Regional News

Wellington

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News

Up to no good

Mr Lola Illusion.

Sultry and silly, glamourous and goofy, *The Powderpuff Cabaret* is as funny as it is fabulous, and it's coming to Wairarapa Events Centre on the 23rd of May for a night of sequins and sass, feathers and fun, glitter and giggles.

Sashaying and swaying through showstopping numbers as the evening's MC is Mr Lola Illusion, New Zealand's boylesque crooner, cunning conjurer, and professional show off. With a 35-year-strong career in entertainment as a singer, dancer, and magician in venues across the globe, he will charm you with his smile and bewitch you with the suggestive twinkle in his eye.

He is also known as Ian Harman, the producer, set and costume designer, artistic director, and founder of The Boom Boom Room Burlesque, Manawatū's premier burlesque troupe, which has entered its 18th year of showbiz. The crew performs revues across the country wowing audiences from Auckland to Invercargill with camp and risqué cabaret acts.

Joining Mr Lola Illusion are a bevy of Boom Boom Room beauties. Let Hollie Berry, Papillon DeVille, Lulu LaCroix, and Betty Detention take you on a fantastical backstage romp as they get ready for their latest burlesque revue – overflowing with chiffon, feathers, and thousands of rhinestones covering practically nothing, of course!

The Powderpuff Cabaret is hilarious, glamourous, cheeky, and downright fun. "Bring your lover, bring your mother – heck, invite the vicar," Mr Lola Illusion beams. "Come join the fun!"

Shakespeare's canon firing nationwide

Hutt Valley High School performs Henry IV, Part 1. Photo by Brian Scurfield, Memory of Light Photography.

Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's Victoria University of Wellington National Shakespeare Festival is coming up! For the first time in the 34 years of these festivals, all but one of the canon of 37 plays was performed in at least one of the 23 regional events that have just taken place around the motu. The only one missing will be covered by one of the three national festival assessors, Grace Hoete, who will be talking in the last session about her exceptionally special experience producing *The Māori Troilus and Cressida* for the Globe stage in London in 2012.

The regional festival saw Shakespeare's contribution to *Sir Thomas More*, the only extant text in his own handwriting, performed by students from the New Zealand National Refugee Youth Council, under Manaaku Community Works, directed by Tama Smith.

"When 11 students from across Wellington first came together to rehearse Shakespeare's *The Stranger's Case*, they were strangers themselves – each bringing their own complex story, multicultural experience, and diverse languages into the room", SGCNZ CEO Dawn Sanders says. "The result was a deep understanding of the contemporary relevance of displaced peoples' experiences. Who says the Bard's writing is not relevant?"

The regional festival was "truly a 'brave new world' of young people delving into the rich text, themes, and thought that went into presenting such a breadth of imaginative and innovative interpretations of Shakespeare's works," Sanders continues.

Seeing is believing. On Saturday the 31st of May from 9:30am to 5:30pm and Sunday the 1st of June from 9am to 5pm, somewhat awestruck by having the opportunity to perform in the gorgeous St James Theatre, young people from all over the country will perform their five and 15-minute scenes, selected from the 23 regional festivals. Among these 48 scenes are 59 student directors. The skills and educational and personal development opportunities gained are of immeasurable benefit to these rangatahi of all cultural, ethnic, and gender diversities.

The schedule is now live at www.sgcnz.org.nz

Cover: Calla of Ursa. Photo by Stacey Eastwood.

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News

Wild woman era *by Madelaine Empson*

Photo by Chloe Tóth.

On the 30th of May, Calla of Ursa will release *Animal Reaction*. Building on the lore of her debut as Calla *My Body of Water* (2021), 2023's *Patterns of Remedy*, and the 2024 EP *Burn Cycle,* the artist says her third album cements her sonic tapestry – one of cinematic magnitude, operatic tragedy, and an electronic intensity delicately complemented by soothing ballads – and is certainly a step up in energy from her previous works.

I just had to ask Calla of Ursa about the intriguing combination of opera and electronica her music pulses with.

"I'm a trained opera singer who grew up immersed in the world of classical music", the soprano, violinist, and producer explains about how she found and developed her sound. "I was convinced at the age of 16 I would pursue a career in opera and classical singing. While at university studying classical vocal performance and sociology, I dove deeper into electronic music production as a catharsis. I was inspired by self-producing female artists such as Sevdaliza and Ramsey. I naturally wove in my classical training with the electronic music I was writing in my bedroom and the two grew together. I still keep a foot in both worlds today as I feel they both inform and inspire the other."

When it comes to *Animal Reaction*, Calla of Ursa says it's amazing how albums can encapsulate a unique pocket of time – or a whole era.

"This era is my wild woman era; it comes after I've cycled through water and air elements in the first two albums and been 'reborn' through the flame, so to speak, in *Burn Cycle*. It's the visceral rebirth of a woman finding her strength and her voice again. With that comes the voicing of a repressed rage and grief. This is not the polite girl who doesn't voice her opinion, this is the warrior woman, a female Lorax, who speaks for the trees and for creating a world that future generations want to live in."

Catch her *Animal Reaction Album Release Tour* on the 30th of May at Moon in Newtown.

A farcical feast

Ed Gamble has minced a load of meat (thoughts), piped it into a casing (show), and is coming to a bun (venue) near you. For Wellingtonians, that means the British comedian will be ranting and raving about at the Opera House on the 11th of June, serving up his new special *Hot Diggity Dog*.

"I'm delighted to once again be packing all my underwear into my little satchel and making the journey to Australia and New Zealand," Gamble says. "Last time I was over, a woman was late to the show because a chicken pecked her in the eye. That will be hard to top, but we'll do our best."

A farcical feast peppered with self-deprecating humour, *Hot Diggity Dog* is stuffed with zesty anecdotes and oozing with Gamble's signature gusto. It comes to New Zealand as the award-winning comedian's second Down Under offering, with the first, *Electric*, seeing sellout success.

The tour follows a busy period for Gamble in which his chart-topping food and comedy podcast *Off Menu* featuring James Acaster was turned into a live show and his memoir *Glutton: The Multi-Course Life of a Very Greedy Boy* was released to rave reviews. Other achievements include being a judge on *Great British Menu*, winning *Taskmaster* in 2009, and hosting BBC Two's *The Traitors: Uncloaked*. Gamble has also been a contestant on *The Great Celebrity Bake Off* and appeared in over 30 episodes of the hit satirical panel show *Mock the Week*. He very first came into the limelight by playing Georgie Carlton in two series of *Almost Royal* among countless other TV appearances and writing credits.

Chocka with "light but tasty morsels from a skilled raconteur, serving up animated escapism" (*The Independent*), *Hot Diggity Dog* will work up your appetite for belly laughs.

SNIPS

Theatremakers Award

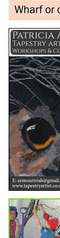
Playmarket has launched the new Theatremakers Award to provide further development for a collectively created scripted work. It's aimed at artists who have had one successful production and want to take things to the next level. The winning entry will be supported with either a development clinic or dedicated time with a script advisor. Submissions close on the 1st of June at www.playmarket.org.nz/competitions

Classical careers

The Dame Malvina Major Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2025 Arts Excellence Awards, offering three national awards of $10,000 to support outstanding young NZ singers and instrumentalists. Apply under Grants & Scholarships at dmmfoundation.org.nz until the 30th of June.

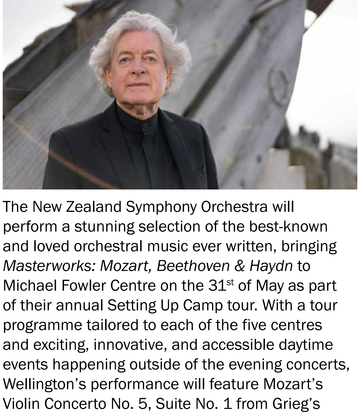
Cashless ferry

Wellington's East By West ferry service has moved to a cashless payment system, with the harbour ferries accepting payments via credit or debit cards. Tickets can be purchased from the East By West Ferries ticket office on Queens Wharf or onboard.



News

Orchestral brilliance



The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra will perform a stunning selection of the best-known and loved orchestral music ever written, bringing *Masterworks: Mozart, Beethoven & Haydn* to Michael Fowler Centre on the 31st of May as part of their annual Setting Up Camp tour. With a tour programme tailored to each of the five centres and exciting, innovative, and accessible daytime events happening outside of the evening concerts, Wellington's performance will feature Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5, Suite No. 1 from Grieg's instantly recognisable *Peer Gynt*, Beethoven's beloved Symphony No. 6 *Pastoral*, and the world premiere of Kiwi composer Briar Prastiti's *The Garden*.

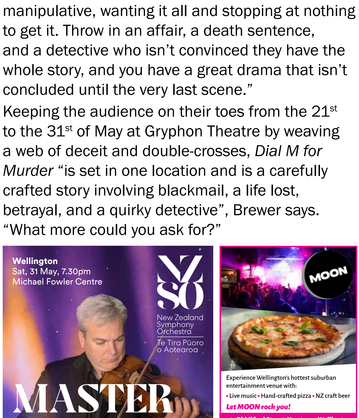
Masterworks is led by NZSO music director emeritus James Judd [pictured], who delights of the programme:

"New Zealand is unrivalled in producing so much wonderful new music of all genres. Our programme includes *The Garden* by Briar Prastiti, a SOUNZ Tarling Trust Commission which establishes, alongside Grieg's *Peer Gynt*, an underlying presence of the natural world", Maestro Judd says.

"Beethoven's love of nature inspired his Sixth Symphony, not merely at times as a vivid picture but more so representing the personal feelings we experience through the spirit of nature."

"Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5, written at the age of 19, features as soloist the superb concertmaster of the NZSO, Vesa-Matti Leppänen. Listen out for the third movement of this concerto with its delights from Türkiye."

Deceit and double-crosses



Hold your breath and shudder forward to the edge of your seat: Wellington Repertory Theatre is about to *Dial M for Murder*! Written by Frederick Knott and popularised shortly after by the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock film of the same name starring Grace Kelly – who left Hollywood forever just two years later to become Princess of Monaco – *Dial M for Murder* is a thriller with a thrilling history!

Wellington Repertory Theatre is proud to present a cast ready to cut the tension with a knife as they explore themes of murder, blackmail, and justice – which, of course, remain just as gripping today as they were when *Dial M for Murder* first premiered in 1952 on BBC Television ahead of its West End release.

Director Neil Brewer says there is always a desire for a well-constructed drama.

"This show is a vehicle for Tony, the husband who married for money, making the most of every situation he is put in. He is cunning and manipulative, wanting it all and stopping at nothing to get it. Throw in an affair, a death sentence, and a detective who isn't convinced they have the whole story, and you have a great drama that isn't concluded until the very last scene."

Keeping the audience on their toes from the 21st to the 31st of May at Gryphon Theatre by weaving a web of deceit and double-crosses, *Dial M for Murder* "is set in one location and is a carefully crafted story involving blackmail, a life lost, betrayal, and a quirky detective", Brewer says. "What more could you ask for?"

Music news

Back in a puff of smoke

by Madelaine Empson

After years of slow-burning genius, punctuated by sporadic yet unforgettable live performances and cult-cherished releases, Auckland indie-rockers Voom are back with their *long*-awaited new album. By long, we mean a good two decades!

The aptly titled *Something Good Is Happening* is a lovingly stitched together patchwork of songs collected, demoed, shelved, and reshaped over the years. Continuing Voom's tradition of making heartfelt, raw, and authentic music, this time with even more polish and depth, it is the intersection of youthful optimism and late-night melancholy, where skewed pop melodies meet powerful ballads, fuzzy guitars meet emotional clarity.

To celebrate the new record, the band's current lineup – frontman Buzz Moller, Murray Fisher (Goodshirt), Nick Buckton (aka SideKickNick), and drummer Josh Sorenson – will bundle their latest songs in with some beloved classics, pop it all in the car, and vroom around the motu, wrapping up their four-date New Zealand tour at San Fran on Saturday the 31st of May. We got the buzz from Moller about the winding road to *Something Good Is Happening*.

Congrats on the release of Something Good Is Happening on the 16th of May! How are you feeling, what's the energy like in the room?

Thanks, it feels like it's about time. Everyone's being complimentary to us for finishing the record. We are getting brownie points for doing something good, whereas I think because we have kept our poor fans hanging for 19 years, they should be snubbing us like my cats do when I come back from a holiday.

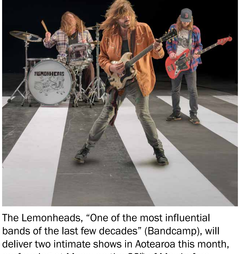
What chapter of your story would you say the album captures?

A long chapter called 'the return from the return to normal life'. When you're young and in a band, you feel like you've got a special exemption card from normal life, but then it ends when the card runs out and it's time to return. You participate in the joy of things like settling down, buying a house, holding a job, and raising kids. That's some of what we have been doing in the last 20 years, but the exemption card hadn't quite run out, so we kept meeting up in secret and recording new songs and playing the odd gig. A cool record label called Flying Nun arrived and after a heated bidding war with themselves managed to sign us. Then to everyone's amazement, a fully formed album suddenly appeared in a puff of smoke.

What do you hope your listeners might feel or take away from it?

Probably disbelief or suspicion that it is a proper album and isn't just a joke, then anger that if we could do it why did we make them wait so long, then acceptance and forgiveness, taking us back into their hearts as they get hypnotised by our reassuringly simple chords and lyrics.

Defining an era



The Lemonheads, "One of the most influential bands of the last few decades" (Bandcamp), will deliver two intimate shows in Aotearoa this month, performing at Meow on the 29th of May before shooting back home to the US. Joined by fast-rising youngsters Dropper, the 90s alt music pioneers are here to celebrate two of their most beloved albums: *It's a Shame About Ray* and *Come on Feel the Lemonheads*.

Formed in Boston in 1986, The Lemonheads continue to rotate around the inimitable Evan Dando, an eclectic music fan, power-pop writer, and renowned troublemaker whose voice is lower and more brooding than ever now, with a mood that's pinprick sharp and social commentary as barbed as it was those 40 years ago.

On the 2nd of June 1992, in a flurry of activity that surrounded the arrival of grunge, the band released their fifth breakthrough platter *It's a Shame About Ray*, with the crossover single *Mrs. Robinson* catapulting Dando into the pages of *Interview*, *Sassy*, and *People* magazines.

Come on Feel the Lemonheads followed in 1993. *Into Your Arms* had a lengthy stay on the Billboard chart, while *Big Gay Heart* and *It's About Time* ensured that the Dando songwriting legacy remained intact.

In concert, fans can look forward to Dando and his band performing both records in full as they revisit these songs that defined an era and continue to resonate decades later.

Falling in and out of love

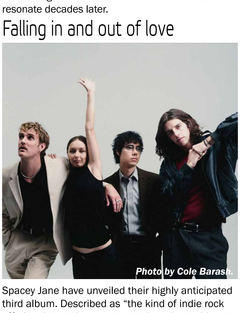


Photo by Cole Barash.

Spacey Jane have unveiled their highly anticipated third album. Described as "the kind of indie rock offering that makes you remember why you'd even fall in love in the first place, spelling out truths and vulnerable revelations over driving guitar parts and buoyant drums" by *Paper* and "a bold new step for the Australian quartet both instrumentally and lyrically as they explore ideas pertaining to the breaking and mending of hearts" by *FLOOD Magazine*, *If That Makes Sense* is their most ambitious record to date.

"This album means the world to us", frontman Caleb Harper says. "It was born and built far away from home and we poured three years of our lives into it. I'm still figuring out what it's about, maybe someone can tell me. We're so proud of it and grateful that it now belongs to you."

If That Makes Sense sees the band uncover new facets of their sound as they dive deeper into themes of falling in and out of love, overcoming trauma, and picking up the pieces. The Perth natives are all set to celebrate the new music on a worldwide tour that will see them take North America, the UK, and Europe by storm from September. But first, a massive Australia and New Zealand headline tour that has already sold more than 50,000 tickets!

Fall and stay in love with the "synth-spiked jangle-rockers" (*FLOOD Magazine*) live at Meow Nui on the 27th and 28th of May.

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Kia Mau Festival

Innovative and Indigenous

Lusi Faiva. Photo by Touch Compass.

Kia Mau Festival pushes boundaries, redefines forms, and forges new paths. The biennial festival that will revolutionise Te Whanganui-a-Tara this June stands at the forefront of contemporary Tāngata Whenua, Tāngata Moana, and Indigenous art as a place of intersection where stories intertwine, creating an experience at once local and global.

Celebrating 10 years in 2025 and now in its eighth iteration, Kia Mau Festival will showcase 26 shows and a full visual arts programme that spans theatre, dance, music, poetry, film, and more across multiple venues from the 30th of May until the 14th of June. This year champions powerful new voices and returning favourites with works that focus on Indigenous sovereignty, identity, language, and connection to whenua and ancestry.

Opening the festival at Circa Theatre is *A Master of None: Brown Fala*. Eight new shows from local Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui artists make their world premiere: *Love Letterz*, *Gates to Memory*, *The Circle*, *Tūī Girls*, *ON GOD*, *I Feel Love*, *He Ingoa*, and *Waenga*. The festival will also welcome acclaimed international productions from Australia, Canada, and Hawai'i.

AIGA (pictured) – an exploration of identity, desire, family, and of being disabled and Pasifika – will make its Pōneke premiere following successful performances across the motu.

We are only scratching the surface of an unparalleled programme through which audiences are invited to experience bold, multi-disciplinary storytelling.

For the Love of Spam

by Madelaine Empson

CHamoru/Filipina theatremaker Sierra Sevilla, originally from the island of Guam and passionate about shifting immigrant narratives, says the connection between canned meat and colonialism is "so delicious!"

"Spam's history and how it came to the Pacific, particularly the people of Guam, is directly linked to WWII. The way that Spam is now synonymous with Guamanian cuisine and culture mirrors how Guam has become synonymous with the US military and what I consider to be a form of modern-day colonialism. There's so much to unpack, but at least with Spam, it can be a yummy exploration, too!"

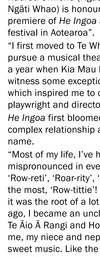
Sevilla is bringing the Aotearoa premiere of *For the Love of Spam* to the Kia Mau Festival, where it will run at Te Auaha from the 3rd to the 7th of June. The multi-sensory, participatory one-woman show was born when the writer and performer married a British man who "doesn't like Spam".

"I remember being frustrated that I cared so much. After all, it is just a tin of meat. And after exploring some of my feelings about this issue with my therapist, I just realised how much Spam meant to me, but also how much it reminds me of the US military presence on Guam."

The project took off when she got her friend Izzy Robey on board to direct, resulting in "An hour of joy, tears, and enlightening insights" (*The Student*, Edinburgh). Sevilla hopes that by seeing her story play out – in a fun and playful way – audiences "can relate it to their own lives and the lives of Pacific Islanders around the world".

The waiata of being

by Madelaine Empson



Raureti Ormond (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Tahu, Ngāti Whao) is honoured to present the world premiere of *He Ingoa* at Kia Mau – his "favourite festival in Aotearoa".

"I first moved to Te Whanganui-a-Tara in 2021 to pursue a musical theatre degree, and this was a year when Kia Mau Festival was on. I got to witness some exceptional Indigenous theatre, which inspired me to create my own stories", the playwright and director says.

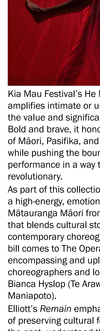
He Ingoa first bloomed out of Raureti's own complex relationship and journey to reclaiming his name.

"Most of my life, I've heard 'Raureti' mispronounced in every way you can imagine. 'Row-reti', 'Roar-rity', 'Rawri', and the one I hate the most, 'Row-tittie'! For most of my childhood, it was the root of a lot of shame. Until a few years ago, I became an uncle to two beautiful children, Te Āio Ā Rangi and Hohaia Te Rau o Te Huia. To me, my niece and nephews' names sound like sweet music. Like the voice of the tūī! But I know that they will encounter a lot of people in their lives who will say their names wrong. This is my reminder to them, to myself, and to all the little brown kids with big brown names, to make them say it!"

Running at Circa Theatre on the 30th and 31st of May, audiences are invited to "consider the weight that a name can carry; that when you say someone's name, you are reciting the waiata of their being", Raureti says.

Join in this musical ritual of identity as the next generation of artists baptise themselves beneath the petals of the rōhi and excavate the essence of 'what's in a name'.

Defining new futures



Kia Mau Festival's He Ngaru Nui programme amplifies intimate or unheard stories to underscore the value and significance of Indigenous narratives. Bold and brave, it honours storytelling traditions of Māori, Pasifika, and global Indigenous cultures while pushing the boundaries of contemporary performance in a way that is both respectful and revolutionary.

As part of this collection comes *Ka Mua Ka Muri*, a high-energy, emotionally resonant exploration of Mātauranga Māori from Atamira Dance Company that blends cultural storytelling with dynamic contemporary choreography. The unique double bill comes to The Opera House on the 5th of June, encompassing and uplifting the voices of acclaimed choreographers and long-time collaborators Bianca Hyslop (Te Arawa) and Eddie Elliott (Ngāti Maniapoto).

Elliott's *Remain* emphasises the importance of preserving cultural foundations to honour the past, understand the present, and shape a promising future for rangatahi, while Hyslop's *Whakamahaehae* showcases urban Māori experiences by transcending loss-based narratives and embracing multifaceted identities that encompass divine, ancestral, and human elements.

Combined, these two works make up *Ka Mua Ka Muri*, its title derived from and inspired by the whakataukī (proverb) 'kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua' ('I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past'). With an underlying sense of "empowerment, transformation, and resilience" (Malcolm Calder *New Zealand Art Review*), the double bill relates to Māori perspectives of time, where the past, present, and future are intertwined. By exploring the significance of whakapapa, *Ka Mua Ka Muri* defines new aspirations for the future.

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Speaking truth to power

Orchestra Wellington presents *Favoured Son* at 7:30pm on the 7th of June at the Michael Fowler Centre. The second concert of *The Dictator's Shadow* season features compositions by three titans of Russian music each shaped in different ways by the cultural machinery of their time.

Tchaikovsky was revered in his own lifetime. His rarely heard Piano Concerto No. 3 offers a fascinating glimpse into the composer's later style – bold, lyrical, and rich with emotional nuance. This work will be brought vividly to life by acclaimed pianist Jian Liu [pictured], a natural match for this virtuosic and compelling concerto.

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* is a dazzling orchestral showcase of intoxicating colour and exotic storytelling. Our own brilliant concertmaster Amalia Hall will lead from the front as the solo violinist in this perennial audience favourite.

The concert closes with Shostakovich's striking Symphony No. 2, written in 1927 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. In this gripping piece, Shostakovich walks a tightrope between genuine enthusiasm and ideological conformity, foreshadowing the dangerous political terrain he would later be forced to navigate. Orpheus Choir Wellington will amplify the work's explosive choral finale.

Favoured Son examines the early Soviet ideal of the artist as hero, and the complex legacies of those who achieved such status. Join Orchestra Wellington as we continue to trace the story of art under authority, and music's enduring ability to speak truth to power.

Elusive epiphanies

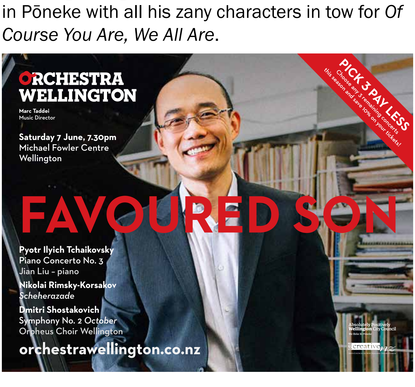
Huber, a tortured genius writer, is on the cusp of composing a brilliant debut novel that will place his name amongst the greats of the English language... if only he could finish the first sentence.

But Huber's problem is that he lives in Middling Heights, where everyone but him is either an idiot or crazy – or sometimes both. His neighbours include a pathological bureaucrat, a private eye with adult ADHD, a terrifying critic who lambasts geese formations, a psychiatrist who cures all her patients by accident, and a French mime conducting terrifying, silent muggings in the park, to name but a few.

This is the stage that will be set at The Undercurrent on the 23rd of May for Noah Levinson's [pictured] live storytelling session. *Of Course You Are, We All Are* is a work of comic fiction told in 10 madcap chapters that spans a day in the life of Huber.

The dark comedy has a heartfelt centre that emerges slowly over the course of the story. *Of Course You Are, We All Are* is a tale about procrastination, community, and the elusive epiphanies that seem to slip through our fingers the moment we begin to speak them aloud.

Described as "witty, wise, and touching" by Ashley Ramsden, author of *The Storyteller's Way*, and with rave reviews from audience members following his Edinburgh Fringe performance, catch Levinson live in Pōneke with all his zany characters in tow for *Of Course You Are, We All Are*.



Health & wellbeing

Aotearoa New Zealand Sex Workers' Collective

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

We also offer information about safe sex practices for work, STIs, HIV and AIDS.

04 382 8791
nzpc.org.nz

Healthy habits

For centuries, the sexually transmitted infection (STI) syphilis was a serious and often grave condition that affected both sexes. There was no cure until the 1940s, when it was discovered that it could be killed with penicillin. The bacterial infection was considered all but vanquished by the 1950s, and yet, in recent years, syphilis is on the rise.

Though the infection can affect both men and women, it seems to be particularly common among men who have sex with men. If syphilis is contracted while pregnant, it can also be passed along to the foetus and have serious health complications for the baby.

Preventable by practising safe sex and using measures like condoms and dental dams during intercourse, now there is also a post-sex pill that can help reduce the chances of contracting syphilis by 70 to 80 percent. Known as DoxyPEP (post-exposure prophylaxis), this new tool has proven safe for use and effective if taken within 72 hours of exposure and is available to anyone living in New Zealand.

There is no reason someone should suffer from a preventable and curable illness. Keep the conversation open around sexual health and wellbeing to increase education surrounding STIs and promote safe and healthy practices.

Staying healthy

Taking charge of your health is always a wise decision, and when it comes to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), getting tested is an important first step. Knowing your status, particularly with conditions like HIV, empowers you to manage your wellbeing.

Body Positive, an organisation dedicated to supporting individuals living with HIV, offers a wide range of services and has helpful resources available online.

If you receive a positive HIV test result, it's important to begin treatment as soon as possible, which is available to anyone living with HIV. Significant advancements have been made over the years, resulting in highly effective and convenient options. These treatments allow people living with HIV to lead healthy lives and achieve an undetectable viral load. When the virus is undetectable, it cannot be transmitted sexually – this is often referred to as U=U, or undetectable equals untransmittable, meaning there is zero risk of passing it on.

For those who receive a negative result, there are proactive steps to remain negative. Using condoms offers protection against most STIs. Additionally, PrEP provides a high level of protection – up to 99 percent – against HIV. PEP can also be effective when started within 72 hours after potential exposure. These options are available to all individuals.

For further information about STIs, HIV, and practices that promote healthy sexual wellbeing, as well as a wealth of resources to support your health, visit www.bodypositive.org.nz

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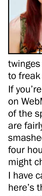
News

A word from Maddi...

It all boils down to...

by Madelaine Empson



One of my biggest sources of anxiety is things going wrong with my body – which seems quite stupid, because all bodies will almost certainly go wrong at some point. What's that quote, the only guarantees in this life are death and taxes? From twinges and aches to spots and sprains, I'm liable to freak out about everything.

If you're also an expert at looking up your symptoms on WebMD and diagnosing yourself with arthritis of the spine when your back hurts, even when you are fairly certain that your back hurts because you smashed it into the corner of a protruding table four hours ago, I thought some of my (other) stories might cheer you up.

I have called Healthline for myriad reasons, but here's the latest three in descending order: I got something stuck under my nail and thought I had sepsis, I had a rash on my foot and thought I had meningitis (that's actually just how my foot looks), and I burnt my finger on steam from pasta out the microwave. For that one, I physically went to ED, where the doctor remarked it was "good that the skin is not even broken" and sent me home with paracetamol. Just recently, when I had a very normal cold, I texted my boyfriend "Do you think I have pneumonia?" He responded "Hehehe no" which I really enjoyed.

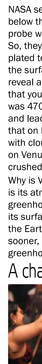
It's no secret that stress and anxiety are strongly linked to our overall health. By fixating on each new niggle, I often make it worse in my mind, which in turn makes me feel like it's worse in my body. I've had to work really hard to break this feedback loop, and while I still have my wobbles (and am probably the last person you should be taking advice from), I have picked up some helpful tips and tricks in counselling.

Really, it all boils down to anxiety. My number one, failsafe hack here is to bring yourself back to the present. Anxiety is about future concern, so if I'm panicking, I try to stop and ask myself, "What's wrong in this exact moment?" Not what will be wrong in a year from now, not in a month, not in a week – not even in five minutes. What's wrong right now? The answer is almost always nothing. The resulting deep sigh of relief and gratitude can usually stop any spirals in their tracks. Then, I go for a walk to get into my body and out of my head. By the time I get back home, nine times out of 10, my sepsis has dissipated!

Cosmic conversations

The morning star

by Richard Hall, astronomical communicator



If you are up early and the sky is clear, you will see a brilliant star in the eastern sky. This is the planet Venus. In any one year, Venus is either in the early morning sky or the early evening sky. In ancient times, the morning and evening star were thought to be two different planets called Hesperus and Phosphorus. Venus is similar in size and mass to the Earth. However, its surface is perpetually shrouded in cloud so that its topography and environment was unknown until the Space Age.

It was once thought that the Sun's energy came from gravitational contraction, which was slowly declining. Consequently, because Venus is closer to the Sun, its evolution would lag behind that of the Earth. Perhaps, below those Venusian clouds, was a Jurassic world. I kid you not. When I was a kid, I remember reading that dinosaurs may exist on Venus.

Unfortunately, these physics were wrong. The Sun is powered by thermo-nuclear energy, and over time, the Sun slowly increases its energy output. So, what was below the Venusian clouds?

NASA sent a probe to Venus but when it went below the clouds it stopped functioning. Another probe was sent and the same thing happened. So, they sent another, but this one was armour plated to survive extreme conditions. It reached the surface of Venus and survived long enough to reveal a world that was the nearest thing to hell that you could imagine. The surface temperature was 470 degrees Celsius, hot enough to melt tin and lead. The atmospheric pressure was 90 times that on Earth. The atmosphere was carbon dioxide with clouds of sulphuric acid. Thus, if you landed on Venus, you and your spacecraft would be burnt, crushed, and dissolved.

Why is Venus so different from Earth? The answer is its atmosphere that generated a runaway greenhouse effect as the planet warmed, turning its surface into an inferno. The same fate awaits the Earth millions of years from now, or a lot sooner, if we continue to release vast quantities of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.

A chance to dance

Tamasha
(noun, Indian)
1. a grand show, performance, or celebration, especially one involving dance.
2. a fuss or commotion.

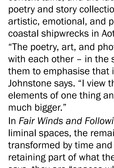
Get ready to go full filmi style on the 1st of June at Bollywood Tamasha Party! From 10pm until the early hours of the morning, The Garden Hotel will transform into a desi dreamland where dancing, music, fashion, and fun collide.

Loud, proud, and unstoppable, Bollywood Tamasha is inspired by iconic Bollywood films and encourages everyone to come dressed in their best – extra points if you show up as one of your favourite characters! Whether you're a Bollywood aficionado or simply love a good party, this is the ultimate chance to dance the night away.

Turning up the heat for this winter event are two powerhouse Auckland DJs known for cooking up bumping beats on the decks that get the dancefloor pumping. DJ AKM and DJ GAGS will spin everything from chart-topping Bollywood bops to bhangra bangers, classic desi anthems to global hits, and all the tracks you know and love, complemented, of course, by dynamic lighting and unbeatable vibes.

This Bollywood dreamland comes from the electric minds at the helm of Bollywood Social Wellington, a Pōneke club dedicated to celebrating the rich energy of Indian cinema and culture. So get down and desi at Bollywood Tamasha.

Where memory materialises



Fair winds and following seas by Neil Johnstone.

When Neil Johnstone was very young, his father would tell the most amazing tales about bygone days in the merchant navy, including one about a shipwreck off the coast of Aotearoa in the 1950s. Having caught on fire, the crew long gone, anyone could claim salvage, the British-born, New Zealand-based multimedia creative says, adding that his father used his cut of the salvage to buy a wedding ring for Mum.

Johnstone's love for all things nautical, including shipwrecks, washes ashore at Thistle Hall in the form of a joint exhibition with multi-award-winning Wellington poet Janis Freegard between the 19th and 25th of May. *Fair Winds and Following Seas* features artwork, digital prints, videos, poetry readings, ambient musical performances, historical context talks, and the launch of an accompanying poetry and story collection that explores the artistic, emotional, and philosophical responses to coastal shipwrecks in Aotearoa and the UK.

"The poetry, art, and photos are all in discussion with each other – in the space we will intermingle them to emphasise that interconnectedness," Johnstone says. "I view them all as being just elements of one thing and a part of something much bigger."

In *Fair Winds and Following Seas*, shipwrecks are liminal spaces, the remains of previous things transformed by time and the elements while still retaining part of what they once were. Johnstone says, they are "spaces where land and sea meet and the past and present literally mingle", that they are physical manifestations of memory.

Safe and supported

At Hutt City Kindergartens Te Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Te Awakairangi (HCK), we believe that play is powerful as inspired by the principles of Friedrich Fröbel, the founder of kindergarten. For over 95 years, our kindergartens have been nurturing the natural curiosity, creativity, and confidence of tamariki aged two to five.

With 21 kindergartens across the Hutt Valley, we offer safe, welcoming environments where children explore, experiment, and grow through meaningful play. We nurture each child's unique potential through hands-on experiences that support creativity, connection with nature, and the joy of discovery.

Our qualified kaiako (teachers) create engaging, supportive learning experiences based on Te Whāriki, Aotearoa's national Early Childhood Curriculum. This ensures your child's learning journey aligns with the New Zealand Curriculum used in primary schools, supporting a smooth, confident transition to the next stage.

At HCK, your child will build friendships and social skills, develop independence and resilience, learn through hands-on creative activities, and be supported in their unique strengths and interests. Whether it's their first time away from home or a step toward school, your child will be encouraged to grow in a place where they feel safe, valued, and inspired.

HCK provide a welcoming space to connect with other whānau in a supportive, community-focused environment led by our kaiako. Start your child's learning adventure today at www.huttkindergartens.org.nz

Smart savings

Unlock incredible savings for your growing family with Manchester Unity. A Kiwi not-for-profit that has been helping families like yours for over 100 years with a variety of money-saving benefits, Manchester Unity is dedicated to making everyday life better.

Manchester Unity has been operating since 1842, making it one of New Zealand's oldest member organisations. With a commitment to ethical standards through community service, the organisation provides ongoing support that gives generations of Kiwi families a sense of security and common purpose.

With Manchester Unity, enjoy unbeatable discounts on hundreds of brands that have partnered with the organisation in order to be more accessible to more families.

Manchester Unity also facilitates family vacations by providing family-friendly accommodation options at a fraction of the cost. Make unforgettable memories in some of New Zealand's top tourist spots. From the tropical north to the snowy south, explore your own backyard with your whānau.

There are several scholarships available that are tailored to support Kiwi tamariki and rangatahi in their academic and vocational pursuits. From higher education to trades, artistic endeavours to athletic pursuits, there are options for everyone.

Whether you're preparing for a new baby, planning family holidays, or managing everyday expenses, Manchester Unity makes saving money easy!

Find out more and join today at www.manchesterunity.org.nz

Mums and bubs 0-5

Bump, birth, and beyond

Calling all māmā and pēpi – The Baby Expo will totter into town on the 7th and 8th of June, filling Lower Hutt Events Centre with anything and everything bump, birth, and beyond.

Whether you're only just beginning your parenthood journey, you're a seasoned pro with a whānau in tow, a grandma or cool auntie shopping for your favourite tiny tot, or looking for something special to bring to your bestie's baby shower, The Baby Expo has everything for tamariki, all under one roof.

Come along to check out technology for keeping your baby safe and sound; natural, organic, and eco-friendly products; and all the latest and greatest from some of the most popular and trusted brands. The Baby Show Wellington covers everything – nappies, wipes, toys, information services, childcare options and advice, you name it.

The Baby Expo is also a great place to get information about pregnancy and parenthood. Over the two days, there are six different seminars open to all attendees. Get tips on getting your little Kiwi to sleep through the night. Find out the latest on car seat safety. Learn how to go from breast to bottle with your baby. Delve into the best techniques for cloth nappies. There's even a session for friends and partners of soon-to-be mums.

With spot prizes to be won, free trials on offer, experts to engage with, and top of the line brands to peruse, The Baby Expo is a pēpi paradise!

Safe and sound

Every pregnancy is unique and special. From the early days of pregnancy through labour, birth, and the first six weeks with your baby, you'll grow, change, and face new experiences. A midwife can be there through it all – guiding you, supporting you, and helping you feel confident and safe.

At Birth Treasure in Porirua, our five experienced and compassionate midwives provide full continuity of care – meaning the same midwife walks with you from your baby's first flutter to six weeks after birth. As specialists in the field of childbirth, we work in partnership with hapū māmā and their whānau, offering personalised care, clear information, and support to make informed choices throughout your journey.

If you need extra support, your Birth Treasure midwife can refer you to a clinic or specialist team and continue to walk alongside you to ensure you and your pēpi remain safe and cared for throughout any ups and downs.

Maternity care in Aotearoa is free for all citizens, permanent residents, some extended visa holders, and partners of NZ citizens and permanent residents. Birth Treasure also offer free pregnancy tests and early pregnancy support, among other services.

Whether it's morning sickness, a pēpi check-up, or support during labour, the Birth Treasure team is here for you so you can focus on enjoying this precious time with your whānau.

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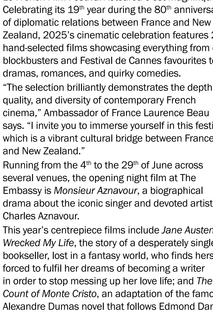
Film news

A cinematic celebration

All Stirred Up!



The Count of Monte Cristo.

Le French Film Festival Aotearoa c'est magnifique! Celebrating its 19th year during the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between France and New Zealand, 2025's cinematic celebration features 23 hand-selected films showcasing everything from epic blockbusters and Festival de Cannes favourites to dramas, romances, and quirky comedies.

"The selection brilliantly demonstrates the depth, quality, and diversity of contemporary French cinema," Ambassador of France Laurence Beau says. "I invite you to immerse yourself in this festival, which is a vibrant cultural bridge between France and New Zealand."

Running from the 4th to the 29th of June across several venues, the opening night film at The Embassy is *Monsieur Aznavour*, a biographical drama about the iconic singer and devoted artist Charles Aznavour.

This year's centrepiece films include *Jane Austen Wrecked My Life*, the story of a desperately single bookseller, lost in a fantasy world, who finds herself forced to fulfil her dreams of becoming a writer in order to stop messing up her love life; and *The Count of Monte Cristo*, an adaptation of the famous Alexandre Dumas novel that follows Edmond Dantes, who becomes the target of a sinister plot and is arrested on his wedding day for a crime he did not commit.

Cannes Spotlight showcases films that won big at the prestigious film festival. *My Brother's Band* follows two very different siblings separated by fate and reunited by their love of music. In *The Thread*, disillusioned lawyer Jean Monier is appointed to defend a man accused of murdering his wife. Clotaire falls for his schoolmate Jackie in *Beating Hearts*, a story wracked by gang violence. In the award-winning *Holy Cow*, a young man must enter a local cheese-making competition to support his family.

The Twists and Turns category presents four titles full of thrill and tall tales. In *How to Make a Killing*, Michael and Cathy witness a triple murder and end up with two million euro and a pistol. *The French Job* depicts a madcap imagining of what may have happened to actually stolen artworks. Michelle, a retiree in Burgundy, expects her grandson Lucas but a mistake ruins her plans in *When Fall is Coming*. *Saint-Ex* explores the true story of the author behind the French classic *The Little Prince*.

In L'amour and Laughter, audiences will encounter romance and crazy capers aplenty with *All Stirred Up!*, *Riviera Revenge*, *The Scammers*, *This Life of Mine*, *The Love Boat*, and *Family Therapy*. For those who are Très Dramatique, there are six dramas: *The Stolen Painting*, *Boléro*, *The Divine Sarah Bernhardt*, *Three Friends*, *The Deluge*, and *Miss Violet*.

The 2025 festival also celebrates its owner Simon Werry's recently awarded title of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French government, which recognises his significant contribution to the development of arts, music, and literature.

Celebrate the joie de vivre at the 2025 French Film Festival Aotearoa.

Turkish delight

Still from Birlikte, Yalnız.

Blankie and hot cocoa in hand, settle into a bean bag for a night of film at Southern Cross Garden Bar and Restaurant on the 28th of May. This edition of the Show Me Shorts winter season takes audiences across the globe to the sun-drenched, golden-hued shores of Türkiye, presenting a collection of five heartfelt films about connection and reflection.

Curated in collaboration with Izmir Cinema House and presented in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye, the programme explores the cinematic landscape of this ancient land, presenting stories about what binds us and pushes us apart.

Babamın Öldüğü Gün (*The Day My Father Died*) by Emre Sefer sees two estranged sisters at their father's funeral. While the two keep arguing, an incident on the road forces them to choose between conscience and reason.

In Kasım Ördek's *Birlikte, Yalnız* (*Together, Alone*) a young couple steal a car in Istanbul when an unsettling event shakes them to the core.

The animation *Fabrika* (*Factory*) by Batuhan Köksal takes place in a factory that uses televisions to turn human bones into raw materials.

Eksi Bir (*Minus One*) by Ömer Ferhat Özmen follows Enver, who is disturbed by a strange smell in his building.

Korkuluk (*Scarecrow*), a documentary by Işıl Türkfiliz, is a story of eco-anxiety and a group of women resisting a geothermal power plant project in their village.

Savour an evening of Turkish delights.

Craving Craven?

Artwork by Sambath Ouch.

Freddy Krueger is touching down in dreamland from dusk till dawn for a movie marathon that sees all seven of the iconic horror films screened back to back. An all-nighter you won't want to snooze through, catch a red eye to Elm Street from Roxy Cinema on the 24th of May.

For those who haven't had the (dis)pleasure of meeting Freddy Krueger, he is an evil entity that haunts and tortures people in their dreams, resulting in their real-life death. He first materialised in the cinematic slasher *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984) from the twisted mind of Wes Craven, before going on to haunt the six successive films in this seminal series.

Starting with DJ Beware spinning tunes in the lobby at 7:30pm, Elm Street Marathon presses play on the first film in the series at 8:30pm, followed by *A Nightmare on Elm Street Part 2: Freddy's Revenge* at 10:10pm and *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors* at 11:45pm.

When the bell tolls 1:20am the snack break begins. Attendees can enjoy bottomless L'Affare coffee and gumboot tea, plus a selection of snacks – think soul pizza and Krueger dogs! It also lets moviegoers get some shuteye – if you dare – before *A Nightmare on Elm Street 4: The Dream Master* starts at 2am.

A Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child kicks off at 3:45am followed by *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* at 5:30am. With a cooked breakfast served at 7am, all that's left is *Wes Craven's New Nightmare* at 7:45am.

Bring your keep cup and the Hypnocil to this Elm Street all-nighter.

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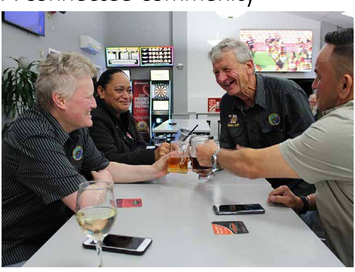
Porirua – Love Local

A connected community



Porirua Club is a place where people feel welcome. It's where you can catch up with mates and be part of a relaxed, friendly community. There's plenty on – live music (including Cam & Sam's Duelling Pianos on Friday the 13th of June), big-screen sport, raffles, quizzes, games, and a range of social groups you can join if you're keen.

The club has had some recent upgrades, including a modern bar and a restaurant that's open for lunch and dinner. The menu is full of Kiwi favourites – tasty, familiar food at a good price – making it a great spot for a relaxed lunch or dinner out.

If you're planning a birthday, wedding, work function, or Christmas party, our function spaces are among the best around. We offer onsite catering, help with setup, and equipment hire to make organising your event easy.

Membership renewals are now open. Renew by the 31st of May to go in the draw to win a share of $1000 in prizes, and vote for one of four local charities to receive a $1000 donation. This year's charities include WellFed, Mary Potter Hospice, Wellington Free Ambulance, and Club Connect.

Whether you're popping in for a coffee and a chat or looking for a night out, there's always something happening at Porirua Club.

If you haven't been in for a while, come and see what you've been missing.

Visit www.poriruaclub.co.nz to find out more.

Love Local returns to Porirua

Porirua's biggest annual event supporting local businesses – Love Local – returns on Saturday the 7th of June from 10am to 4pm.

Filling Te Rauparaha Arena for the sixth year running, Love Local is a free event where attendees can meet the hundreds of different local businesses in Porirua and learn about what they have to offer.

This event has grown each year and is now a key date in the calendar for both vendors and savvy shoppers wanting to support the Porirua economy.

"Love Local is a true representation of the diversity of businesses we have operating in Porirua," Porirua Mayor Anita Baker says.

With more than 120 stalls, there will be something for everyone – try laser target shooting, browse beautiful homeware, art, jewellery, and clothing, as well as buying delicious food and drink.

As part of Porirua City's efforts to minimise waste at large events, for the first time, the FillGood reusable service ware system will be onsite on the day. FillGood works closely with long-time event partner NonStop Solutions.

Food trucks and vendors will serve their products in reusable cups and trays, helping reduce single-use packaging. Attendees who purchase food or drink in one of these cups or trays just need to look out for the pink bins to return the items once they're finished with them. The FillGood team will clean and sanitise the items, ready to be used again.

Find out more about Love Local at www.poriruacity.govt.nz/lovelocalexpo

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SUNLIGHT
IHI KŌMARU

Discover the secrets of the Sun

326 MAIN ST, PALMERSTON NORTH
0800-4-A-MUSEUM | www.temanawa.nz
FREE ADMISSION | TUES - SUN | 10am - 5pm
Open every day during school holidays

te manawa
TE PAPAIOEA PALMERSTON NORTH

MUSEUM + GALLERY PALMY

Flavours of NZ – iconic Kiwi

Discover the secrets of the Sun!

With temperatures reaching millions of degrees, the Sun would certainly leave solar travellers with a few scorch marks. Now back by popular demand, the *Sunlight – Ihi Kōmaru* exhibition at Palmerston North's Te Manawa museum is letting visitors get hands-on with Earth's star at room temperature – no sunscreen required!

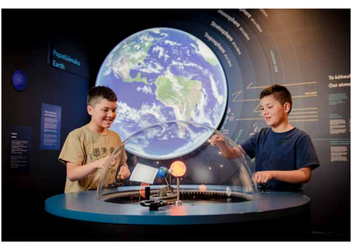
Sunlight – Ihi Kōmaru shines its light on the secrets of the Sun with easily accessible science that will illuminate the whole family. From the origins of light in the Sun's heart to its effects on Earth's life and cultures, *Sunlight – Ihi Kōmaru* presents a full and fascinating spectrum of interactive exhibits and activities.

The journey begins in the gas and dust of the Sun's formation. Visitors take the role of a photon on its trip through space and can test their speed against a beam of light by racing to the Moon. See how mankind harnesses the Sun's power in everyday devices and create shapes with RGB colour-mixing lights.

Aglow with a galaxy of exciting science, *Sunlight – Ihi Kōmaru* will help the whole family understand the forces that sustain life on Earth – and indeed drive the entire universe.

Sunlight – Ihi Kōmaru was developed by Te Manawa Museum of Art, Science and Heritage, Palmerston North. General admission is free. For more info on planning your visit, see: www.temanawa.nz

Blast off!



Since the beginning of time, humans have always been fascinated by the heavens, so why not explore them at Stardome! There are loads of exciting adventures the whole family can enjoy.

Stardome has been sharing a love of space from One Tree Hill in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland since 1967, operating as a place of exploration, research, and the sharing of knowledge for professionals and visitors alike. The Stardome facilities offer cutting-edge planetarium technology coupled with expert personalised assistance from astronomy educators and presenters.

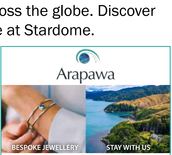
There are activities, events, and educational opportunities galore. From a revolving gallery and exhibit area to seasonal astronomy shows, music and laser productions, interactive displays, sci-fi movie nights, and special events, there is always something out of this world happening.

Tamariki, rangatahi, and parents alike can learn about all things space through planetarium shows, science demos, and a wide variety of regularly scheduled events. If you're looking for an engaging and educational way to teach your little ones about space, history, science, and more, then Stardome is an excellent choice.

Are you ready for blast off this Matariki? For thousands of years, the dawn rising of the Matariki star cluster – also known as Pleiades or the Seven Sisters – has been an important astronomical celebration in cultures across the globe. Discover the secrets of the universe at Stardome.

• BAR • FOOD
• BOTTLE STORE • ACCOMMODATION
Located in the heart of Kurow, The Historic Waitaki Hotel offers its guests a warm welcome and great country hospitality.
37 Bledisloe Street, Kurow 03 436 0650
www.waitakihotel.co.nz

Arapawa



BESPOKE JEWELLERY STAY WITH US

ARAPAWA BLUE PEARLS
The island home of the beautiful Abalone Paua Blue Pearls is waiting for you! Visit our sustainable pearl farm at Arapaoa Island. Take a tour and discover why our blue pearls are so rare and while there, purchase a piece of locally made jewellery from our shop or select your own pearl, for a design that suits you. You can also book your next holiday or event with us and experience our legendary hospitality.
SATURDAY SALE - 24 May 2025 (visit our website)
Learn more about our sustainable story and why we grow baby paua to help the resources around NZ
FIND OUT MORE: www.arapawabluepearls.co.nz
VISIT US: @arapawahomestead.co.nz
ENQUIRE: info@arapawabluepearls.co.nz | 021 943 395

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NGĀ WHETŪ O TE TAU HOU
STARS OF THE NEW YEAR
FROM 27 MAY 2025
Celebrate Matariki at Auckland's Stardome!
From the comfort of your planetarium seat, embark on a journey to ngā whetū, the stars, and beyond to uncover the purākau (stories) and significance of the Māori New Year.
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STARDOME OBSERVATORY & PLANETARIUM
MATARIKI FESTIVAL 2025

Flavours of NZ – iconic Kiwi tastes

These are some of the flavours that make us proud to be Kiwi

HANDMADE – THE OLD FASHIONED WAY

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Flavours of NZ – iconic Kiwi

To exotic lands

Mount Hakepa.

Take an exotic vacation without leaving Aotearoa and hop on a plane to the Chatham Islands – a wild and unspoilt paradise just a two-hour flight from New Zealand. With dramatic coastlines plunging into deep blue seas, thick emerald forests teaming with native wildlife, a turbulent history waiting to be unlocked, and all the hunting, fishing, diving, and adventures you could ask for, the mist is only one of a kind.

When visiting the Chathams, you may want to consider an eco-focused itinerary. These isles enjoy an incredibly unique and diverse natural environment that is home to native and endemic species of flora and fauna. Plus, in August, the Chatham Islands Festival of Science will be in full swing, offering heaps of fun activities to travellers.

The Chatham Islands aren't lacking in cultural and historical attractions either. Wander the museum, local art galleries, and private studios, as well as the 11 registered historic places and two historical reserves.

Lakeside paradise

Takahē. Punanga Manu o Te Anau Bird Sanctuary.

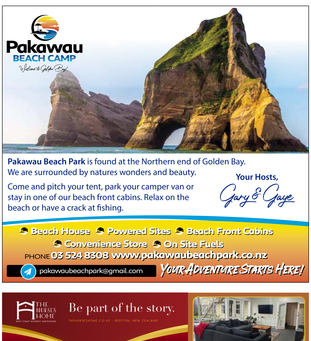
Nestled onto the shores of one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, just a stone's throw from Fiordland, is Te Anau township. It's the starting point for the Kepler Track, but before you embark, stick around to enjoy everything this picturesque lakeside gem has to offer.

Boat trips to the glowworm caves depart from the centre of town. The western shores hold many wonders, including rock formations, waterfalls, and beautiful native flora.

For a fauna foray check out Punanga Manu o Te Anau Bird Sanctuary. The centre is used for breeding programs and rehabilitation for endangered, rare, and native species.

There are plenty more activities for sports and nature enthusiasts in Te Anau. Enjoy the lake and hop in a kayak, sailboat, jet boat, or float plane. Try your luck at trout fishing in the nearby Waiau River. The area is a walker's and biker's paradise, and sunset is particularly breathtaking.

Above and beyond



Whether you're seeking a peaceful holiday or an adventure-packed getaway, The Nurses Home is a centrally located accommodation that's well connected to everything the wondrous West Coast has to offer.

Inaugurated in 1949, the property was once accommodation for the staff of Reefton Hospital. Today, it stands as a beautifully refurbished retreat.

The Nurses Home provides a variety of accommodations, including centrally heated single, twin, and queen rooms, as well as apartments with private bathrooms. Each room is thoughtfully appointed with bed linen, duvets, and towels for your comfort. On the ground floor, guests can enjoy a large communal kitchen and a dining and lounge area that opens up onto a lovely courtyard and gardens. The property also features four spacious shared bathrooms, conveniently located with two on each floor.

For those travelling with bicycles, secure storage is available. Guests can also take advantage of the complimentary Wi-Fi, tea, and coffee throughout their stay.

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Recognising Harcourts excellence

Donna Everton
Number-one agent of Harcourts Levin, and more!

Paul Butcher
Top 20 Harcourts Team Group

Nicky Cooper
Top 20 Harcourts Team Group

Jess Boyack
New rising star

AM Janssen
Top 20 Harcourts Team Group

Tyler Briggs and Jordan Soderberg
Top 20 Harcourts Team Group

Levin

Donna Everton of Harcourts Levin takes an individualised, people-focused approach to real estate. She has a knack for matching the right person to the right property, ensuring buyers and sellers get exactly what they wanted.

American born, she has lived in the district for 45 years, helping people buy and sell homes for 31 years. During this time she has received many awards for her outstanding service. Aside from recently entering the $330 million sales club, in 2025 she was the number-one agent of Harcourts Levin, Top Exclusive Lister, and a Top Consultant.

Lower Hutt

Before becoming a top real estate agent for Harcourts Lower Hutt, Paul Butcher spent nearly 20 years of his life as a professional chef in both the UK and New Zealand. Today, as a fierce negotiator with a can-do attitude, he provides the recipe for success when it comes to homeownership.

With a pinch of humour, a cup of energy, and a heaped spoon of professionalism, it's no wonder Paul has become Harcourts Lower Hutt's number-one agent. Whether you're buying your dream home, looking for an investment property, or selling your house, Paul will cook up the best deal.

Lower Hutt

With proven results and personal service, Nicky Cooper has ranked in the Top 20 Harcourts Team Group Sales Consultants (2023–2025) and was number three in her office – a standout achievement as a solo agent.

Clients choose Nicky for her 17 years of local knowledge and real estate insight; her strong attention to detail, professionalism, and clear communication; her reputation for exceeding vendor expectations and achieving standout results; and for her dedicated one-on-one service from start to sold. If you're thinking of selling, choose experience you can trust – Nicky Cooper delivers results with care.

Paraparaumu

Harcourts Paraparaumu has a new rising star in its ranks. Jess Boyack is driven by a commitment to excellence and a genuine passion for building connection with people in her community. As a mother of three and an entrepreneur, she has a strong sense of empathy as well as plenty of determination and resilience. These qualities make her an ideal choice for both buyers and sellers looking to secure the best outcome possible.

Thanks to her background as a beauty therapist, Jess has a strong work ethic and great customer service, making every interaction with her an absolute delight.

Paremata

Annemarie 'AM' Janssen of Harcourts Paremata believes that in this challenging market, communication is key in meeting targets and building strong relationships. She takes pride in listening to her clients' priorities and dreams, working with them closely to achieve their desired result. She is straightforward and honest, setting clear objectives from the outset to strive for.

As one of Team Group's Top 20 agents, AM adopts a client-focused approach, thinking outside the box in order to find the best solution. With a strong work ethic and attention to detail, she is passionate about exceeding the expectations of both buyers and sellers.

Paraparaumu

By choosing to list or buy your property with Tyler Briggs and Jordan Soderberg, you're getting two top Harcourts agents for the price of one. Known as The Good Guys, this Paraparaumu-based duo are in the Harcourts Top 20 list.

The pair bring different strengths to the table, complementing each other's approaches to help get clients the best deal, whether they're buying or selling. What they have in common though is their love for the job, their passionate and friendly customer service, commitment to communication, and their highly effective negotiation skills. Plus, they can be in two places at once!

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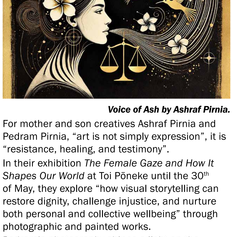
Gallery news

by Alessia Belsito-Riera

A world more balanced



Voice of Ash by Ashraf Pirnia.

For mother and son creatives Ashraf Pirnia and Pedram Pirnia, “art is not simply expression”, it is “resistance, healing, and testimony”.

In their exhibition *The Female Gaze and How It Shapes Our World* at Toi Pōneke until the 30th of May, they explore “how visual storytelling can restore dignity, challenge injustice, and nurture both personal and collective wellbeing” through photographic and painted works.

Pedram’s photography shines a light on the silenced rights of women. He has worked with development agencies around the world, including Save the Children, Family Planning, and VSA, capturing social and political realities. With the stark contrast of light and shadow, his images confront erasure, reclaiming space and amplifying narratives of women asserting their autonomy.

Meanwhile, Pedram says that his mother’s practice has “grown from a deep well of personal healing; her art is a language of freedom, care, and the will to uplift women’s lives”. Ashraf’s vivid, emotionally charged, surrealist paintings explore the vital role women play in shaping the future, reminding us that without their voices, the world remains incomplete and unbalanced.

Together, they dive deep into introspection and feminist resistance, amplifying silenced voices and uncovering layers of identity, truth, and transformation in their exhibition.

“Our work is guided by the female gaze,” they say. “Unlike the objectifying lens of the traditional male gaze, the female gaze embraces complexity and honours lived experience. It sees women not as symbols, but as thinkers, survivors, storytellers”.

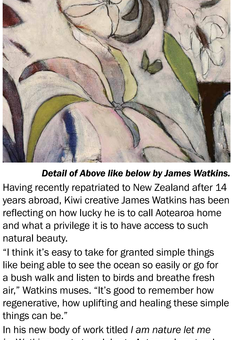
A call for visibility, representation, and autonomy, the exhibition is a powerful act of witnessing and an urgent testament to the impact women have in shaping the world. Each photograph and painting is accompanied by text, “not as explanation, but as invitation”, Pedram says, adding that the text acts as a “gesture toward connection, reflection, and deeper listening”, as well as an attempt to imagine a world that is more fair, more just, and more humane.

“Every piece in this exhibition is also in dialogue with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a global framework that links justice to action,” Pedram continues. “From gender equality and good health to climate justice and education, each artwork doesn’t only highlight an issue, it gestures toward a solution. The SDGs offer a shared language of hope and a way to turn witness into change, and care into commitment.”

Each brushstroke an act of resilience and defiance, each click of the shutter an attempt to tell a story with dignity, Ashraf and Pedram are urging change and championing the impact women have in creating a more equitable world.

“Through the female gaze, art becomes an act of care, not capture. It resists the impulse to consume or expose, and instead listens, protects, and honours. Our artistic practice is rooted in consent, respect, and accountability,” they say. “This is not about beautifying struggle. It is about holding space for truth and ensuring that those whose lives are shared remain visible on their own terms; with agency, with context, and with care.”

A world more balanced



Detail of Above like below by James Watkins.

Having recently repatriated to New Zealand after 14 years abroad, Kiwi creative James Watkins has been reflecting on how lucky he is to call Aotearoa home and what a privilege it is to have access to such natural beauty.

“I think it’s easy to take for granted simple things like being able to see the ocean so easily or go for a bush walk and listen to birds and breathe fresh air,” Watkins muses. “It’s good to remember how regenerative, how uplifting and healing these simple things can be.”

In his new body of work titled *I am nature let me in*, Watkins wants to celebrate Aotearoa’s natural world with his own visual ecosystem at Twentysix Gallery until the 7th of June. His unique mixed-media approach is expressive and energetic, unearthing subconscious themes around the idea of home while reflecting on and combining ecstatic experiences of the natural world with concepts of wider universal connectivity.

“I try to maintain a very open visual language that challenges my patterns, tastes, and techniques to keep the practice looking forward and not backwards,” Watkins says. “My work utilises a lot of experimentation, both with movement, different materials, and colour palettes. Overall I relate to an exploratory, abstract, expressionistic attitude to mark making and painting.”

While prompting viewers to meditate on how painting can operate as a tool of self-reflection, growth, and integration, *I am nature let me in* hopes to inspire them to appreciate the natural world around them with more sensitivity, and “contribute to a journey of ever-increasing awareness and presence”.

Message in a bottle

Robbie Motion in his studio.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara-based artist Robbie Motion describes his upcoming exhibition *Not How I Remember It* as a message in a bottle.

“I am conscious of maintaining a human connection with future audiences through imagery,” he says. “Overall, [I’m] trying to repel the idea of an image being simply a record of the past, rather shifting its function to act as a record of feelings that we don’t have words for”.

The Page Galleries exhibition that runs from the 22nd of May until the 14th of June explores the “relationship between people and pictures”, Motion says. It tracks the “function of images in present time” while still considering how that meaning will change as “time moves forward”.

Motion’s early painting practice began through creating artwork for album covers and posters for local Dunedin bands while studying at University of Otago. At once languid and distorted, unsettling and melodic, his oil paintings are populated with vulnerable figures, their outward physical contortions articulating internalised mental or emotional preoccupations.

Illustrating connection – or sometimes disconnection the artist says – with the current depiction of our time, the works aim to be “more cathartic” than shocking. “Images that may be considered potent or controversial now will no doubt be a source of boredom for future students as the norms shift”, Motion continues. “Like paintings in museums, the imagery of our time will be used as historical evidence just as we have used paintings and images of the past to assume facts and feelings of those peoples once all other sources have become obscured.”

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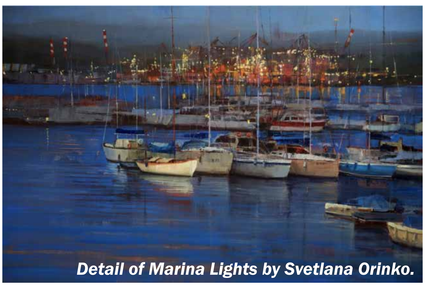
Design, art, creativity

Art world antics



Detail of Marina Lights by Svetlana Orinko.

The New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts (NZAFA) has not faded away since the sale of its historic Queens Wharf galleries last year. As well as presenting what promises to be an amazing exhibition of current artistic output for the Academy Prize for Visual Art in August, it is again bringing the best and most important photojournalism and documentary photography from around the globe to the capital.

The World Press Photo Exhibition at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre will present the winning photographs of the prestigious annual World Press Photo Contest from the 5th of September until the 5th of October.

Beyond Wellington, the NZAFA is working closely with Art Shows Across Aotearoa to support The Stuff Art Aotearoa Gold Award as part of a nationwide series recognising artistic excellence, with four major regional art shows taking place across the country that celebrate our artists.

Each regional winner's work will be purchased by the NZAFA and will compete in a final round of judging, where one artist will be chosen as the national winner to be announced at a glittering ceremony at Parliament in early December. All four regional winners will be on display at Parliament in 2026.

Back in the city, this is the final chance to catch the works of Svetlana Orinko and Jacky Pearson at DoubleTree by Hilton Wellington. From next month, their places will be taken by two more wonderfully talented artists: Min Kim and Pavithra Devadatta.

Connect with creativity

Detail of Kōtuku by Claire Preen.

With a creative force that knows no bounds, that is innovative and idiosyncratic, Aotearoa is a land of artists, makers, and pioneers. The annual NZ Art Show provides a platform for these emerging and established visionaries to gain exposure, while also serving as a space for art lovers, collectors, and passersby to engage with original, contemporary New Zealand art.

Established in 2004 with a vision for every home and office in the country to own an original Kiwi artwork, the NZ Art Show has grown to become one of the most anticipated events in the creative sphere. Each year, over King's Birthday weekend, it settles in across the TSB Arena, with Shed 6 shining a spotlight on emerging talent and sculptors, including the finalists of the R.T Nelson Awards.

The 2025 event will see 250 artists showcasing roughly 4000 pieces across these spaces between the 30th of May and the 1st of June. Meanwhile, the Gala Evening on the 29th of May is where creativity and community converge in an unforgettable night of live music, art, fine wine, and delicious food.

As the largest and most celebrated event of its kind in Aotearoa, the NZ Art Show will feature work spanning the width and breadth of artistic practice. From sculpture to screenprinting, painting to photography, abstract and avant-garde to traditional and technical, there are works to suit every taste and budget.

Don't forget to vote for People's Choice Art Award!

ACADEMY prize for visual art

New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts

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Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre

www.nzafa.com/prize

Design, art, creativity

A celebration of culture

Rerehua Boutique started as a lockdown venture in 2021 with a vision to craft quality, timeless designs that celebrate the Indigenous reo and heritage of Aotearoa. Fast forward to 2025 and the whānau owned and operated e-commerce business based in Tāmaki Makaurau has experienced monumental growth, with stockists throughout Aotearoa and Australia and shipping available to over 80 countries. Rerehua Boutique has proved so popular, in fact, that the creative and entrepreneurial sisters behind the brand took home the top prize in the Pakihi Toi Ora (Creative Arts & Design) category at the 2024 MWDI Māori Businesswomen's Awards.

Despite the company's incredible growth, their kaupapa remains true to their original intention: honour and represent the Indigenous reo and heritage of Aotearoa. Each Rerehua Boutique creation is a true celebration of culture.

Proudly repping what makes Aotearoa unique, each Rerehua Boutique piece provides connection to cultural heritage, Indigenous identity, and the natural landscape. From jewellery to clothing, accessories to handbags, watches to hats, the meticulously designed and exceptionally crafted products can be worn for any occasion, whether it be for special moments, in professional settings, or as a signature piece for everyday style.

Shop the catalogue, find your favourite, and get your very own Aotearoa taonga at www.rerehuaboutique.com

Simply stunning

Imagination is the only limitation at Simply Wrought Iron. The family-owned, Whanganui-based commercial, domestic, and creative metal fabrication business is passionate about bringing client ideas to life through custom-made creations.

Founder, director, and designer Graeme Kiff uses his background in engineering to craft wrought iron products that marry form and function. From furniture to fences, hanging signs to handrails, gates to garden art, Graeme and team are dedicated to providing a personalised service. They think outside the box to help turn your vision into reality, applying their decades of experience, meticulous attention to detail, and quality craftmanship to every project.

What's more, the Simply Wrought Iron crew can blend steel with glass, marble, or recycled wood to create custom furniture pieces that are just what you had in mind and that last a lifetime. Plus, any outdoor items will be hot-dip galvanised before being powder coated to prevent rusting.

If you require a special piece for a specific space, Graeme can design something unique for a perfect fit. From tiny cat sculptures to contemporary garden spheres with a two-metre diameter, his creative work is featured in homes across the motu and internationally in France, England, and the USA.

Browse the image gallery for inspiration and get in touch with the Simply Wrought Iron team for a free, no-obligation quote for your commercial, domestic, or creative project at www.simplywroughtiron.co.nz

Design, art, creativity

A hub for creativity and collaboration

New Zealand Glassworks – Te Whare Tūhua O Te Ao (NZG) is the national centre for glass in NZ and is an incredibly important part of the artistic community in Whanganui and Aotearoa. Located in one of New Zealand's most historic and culturally significant regions, NZG is a dynamic and innovative hub for glass artists and visitors from around the country.

NZG is an exciting and interactive facility that is the only open-access glass studio in the country, providing professional artists with access to state-of-the-art equipment needed to create new and innovative glass pieces. NZG offers a unique opportunity to see professional artists at work, providing an environment for members of the public to learn about the techniques, precision, and artistry involved in creating pieces from glass. The facility offers regular workshops, demonstrations, and exhibitions, inviting visitors to learn about the history of glass and how to create their own pieces.

Through these programmes, NZG has become a hub for creativity and collaboration, bringing together artists from different disciplines and levels of experience. The facility offers a unique space for artists to share ideas, techniques, and knowledge, and to learn from each other, resulting in a vibrant and dynamic glass community.

Overall, NZG is a vital part of the artistic community in New Zealand, providing a space for collaboration, creativity, and development of new techniques in the field of glass. It is an exciting and dynamic facility that invites people of all ages and backgrounds to learn about and experience the beauty and artistry of glassmaking. With its commitment to sustainability, innovation, and collaboration, NZG is set to continue playing a vital role in the growth and development of the art of glassmaking in New Zealand for many years to come.

Whether you are an artist, collector, or glass enthusiast, NZG is the perfect destination. Come and experience the magic of glass in one of New Zealand's most vibrant and historic regions.

We are open seven days a week from 10am to 4:30pm and only closed on public holidays. For more information and to check out our online events calendar, visit www.nzglassworks.com. We look forward to welcoming you to NZG.

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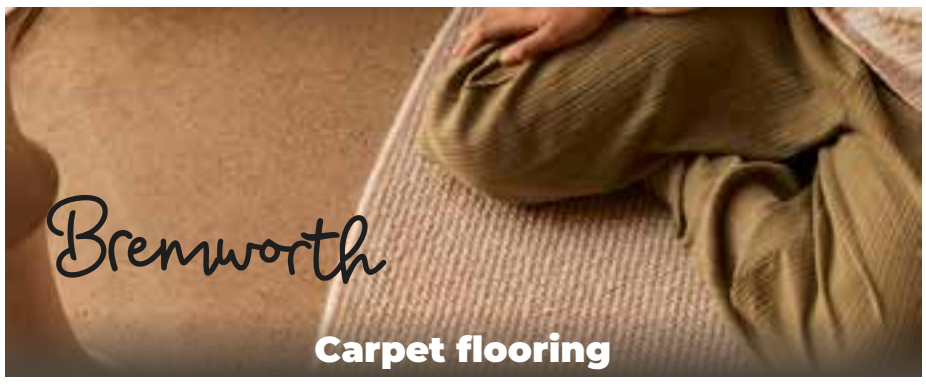

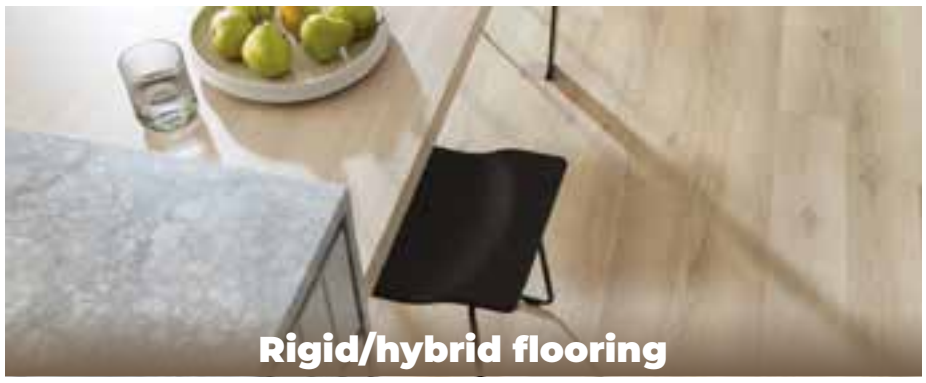

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With autumn's crunchy leaves and dewy mornings, blustery storms and chilly evenings, it may be time to think about servicing or replacing your fireplace or wood burner before you really need it. Get ahead of the winter weather and contact Kapiti Woodfires for any consultation, installation, or maintenance services.

As a family owned and operated business specialising in new and replacement heating systems, Kapiti Woodfires can help you from the moment you walk into their showroom in Paraparaumu until the minute you sit down to enjoy the cosy warmth of your new fire. With over 30 models on display, they have the widest selection in the region and pride themselves on their excellent customer service and friendly communication. With years of experience in maintenance and installation, the dedicated team is passionate about helping Kiwis across Wellington Region, Horowhenua, and beyond fight the cold.

The knowledgeable crew can help you choose a stylish and efficient unit from their extensive catalogue of freestanding, inbuilt, and insert woodfires. Featuring exclusive collections, their sought-after models effortlessly blend functionality, aesthetics, and sustainability. Both modern and traditional styles are available to ensure the perfect fit for every home. Pellet fires, outdoor systems, pizza ovens, and barbecues are also on offer. Plus, you can contact the team for pellet fire servicing, chimney sweeping, safety inspections, installations, and replacement parts.

A one-stop shop, Kapiti Woodfires can organise every step of the process for you – including gaining council consent – starting with an onsite visit and quotation. As approved members of the New Zealand Home and Heating Association, the team can offer personalised recommendations for a woodfire best suited to your home, style, and budget that meets all your requirements, so you never have to choose between form and function, safety and efficiency.

What's more, the Kapiti Woodfires team can help you apply for the EECA government subsidy, helping save you thousands. Kiwis deserve to be comfortable no matter their living situation, which is why the Warmer Kiwi Homes initiative covers up to 80 percent of the cost of a new, efficient heating system. This way, you can save money on your power bills and while enjoying the benefits and comforts of a warm home.

Remember, keeping your home warm is important not just for your comfort but for the health of your family and your property. A temperature-regulated home is better for your respiratory system and keeps your house dry, which prevents the buildup of moisture or mould. Plus, there's nothing more satisfying than coming home to a roaring fire on a cold, wet, dreary winter day.

Whether you're looking for the perfect centrepiece for your newly renovated lounge, a traditional wood-burning fireplace, or a sleek, efficient woodfire stove, Kapiti Woodfires can ensure the heart of your home is burning bright. From Palmerston North to Wellington, the Kapiti Coast to the Wairarapa, cosy warmth and captivating ambiance are just a flame away.

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Design, art, creativity – Kapiti

Maximise potential

When the Kapiti Hardscaping team walk into an outdoor space, they see the hidden potential it holds. With their technical expertise and creative vision, they can bring your ideas to life, studying the property's unique features to craft a space that exceeds expectations and goes beyond what you imagined.

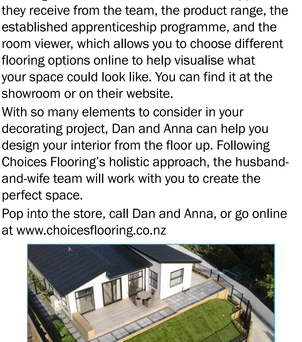
Since opening up shop in 2019, they have worked with over 200 clients along the Kapiti Coast, transforming 8200 square metres of outdoor spaces in the process. From concept to completion, they maintain clear communication and meticulous attention to detail, putting their 75-plus years of combined experience to good work in order to enhance your property's beauty and functionality and improve your lifestyle.

Kapiti Hardscaping deliver premium craftsmanship and bespoke solutions for residential and commercial properties across a range of services. From landscape design to arborist and tree management, retaining walls to fences and decks, plus any and all of your hardscaping needs, the team can help you maximise your space's potential.

The crew keeps their core values front of mind to deliver a personalised experience that goes above and beyond. Innovative, reliable, community focused, transparent, and environmentally responsible, their craftsmanship reflects their commitment to excellence, ensuring every project is beautiful, practical, and can be enjoyed for years to come.

Find out more and book a free quote at www.khhs.co.nz

Family flooring



Choices Flooring in Paraparaumu may have just opened its doors, but franchisees Anna and Dan Candiliotis have been members of Kapiti's vibrant community for 12 years now. With a passion for serving their fellow Coasties, they're committed to providing an unparallelled flooring service.

With years of experience under his toolbelt as a timber and laminate installer, Dan is as expert as it comes in the flooring business and Anna has over a decade of experience in sales and management. "I've always believed in the power of genuine connection and customer-first thinking", she says. As for their children, they're involved too! You'll catch them in photos helping advertise their family's business.

So why did they choose Choices Flooring? It's a group that has been established for over 30 years with over 150 stores across New Zealand and Australia, so they knew they were aligning with a strong brand. Anna and Dan love the support they receive from the team, the product range, the established apprenticeship programme, and the room viewer, which allows you to choose different flooring options online to help visualise what your space could look like. You can find it at the showroom or on their website.

With so many elements to consider in your decorating project, Dan and Anna can help you design your interior from the floor up. Following Choices Flooring's holistic approach, the husband-and-wife team will work with you to create the perfect space.

Pop into the store, call Dan and Anna, or go online at www.choicesflooring.co.nz

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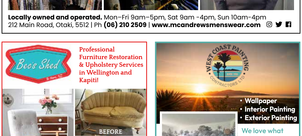

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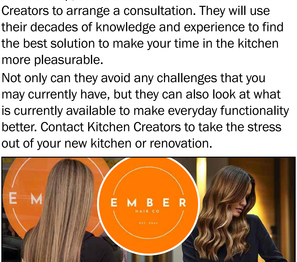

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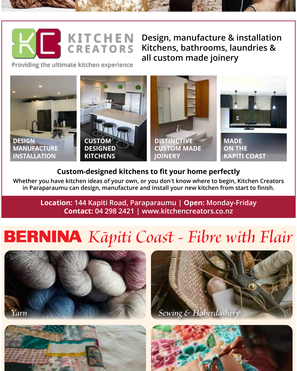

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News

A touch of OMG *by Madelaine Empson*

Competitor JoJo Bellini.

Hitch up your fishnets and fasten your corsets: The Great DIY BurlesKiwi is back! On Saturday the 7th of June, The Fringe Bar will shimmer, sparkle, and shine as 17 performers battle it out to prove that you don't need a million bucks to look like it.

With just a $100 budget, a pair of shoes, and a dash of Kiwi ingenuity, contestants are tasked with bringing a fabulous burlesque act to the stage. This year, some of the costumes have been made using paint, cardboard, and a quick prayer, while another competitor has used a whole pile of second-hand jeans! See if 2024's Most Sustainable winner, Christchurch's Raven Bedlam, can push the envelope out even further and spend less still. More highlights will include special performances by 2024 winner Isla Banks, 2025 guest judge Fanny McBangers from Auckland, and an entry from 2024's guest judge Diamante Doll, who was so inspired last year, she is returning as a contestant!

Co-producer Debbie Eve – aka Mz Twinkle, one half of production team The Pinot Sisters with Constance Craving – loves watching the creativity and out-the-box thinking from the contestants, adding that it's such a joy to see them then take their DIY acts to bigger stages. Year on year, there are always surprises – or, as she says, "so many weird things have hit the stage"!

"The Goddess of Goon act with a tap on the underwear that when turned on ran red wine into a bath", she supplies with a *twinkle* in her eye. "Or the time an awesome amount of 'hair' was pulled out of a shower drain."

Whether you're a performer fizzing with adrenaline backstage or an audience member cheering along from your seat, Debbie says the "atmosphere at the show is always excitement mixed with joy with a touch of OMG thrown in".

Cosmic capers

Crack into three cult classics this June at Space Place with Sci-Fi Sundays.

Touching down first on the 1st is *Spaceballs*, with only a few seats remaining. The 1987 space opera parody co-written, produced, and directed by the inimitable Mel Brooks pokes fun at sagas the likes of *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, *Alien*, and *Planet of the Apes*. Join the heroic mercenary Lone Starr (Bill Pullman) and his alien sidekick Barf (John Candy) in their quest to rescue Princess Vespa (Daphne Zuniga) of Druidia and her droid from being captured by the Spaceballs, who want to use Vespa as ransom to obtain Druidia's air for their own planet.

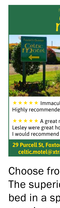
From the next universe over, *Galaxy Quest* comes careening into Carter Observatory on the 8th. A satirical science fiction film starring Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman, and more, this cult comedy follows a cast of a fictional cult television series who are drawn into a real interstellar conflict by aliens who think the series is a documentary.

Rounding up all the creatures from beyond on the 15th is *Ghostbusters*. Released to critical acclaim, the 1984 cultural phenomenon became the second highest-grossing film of the year and the then highest-grossing comedy ever. When three university parapsychologists played by Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, and Harold Ramis lose their funding to study the occult, they set up shop to trap pesky ghosts, spirits, and poltergeists for money. All goes to plan until they stumble upon a gateway to another dimension.

From cosmic capers to occult occurrences, planetary perils to atomic antics, blast off from Space Place this June.

In simple terms. Result 20 yrs ponder puzzle question. Donald champion. Two day numbers 30k+ 1-29 Share a common least prime factor LPF 2-11. Not divisible by smaller 2 3 5. 6 7 8+8 9 every month? Ok. Never 13. 30k+1+26#then 27, 7+26#33 fac 3. LPF 7,11 TWICE? CLOSE tie at 92 months. (10 times) until factor 7 UNSURPASSED. 11 sometimes. Fiercely Rivals 7? 30k+1, +22=23. 30k+7,29 yes. 13, 17+34, 19+38 never. We think about go mad Leo. Training. Hilarie donald progress least prime factor 7/11 in month 30k+..29. oeis@org encyc integer sequ. A383691 91, 121, 187, 301, 451, 511, 721, .. all terms repeat +2310. Donald Newtown mcdonald RegnL 20 May 2025, m0.277 845.900.

Foxton



Cute and quaint, Celtic Motel is nestled into the little town of Foxton, just off State Highway 1 and nearby to everything Horowhenua has to offer – including the Manawatū River estuary and Off the Loop Wake Park.

Choose from three well-appointed room options. The superior studio unit sleeps two with a queen bed in a spacious room featuring a 65" TV. The premium and classic units each sleep four and include everything you need for a great stay, including a kitchenette, bathroom, and dining area. Check in to Celtic Motel to get the most out of Foxton.

Honeys of Te Urewera

Māori-owned and operated, Manawa Honey NZ is steeped in the far-off forests of Te Urewera, where the Tūhoe tribe resides. Their raw, wild mānuka honey is a genuine forest gem, harvested sustainably and full of native richness.

What sets them apart? A legacy of wild honey-gathering, cultural guardianship of land, and a mission-driven business model supporting local jobs and forest restoration through their Tuawhenua Forest Fund. From misty mountains to your table, each jar is a honey print of their homeland forest. Their honeys are award-winning in the world stage, ethically produced, and rich in both flavour and meaning.

A coastal gem

Everything that comes from Waikato's fertile lands – be it plant or animal – is of the finest quality. The chefs at Bay View Hotel know it, which is why they craft scrumptious sensations with all the locally produced delicacies of the region. Complementing each dish is a selection of Kiwi wines and beers to boot.

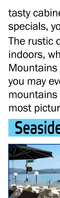
Nestled along the coastline in Kaiaua, Bay View Hotel enjoys beautiful views looking out over the water. Sip and savour a refreshing cocktail or signature drink while watching the sunset. It's no wonder this hotspot is one of the top gastropubs in New Zealand.

Family show

The story of Te Kāhui Whetū o Matariki, the star cluster known as Matariki in te reo or the Pleiades in Greek, comes to life in UV at *Matariki Glow Show* this June. Bilingual and chocka with fun puppet characters, in this mythical tale the smallest star Waipuna-ā-rangi appears to be missing. Could she be lost in the moana?

With its cutting-edge concept, upbeat original soundtrack, and themes of whakawhanaungatanga, friendship, and togetherness, *Matariki Glow Show* is perfectly priced for group bookings for kohanga, ECE, and primary school-aged children! Catch it in Palmerston North on the 5th of June and Wellington on the 10th.

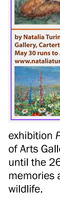
Takitimu Mountains - Southland



Using locally sourced, freshly grown, gourmet ingredients wherever possible, Brunel Peaks Café and Bar takes pride in dishing up hearty meals served with love. From Kiwi favourites like pies and scones, to tasty cabinet foods, breakfast goodies, and lunch specials, your plate will be licked clean.

The rustic décor creates a cosy atmosphere indoors, while the foothills of the majestic Takitimu Mountains punctuate every view. In wintertime, you may even be met with a dusting of snow on the mountains or around the café, making it one of the most picturesque spots to grab a bite in Southland.

Seaside café



With a fresh new team at the helm and a new name that reflects a love for the sea, the coastal community of Days Bay, and a passion for good food and connection, Moana Café & Bar welcomes visitors and locals alike. Situated in a great waterfront location, the iconic eatery serves up delicious snacks, treats, drinks, and meals from sunup to sundown.

Whether you're after a morning sweet, an afternoon aperitif, or a nice dinner out, Moana Café & Bar has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, beautiful ocean views, and great food and drinks catering to all diets and tastes.

Art exhibition

Russian-born New Zealander Natalia Turina is an artist and published author based in Masterton. She exhibits in group and solo shows across the region, selling her artwork to local and international buyers alike. Her exhibition *Painting Throwback Memories*, at Heart of Arts Gallery in Carterton from the 30th of May until the 26th of June, is inspired by her childhood memories and depicts meadows, wildflowers, and wildlife.

Thinking back to the summer camps she attended in her youth, Natalia paints flowers and wildlife. "I grow wildflowers in my garden now and create paintings where children's memories and impressions of meadows come to life".

Kaikōura getaway

The Anchor Inn and Beachfront Motel is within walking distance of Kaikōura's boutiques, cafés, restaurants, and bars where you can taste homegrown meals and locally crafted gin, beer, and wine. Located along the waterfront, this accommodation welcomes new owners Christina and Jef, who are dedicated to making your Kaikōura getaway unforgettable.

Modern and stylish, the well-appointed rooms have magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean and the Kaikōura Ranges. Choose from a variety of apartments to suit your family or group – each one is perfect for waking up early to watch Kaikōura's famous sunrises.

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NZ International Comedy Fest reviews

Johanna Cosgrove: Sweetie

Directed by Jess Joy Wood
BATS Theatre, 7th May 2025
Reviewed by Tanya Piejus

Established local and international comedy star Johanna Cosgrove brings her new show Sweetie home to Wellington for the NZ International Comedy Festival. While the material is fresh, the premise of intensely personal, red-blooded storytelling about sex and love will be familiar to her fans, many of whom were in the audience. Ensconced in a shocking red crop top, short skirt, and her trademark knee-high vinyl boots, Cosgrove takes us on a journey through her ever-changing relationships before revealing that on a recent trip to Melbourne she fell hard for a woman.

Along the way, we're introduced to her tattoos, including a badly drawn candle inked by a very high Mexican witch on the inside of her arm and her uterus for which this show is named. We also hear about her obsessions with Denman's a ancient Bog Woman and her post-graduation move to Perth, English to 13-year-olds in Poland who she helped to perform Macbeth with witches dressed like the Ku Klux Klan. She even slides in a highly topical political swipe at ACT Party MP Brooke van Velden and an anti-colonial Māori in-joke.

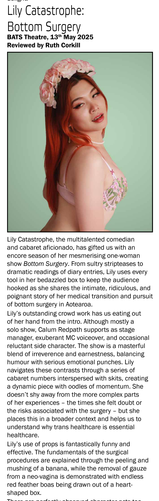
Her family come under the microscope in a creepy-funny story about a themed Christmas dinner where every course is dedicated to a dead member of the family. Her dad's PTSD on accidentally discovering her giant strap-on dildo also basks under the spotlight, as does her discovery via Ancestry.com that her great-great-grandmother was Indigenous Australian.

We all good comedy storytelling, the narrative turns full circle at the end when we're treated to a replay of the seduction of her first high-school crush. I won't spoil the surprise but be assured it's got the biggest whoops and hollers of the night as Cosgrove delivers the final of her other revealing talents.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Johanna Cosgrove is a comedic force of nature. With *Sweetie*, she cements herself as someone capable of seeing her own life's weirdness and using it to delight.

Lily Catastrophe: Bottom Surgery

BATS Theatre, 13th May 2025
Reviewed by Ruth Corkill



Lily Catastrophe, the multitalented comedian and cabaret aficionado, has gifted us with an encore season of her mesmerising one-woman show *Bottom Surgery*. From sultry stripteases to theatrical readings of dairy entries, Lily uses every tool in her bedazzled box to keep the audience hooked as she shares the intimate, ridiculous, and poignant story of her medical transition and pursuit of bottom surgery in Aotearoa.

Lily's autobiographical work has us eating out of her hand from the intro. Although mostly a solo show, Calum Redpath supports as stage manager, occasional MC voiceover, and occasional reluctant side character. The show is a masterful blend of irreverence and earnestness, balancing humour with serious emotional punches. Lily navigates these contrasts through a series of cabaret numbers interspersed with skits, creating a dynamic piece with oodles of momentum. She doesn't shy away from the more complex parts of her experiences – the times she felt doubt or the risks associated with the surgery – but she places this in a broader context and helps us to understand why trans healthcare is a universal healthcare.

Lily's use of props is fantastically funny and effective. The fundamentals of the surgical procedures are explained through the peeling and mashing of a banana, while the removal of glucose from a neo-vagina is demonstrated with endless red feather boas being drawn out of a heart-shaped box.

There are perfectly observed character acts too, such as when Lily channels her inner nurse for an injection letter from the Ministry of Health. She nails the performatively caring and patronising tone, eliciting laughter and outrageous gasps from the audience.

Towards the end of the performance, Lily makes an impassioned statement about the rising hostility towards trans folks, grounding the night's absurdness with a sense of urgency and significance. Then she brings us home with a rousing singalong to Chappell Roan's queer joy anthem *Pink Pony Club*.

Bottom Surgery is a testament to Lily Catastrophe's talent, wit, and resilience. Her ability to blend humour, emotion, and social commentary makes for a powerful and unforgettable show.

The Tape Face Show

Presented by Comedy.co.nz Productions
Opera House, 10th May 2025
Reviewed by Tanya Piejus

Internationally lauded silent comedy virtuoso Tape Face, a.k.a. Christchurch's Sam Wills, returns to Aotearoa for the NZ International Comedy Festival from a 10-year residency in Las Vegas with his iconic stage show. Launched at the NZ Comedy Fest in 2005, he has since toured the world and starred *Britain's* and *America's Got Talent*. This 20th-anniversary extravaganza brings his most-loved sketches and some new inventions from his Vegas set to Wellington.

All top-rated comedians need a warm-up act and that comes in the form of quirky Phyllis, who gets the ushers audience-rewed-up for the highly participative show that's to come. No one in the stalls is immune from being beckoned onto the stage to take part in Tape Face's vaudevillian sketches. They do so with varying degrees of success, but most are rewarded with our host's two-handed 'don't they do well?' gesture at the end of their participation. Wills' ability to go with the flow and gently admonish participants who get too smart allows them to have their moment and, even if they fail, they're still funny. He even picks up on the sass of one young participant and replicates it at the end of the show to great comedic effect.

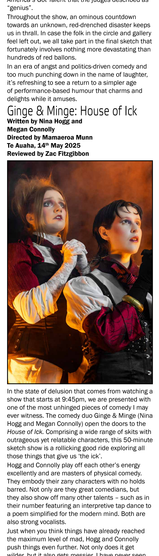
In between the audience-driven sketches, Tape Face showcases his own classic comedy that leans heavily into the silent stars of yesteryear and his background in clowning and mime. This includes the two sketches he performed in auditions for *America's Got Talent* that the judges described as "genius".

Throughout the show, an ominous countdown transmits an unknown, red-directed disaster keeps us in thrall. In case the folk in the circle and gallery feel left out, we all take part in the final sketch that ultimately involves nothing more devastating than hundreds of red balloons.

In an era of digital and politics-driven comedy and too much punching down in the name of laughter, it's refreshing to see a return to a simpler age of performance-based humour that charms and delights while it amuses.

Ginge & Minge: House of Ick

Written by Nina Hogg and Megan Connolly
Directed by Mamaeroa Munn
Te Auaha, 14th May 2025
Reviewed by Zac Fitzgibbon



In the state of delusion that comes from watching a show that starts at 9.45pm, we are presented with one of the most unhinged pieces of comedy I may ever witness. The comedy duo Ginge & Minge (Nina Hogg and Megan Connolly) open the doors to the *House of Ick*. Comprising a wide range of skits with outrageous yet relatable characters, this 50-minute sketch show is a rollicking good ride exploring all those things that give us 'the ick'.

Hogg and Connolly play off each other's energy excellently and are masters of physical comedy. They embody their zany characters with no holds barred. Not only are they great comedians, but they also show off many other talents – such as in their number featuring an interpretive tap dance to a poem simplified for the modern mind. Both are also strong vocalists.

Just when you think things have already reached the maximum level of mad, Hogg and Connolly push things even further. Not only does it get weirder, but it also gets messier. I've never seen such a messy show, and I do not envy whoever has to clean whatever 'ick' is left behind by the time this has run. This is a sensory experience – we see, smell, and hear many things that make us want to vomit (in the best way possible).

The set (designed by the duo themselves) also impresses. It provides a great backdrop for quick changes and houses the plethora of props used in the show for one comedic purpose or another. It's still trying to process how these two manage to include so much comedy in such a short time.

If you exit the theatre with a different person, *House of Ick* certainly leaves an impression. I mean that literally – the stamp they give the audience at the end of the show will stay on my hand for days. The ick is incredibly strong. See for yourself just what this crazy show can do for you.

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Booth the Clown and Jak Darling: Delightfool

The Fringe Bar, 12th–26th May 2025
Reviewed by Ruth Corkill

Booth the Clown and Jak Darling's *Delightfool* is an absurdist queer cabaret exploit, featuring stand-up, mime, musical comedy, magic, and flightless birds. Jak Darling is gorgeous, embodying the feminine in a series of elegant mid-century gowns and a Freddie Mercury-esque moustache. They bring sultry vulnerability, masterful storytelling, and piss gags. Booth presents as more of a crass uncle type, and their seamless physical comedy and comedic precision allow them to make a meal out of simple jokes.

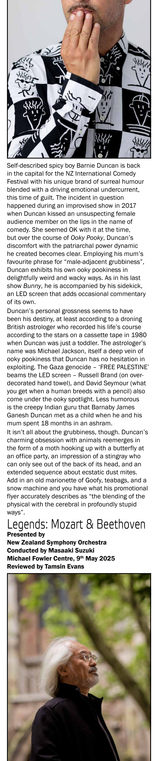
There is plenty of raunchy, shock-value comedy, but the more memorable and lucrative acts are what I find most effective. Booth's sailor vs seagulls mime features a sublime and surprisingly beautiful underwater dance sequence, during which the character comes close to drowning. Booth utilises the audience's growing concern for maximum comedic payoff. Later, in an act of supreme silliness, Booth and Jak wrap themselves in sheets and transform into a pair of white emus tip-toeing Sixties' *Flower Duet*.

There are subtle undercurrents of grimmer themes; the story is set against the backdrop of an impending storm. Radio newscasts repeatedly warn that the situation is deteriorating, a motif that resonates with climate catastrophe and rising queerphobic hostility. The duo are trapped in an Iserwoodian understanding of cabaret as a queer artform, and bastion of gloriousness and joy. Eventually the storm builds to a cacophony of wind and noise which Booth and Jak incorporate as threatens to destroy the theatre and imperil the final act.

But Booth and Jak manage to pitch a tent, creating an opportunity for shadow play as their figures are backlit against the tent fabric. Through the darkest hours of the storm, the audience spy on their vulnerable souls searching before they emerge to announce that the storm has passed, and the magic tricks can proceed as planned. Booth's magic is delightfully well created and brilliantly executed. Booth and Jak are darlings, and well deserving of their 2025 NZ International Comedy Festival Billy T Award nomination.

Barnie Duncan: Ooky Pooky

Te Auaha, 15th May 2025
Reviewed by Tanya Piejus



Self-described spicy boy Barnie Duncan is back in the capital for the NZ International Comedy Festival with his unique brand of surreal humour blended with a driving emotional undercurrent, this time of guilt. The incident in question happened during my last visit to Wellington in 2017 when Duncan kissed an unsuspecting female audience member on the lips in the name of comedy. She seemed OK with it at the time, but over the course of *Ooky Pooky*, Duncan's discomfort with the patriarchal power dynamic he created becomes clear. Employing his mum's favourite phrase for "male-adjacent grubbiness", Duncan exhibits his own ooky pookiness in delightfully weird and wacky ways. As Duncan's show *Bunny*, he is accompanied by his sidekick, an LED screen that adds occasional commentary of its own.

Duncan's personal grossness seems to have been his destiny, at least according to a grinning British astrologer who recorded his life's course according to the stars on a cassette tape in 1980 when Duncan was just a toddler. The astrologer's name was Michael Jackson, itself a deep vein of ooky pookiness that Duncan has no hesitation in exploiting. The Gaza genocide – "FREE PALESTINE" beams the LED screen – Russell Brand (on one decorated hand towel), and David Seymour (what you got when a human breeds with a pencil) also come under the ooky spotlight. Less humorous is the creepy hiding of the Epstein files when Ganesh Duncan met as a child when he and his mum spent 18 months in an ashram.

It isn't all about the grubbiness, though. Duncan's charming obsession with animals reemerges in the form of a mouse choking up with a butterfly at an office party, an impression of a stingray who can only see out of the back of its head, and an extended sequence about endless dust mites. Add in an old marionette of Goofy, teabags, and a new machine and you have what this promotional flyer accurately describes as "the blending of the physical with the cerebral in profoundly stupid ways".

Legends: Mozart & Beethoven

Presented by
New Zealand Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Masaaki Suzuki
Michael Fowler Centre, 9th May 2025
Reviewed by Tamsin Evans

Masaaki Suzuki

Masaaki Suzuki is a renowned authority on Bach's works and on Friday he demonstrated how to apply his expertise to other classical titans. Suzuki achieved this in such a way that his Bach was as beautiful as we would expect and his Mozart and Beethoven were comfortingly familiar and refreshingly new all at once.

The stage was set, literally, for a Baroque performance. Throughout the evening, Suzuki opted to impress his command of pacing and tempo, and tone to bring forward individual parts so cleverly it was almost as if they were under an actual spotlight for a few moments before melting back into the lustrous sound of the whole. Each movement of Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3 was made distinctively different by interpretation and performance, but a lightness and fluidity flowed throughout.

The same lightness continued into Mozart's Symphony No. 25. The delicacy of the first and second movements, almost exposing every instrumentalist, left an interest as a fervence calon in Mozart's day although it was a full house of several thousand. The Finale movement had a bolder sound. Even as the speed and intensity increased, Suzuki's amazing control over the dynamics complemented the orchestra's power being heavy footed.

The heart of the hour was Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, *Eroica*. Suzuki introduced us to a new interpretation of Beethoven's work. It was as dramatic and original as it might have seemed to its first audiences while retaining the lightness and fluidity we were introduced to in the Bach. The second movement in particular had an intensity cause to the character of the movement, with harmonic drama and serious emphasis on tone. The third and fourth movements emphasised the unusual. The complex rhythm and unexpected dynamics combined the modernity of Beethoven to the Baroque mode and left us knowing we had heard something old and well celebrated now also new and remarkable.

Re-Engineered

Written by Regan Taylor
Directed by Natano Keoi
Circa Theatre, 11th May 2025
Reviewed by Stanford Reynolds

A Māori builder named Reg, played by Regan Taylor, arrives to a house in Wadestown after being contracted to build a pool for the house owners' dog from getting onto the road. After some chaotic communicating with Karen, one of the homeowners, Reg builds the fence while exploring his past, alcoholism, and identity.

The design, also by Regan Taylor, is used creatively throughout the performance. Against a charming backdrop of panels engraved with pohutukawa shapes are piles of loose wood and a mound of sand in a corner. We watch as the set is changed and constructed over the course of the play. As the gate is built, Taylor uses the pieces of the fence creatively to depict a variety of characters and scenes, such as a moving car or a prison-like fence that becomes stuck behind. As Reg's primarily delightful moment occurs when Taylor transforms into a convincing mess while rotting out a sheet wrapped around him, arm extended for the neck and beak. Reg's narration takes the audience on a wide-ranging journey through space and time. An imagined conversation with a therapist, played convincingly by Keoi Keoi, connects Reg's alcoholism and flashes back to a time in his childhood when he felt unloved and unwanted. Together with Kane Parsons' sound design, Janis Cheng's lighting design is used effectively to make these scenes pop, often transporting the stage with colours and focused lights, making the background fall away as we are taken with Reg on his internal journey.

Throughout *Re-Engineered*, Reg's exploration of heavy topics becomes personal and vulnerable as he directly challenges the audience to confront their biases. With the short runtime of the performance, the big ideas that are offered can feel abandoned too quickly as Reg moves on to the next topic. The effect is that the plot of the show becomes choppy, and it is difficult for us to find a thread tying the story together. Reg has a lot to share with us, and I hope that he continues to win audiences over while crafting them to think.

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The real big belly laugh

by Alessia Belsito-Riera

Photo by Anna Popovic.

Photo by Cat Gundry-Beck.

The last time the sketch comedy trio Foil, Arms & Hog were in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, they threw bread at the audience pretending they were ducks.

"We tried to throw a slice of bread to the back of the room, but we had gotten this really flimsy bread". Then, someone yelled out that they should use Vogels, Conor McKenna (Arms) says. "So at half time, one of us ran out the back door to a shop, bought it, pegged it back, and then produced this brick of a bread, and it just pinged off the back!"

Now the internet sensations return to Wellington's St James Theatre on the 5th of June with *Skittish* and an armoury of Vogels.

Conor, how did you three go from studying engineering, architecture, and genetics to comedy?

I wanted to be a stand-up... so anyway, the lads are holding me back. Hog (Sean Flanagan) wanted to be an actor and I think Foil (Sean Finegan) probably wanted to be an architect. Thankfully, there was a massive recession and there were no jobs. I still remember my first job. I was holding this sign that said 'Comedy this way' in the centre of Temple Bar. I was so excited about it because it meant I got paid 30 euro and I got seven minutes on stage. My mother, who did not understand this at all, just saw, like, 'He's graduated from genetics now he's holding a sign – the country's in ruins!' So anyway, I was delighted.

We were thrown together and then we just went from gig to gig. Comedy is one of those things that if you do a good gig, it's a great feeling – a room full of people laughing at what you have to say, and you're doing it with your pals. We all wanted to work together to make people laugh. And it's rarer than you think, that teamwork. I think that's what kept us together over the years.

What do you love about comedy?

The real goal of comedy is if you can get people to laugh at the absolute stupidest thing that you can think of. That real big belly laugh. That's what I love. I don't really want to make people think, people have enough time to think. I don't want to teach them anything – I know there's a lot of that in comedy at the moment, but that's definitely not us.

Tell me about Skittish!

Our show is very interactive. We talk to loads of people at the start, and then we use all of their stories to inform the sketches. It means that every single show is different. Otherwise it's just you doing the material and then going home. We really want to be there, to have that live experience with the audience. The show is hard to describe. First off, it's none of the material that is on our YouTube channel. It's much more surreal. We've got about 12 sketches, three songs, Irish traditional songs, a cappella songs, and they're all silly. We've got a sketch about a zoo that's 100-percent humane because the owner has replaced all of the animals with amateur actors, but he's still treating it like a regular zoo so it's falling apart. It's just bat sh*t, basically!

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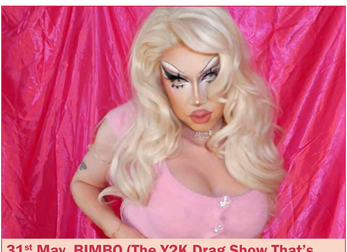
What's on

27th May. Te Kōkī Orchestra Concert: *Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Hill Street, Thorndon* – 7:30pm. Miles Davis classics, Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges' Violin Concerto, Franz Liszt's *Les Préludes*, and Camille Saint-Saëns' Symphony No. 3 – known as the Organ Symphony – are brought to life by Te Kōkī Orchestra in the beautiful and acoustically amazing Cathedral of St Paul.

23rd May. Coven – An Evening for Queer Women and Gender Minorities: *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Ivy Bar & Cabaret becomes a saloon at this Coyote Ugly themed event. Jump into line dancing with Ginger Velour [pictured] before surrendering to arm wrestling and body shots later on at this party for queer women and gender minorities.

20th-30th May. Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington Presents: Doctor Faustus: *Studio 77, Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn* – 6:30pm. Christopher Marlowe's Elizabethan classic is set in a brutalist world reimagined with a modern take on gender. Step into the study of the infamous Doctor Faustus as he toys with demonic powers and dances between omnipotence and damnation.
Artwork by Zoe Harris.

1st Jun. Vegan Food Festival: *Bhakti Lounge, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 6:15pm. No passport will be needed to travel the world through your tastebuds at Bhakti Lounge's Vegan Food Festival. Stroll from stall to stall, tasting your way across continents – from crispy Korean fried chicken to creamy mac 'n' cheese balls, zingy sushi rolls to cheesy spinach pastry, it's a foodie's paradise.



31st May. BIMBO (The Y2K Drag Show That's Totally Hot!): *Ivy Bar & Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. Bunny Holiday [pictured] and her hunnys are going superstar mode for the fourth annual BIMBO party. Channelling pop princesses, heiress drama, and millennium magic, this isn't just a drag show – it's a Y2K resurrection that's hotter than a Motorola Razr.
Photo by Kynan Cowley-Hunt.

30th; 31st May. Weekend Laughs with Paul Ego and Michael Macaulay: *The Fringe Bar, Te Aro; Abandoned Taproom Petone, Lower Hutt* – 8pm. Over the course of two hours, MC Michael Macaulay introduces a stellar lineup to the stage comprising Katy Borrows, Ivan Fadjukoff, and Paul Ego [pictured] on Friday, and the famous Ego with some mystery guests on Saturday.

What's on

Wairarapa

21st-25th May. Wairarapa Film Festival: *Various locations and times in Wairarapa.* To celebrate the fifth anniversary, Wairarapa Film Festival presents a vibrant autumn programme of screenings and workshops.

23rd May. The Powderpuff Cabaret: *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 8pm. Let Hollie Berry, Papillon DeVille, Lulu LaCroix, and Betty Detention take you on a fantastical backstage romp as they get ready for their latest burlesque revue.

30th May. The Bruce Springsteen Experience: *Wairarapa Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – 7pm. With a full nine-piece band, The Boss presents Springsteen's music at a captivating level of visual and audio excitement.

Kapiti

24th May. Kāpiti Chorale Presents: European Masters: *St Paul's Church, Langdale Ave, Paraparaumu* – 3pm. A concert of sacred music from across Europe, this carefully curated programme presents familiar and rarely heard compositions.

24th May. Comedy on The Coast – May Madness: *Kapiti Playhouse, Ruahine Street, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. Oliver Pol, Jenice the Menace, Sam Howard, Ross Dixon, Michael Macaulay, and a mysterious guest come together for a night of comedy hosted by the brilliant Joana Joy.

25th May. Michael Endres: *St Peter's Village Hall, Beach Road, Paekākāriki* – 2:30pm. Award-winning German pianist Michael Endres is known the world over for his virtuosity. In Kapiti, he performs Schubert, Schumann, Liszt, Tchaikowsky, and Gershwin at this Mulled Wine Concert.

Events

24th May. Wellington Vintage Market: *The Exchange Building, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 10am. Shop curated selections of vintage treasures, clothes, and homewares made between the 1950s and the 2000s.

24th May. The Elm Street Marathon: *Roxy Cinema, Park Road, Miramar* – 7:30pm. Created by Wes Craven, the seminal slasher series centres around Freddy Krueger, an evil entity that haunts and tortures people in their dreams resulting in their death in real life.

28th May. The Freedom Shop Aotearoa Presents: Born in Flames: *Book Haven, Garrett Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Attend a community screening of anarcha-feminist filmmaker Lizzie Borden's dystopian masterpiece, which explores themes of race, queerness, intersectional feminism, police brutality and surveillance, and the role of independent radio in political revolution.

28th May. Turkish Short Film Night: *Southern Cross Garden Bar and Restaurant, Abel Smith Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. This collection of heartfelt stories from Turkish filmmakers are about what binds us together and pushes us apart, offering moments of reflection and connection.

31st May. Ngāti Pōneke Tohikaaroa Presents: He Maruāpō Huna, He Maruāpō Tūmatarau a Matariki Masquerade Ball: *Pipitea Marae, Thorndon Quay, Thorndon* – 6:30pm. Reflect on the past, revel in the present, and look forward to the future of Matariki together at a masquerade ball.

1st Jun. Aotearoa's Biggest Record Fair: *Brewtown, Blenheim Street, Upper Hutt* – 10am. Peruse the wares of New Zealand's biggest wax vendors.

1st Jun. Bollywood Tamasha Party!: *The Garden Hotel, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – 10pm. Groove to the latest Bollywood hits and dance the night away with friends and other fans.

1st, 8th, 15th Jun. Sci-Fi Sundays: *Space Place at Carter Observatory, Salamanca Road, Kelburn* – 6pm. Travel across the cosmos and encounter strange beings with screenings of *Spaceballs*, *Galaxy Quest*, and *Ghostbusters*.

6th Jun. Rebekah Burgess: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 5:30pm. Known for her confessional and honest poetry style, Rebekah Burgess presents her new poetry book *Hope Floats*.

Music

24th May. Orchestral: Biggie Vs 2Pac: *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Settle in for an orchestral tribute to 90s hip-hop legends Biggie and 2Pac.

25th May. Amici Ensemble: *St Andrew's on the Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – Enjoy Jean Françaix, Gabriel Fauré, and Johannes Brahms performed by an exquisite and exceptional piano quartet.

26th May. New Zealand Highwaymen: *Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Logan Street, Upper Hutt* – 2:30pm. Brendan Dugan, Gray Bartlett, Dennis Marsh, and Frankie Stevens come together for a magical performance of timeless classics.

27th, 28th Jun. Spacey Jane: *Meow Nui, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Dreamy indie-rockers Spacey Jane have just released their newest album *If That Makes Sense*. Enjoy it live in Pōneke.

29th May. The Lemonheads: *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Celebrate two of the band's most beloved albums *It's a Shame About Ray* (1992) and *Come On Feel the Lemonheads* (1993).

30th May. Calla of Ursa: *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 7pm. Calla of Ursa is an operatic soprano, violinist, and electronic producer who offers a listening experience designed to stir the depths of our primal inner worlds.

30th May. Electric Power Blues: *Abandoned Taproom Petone, Fitzherbert Street, Lower Hutt* – 8pm. Blues classics and killer new songs collide for a night fizzing with electricity and power.

31st May. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Masterworks: Mozart, Beethoven & Haydn: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Conductor James Judd and concertmaster Vesa-Matti Leppänen present a programme featuring Edvard Grieg, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Briar Prastiti, and Ludwig van Beethoven.

31st May. Battle of the Bands 2025 National Championship: *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Catch Aotearoa's rock stars of tomorrow before they make it big.

31st May. Voom: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Auckland indie-rock legends Voom are finally back in the capital with their long-awaited new album *Something Good Is Happening*.

6th Jun. Ball Park Music: *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. The band's new album *Like Love* explores a more tender, introspective side. Catch it live in Welly for the first time.

7th Jun. Orchestra Wellington Presents: The Favoured Son: *Michael Fowler Centre, Wakefield Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Pōneke's premier orchestra performs music from Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, and Rimsky-Korsakov with support from pianist Jian Liu and Orpheus Choir Wellington.

Performance

21st-31st May. Wellington Repertory Theatre Presents: Dial M for Murder: *Gryphon Theatre, Ghuznee Street, Te Aro* – various times. Step into a world of deception, betrayal, and suspense with Frederick Knott's classic thriller. When an ex-tennis star plots the murder of his wealthy wife, he crafts what seems to be the perfect crime.

23rd May. Of Course You Are, We All Are: *The Undercurrent, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. This live storytelling event is a work of comic fiction told in 10 chapters spanning a day in the life of Huber, a tortured genius who is on the cusp of composing something brilliant.

24th May. Femmes and Thems Comedy: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. A fine lineup of women, nonbinary, and gender-non-conforming funny folk brings endless laughs to the capital.

28th May. Gorilla Theatre: *Newtown Community Centre, Rintoul Street, Newtown* – 7pm. It's the law of the jungle as a crew of Wellington Improv Troupe's most seasoned improvisers direct unique songs, scenes, and sagas with added Gorilla.

5th Jun. Allen Comedy: *Moon, Riddiford Street, Newtown* – 8pm. Pizza, beer, and stellar comedy collide in a big bang of an evening.

5th Jun. Foil, Arms & Hog: *St James Theatre, Courtenay Place, Te Aro* – 8pm. A mix of sketch comedy, audience participation, and improvisation, the famous Irish comedy trio presents their new show *Skittish*.

7th Jun. The Great D.I.Y. BurlesKiwi 2025: *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. This burlesque competition challenges participants to use their ingenuity and creativity to bring an award-winning burlesque performance to the stage for under $100.

11th Jun. Ed Gamble: *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Britain's beloved comedian and foodie offers up a feast of comedy in his new show *Hot Diggity Dog*.

Sports

24th May. Cartrack Tough Guy and Gal Challenge: *Camp Wainui, Coast Road, Lower Hutt* – 8am. New Zealand's original mud run series is the ultimate obstacle course race designed for thrill seekers and adventure lovers.

24th May. Valiant Pro Presents: Live at The 162: *The 162, Gracefield Road, Lower Hutt* – 5:30pm. Bring the whānau to an action-packed night of wrestling for adrenaline-inducing fun.

Galleries

Until 30th May. The Female Gaze and How It Shapes Our World: *Toi Pōneke, Abel Smith Street, Te Aro.* This compelling mother-son exhibition from Ashraf and Pedram Pirnia reclaims vision and voice through the powerful mediums of painting and photography.

Until 7th Jun. I am nature let me in: *Twentysix Gallery, Constable Street, Newtown.* This expressive, energetic, and organic body of work by James Watkins unearths subconscious themes around the idea of home, while reflecting on and combining ecstatic experiences of Aotearoa's natural world.

Until 10th Jun. Jack Rowland: *Vincents Art Workshop, Willis Street, Te Aro.* Jack Rowland presents a showcase of his recent work in his first ever solo exhibition.

20th-25th May. Fair Winds and Following Seas: *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro.* Neil Johnstone (photography and film) and Lena Freeggard (poetry) present a collection of works inspired by shipwrecks.

22nd May-14th Jun. Not How I Remember It: *Page Galleries, Victoria Street, Te Aro.* Robbie Motion explores the relationship between people and pictures to consider how the art of today will be used as a time capsule of the past someday in the future.

30th May-1st Jun. NZ Art Show: *TSB Arena and Shed 6, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront* – 10am. This showcase of contemporary New Zealand art brings together over 250 talented creatives from across the country and more than 4000 original artworks under one roof.

Festivals

Until 2nd Jun. Resene Architecture & Design Film Festival: *Various locations and times in Wellington.* Celebrate the beauty and complexity of architecture at this engaging and educational film festival.

30th May-14th Jun. Kia Mau Festival: *Various locations and times in Wellington.* This Indigenous arts festival celebrates contemporary Tāngata Whenua, Tāngata Moana, and Indigenous art in Aotearoa and beyond.

4th-29th Jun. French Film Festival Aotearoa: *Various locations and times in Greater Wellington.* Catch dramas and documentaries, comedies and kooky capers at the annual festival celebrating French cinema.

For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 27 May.

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

Regional News
Connecting Wellington

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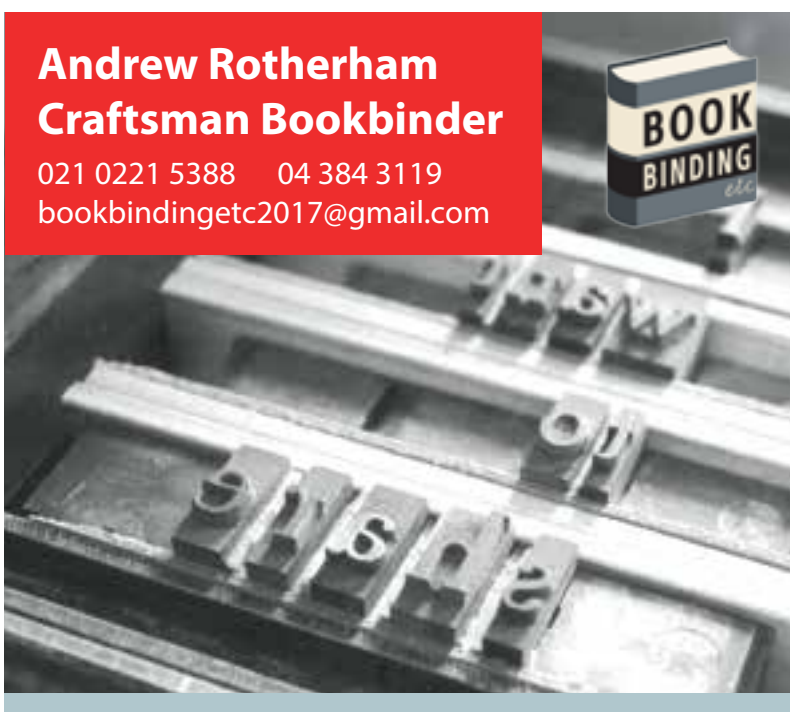

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