gabriel Read made a discovery in a gully near Dunedin that would change the history of New Zealand forever. Working with a pan and butcher's knife, he collected seven ounces of gold over a 10-hour period, kickstarting the Otago gold rush. Miners from around the world worked rivers across the region, including the Kawarau River at a site called Gee's Flat. Today, this place is known as Goldfields Mining Centre.

Here, you can give gold mining and panning a go. The friendly guides will recount historical facts and juicy tales as well as the methods and techniques used to find metals. Little and big Kiwis will delight in seeing the original equipment, wandering the historical space, and partaking in hands-on experiences.

At the centre, the past and present converge, providing a family-friendly experience that is engaging, educational, and entertaining. Watch history come to life at Goldfields Mining Centre.

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# Looking to the future, preserving the past

## Adventure awaits



Venture under the earth to experience otherworldly beauty in the Milky Way Glowworm Cave of Waipu Caves Farm Park. Just over an hour north of Auckland, this incredible adventure park is the perfect place to make memories that will last a lifetime.

Start off by going into the underworld. Enter through the mouth of a cave and descend down along a paved path into the depths. Once darkness settles, the ceiling will begin to twinkle above. The blue-green glow is emitted by the world-famous native New Zealand glowworms, and the experience is nothing short of magical.

Though the Milky Way Glowworm Cave is Waipu Caves Farm Park's calling card, the adventure doesn't end here. Whether you're a thrill seeker or a leisure lover, there are all kinds of activities on offer at this 320-acre, privately owned conservation and recreation park. And that goes for both kids and grownups, with special activities available for tour groups and school fieldtrips.

Go bush walking or ride your bike on one of the farm roads, swim in the river, build huts in the hut-building area, and explore the bouldering or rock-climbing crags. There is also archery and an animal petting farm with calves, pigs, goats, and lambs. You can even stay the night in the off-grid, solar-powered campsite, which also has a Dark Sky designation. Get your fill of adventure at Waipu Caves Farm Park.

## Make memories



At Hillsborough Hideaway, past meets present and fascinating meets fun. A car museum, mini putt, luge, and café all in one, this accessible and family-friendly attraction is just a 10-minute drive from New Plymouth, surrounded by pristine gardens and rolling countryside.

Home to Aotearoa's largest private collection of Holden cars, Hillsborough Hideaway was purpose built to house and preserve some of the oldest, newest, and rarest models – all in pristine condition. The vehicles are arranged alongside memorabilia and guests can learn about Holden's fascinating history while perusing the displays.

Once you've wandered through the jam-packed car museum, head over to the play area where little and big Kiwis alike can shoot down the hill on the luge. Don't worry – once you've reached the bottom, hop on the train back to the top to do it all over again.

The 18-hole Mt Panorama Mini Putt was built to resemble the racing track in Bathurst, Australia and is rated one of the best outdoor mini-putt courses in New Zealand. It's the perfect activity to make the most of Taranaki's famous sunny weather.

Thanks to the delicious café onsite, where guests can find tasty snacks and lunch options, you and your whānau can spend the whole day enjoying all the activities this Hillsborough hotspot has to offer.

Explore, engage, and enjoy a great day creating memories you'll cherish forever at Hillsborough Hideaway.



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**Milky Way Glowworm Cave**

Be amazed at the natural beauty of the underworld in Milky Way Glowworm Cave. Get a close-up experience of the world-famous Glowworms and the beautiful hanging crystal formations. This one hour guided tour is suitable for all ages, walking on an easy access path. The privately owned Milky Way Glowworm Cave was opened for public viewing in 2023 and is guided with torches provided to you for a better cave experience. We like to teach our visitors about the cave and the glowworms to appreciate more. Several guided tours daily.



So much to see and do on this 320 acre park...

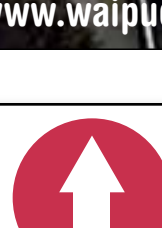
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- Jurassic Walks • Jurassic Climbs
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Search Google Maps for Milky Way Glowworm Cave



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# New Zealand Fringe Festival

## Being human



Artwork by Sophie Blokker.

Welcome, Wellingtonian. Come on in and make yourself comfortable for *Therapy: A Musical Comedy*. A one (and a half) person musical following a woman's reluctant visits to therapy, this New Zealand International Fringe Festival show at BATS Theatre from the 25<sup>th</sup> of February to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March uses comedic song to explore grief, trauma, and the embarrassment of being human.

*Therapy* is based on real events, with script by solo performer Chelsea McRae (née Sheehan-Gaiger). True crime fun facts, realising you joined a cult, and boldly announcing your intrusive thoughts two step with heavier subjects like mental illness, suicide, and sexual assault in this original Kiwi musical. Sheehan-Gaiger says the show was hard to put together but also therapeutic.

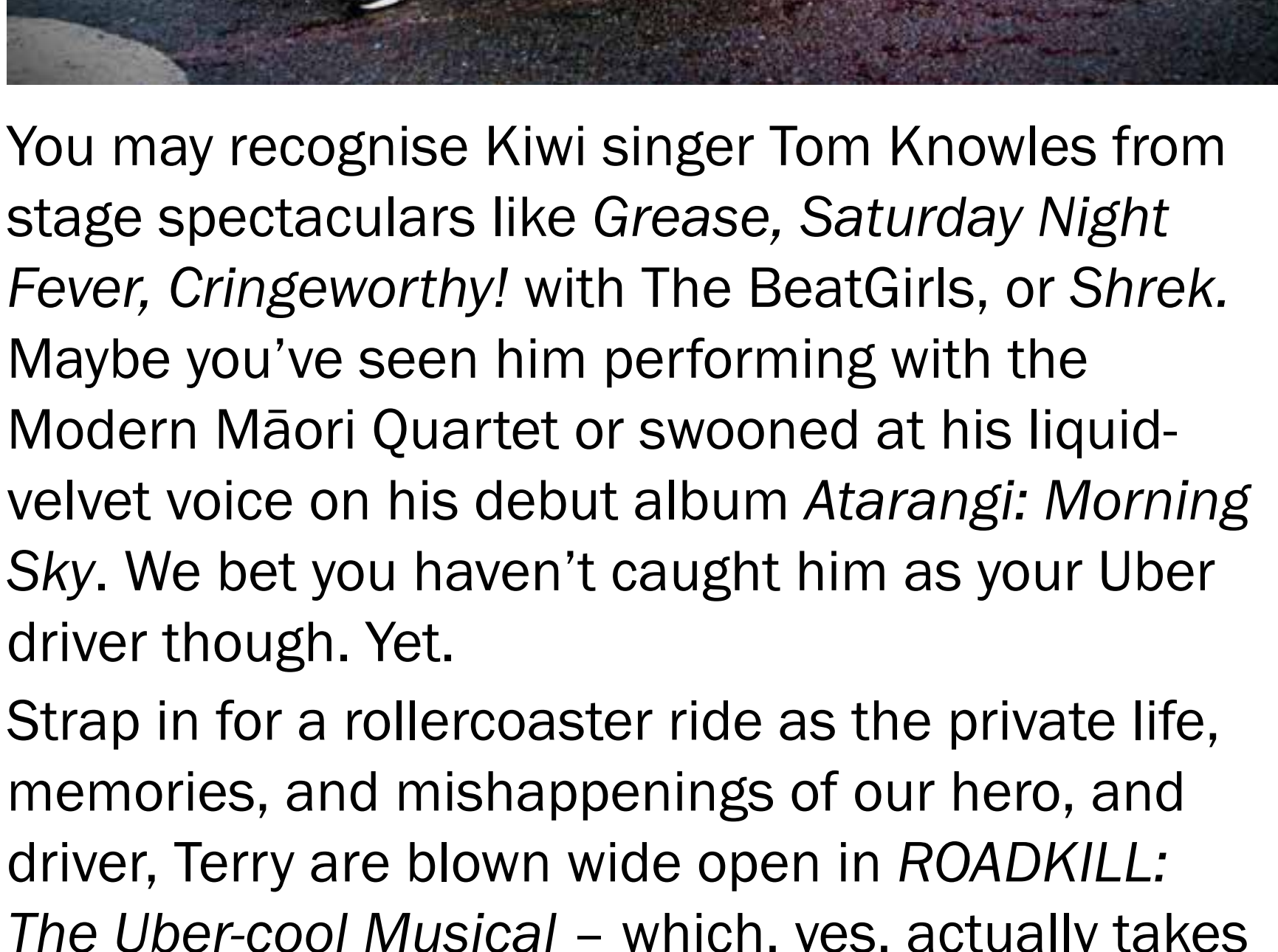
"Sharing this story with audiences is hard to describe," she continues. "We've had amazing responses from them, sharing their own mental health journeys and subsequent positive changes after seeing our show. It's an absolute honour to have our musical making real-world differences to people's lives."

The show started as a postgraduate project focusing on exploring trauma safely and debuted at Dunedin Fringe in 2024 to sell-out crowds and critical acclaim.

Lyrics are written by Sheehan-Gaiger and composer Mario Sadra de-Jong, with dramaturgy by Amanda Faye Martin, direction by Marea Colombo, and AV by Cody McRae.

Dubbed a celebration of "the messy parts of personhood" by *Theatreview*, *Therapy* is a must-see this Fringe season.

## Uber unique **by Madelaine Empson**



You may recognise Kiwi singer Tom Knowles from stage spectaculars like *Grease*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Cringeworthy!* with The BeatGirls, or *Shrek*. Maybe you've seen him performing with the Modern Māori Quartet or swooned at his liquid-velvet voice on his debut album *Atarangi: Morning Sky*. We bet you haven't caught him as your Uber driver though. Yet.

Strap in for a rollercoaster ride as the private life, memories, and mishappenings of our hero, and driver, Terry are blown wide open in *ROADKILL: The Uber-cool Musical* – which, yes, actually takes place in a van – from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of March.

The van in question is called Roadkill, and will be the setting for not only the musical, but Knowles' second Fringe show

*CAR-A-OKE!*, which presents audiences with the opportunity to party with their friends and sing karaoke in the van, parked far away from all their inhibitions, from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

The unhinged (but oh-so-fun) concept is "inspired by all the interesting taxi rides and rideshares I've been in over the years, especially when the driver overshares and you can't get a word in", Knowles delights. "That idea mixed with James Corden's *Carpool Karaoke* and then sprinkled with a touch of the TV series thriller, *Baby Reindeer*."

With its cutting-edge sound system, neon lights, and one-of-a-kind rave atmosphere, hop on the gravy train and Roadkill van this New Zealand Fringe Festival!

## Deliciously smart and silly

**by Madelaine Empson**



This New Zealand Fringe Festival, hilarity will cannonball into Gryphon Theatre, where a cyclone of comedy, chaos, crazy characters, and cutting commentary will build up, build up, build up... gorgeous!

Running from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, *Baby Gorgeous: Build Ups* is award-winning comedian Marshall Lorenzo (*Canada's Drag Race*, *The Sketchersons*) new take on an old(ish) classic:

the acclaimed sketch show *Baby Gorgeous*, which earned him five New Zealand Fringe nominations in 2024.

"It was incredible", Marshall exclaims of the nominations. "Especially having relocated back home to New Zealand from Canada and having zero built-in audience, I knew I had a mountain to climb."

With momentum building for this year's Fringe, Marshall describes the show as a culmination of his comedy career. "It's a delicious mix of smart and silly, heightened and grounded, and a riotous time for all the mischievous demonic little Baby Gorgeouses out there."

So, what – or who – is a Baby Gorgeous?

"I was on a weight loss journey, so 'Baby Gorgeous' was a way for me to pump myself so full of delusion that I could get back on stage and pretend I was not only young but also so thin", Marshall continues, describing the *Build Ups* sequel as

"a love letter to all those tiny little build-ups that disappoint us in life. Like a steak pie with no steak, capitalism working for us all, or not losing weight from only eating cake."

Directed by Carly Heffernan, this razor-sharp queer comedy is here to make you laugh, sing, and answer that burning question: is Marshall 'Baby Gorgeous' or 'Fully Delulu'?

## The cheeky side of Fringe



Photo by Photowell.

Get cheeky with award-winning international cabaret performer, rising burlesque star, and comedian Lily Catastrophe in her debut solo production *Bottom Surgery*, a semi-autobiographical variety show that's glitter-soaked and gloriously unglamorous.

Enter Lily Catastrophe's world of boys' schools and girl failures as she explains all the parts you didn't know about gender-affirming surgery. Part memoir, part plea for better transgender healthcare, and part-showcase of the wins, losses, and downright confusing parts of being transgender in modern-day Aotearoa, *Bottom Surgery* weaves together raunchy performance, outrageous storytelling, and confessional intimacy.

"While *Bottom Surgery* deals with how hard it can be to access trans healthcare in New Zealand, the show is a love letter to trans people, our allies, and our resilience as a community," Lily says.

The (mostly) one-woman show follows a variety format, all the while exposing the complexities and challenges faced by trans individuals seeking to access gender-affirming surgery and live as their authentic selves.

"I hope *Bottom Surgery* can show people who aren't trans what it's like trying to get healthcare in New Zealand and demystify us just a little," Lily continues. "But more than anything else, I want the show to be a cabaret evening filled with laughter, queer joy, and a dash of chaos."

Running from the 27<sup>th</sup> of February to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March at The Fringe Bar, *Bottom Surgery* promises to be a raucous cabaret evening dripping with attitude.

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# Wellington Silver Screeners:

## Vincent Ward

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



**Vincent Ward, tank graveyard Ukraine June, 2019.**



**What Dreams May Come.**

Despite being one of the biggest Kiwi directors in cinema, Vincent Ward says that he became a filmmaker “sort of by accident”.

“I didn’t really ever intend to be a filmmaker, I just like making things,” he says. “I went down this path and the doors opened. Then I just took one step at a time and things happened.”

His oeuvre includes *The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey*, *Map of the Human Heart*, and the heartbreakingly beautiful *What Dreams May Come*, yet Ward remains down to earth and genuine, saying that his favourite part of filmmaking is the terrific people he’s encountered. During our conversation he takes his time to tell me his stories, weaving them together into a narrative both adventurous and gossamer – a true master of his craft.

**What sparked your interest in filmmaking?**

It started with six head injuries and being hospitalised three times with concussions from playing rugby, which forced me into the art room at school. I seemed to do well at it so then I went to art school. I backed into it again by trying something new and doing an animation course. The films did well when I was at university. They got national and international releases in America and in New Zealand and won festivals.

**What do you love about it?**

You can create worlds, which I like, and you can tell people’s stories, go behind closed doors and see what makes them tick, and share moments with them that you wouldn’t necessarily share unless you’re in a relationship with someone or they were family. You get to see different sides of people that you wouldn’t normally see. It allows you a licence to visit people in the various ways that they interact in scenarios. I’m talking about characters. You can dig away, try and find meaning, and uncover or unravel somebody’s psyche.

**After you finished university, and your projects started taking off and receiving some attention, how did you keep that momentum going?**

It wasn’t any big strategy. My first film was the first New Zealand film in Cannes [Film Festival], *Vigil*, and it got a lot of press and screened everywhere. It was a small film, but it got reasonable releases internationally and at festivals. Then I followed it with another film, which we thought would never get made because it sounded outlandish. This was *The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey*, which also got into Cannes and won a bunch of festivals. So just one film after another. Then I made another one in Canada, *Map of the Human Heart*, which was a huge adventure. Filming in the Canadian Arctic, filming in Montreal, filming in England, editing in Australia, working with Inuit, and with French and English and American actors as well. Jeanne Moreau, John Cusack, Annie Galipeau. I love working with actors. I teach acting often, and I find that trying to get that performance that is memorable, that’s what I love.

**When you got the news from Cannes you must have been over the moon.**

The first time, yeah! I had been working so hard, and I didn’t really know what to expect. I don’t remember any euphoria, I was just like, ‘Oh, okay, the next adventure!’ I just remember having been locked in that editing room for such a long time, and it’s an intense process, and then it was like having a month off, it was great. And with all these people and fanfare, going up to the Palais, and over 2000 people in the audience. For me at the time it was pretty out there.

**All the hard work paid off! What have been some career highlights?**

I think some of the more memorable are often smaller things with lesser-known people that I’ve worked with. Like an old lady that I worked with in the Canadian Arctic who had sun blindness and, even though it was very painful, she wanted to keep working because she liked Hollywood films and always imagined herself as an actress. Such incredible spirit. You come across these people that have a lot of courage and something very special about them. Finding those people, whether they’re actors or people that are just helping in some way, you’ve been given a gift.

Working with Kiefer Sutherland was awesome. Just such a professional actor, such a good person to work with, and so talented. Robin Williams – that was really special. When you work with him, when you direct him, you could talk and make comments all the way through his take and between his dialogue and encourage him, like you’re coaching him, and he’d go with it. At the end he’d say, ‘Thanks coach.’ [Laughs.] He wanted that feedback, and he loved doing improv work, which I love doing. That was pretty unique. Certainly a highlight with Robin, very loyal, very trusting, to work with. Became a long-term friend after my work with him on *What Dreams May Come*. Working with Max von Sydow, an actor that Ingmar Bergman worked with a lot. Working with Werner Herzog, that was great. And with New Zealand actors, Temuera Morrison was fabulous to work with. I’ve been very lucky. Acting is such a gift – some people have it, some people don’t. And wow, when somebody has it and you get to work with them, it’s such a godsend.

When I was shooting in Ukraine, there is a photo of me in a tank graveyard. There were about 400, 500 tanks. They were ex-Russian tanks originally used in Afghanistan, and they were just rusting. They were recommissioned and upgraded and used for defence. It was before the Russian invasion and that was amazing. I got out of there six months before the Russians invaded. We were filming on the Dnieper River outside of Kyiv. It was magic filming on the river at night until two o’clock in the morning. We had a seven-year-old, who was the lead in that part of the film, sailing a motorboat that the motor didn’t work in. We worked up an oar and a blanket as a sail, sailing under these massive Soviet-style bridges at night with a flotilla of small boats – some with smoke machines and all sorts. Just absolute magic. It was like a dream. That was special.

**Having grown up and gotten your start in Wairarapa and Wellington, what’s particular about working in these areas?**

I’ve never worked doing a huge feature film in Wellington or Wairarapa, so I haven’t been part of the international industry working in those areas. But what I like about working in Wellington and Wairarapa is that it’s personal and sometimes, paradoxically, working in small communities means that you meet a diverse range of people, because you’re much more connected on the ground. I really love that. Like there’s a guy who loaned us a truck on my first feature film, a 1936 Fargo, and he’s a motocross champ. Or I made a film about a woman who had about 150 chooks, and some of them lived in the kitchen, [laughs]. You’re much more interconnected. There’s more of a sense of community. I’ve just come back from staying on a marae in Te Urewera, where I made two films. And again, where do you hang out with huge, extended families? It was fantastic, I just felt a part of something.

**What advice would you give someone who’s trying to break into the film industry?**

I think it’s a devilishly difficult industry to start out in, but you just have to make films one way or another, and then if the work has something special about it, that will come through. I believe that if you do good work, good things will come out of it. Rather than being outcome-orientated and concentrating on what will happen when the work is finished and where it will end up, concentrate on making something good. And not talking about it all the time; doing it.

**What are you working on currently?**

I work as a fine artist as well as a filmmaker. I’ve got exhibitions scheduled for Queenstown, Dunedin, and Melbourne for 2026. I’ve just taken on a couple of new gallerists, one in Melbourne and one down south. In terms of film, it’s so speculative, I’ve got a TV series I’ve been working on for a long time set in Germany and a feature film drama that I have also been working on for a long time, that if my financier comes through, I’ll be making! So we live in hope.

**Lots of small fires burning.**

I like working across the different mediums.

**Do they connect?**

Yeah, they do. I draw images for my films sometimes and then the images that I create, that I conjure up in my mind, they go back into the films. The methodologies that I use for the artwork are methodologies that I can apply to some of the heightened moments in my films.



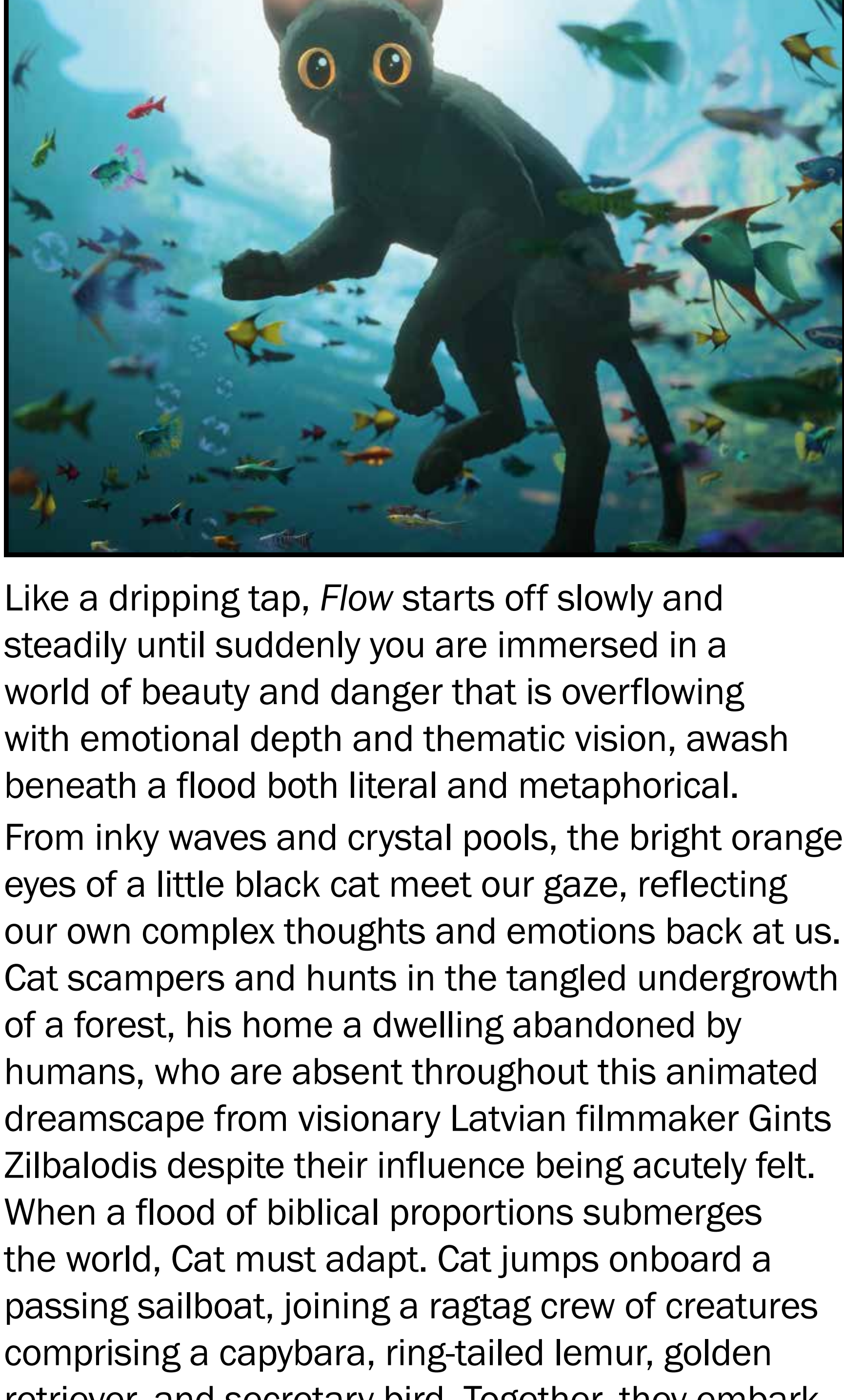
## Flow

84 minutes

PG

★★★★

Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera



Like a dripping tap, *Flow* starts off slowly and steadily until suddenly you are immersed in a world of beauty and danger that is overflowing with emotional depth and thematic vision, awash beneath a flood both literal and metaphorical. From inky waves and crystal pools, the bright orange eyes of a little black cat meet our gaze, reflecting our own complex thoughts and emotions back at us. Cat scampers and hunts in the tangled undergrowth of a forest, his home a dwelling abandoned by humans, who are absent throughout this animated dreamscape from visionary Latvian filmmaker Gints Zilbalodis despite their influence being acutely felt. When a flood of biblical proportions submerges the world, Cat must adapt. Cat jumps onboard a passing sailboat, joining a ragtag crew of creatures comprising a capybara, ring-tailed lemur, golden retriever, and secretary bird. Together, they embark on a picaresque adventure through paintbrush landscapes (created by designer Zilbalodis and animation director Léo Silly Pélissier), each episode more charmingly heart-wrenching than the last. Zilbalodis, Matiss Kaža, and Ron Dyens' script is devoid of dialogue yet not of expression. The characters are not anthropomorphic in the slightest, their movements hyper-realistic and their sounds recorded from real life creatures, and yet they are sprinkled with a touch of magical realism that administers us with enough suspended disbelief to become utterly entranced in the story. Each character has its typical animalistic quirk – I picture Cat who knocks Lemur's trinket off the shelf just because – yet they possess enough humanness to make them emotionally capable of exploring relatable themes of loss, bonding, and camaraderie.

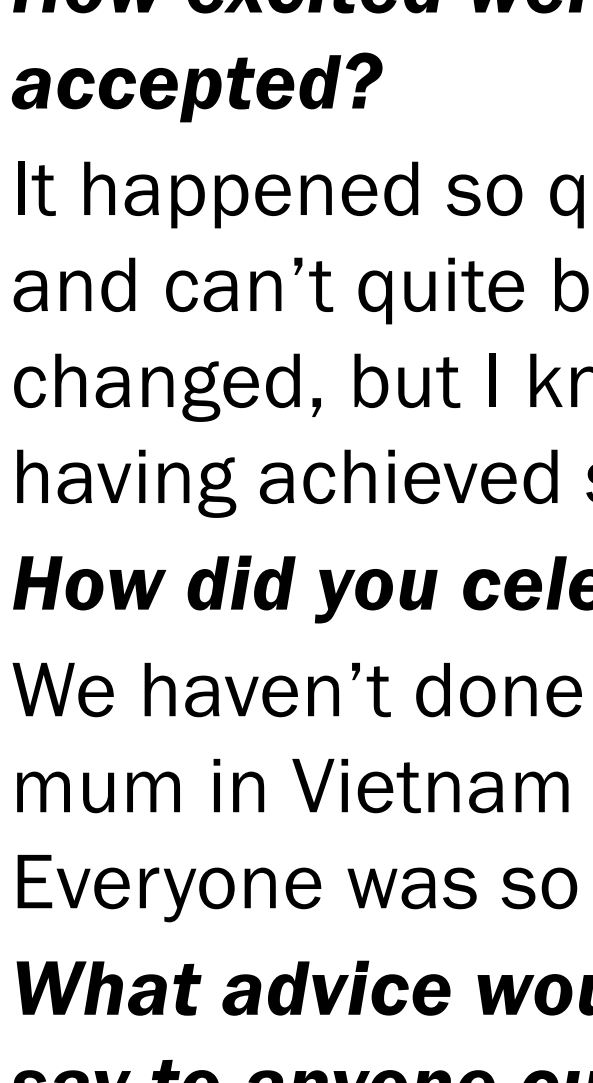
*Flow* is a tale about a wary creature learning to trust and depend on others as it learns about the intrinsic interconnected nature of the world.

In this way, Zilbalodis' cinematography places us directly into the action from Cat's point of view, his editing fast-paced to build tension but allowing breathing room in between to give way to more gentle moments. Combined, they give *Flow* a game-like lens, teaching the audience through visual details. Meanwhile, Zilbalodis and Rihards Zalupe's score carries us through moments of peril and playfulness with music tailored perfectly to the ebb and flow of the narrative. In *Flow* you are not a spectator, but a passenger both on the lifeboat and within this devastatingly beautiful world we call home.

## A chat with Tung...

## The best things in life

by Madelaine Empson



***Congratulations on buying your first home! Tell me about the journey to get there.***

I started looking to buy a home in August last year with lots of help from my mortgage broker. I learned something new every day with help and

advice from my colleagues. Five months later, I had a house. And guess what? It was only 72 hours from us seeing the open home to signing the sales and purchase agreement!

***Wow! What was it about the house that made you realise you'd found the one?***

Number one is the colour [laughs], black and white, which I love. It's very low-maintenance, new, and modern. It's just me. There's a feeling you get when you go to an open home. You walk in, and you go, 'This is my home'. This one felt homey.

***Is that feeling quite rare for you?***

No [chuckles]. We must've seen about 50 or 60 open homes. I'm an easy sell, so I fell in love with almost all of them! But my partner was more picky. So, big thanks to him!

***How excited were you to find out your offer was accepted?***

It happened so quickly that I'm still shocked and can't quite believe it. I feel like nothing has changed, but I know it has. I feel a sense of having achieved something.

***How did you celebrate?***

We haven't done anything yet, but I called my mum in Vietnam and I told people at work. Everyone was so excited for me – hoorah!

***What advice would you give and what would you say to anyone currently looking to buy their first home in today's market?***

Aside from suggesting they get a mortgage broker, I'd tell them this is definitely a buyer's market. I had no experience at all, and I could still buy a house. So, you can too! It just might not happen how you thought it would.

Điều bất ngờ nhất sẽ đến lúc bạn ít ngờ tới nhất: The best things come when you least expect them to.

## Private Lives

Written by Noël Coward

Directed by Janet Noble

Gryphon Theatre, 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

Reviewed by Stanford Reynolds



With Noël Coward's works entering the public domain this year, Stagecraft's production of *Private Lives* is the first in Wellington to bring new life to the playwright's classic comedic style. Despite originally being performed in 1930, the play's subversive portrayal of gender roles is ripe and juicy for a modern audience. Though he was closeted during his lifetime, Coward's queerness adds a biting wit to his work.

After a messy divorce, two ex-lovers (played by Dan Harward Jones and Lydia Verschaffelt) have married new spouses (Laura Gardner and Tom Kereama) and are happily honeymooning when they discover that their hotel rooms are right next to each other. Passions reignite and they flee from their new marriages together – only to be reminded of the reasons why they got divorced. Coward's characteristically fast-paced, witty dialogue is realised confidently by every member of the cast, which is rounded out by Margot Allais as Louise. Dialogue is clear even with the speed of the banter, the cast's accents are consistent, and there is skillful variety in the pacing of the lines. The effect is a delightful show that keeps the audience laughing. It is clear that the actors understand the humour in their lines, and their comedic timing and delivery make the most of the hilarious script.

Set design by Tanya Piejus is also fantastic, beginning with the cast pulled forward in front of a curtain for a believable hotel balcony. The set then opens up to a stylish box set for a Parisian apartment, complete with charming painted streets visible through the back windows. Both spaces are used well by the cast, whose movement feels natural and motivated. Costume design (Meredith Dooley) and hair styles and make up (workshopped by Aimée Sullivan) all add great believability and personality to the characters and the era of the play.

Janet Noble's direction has made an exceptional interpretation of the script as a time capsule of a classic comedy filtered through a modern lens. Stagecraft's *Private Lives* is a very enjoyable production with plenty of risqué humour that still has plenty to say about modern gender roles.

## Hope

Written by Jenny Patrick

Directed by Lyndee-Jane Rutherford

Circa Theatre, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025

Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Photo by Mark Tantrum Photography.

In a scarily possible near future, a new government has favoured tax cuts for the middle classes over investing in the public health system, resulting in the Last Year of Life Bill. This sees people with terminal illnesses denied all but palliative care once they've been 'classified' as too far gone to be worth treating, so freeing up beds and medication for younger, more worthy patients.

One of the classifieds is Irina (Perry Piercy), a Ukrainian refugee who escaped before the ongoing war. Her two children, Yulia (Mel Dodge) and Daniel (Tāmata Porter), have very different attitudes to their mother's plight. Yulia is a nurse who daily sees the effect of an ageing population on a struggling health system and believes the new law is saving lives, while Daniel procures and administers black-market cancer drugs to try to buy his mum more time. Also in the mix is Adam (Jack Buchanan), one of Irina's former piano students whose own health issue has arrested his career as a maestro.

Starting with an attempted suicide and seemingly about a heavily doom-laden subject, *Hope* is surprisingly uplifting. That's largely because it's funny and this vein of humour as each character wrestles with the ethics of the appalling situation they find themselves in is what stops Jenny Patrick's finely balanced script being a buzzkill.

The cast is excellent, each clearly articulating their character and interacting with believable emotions and chemistry. They are supported by a lusciously coloured set (Ian Harman) that leans strongly into the mosaic motif that threads through the dialogue and anchors the hope within it. Marcus McShane's lighting adds to the visual feast, with subtle practicals and shades that clearly pinpoint the time of day. The accompanying piano-based soundtrack (composer Briar Prastiti, sound engineer and designer Chris Ward) weaves beautifully around the action.

A call to action in a disintegrating world, *Hope* celebrates the deeper things that bring us together and make us live, love, and laugh.

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# What's on



**21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Orientation: Next is Now:** *Great Hall, Dominion Museum, Mount Cook – 6:30pm.*

Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University is kicking off the semester with a concert for students and the public. The shows will feature musicians and DJs including Wet Denim with Dani Josie, Sofia Machray, and Adult friends on Friday, and Mikeyy with LiminalWendy1 and Froth on Saturday. **Wet Demin. Photo by Lucy Radman Brown.**



**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Charm: A K-Pop Drag Dance Party:**

*Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro – 9:30pm.* Get ready for a night of high-energy performances, dazzling drag queens, and the best K-Pop anthems with host Bunny Holiday [pictured]. This fusion of Korean music and fierce drag transforms Ivy Bar and Cabaret into a dance party hotspot complete with lip-syncing and jaw-dropping choreography.



**14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Valentine's Day Shanties with Wellington Sea Shanty Society:**

*Abandoned Taproom Petone, Fitzherbert Street, Lower Hutt – 7:30pm.* Nothing says romance like singing a salty sea shanty... Declare your love. Renew your vows. Get intimate with the Wellington Sea Shanty Society and have a foot-stomping, rum-swigging good time. **Photo by Will Not Fade.**



**15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Squirrt – A Drag Show That's Too Hot to Handle:**

*Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro – 10pm.* Scandalous and sexy, catch an extra hot drag show for your post-Valentine's Day plans. Starring some of the spiciest and slinkiest drag stars based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Blink Bogan's [pictured] Squirrt drag show is the perfect event for a sultry summer night.



**27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Embassy of Japan and Japan Foundation, Sydney Present: Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – The Movie: Mugen Train:**

*Embassy of Japan, Willis Street, Te Aro – 5:30pm.* In this supernatural Japanese anime, Tanjiro and the group have completed their rehabilitation training. When they arrive at their next mission on the Mugen Train, they find over 40 people have mysteriously disappeared.



**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Poetry in the Garden:** *Katherine Mansfield House & Garden, Tinakori Road, Thorndon – 2pm.*

Bring a picnic and sit on the lawn at Katherine Mansfield House & Garden while enjoying readings from local young poets. Listen to the works of Amelia Kirkness, Cadence Chung [pictured], Jackson McCarthy, Joshua Toumu'a, Maia Armistead, Nadezhda Macey, and Tessa Keenan. **Photo by Stephen A'Court.**



# What's on Wairarapa

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Wairarapa Wines Harvest Festival:** *The Cliffs, Dakins Road, Carterton* – 11am. Celebrate the beginning of the grape harvest season with wine, food, and a pumping entertainment programme.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Cider and Fruit Wine Festival:** *Molewood Orchard, Mole Street, Greytown* – 12pm. Drinks, kai, and music collide at this celebration of cider and fruit wine.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Summer Hummer:** *Queen Elizabeth Park, Dixon Street, Masterton* – 1:30pm. Headliner Cassie Henderson is joined by a fantastic local lineup for this intimate, family-friendly music festival.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Twilight Smokefest Burnout Comp:** *Masterton Motorplex, Manaia Road, Masterton* – 3:30pm. Get your motor running for this epic car burnout and skid-pad event.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Harvest Moon:** *Carterton Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 7:30pm. If you love the sweet, soulful tones of the pedal steel guitar, this is your chance to experience it live with Wairarapa's country Americana six-piece band Harvest Moon.

**27<sup>th</sup> Feb-1<sup>st</sup> Mar. The Golden Shears:** *Masterton War Memorial Stadium, Dixon Street, Masterton* – various times. Get stuck in at the world's premier shearing, woolhandling, and woolpressing championship.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. Royal New Zealand Air Force Band:** *Carterton Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 1:30pm. From marches to movies, classical to country, swing to Scottish bagpipes, the RNZAF Band has something for everyone.

## Kapiti

**16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Waikanae Music Society Presents: Xing Wang and James Jin:** *Waikanae Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa Street, Waikanae* – 2:30pm. This violin and piano recital from esteemed Auckland musicians Xing Wang and James Jin comprises favourites by Fritz Kreisler and Vittorio Monti, plus a pair of intriguing Chinese compositions.

**21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Royal New Zealand Ballet Presents: Tutus on Tour:** *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – various times. Bringing ballet to communities across the motu, *Tutus on Tour* features two pas de deux, *Limerence* by former RNZB dancer Annaliese Macdonald, and neoclassical work *The Way Alone*.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Hayden Chisholm and Unwind:** *St Peter's Village Hall, Beach Road, Paekākāriki* – 7pm. saxophonist Hayden Chisholm's specialty is music that knows a lot about jazz but is unafraid of folk and chamber music.

## Events

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Roll For Romance:** *Counter Culture Board Game Café & Bar, Victoria Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. This unique event adds a playful twist to speed dating, allowing singles to connect through fun and board games.

**20<sup>th</sup> Feb. Short Film Fest: Human Connection:** *Bhakti Lounge Wellington, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 6:15pm. Watch short films based on the art of human connection while enjoying some delicious plant-based food like popcorn-cookies.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Kaitoke Tamariki Ranger Day:** *Kaitoke Regional Park, Kaitoke Waterworks Road, Upper Hutt* – 1:30pm. Kids between the ages of seven and 12 are invited to experience a day in Kaitoke Regional Park with a park ranger.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Flash Tattoos On The Rooftop:** *Dirty Little Secret, Dixon Street, Te Aro* – 12pm. Get inked while making the most of Dirty Little Secret's tropical paradise.

## Music

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb. Home Alone Presents: Simon Joyner and Peter Jefferies:** *Vogelmorn Bowling Club, Mornington Road, Brooklyn* – 7:30pm. American singer-songwriter Simon Joyner strums into Wellington with an intimate show featuring Kiwi underground icon Peter Jefferies.

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb Carl Cox:** *Brewtown, Blenheim Street, Upper Hutt* – 5pm. Expect only the best in sound design at this epic, vibey event featuring one of the most influential DJs of the past 30 years.

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Dimension:** *TSB Arena, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront* – 6pm. Robert Etheridge, the half-Spanish half-British artist known as Dimension, has become one of dance music's biggest names. Catch his signature high-energy mixes live.

**21<sup>st</sup> Feb. The Petersens:** *Little Theatre, Queens Drive, Lower Hutt* – 7:30pm. Known for their tight harmonies, YouTube sensations and Americana roots band The Petersens are coming to Aotearoa for an intimate show, an uplifting and authentic music experience.

**21<sup>st</sup> Feb. The New Zealand Saxophone Society Presents: Saxophone Spectacular: Nobuya Sugawa in Concert:** *Old St Paul's, Mulgrave Street, Pipitea* – 7:30pm. One of the world's most revered saxophonists will play in Aotearoa for the first time alongside his virtuoso pianist wife Minako Koyanagi.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Other Voices: Post-Punk Showcase:** *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Other Voices, a Christchurch-based four-piece post-punk and indie covers band, is gearing up to play all your more obscure favourites and some deep cuts.

**26<sup>th</sup> Feb. Rolf Gjølsten, Nicole Chao, Helene Pohl, and Beth Chen:** *St Andrew's on the Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 12:15pm. Violin, cello, and piano collide in this emotional classical concert.

**26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Summer Camp:** *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Showcasing the best up-and-coming local talent, offering drink specials courtesy of Jameson, and with the best vibes of the season, San Fran's Summer Camp featuring Dropper and Shooless will rock your socks off.

**27<sup>th</sup> Feb. The Flatliners:** *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 9pm. Kiwis begged the Canadian punk rock band to come to New Zealand... so they've listened! Catch the sonic explorers for their first Wellington gig ever.

## Performance

**Until 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Stagecraft Presents: Private Lives:** *Gryphon Theatre, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro* – various times. Noël Coward's 1930s comedy is brought to life on stage. Forgotten passions reignite and shenanigans transpire in a clever, complicated conundrum.

**12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Footnote New Zealand Dance Presents: MODERN GOD:** *Te Whaea National Dance & Drama Centre, Hutchison Road, Newtown* – various times. Straddling the realms of contemporary dance and physical theatre, this high-powered show delves into the intricate web of global internet culture and the evolving complexity of the virtual world.

**13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Il Pirata Bellini:** *Day's Bay Opera Canna House, Moana Road, Lower Hutt* – 5:30pm. A fully staged production of Bellini's famous bel canto opera *Il Pirata*, this romantic show was inspired by Chopin's nocturnes and features a complex, passionate love triangle.

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Heart Throb – The Breakup Drag Show:** *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9pm. Watch dragsters fall in love, get dumped, move on, lose their mind, and call their ex at this Valentine's-themed show featuring Faux Femm, Slay West, Foxy Cleptopatra, and Rocky Rhodes.

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Bianca Del Rio Presents: Dead Inside:** *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 8:15pm. Drag star Bianca Del Rio, the clown in a gown, returns to the Southern Hemisphere with a show tackling politics, pop culture, political correctness, cancel culture, and everyday life.

**15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Comedy Q&A:** *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 1pm; 2pm. Learn all the tips and tricks of comedy with industry greats Hayley Sproull and Michèle A'Court.

**15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. KAT Theatre Presents: The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate:** *Khandallah Park, Woodmancote Road, Khandallah* – 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Bring a picnic to this madcap adventure adapted by Tim Bray from Margaret Mahy's rollicking children's book.

**15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 1<sup>st</sup> Mar. Laughs on Tour:** *Abandoned Taproom Petone, Fitzherbert Street, Petone* – various times. Catch local and national emerging and established comedians over the last three weekends of summer.

**16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Di Filippo Marionette Presents: Appeso Ad Un Filo:** *Vogelmorn Bowling Club, Mornington Road, Brooklyn* – 11am. Artisan theatre company Di Filippo Marionette are coming to Welly direct from Italy with their magical, award-winning production *Appeso Ad Un Filo (Hanging By A Thread)*.

**26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. Theatre for Climate Presents: Don't Look Now:** *Newtown Community Centre, Newtown; Vogelmorn Bowling Club, Brooklyn; Strathmore Park Community Centre, Strathmore Park* – 7pm. This collection of short plays by award-winning playwright Angie Farrow tackles climate change issues and is followed by a proactive kōrero.

**14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Mar. The Royal New Zealand Ballet with Scottish Ballet:** *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – various times. During their visit to New Zealand, Scottish Ballet will perform three exceptional works alongside the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

## Galleries

**Until 6<sup>th</sup> Apr. Leap to the Place of Two Pools:** *Adam Art Gallery Te Pātaka Toi, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington, Kelburn*. Explore five new moving image works by artists who resist or relinquish ocularcentrism through multisensorial knowledge systems.

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb. Auckland in the Style of Hiroshige:** *Exhibitions Gallery, Brandon Street, Te Aro*. Alistair McDonald got hooked on the ukiyo-e style: bold and flat expressive colours, clean line drawings, and stories of another era and culture. Today, he makes contemporary paintings of modern skylines in this iconic style.

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb-1<sup>st</sup> Jun. Wesley John Fourie:** **HYPERBALLAD:** *Courtenay Place Lightboxes, Courtenay Place, Te Aro*. Fourie's *HYPERBALLADS* reimagine the classical myth of Narcissus through contemporary internet culture and pop music.

**20<sup>th</sup> Feb-11<sup>th</sup> May. Gavin Hurley: Growing Up:** *New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, Lady Elizabeth Lane, Wellington Waterfront*. Gavin Hurley's portraits substantiate, interfere, and play with the role of portraiture as a tool for the crafting and performance of public personae.

## Festivals

**Until 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Island Bay Festival:** *Various locations and times in Island Bay*. Writers, entertainers, performers, artists, chefs, and more come together to celebrate the diversity of Island Bay.

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb-8<sup>th</sup> Mar. New Zealand Fringe Festival:** *Various locations and times in Wellington Region*. A programme featuring over 170 shows, activations, and events is on offer to celebrate 35 years of Fringe Festival excellence!

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Diversity Festival:** *Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington Memorial Theatre, Kelburn Parade, Wellington* – 5pm. Celebrate diversity and inclusivity at this eclectic cultural festival featuring delicious treats and exceptional performances.



# What's on

**For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: [whatson@regionalnews.kiwi](mailto:whatson@regionalnews.kiwi). Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 18 February.**

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

## Regional News

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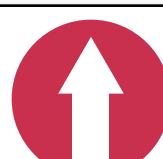
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**Bridge to Nowhere**

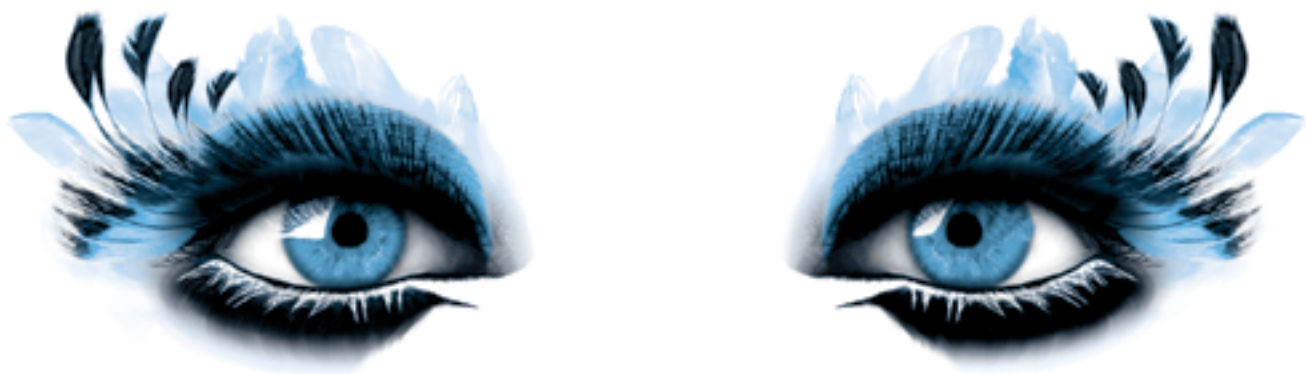
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# Regional News

## Eyes on Wellington

## We are expanding our readership!

### Pick us up from over 100 locations!

From January 2025 we will be doing limited home delivery.

We are environmentally conscious here at *Regional News* and while we do already print with vegetable ink on newsprint paper – both recyclable and sustainable – we are finding that more and more people are choosing to read us online and fewer want printed material in their letterboxes. We have decided to meet the needs of our readers and advertisers by creating a subscription model and increasing our pick-up points across Greater Wellington and beyond.

You can now pick *Regional News* up from more than 100 locations, which is a 25 percent increase on what we were previously able to offer. In the past, we couldn't keep up with the demand, with thousands of papers flying out of the

stands each fortnight. We used to run out of copies to refill these stands with and would hear from readers who were disappointed to have missed out. Now, we're diverting our stock where it's most wanted to ensure that every copy picked up is read and enjoyed.

Additionally, we have reworked our website to make *Regional News* much easier to read on your smartphone. Head to [www.regionalnews.kiwi](http://www.regionalnews.kiwi) to give it a go! Here, you can now subscribe to get the paper direct to your inbox free, or sign up to have each issue mailed to you for just the cost of postage.

We are so excited about these changes and hope to be gracing your emails soon – pick us up at a hotspot today or subscribe and we'll see you there!

### Available from pick-up points at:



**Four Square:** Kelburn, Seatoun, Raumati, Paraparaumu, Waikanae, Bulls



**New World:** **Wellington** – Newtown, Thorndon, Chaffers, Karori, Newlands, Churton Park, Tawa, Whitby, **Hutt** – Lower Hutt, Silverstream, **Kapiti** – Paraparaumu, Waikanae, **Wairarapa** – Carterton, Masterton, **Manawatū** – Feilding

**Libraries:** **Wellington** – Brooklyn Library, Miramar Library, Ruth Gotlieb (Kilbirnie) Library, Newtown Library, Johnsonville Library, Mervyn Kemp (Tawa) Library, Porirua City Centre Library, **Hutt** – Petone Library, Lower Hutt Library, Upper Hutt Library, **Wairarapa** – Carterton Library, Masterton District Library, **Manawatū** – Palmerston North City Library, Manawatū Community Hub Libraries

**Wellington Central:** FreshChoice Cuba Street, Wellington Sea Market Cuba Street, Unichem Cuba Mall Pharmacy, J & M Fastfood, Wellington Museum of City and Sea, Holey Moley Golf Club (Willis Lane), Wellington Railway Station, ETC Willis Street

**Karori:** Karori Park Store, Marsden Books (Marsden Village)

**Kelburn:** Paradise Seafoods, Cable Car Museum

**Northland:** Zhou's Kitchen

**Brooklyn:** Nanking Takeaways, Penthouse Cinema and Café

**Island Bay:** Bay's Takeaway, Empire Cinema and Eatery, Island Bay Video

**Kilbirnie:** Hey George Café, Baycourt, Buba Café, Forever Young Hairdressing

**Miramar:** Strathmore Bakery & Café, Mr Bun Bakery and Coffee Shop

**Petone:** Bob Scott Retirement Village, Bin Inn, Peaches and

Cream

**Lower Hutt:** ETC Lower Hutt, Easy Go Dairy

**Stokes Valley:** Kōraunui Stokes Valley Neighbourhood Hub

**Upper Hutt:** Muffin Break (Upper Hutt Mall)

**Johnsonville:** Twiglands Garden Centre, Johnsonville Shopping Centre

**Porirua:** Jaylons Cake & Coffee House

**Aotea:** Sushil's Muslechef Kitchen and Café

**Plimmerton:** Plimmerton Village Grocery

**Kapiti:** Coastlands Aquatic Centre, Kapiti Jewellery Design and Manufacturers, The Bookshelf, **Tommy's Real Estate**, **Kapiti Knitting and Lotto**

**Featherston:** FreshChoice Featherston, Loco Coffee and Books, C'est Cheese, Pioneer Bakery and Coffee 2 go

**Greytown:** FreshChoice Greytown, Corner Café, The French Baker, The Lolly Jar, Greyfriars Motel, ASURE Oak Estate Motor Lodge

**Martinborough:** Martinborough isite Visitor Information Centre, Scotty's Meats

**Carterton:** Wild Oats Bakery Deli and Café, Almo's Café, Kāinga Eatery, Carterton Holiday Park

**Masterton:** Café Strada, Hospital Food Market, Noodle Canteen, Entice Café, Iberia Café, Masterton Railway Station, Wairarapa Masonic Village, BK's Chardonnay Motor Lodge, Kandahar Retirement Village, Ultimate Care Lansdowne Court, Lyndale Care, Masterton isite Visitor Information Centre

**Manawatū:** Ohakea Café Manawatū, Bulls BP