# Regional News

Wellington

Issue 238
February 25, 2025

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# News

## A-peel-ing

Two bananas find themselves thrust into the spotlight of a prestigious art gallery. With the lights beaming down and the hundreds of eyes peering at them, they begin questioning their purpose.

*How To Art*, which echoes Maurizio Cattelan's infamous artwork *Comedian*, comes to the New Zealand Fringe Festival circuit direct from the minds of Tāmaki Makarau's new, collaborative, multi-disciplinary performance-making company Ratbags. Peeling into Te Auaha from the 26th of February to the 1st of March, this contemporary fruit fable about survival in a disposable industry is both meaningful and manic.

Blending physical theatre and clowning to create a show that challenges conventional notions of agency and value in the art world, *How To Art* follows two banana actors as they embark on a transformative journey from pristine novelties to weathered exhibits, while grappling with profound existential questions. What is our identity? What purpose do we serve? In this world for sale, who actually profits from our existence?

"*How to Art* was born from our interest – and frustration – with the impact of capitalism on creativity," co-creator and performer Katie Burson says. "Making independent theatre has become increasingly difficult in an environment with tightening funding and an ever-rising cost of living. This show is our fruity, funny, and poignant response to these challenges."

Alongside co-creator and performer Georgie Llewellyn, producer Charlie Underhill, and a powerhouse creative team, Burson and her Ratbags team deconstruct the hierarchical layers of the art world, questioning ownership and identity while exploring the cost of creativity and the art of living.

## Darkness and deceit

***Colton Stuart. Photo by Hayden Rogers.***

Though summer still blazes, now begins the winter of our discontent as Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe's production of *Richard III* drenches Eastbourne's Muritai School in darkness and deceit from the 6th to the 8th and 13th to the 15th of March.

Ever since the bones of King Richard III were exhumed from a Leicester City Council car park in 2012, interest in the much-maligned king grows. But as far as Shakespeare was concerned, the embittered and physically deformed crown usurper was an unadulterated villain. And according to Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe's MichaelJohn Butcher, *Richard III* is the Bard's greatest work.

"Richard, Duke of Gloucester, is a captivating villain, a brilliant soldier and politician. Shakespeare, of course, was out to tell a compelling story, so he did not let historical facts get in his way. His play is a psychological study investigating just how destructive tyranny and ambition can be," Butcher says. "On the historical level, it depicts the warring houses of Lancaster and York, symbolised by the white and red roses, struggling to become united. The play is marked by murders, ghostly apparitions, and battles, but also brilliant poetry".

Having played the titular role twice, Butcher knows the play well, but this time he finds himself in the director's seat with Colton Stuart as the lead, Allan Burne as right-hand-man Duke of Buckingham, Lian Butcher as Lady Anne Warwick, and Timothy Pebble and Scout Hunter as the hapless young princes.

"An honest tale speeds best, being plainly told," our leading man utters, but one as devious as *Richard III* will be remembered for a lifetime.

*Cover: Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki/Children's Day*

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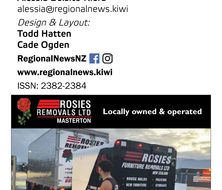


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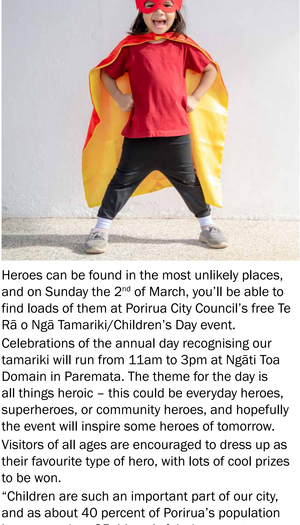
# Celebrating all things heroic



Heroes can be found in the most unlikely places, and on Sunday the 2nd of March, you'll be able to find loads of them at Porirua City Council's free Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki/Children's Day event.

Celebrations of the annual day recognising our tamariki will run from 11am to 3pm at Ngāti Toa Domain in Paremata. The theme for the day is all things heroic – this could be everyday heroes, superheroes, or community heroes, and hopefully the event will inspire some heroes of tomorrow.

Visitors of all ages are encouraged to dress up as their favourite type of hero, with lots of cool prizes to be won.

"Children are such an important part of our city, and as about 40 percent of Porirua's population is younger than 25, it's only fair that we use this day to put them first," Porirua Mayor Anita Baker says. "Celebrating all things heroic will give tamariki the chance to meet everyday heroes from our community, such as those who work hard for our emergency and health services, and our environmental heroes too."

Attendees can meet and chat with representatives from local emergency services, Whānau Āwhina Plunket, Bee Healthy Regional Dental Service, Ora Toa, Surf Lifesaving NZ, Predator Free NZ Trust, and Nonstop Solutions.

There will also be loads of opportunities for tākaro (play) activities for all ages – from a preschool area to giant games, a colouring station, free face painting, and many, many inflatables.

Find out more at www.poriruacity.govt.nz/childrensday

# Chaos gremlins

***Photo by Quentin Potts.***

Strike up the band, cue the applause, and ready your senses for a night of unhinged, late-night comedy chaos with Catfish Trifecta's *Early Midnight Circus Live* at Circus Bar on the 27th of February.

Bringing all the energy of a talk show spiralling out of control, *Early Midnight Circus Live* is a screwy spectacle, a designed disaster, a humorous hurricane where everything can (and will) go wrong.

This high-energy fever dream blends absurd character comedy, unpredictable improv, and the kind of antics that would make even a *Saturday Night Live* regular sweat. Think unhinged interviews, unexpected appearances, unsuspecting guests, and sketch chaos that defies reason.

*Early Midnight Circus Live* will be hosted by improv and sketch comedian Aaron Douglas [pictured], and features an oddball cast that comprises the enigmatic Matt Hutton and their one-person band, supported by chaos gremlin sidekick Megan Connolly.

"I'm incredibly excited to collaborate once again with Catfish Trifecta for this ambitious and wild show," Douglas says. "I've always admired their dedication to creating live moments that are unique and subversive – pushing performance boundaries and adding a bold and fresh take on comedy to the alternative Wellington scene."

Catfish Trifecta has just recently returned to Pōneke fresh from studying in Chicago. The trio (Mo Munn, Ralph Hilaga, and Joel Luscombe) seek to level up Wellington's alternative comedy game by bringing a fresh spin on improv to the capital and making space for more experimentation.

Will an unexpected local celebrity bring down the house? Why do the cue cards have nothing on them but insults? The only way to find out is to jump headfirst into the mayhem at *Early Midnight Circus Live*.

## SNIPS

**Hail and ride**

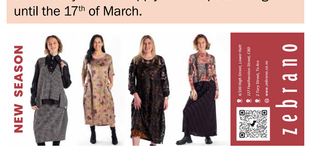
A new fixed route 'hail and ride' bus service, Route 59, will begin in Tawa on Monday the 24th of February, replacing the Metlink On Demand trial. Route 59 buses will run from 7am to 7pm on weekdays between Greenacres and Grenada North, via the Tawa shops, Takapu Road Station, and Linden Station.

**Quake remediation**

Earthquake-remediation work will take place across several Wellington City Council social housing complexes. 301 units are affected across six complexes. Te Toi Mahana will be rehousing tenants where required for the upgrade works to take place.

**Aniva residency**

Pātaka Art + Museum and Creative New Zealand are on the lookout for an artist to take up the Aniva Arts Residency programme for 2025, which offers an Aotearoa-based Pacific artist or practitioner who identifies as LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF a paid, three-month residency to create a new body of work. Apply at www.pataka.org.nz until the 17th of March.



# Timeless masterpieces

***Larry Reese. Photo courtesy of NZSO.***

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) launches its 2025 season with an exquisite and elegant selection of Baroque masterpieces. *Timeless Beauty: Handel & Telemann* will treat Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, Michael Fowler Centre, and Carterton Events Centre audiences to astonishing works by George Frideric Handel, Georg Philipp Telemann, and Matthew Locke on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of March.

The programme will frame two works by Handel – his majestic and serene Overture and Symphonia from *Occasional Oratorio* and the sublime *Alcina Suite* from his opera – alongside Telemann's magnificent *Concerto for 3 Trumpets and Timpani* and Locke's *The Tempest*, inspired by Shakespeare's play, which weaves themes of magic, illusion, and transformation.

The NZSO ensemble, featuring 26 of the finest musicians in Aotearoa, will be led by concertmaster and violinist Vesa-Matti Leppänen. Meanwhile, soloists NZSO section principal trumpet Michael Kirgan, associate principal trumpet David Johnson, sub-principal trumpet Mark Carter, and section principal timpani Larry Reese will come together for Telemann's concerto.

Reese will be performing the Telemann concerto on historically accurate goat-skin timpani drums, just like his counterpart would have in 1716. "This is the same sound that Telemann would have heard," he beams. "It means 21st-century listeners get to enjoy a range of colour and tones genuinely like what their 18th-century audiences experienced."

# Dancefloor anthems

Electronic music duo Groove Armada have spent the past three decades consistently, uncompromisingly carving out their niche in the dance music hall of fame.

Cutting their teeth on London's underground scene in the 90s, Tom Findlay and Andy Cato – fast friends since a chance encounter during university – first gained traction hosting their eclectic party Captain Sensual at the Helm of the Groove Armada. Once they started recording, they shortened the name to Groove Armada – though Findlay once joked that if he'd known they'd still be gigging all these years later, he would've given it a lot more thought!

Since 96, the pair have played extensively in Ibiza, never missing a summer on the island. Couple their long-term residency at iconic party Manumission, We Love at Space, and regular appearances at White Isle institutions like Amnesia and Pikes with their legendary sets back home – at Sub Club, KOKO, fabric London, Glastonbury, and so much more – and it's no wonder they're one of the most in-demand acts in clubland today.

With UK Top 10 albums, GRAMMY® nominations, and BRIT nominations to their name, and having recently signed a long-term deal with London house music institution Defected Records, Groove Armada show no signs of slowing down. Their next series of EPs and tour dates (including, synth-roll please… a Wellington banger) signals a return to their club roots. Catch one of the planet's best-loved and biggest-selling dance acts at TSB Arena on the 7th of March.

# Music news

## Live it up *by Madelaine Empson*

After a legendary launch in 2024, This Is Living returns to McEwan Park within Hikoikoi Reserve in Lower Hutt on the 1st of March, serving up a synthesis of sun, sea, and sound courtesy of Breaking Beats.

Nestled amongst native bush and backing onto Petone Beach, the setting of This Is Living is certainly spectacular, but it's the world-class lineup that really sets this summer Welly music festival apart. From DnB, UKG, and house to breaks, 140, and everything in between, audiences can look forward to sets from the likes of Culture Shock, 1991, Monrroe & Duskee, and GLXY from the UK; Aotearoa space weavers, mainland dub originators, bass pioneers, and cultural landscape collaborators Salmonella Dub Soundsystem; Belgium-born, New Zealand-based drum and bass producer Alix Perez; Paige Julia, a sonic explorer from the South Pacific and force in Aotearoa's underground jungle and bass scene; Kiwi legends like BBYFACEKILLA, Sianne, and Levi; and more of the best of the best.

Don't even get us started on the boat parties...

We caught up with festival organiser Chris Keimig of Breaking Beats about the inception of This Is Living and what this year has in store for us.

***What made you put on the first This Is Living Festival in March last year?***

After running events in Wellington for over 12 years, hosting an outdoor festival had always been a dream for us. Launching This Is Living was a huge milestone for me and the team at Breaking Beats, and seeing that vision come to life was an incredible achievement.

***How did it go, what were the vibes like?***

The first year was amazing. For a brand-new festival, having close to 4000 people attend created an incredible energy. The crowd was buzzing, and it really set the tone for what This Is Living is all about – bringing people together through music and good vibes.

***For those who came last year, what might look the same and what might look a little different in 2025?***

This year, we're expanding the musical experience with a more multi-genre lineup. We're excited to welcome Bad Boy Chiller Crew, a UK rap group, and Levity, a bass act from the USA. While the heart of the festival remains the same, we're always looking to elevate the experience and keep things fresh for our audience.

***What are you personally most looking forward to about This Is Living this year?***

I'm especially excited about our new 360-degree stage design. It's a fresh concept we're bringing to life this year, and I can't wait for people to experience it. It's going to be a game-changer for the festival atmosphere.

## A journey through time

*Photo by Tracey Lewis.*

The word 'girmit' was adopted by Indian indentured labourers, known as Girmityas, and derives from the English word 'agreement'. This New Zealand Fringe Festival, Nadia Freeman's performance piece *The Girmit* sheds light on the lesser-known history of the Girmityas who were brought to Fiji to work on sugar plantations in British colonies from 1879 to 1916.

Through electronic music and poetry, Freeman will explore the deception that coerced and forced people into migrating to Fiji on indentured contracts. Many were falsely told that Fiji was part of India, that they would make their fortunes, and that they could return home any time. However, Freeman's research – carried out under the APRA AMCOS Art Music Grant – uncovered harsh realities: most worked long hours, barely survived on meagre food stipends, and suffered physical abuse. Many infants died as mothers were forced back to work shortly after childbirth.

Both a celebration of their resilience and a tribute to their struggles, *The Girmit* will be performed at The National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa Auditorium | Taiwhanga Kauhau on the 27th of February, and in a demonstration-style format on the 28th at Pātaka Art + Museum. In acknowledgement of the wider story of slave labour in the Pacific, here, Freeman will explain her music-making process and present a sensory-relaxed rendition of the work alongside *The Cry of Stolen People*, a multimedia installation by Jack Kirifi, Moses Viliamu, and Zac Mateo that reflects on the history of Tokelauans who were abducted into slavery in the 1860s.

## Hypnotic hype

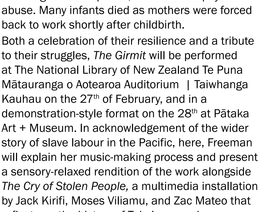


*Photo by Philine van den Heul.*

MY BABY are about to bring out the psychedelic side in all of us. Dropping their unique roots and rock-driven alt dance and delta trance music through the hallowed halls of San Fran on the 7th of March, the Amsterdam-based Dutch New Zealand trio are back to vibrate across the motu on their *Acoustic Blues Club Tour*.

The first half of the show will see MY BABY strip their sound down to its purest, most undiluted form. San Fran will become a blues bar, where the trio will perform warm, acoustic arrangements of their classics, placing blues riffs front and centre while emphasising the intricate musicianship and expressive vocals that have put them on the world map. In the second half, they'll rip into a high-octane set of foot-stomping, danceable funk. Put them together and you get both sides of a spirited stage sensation that is at once primal and futuristic.

Since their formation in 2012, siblings Cato van Dijck (vocals, bass, guitar) and Joost van Dijck (drums), and Aotearoa-born guitarist Daniel 'DaFreez' Johnston (guitar) have carved out their own musical universe of hypnotic hype. Their earthy, experimental, experiential dance music has earned them headline tours across Europe and the UK, performances at globally renowned festivals like Glastonbury, Isle of Wight, WOMAD, and Lowlands, and fans the world over. Experience the raw, organic essence of their genre-defying sound in this intimate and unforgettable live experience.

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# Anywhere and beyond

Photo by Vanessa Rushton.

Get amongst the 80,000 people exploring Newtown Festival, Aotearoa's biggest free music festival and street fair! The 31st annual celebration will spread out over two kilometres of Newtown's streets on the 2nd of March and feature hundreds of stalls, more than 150 musical acts and dance groups across 16 stages, over 1000 performers, and so much more.

"The kaupapa is fun, inclusivity, community, showcasing talent, and showing kaitiakitanga for our neighbourhood. That's our vibe," organisers Anna Kemble Welch and Martin Hamley say.

This year's programme is spread across 16 stages, with each one offering a different experience, vibe, or adventure. From the culturally focused platforms to the wild, weird, and wonderful stages, the genre-bending performance zones to the full-on party spaces, and the family-friendly areas that are fun for little and big Kiwis alike, Newtown Festival takes audiences to anywhere, everywhere, and beyond.

Catch interstellar pioneers BADTAB, indie feminine-rage trio Cordelia's, rowdy pop star Danica Bryant, post-punk outfit Fog, dream-pop luminaries French for Rabbits, spook-folk sweetheart Greta O'Leary, jazz dance party group Groove Council, Welly rock band Wet Denim, and hundreds more.

Couple the stacked lineup with delicious food and drink, plus activities aplenty and many a market stall, and Newtown Festival becomes a place where magic pervades and dreams come to life, all from right here in wacky, wonderful Welly.

# Cultural connections

Photo by Hutt City.

Blasts of colour, explosions of flavours, eruptions of sound, and paroxysms of vibrant performances collide at Afrika Bazaar. A community-centred, whānau-friendly festival designed to celebrate the diversity of African cultures in Aotearoa New Zealand, ORIKoL Productions' Afrika Bazaar at Hilary Court in Naenae sees the fourth edition taking place on the 8th of March from 11am to 5pm.

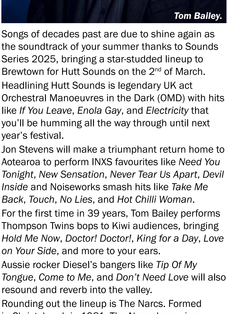
Previous years have showcased cultures from the eastern, central, southern, and western regions of Africa, with the 2025 festival expecting the same level of diversity and inclusivity. Alongside delicious cuisines and stalls selling arts and crafts, the event will also feature an exciting entertainment programme.

Bands, dance groups, DJs, and cultural performers will take to the stage throughout the day with Ras Judah and Culture Embassy, Sam Manzanza's Afrobeat Band, Beau7, Moto Magic, ORIKoL Live, Luo community traditional dance group, Rwandese community traditional dance group, Nigerian community traditional dance group, DJ Dozen, DJ Swagmatic, and more joining the excellent lineup of local acts.

"Through vibrant music, art, cuisine, and the presence of the diverse population, Afrika Bazaar is designed to provide a memorable experience for the whole whānau", organiser and performer DJ ORIKoL, also known as Nadine Nahimana, says.

"We hope attendees will go home happy, cultured, inspired, uplifted, full, and having made a new friend!"

# The sound of summer



Tom Bailey.

Songs of decades past are due to shine again as the soundtrack of your summer thanks to Sounds Series 2025, bringing a star-studded lineup to Brewtown for Hutt Sounds on the 2nd of March.

Headlining Hutt Sounds is legendary UK act Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark (OMD) with hits like *If You Leave*, *Enola Gay*, and *Electricity* that you'll be humming all the way through until next year's festival.

Jon Stevens will make a triumphant return home to Aotearoa to perform INXS favourites like *Need You Tonight*, *New Sensation*, *Never Tear Us Apart*, *Devil Inside* and Noiseworks smash hits like *Take Me Back*, *Touch*, *No Lies*, and *Hot Chilli Woman*.

For the first time in 39 years, Tom Bailey performs Thompson Twins bops to Kiwi audiences, bringing *Hold Me Now*, *Doctor! Doctor!*, *King for a Day*, *Love on Your Side*, and more to your ears.

Aussie rocker Diesel's bangers like *Tip Of My Tongue*, *Come to Me*, and *Don't Need Love* will also resound and reverb into the valley.

Rounding out the lineup is The Narcs. Formed in Christchurch in 1981, The Narcs have since established themselves as a cornerstone of Kiwi rock, notching up numerous awards and cranking out a string of hits and sold-out tours sharing stages with legends like Queen, Elton John, Midnight Oil, Cold Chisel, and Split Enz. At Hutt Sounds, they'll be joined by national treasure Kim Willoughby from When The Cat's Away.

# Hot and hyped

Willy SmacknTush.

Grab your flag, join the parade, and sashay straight down to The Fringe Bar for *Flamboyance: a Hot Gay Cabaret*. Celebrating Pride Month with rainbows and sparkles aplenty, this drag show hosted by multi-award-winning drag king Willy SmacknTush on the 14th of March will shower audiences in glitter. Catch the campiest queens and sexiest kings as they slay the gay agenda.

Rain Bowes is a hypermobile hottie who cartwheels her way through Wellington, wreaking chaos across the stage and wherever else she twirls.

Dan the Comedy Man has been crowned the featherweight champion of overthinking. With a truthful and brilliant comedy style, he'll keep you giggling and guffawing all evening.

Marsha Mellow is Pōneke's soft, sweet, squishy gal. With an incredible stage presence and scintillating skills, she powerfully raises the trans flag high.

Genderless, neurospicy visual performer, drag artist, and advocate Misty Frequency (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngā Rauru, Kai Tahu, Scotland) presents a political, conceptual, and avant-garde kaupapa in every performance that underscores how creativity is a vehicle for self-expression and acceptance.

Previously a Vegas showgirl, Ginger Velour (and their alter drag ego Braiden Butter) is a mega-mix maestro who serves comedic camp, dancy dance, and bold burlesque.

Maddie May is Welly's own burlesque babe. She knows how to command an audience with the perfect combination of sex, slink, and spice.

Pōneke legend, drag diva, and fanny pack queen Maria Richman rounds out the incredible lineup.

Get hyped, get hot, and get hooked at *Flamboyance: a Hot Gay Cabaret*.

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# Helluva hullabaloo

An extraordinary inter-island collaboration is upon us! On Wednesday the 13th of March at Kapiti Playhouse in Paraparaumu, the quirky and sometimes cynical ditties of Kapiti-based, former Hot Club Sandwich guitarist Andrew London will collide with the classical and jazz musings of Christchurch violinist Fiona Pears to give audiences a concert of unparalleled delight.

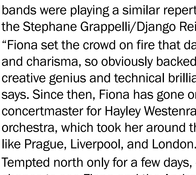
With Andrew on guitar, his partner Kristen on bass, and Fiona on violin, the shindig will feature rollicking gypsy-style swing music as well as beloved jazz standards, some of Fiona's original instrumentals, and a handful of Andrew's satirical songs derived from various Hot Club Sandwich albums.

Though this will be their first collaboration in a wee while, Andrew and Fiona are no strangers, having first crossed paths in the early 2000s when Andrew and Terry Crayford of Hot Club Sandwich encountered her at a Nelson Jazz Festival. Both bands were playing a similar repertoire culled from the Stephane Grappelli/Django Reinhardt songbook.

"Fiona set the crowd on fire that day with her energy and charisma, so obviously backed up by innate creative genius and technical brilliance," Andrew says. Since then, Fiona has gone on to perform as concertmaster for Hayley Westenra's accompanying orchestra, which took her around the world to places like Prague, Liverpool, and London.

Tempted north only for a few days, don't miss your chance to see Fiona and the Andrew London Duo live and at their boogieing best.

# Mana motuhake



Delving into the diverse experiences of Māori in contemporary society and the universal experience of exploring one's own identity and place in the world, *Two Guitars* will dance, sing, and laugh its way into your heart.

The latest production from award-winning playwright Jamie McCaskill (Ngāti Tamaterā), wrestles with Māoriness through comedy, song, and the outstanding showmanship of McCaskill and Golden Guitar winner Cameron Clayton (Ngāti Porou, Whāngai).

It opens with Billy and Te Po, two musicians about to smash the biggest night of their lives following their win at a kaupapa Māori music competition, but just an hour before showtime it all goes awry. Billy must decide if he will still perform after receiving tragic news while Te Po is kicked off the show following his criticism of its wairua in a live interview. As Te Po challenges the producers on their views of te ao Māori, stating that he and his partner shouldn't have to conform to their way of being Māori, Billy is forced to confront his values as a modern Māori man and where he fits in.

"I wanted to explore diversity in te ao Māori and present two characters who may not be your stereotypical Māori fighting to be themselves within a Māori kaupapa," McCaskill says. "In the current political climate, we must hold on to our self-determination or mana motuhake."

Directed by Carrie Green (Ngāti Porou), *Two Guitars* will entertain, move, and challenge Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre audiences on the 12th of March.

Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe
*Bard in the Yard 2025*
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# News

## A legacy of dance

***Trinity Maydon. Photo by Stephen A'Court.***

Since 1967, the New Zealand School of Dance (NZSD) has built a legacy of world-class dance training right here in Aotearoa. On the 6th of March, the Newtown-based institution celebrates 58 years of excellence, inviting you to celebrate with them on their first-ever NZSD Day!

Today, NZSD has an impressive faculty teaching almost 90 students classical ballet and contemporary dance in state-of-the-art facilities – but it wasn't always that way. Their humble beginnings saw instructors teaching 10 students in a single studio above a garage in downtown Wellington.

Over the decades, NZSD alumni have gone on to perform on some of the most prestigious stages and alongside some of the most renowned institutions around the world. It's all thanks to the support that empowers and enables them to gain technical skills, discover their passions, explore their style, and boldly chase their dreams.

With the funds raised on NZSD Day, the school will be able to purchase a projector screen for the new dance studios, which will fill an urgent need for more space for students and serve as a vibrant, accessible community hub for the arts in Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

Now more than ever, the arts serve as a valuable and essential tool of self-expression and communication. Wellington is a hub of creativity, with NZSD standing as one of the institutions at its heart. Find out more about NZSD Day at www.nzscholoofdance.ac.nz

# Advice from Alan

## Financial complaints services

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

If you have a complaint against a financial service provider (including banks, insurers, KiwiSaver, finance companies, and the like), it is possible to make that complaint to a free customer complaint service. Every financial provider has to be a member of a complaints resolution service. There are currently four complaints services: the Banking Ombudsman, the Insurance & Financial Services Ombudsman, the Financial Dispute Resolution Service, and Financial Services Complaints.

Each of these four services follows similar processes and which one you complain to depends on which scheme your finance organisation belongs to. Organisations will usually tell the consumer which complaint service they are a member of, or each service provides a list of members. If you complain to the incorrect one, they will usually refer you or forward on your complaint.

Each service requires you first to make a complaint to the financial organisation and to wait while that process is followed. You must also exhaust any review or appeal processes internally with the financial institution first. If it is unresolved (usually around two months) then you can complain to the relevant dispute service.

They will appoint an investigator to then gather information and investigate the complaint. These services are independent and not owned or run by the industry or government. They will attempt to resolve matters between the consumer and provider, but if that does not occur, each can make a decision. Before reaching a final decision, it is usual for a preliminary one to be provided to the parties, who can make comments and provide further information. The final decision is binding on the financial organisation, but not on the consumer (who can follow other remedies, including the Disputes Tribunal or Court).

The limit for money claims to the dispute services is $500,000 plus GST and compensation for stress etc of up to $10,000 plus GST. For amounts over that, consumers need to use the High Court process.

## Knocking it out of the park

***Photo by Zac Blake.***

By now, you will have heard that the legendary Jim Beam Homegrown is about to have its final hurrah in Wellington. This is your last chance to catch this Kiwi music festival on home turf as the 18th edition unfolds in spectacular fashion across two dates and five stages at Waitangi Park and along our sparkling waterfront.

Festival director Andrew Tuck says Homegrown is moving cities for a myriad of personal and logistical reasons.

"We couldn't be more grateful for the unwavering support we've had from fans and the city. The support from WellingtonNZ and Wellington City Council has been massive over the years, so we're keen to knock this last one out of the park as a heartfelt thank you to Wellington."

Part of the team signing off in style is the inclusion of the extra night at Waitangi Park's Jim Beam Park Stage. Friday the 14th of March will serve as the perfect warm up with acts including Che Fu, Lee Mvtthews, and Stan Walker before finishing off with SYNTHONY: an unparalleled experience that reimagines the biggest dance tracks with a full live orchestra and light show.

Saturday the 15th of March sees all five stages bursting with over 50 of the best acts in Aotearoa, from Shapeshifter, Sir Dave Dobbyn, Kaylee Bell, Nesian Mystik, Alien Weaponry, The Black Seeds, and Mitch James to Katchafire, I Am Giant, The Beths, Elemeno P, SWIDT, Aaradhna, Kings, and Drax Project. To boot, one performance will be extra fitting for Homegrown's farewell to the capital: local rock legends Shihad in their last-ever gig!

Get amongst this celebration of incredible music, memories, and the creative community that have made it all possible.

## A breathtaking collision

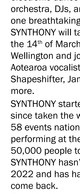

***Photo courtesy of Duco Events.***

This Jim Beam Homegrown, the biggest electronic dance anthems will collide with a live orchestra, DJs, artists, and immersive visuals in one breathtaking headline set. Brace yourself: SYNTHONY will take The Park Stage on Friday the 14th of March at 9pm, backed by Orchestra Wellington and joined by a packed lineup of Aotearoa vocalists, including Savage, P Digsss of Shapeshifter, James Reid of The Feelers, and many more.

SYNTHONY started in Auckland in 2017 and has since taken the world by storm, having delivered 58 events nationally and internationally – from performing at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to 50,000 people to opening Formula 1 in Vegas. SYNTHONY hasn't performed in Wellington since 2022 and has had calls from fans in the capital to come back.

Consider them answered! Duco Events CEO Craig Cotton says SYNTHONY is "excited to be back in Wellington, and to perform at the iconic Jim Beam Homegrown for the first time".

"We have an incredible cast of talented and well-known New Zealand vocalists joining us on stage with Orchestra Wellington and conductor Brent Stewart for a truly Kiwi set – it will be a show not to be missed", Cotton delights.

Orchestra Wellington marketing and engagement manager Hannah Neman says this electrifying event gives them "a chance to showcase the energy, versatility, and impact of orchestral music to a wide audience at home here in Pōneke".

Neman adds that it feels particularly special to be performing at the final presentation of Homegrown, which has been a defining part of Wellington's cultural fabric since 2008.

"As we celebrate the return of SYNTHONY, we also honour the legacy of Homegrown and the incredible role it has played championing New Zealand artists and shaping the city's music scene."

# Close-up

*by Madelaine Empson*

## Comic sense and sensibility

When his 150-date tour ends in May, British writer and comedian Ben Elton knows exactly what he'll be doing.

"On the last night of the tour in Christchurch it's my birthday and I'm 66. I will be officially a pensioner," he laughs. "I've booked a holiday in the Southern Alps in a wonderful chalet. I can't wait. Come on? New Zealand is a very, very beautiful country!"

Until that day arrives, the godfather of modern comedy has a slew of shows to deliver around the world and across Aotearoa, including one in Pōneke at the Michael Fowler Centre on the 26th of April. If by some chance you don't recognise the multi-award-winning, multi-hyphenate creative powerhouse's name right off the bat, perhaps you'll be familiar with some of his credits, which include TV shows *Blackadder*, *The Young Ones*, and *Saturday Live*, and Olivier Award-winning musical *We Will Rock You*. Not to mention 16 novels, six of which became number one bestsellers.

Read on for a sneak peek into Elton's new critically acclaimed stand-up show *Authentic Stupidity*.

***What do you love about comedy in general and stand-up in particular?***

It's been my life. I've always felt this calling, this ongoing urge to express myself via comic sensibility. I address very serious things often, sometimes very silly things. Sometimes, silly and serious can be the same. Stand-up comedy is a very specific thing for me. It's something that I started 45 years ago, and I've only very recently come to terms with how much I appreciate doing it. I used to hate it. I did it because it was a way of earning a living, of getting my wares about the place. Now I value it very deeply as a form of self-expression. My material was always about me, my attitude, and what I felt about the world. But I didn't enjoy that, whereas now, being older, everything sort of matters less, and in that respect it can matter more. I don't have anything to prove – people know me, so I can relax and really enjoy the whole process of communicating with the audience, of writing a really tightly constructed routine. I've got to connect with every individual imagination in that theatre full of people, connect genuinely and privately with each one, and form a dialogue, because I don't work a crowd. What I deliver is essentially a one-person play. My routines have always been carefully written, carefully structured. They live on stage, they can change a little depending on how the audience are enjoying it, but it's a complex set of ideas that I've thought a lot about and I've come to deliver. I'm not going on stage in the hope that I can find the funny in the crowd; I've got my funny, all I've got to do is make them see it.

***Tell me about your new show! Where does the title Authentic Stupidity come from?***

I don't normally give my tours titles… I've always just been *Ben Elton Live* because when I started, terrestrial TV was still king. I was lucky: I made a big impact, everybody knew who I was, everybody knew what I did very quickly, because there were only three channels in Britain when I started, then for the next 20 years it was only four. People knew I had a say, and if they didn't like it, they didn't have to watch but they knew what I did. I'm doing what I've always done, because what I've always done is *Authentic Stupidity*. I unpack the essential absurdity of humanity, our place in the world, our place with each other. I could have called any of my tours *Authentic Stupidity*. I did it this time simply because it was a nice little joke. Everyone was talking about artificial intelligence. We've invented machinery that will replace us. How stupid are we to let that happen? We've allowed a bunch of unelected, unaccountable, tax-avoiding billionaires in California to foist this technology on us without any thought of the social repercussions in terms of employment, in terms of our imaginations. 15 years ago they invented the smartphone, and we went, 'Oh, great, we all have a smartphone'. Now children don't have a childhood anymore. Nobody is accountable for the repercussions of this extraordinary technology which is gathering pace. We were all talking about the threat of artificial intelligence, and I thought, well, the real threat is actually stupidity, the fact that we, as humans, fail to organise ourselves for the community and allow individuals to exploit us.

I talk about artificial intelligence for maybe five minutes. The rest is just what I always do: me on the world, me on my own inadequacies, my own fears, and sharing them and finding the connections with the audience; that we're all feeling the same fears and exhilarations.

***What other topics do you touch on?***

Anything and everything. It's interesting, for the first time ever I've had people say to me after a show, 'You're a bit brave'. And what they're saying is that I talk about gender, I talk about trans, I talk about identity. Isn't it interesting that the mere fact that you're talking about something makes people on edge? I do talk a little bit about the fact that we're in a period when everyone's divided by ideas. They're fearful of speaking or they're speaking too much; they're sure of themselves or they are completely confused. One of the things that's quite new about me as a comic now from when I was younger is that now I'm an older person dealing with ideas that have come from young people. It's quite unique for me and I'm in a very interesting position. I've been a comic for 45 years, so I was a very young comedian in my early 20s, laying down the law. I was very sure of myself and my feelings. I talked a lot about politics and our place in the world. I knew what I thought. Now, I'm not clear about what I think, because there are a lot of young people being like me 40 years ago. They're telling me their truth, and they're saying, 'This is how we see the world, and we expect you to see the world as we do', which is something I did myself. Now I'm the old person going, 'Sh*t, I need to think about this. This is going to take me a minute, because this is quite a surprising new idea'. I am investigating that. I was basing my comedy on what I knew, and now I'm basing my comedy on what I'm trying to understand. I'm unpacking my bewilderment. It turns out that this resonates a great deal, and it's the most critically acclaimed tour I've ever done!

***You've done heaps of sold-out shows in New Zealand over the years. What keeps you coming back?***

My life took a big turn when in 1986 I met an Australian girl. We ended up getting married, and so my Antipodean life was set. I'm now a joint Australian and British citizen. I am a great lover of the countryside. I love rugged countryside. Sophie comes from WA, which is very much a beach and desert state. Personally, I love Scotland and North Wales. So my favourite Australian state for walking is Tasmania and New Zealand is like that – I love New Zealand, it's my taste.


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# International Women's Day 8th March

## Invest in women

International Women's Day celebrates how far we've come towards achieving gender equality, while also recognising that we still have a way to go.

It all began 1908, when 15,000 women took to the streets of New York demanding shorter hours, better pay, and voting rights. The following year, a National Women's Day was announced in honour of the strikers. In 1911, the first International Women's Day was held. Finally in 1975, International Women's Day was recognised by the United Nations and the date was set to the 8th of March.

Every year, women across the globe rally together to celebrate those who came before, those who stand beside us now, and those who will come after. This year's theme is Accelerate Action.

Achieving gender equality is more important than ever given the number of crises putting pressure on communities around the world. Though here in New Zealand we have made leaps and bounds in the realm of women's rights, this is not the case in many other countries. Over 100 years ago, the first march was dedicated to bettering workplace conditions, demanding equal rights and pay, and ending exploitation. These goals remain, with the addition of ending poverty, implementing gender-responsive financing, fighting gender violence, and more.

There are lots of ways you can get involved in International Women's Day. Attend an event, do your research, educate your friends and whānau, donate, and be a voice for women everywhere.

## Wherever your heart desires

Explore the world and your own backyard with Twilight Travel & Tours. Specialising in group adventures for travellers over 60, this New Zealand-owned and operated tour company provides comfortable and leisurely paced journeys.

Every detail is thoughtfully considered to ensure that all you need to do is relax and enjoy. From the breathtaking landscapes of the South Island to the charming towns of the North Island, these tours are crafted to showcase our beautiful country.

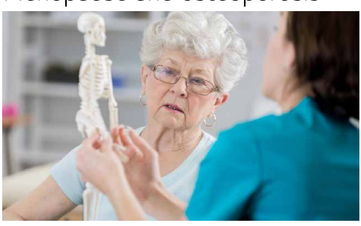
The explorations extend beyond New Zealand too, encompassing destinations in Australia and the South Pacific. Discover Tasmania's rich colonial and convict heritage, explore the wine regions and charming villages of South Australia, cruise along the Murray River, or enjoy a holiday like no other on the island of Niue.

Embrace the camaraderie of like-minded travellers and indulge in the comfort and ease of a well-organised adventure. Whether it's savouring the local cuisine, exploring historical sites, or soaking in stunning vistas, Twilight Travel & Tours ensures your experience is extraordinary.

Owner Shavourn Jones has over 30 years of experience and personally escorts many of the tours. Participating in a group tour offers the convenience of comprehensive arrangements, including accommodation, breakfasts, dinners, a diverse range of sightseeing activities, and a home pick-up and drop-off service in the main centres. With small groups of around 24 passengers, all your needs are attended to, ensuring a relaxing holiday experience.

# International Women's Day 8th March

## Menopause and osteoporosis



During menopause and perimenopause, women experience significant hormonal changes. Bone health in particular can be substantially impacted.

Falling oestrogen levels following menopause have a direct relationship with bone density loss, which can lead to the development of osteoporosis. Women typically lose 15-25 percent of their bone in the 10 years following menopause – that's about half of the total bone lost during their lifetime. Early menopause – before age 45 – can lead to even greater amounts of bone loss and thus a higher chance of osteoporosis at an earlier age.

There are a number of measures you can adopt to reduce your risk of developing osteoporosis, such as maintaining a healthy body weight, doing regular weight-bearing exercises to strengthen your bones, avoiding smoking, limiting your alcohol intake to a healthy level, ensuring an adequate dietary intake of calcium, and getting 15 to 20 minutes of sun exposure each day to maintain vitamin D levels.

You can also familiarise yourself with your own risk by completing the online risk assessment tool Know Your Bones™. Giving the results to your doctor can be valuable for mapping out a future health plan.

Other than menopause, other risk factors for osteoporosis include a family history, broken bones, previous fragility fractures, low body weight, some medical conditions, and certain medications.

If you have more than one risk factor, ask your GP for a screening so you can be prepared and proactive.

## Q&A with Stevie Wallace, Squirrel

Stevie Wallace has been a mortgage adviser with Squirrel (previously The Home Loan Shop) since 2015 – joining the team after five years at one of NZ's major banks. She shares what it's like helping Kiwis achieve their homeownership dream and her experience working in a traditionally male-dominated field.

***What do you love about being a mortgage adviser?***

For most people, buying a home is the biggest financial commitment we make. Supporting people through that journey – buying their first home, their dream home, or an investment property – is so rewarding. You're there to make the process as stress-free as possible, advocating for your client to get the best deal, and that's really cool.

***What's the best thing about your job?***

The excitement of settlement day, when the hard work's all done and dusted and your client gets to pick up the keys to their new home.

***And the hardest thing?***

Even at the best of times, buying a home is an exhausting and emotional process. When it goes well, it's all worth it – but it's tough when a client misses out. You just want them to succeed.

***What's your experience as a woman working in the financial services industry?***

When I started out it was very male-dominated, and that had its challenges. But the qualities you need to succeed – knowledge, hard work, and passion – aren't defined by gender. There's a lot more diversity and inclusion now, which is great to see.

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# Luxury romantic getaways

## Bliss for two

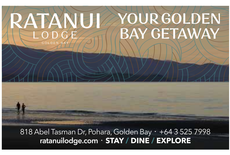
Escape to a romantic honeymoon within New Zealand at a destination that feels a world away. Hapuku Lodge + Treehouses, located in Kaikoura, offers an exclusive four-night, all-inclusive experience, complete with gourmet dining, rejuvenating spa treatments, sparkling wine, and much more.

Nestled along the dramatic coastline, this contemporary country retreat provides a range of accommodation options, including the elegant Lodge Suites, charming Olive House, and serene Tree Houses. Each option offers a peaceful and luxurious atmosphere, ensuring an unforgettable experience. Celebrate the beginning of forever in a setting that combines natural beauty with exceptional comfort.

## Secluded sojourn

Benger Garden Chalets & Café is an idyllic holiday escape perfect for two. Lush, green, gorgeous, and thoughtfully designed with romance in mind, this secluded sojourn is simply splendid.

When evening falls, admire the twinkling stars overhead in the outdoor hot bath before snuggling into the luxurious bed. Each chalet is fitted with a smart TV, ensuite, heat pump, Wi-Fi, and plush towels and linens. What's more, you can bring your furry friend along – there's even an enclosure outside for them to enjoy. Come morning, saunter 50 metres down the road to the café for your all-inclusive, fresh, local breakfast.



## Best of both

A coastal accommodation located in the heart of Pōhara, Ratanui Lodge is eclectic and elegant in equal measure. The newly refurbished lodge feels like a home away from home, with comfortable, cosy furnishings and a relaxed and cheery atmosphere.

Just the thing for a party of two, Ratanui Lodge is perfect for a romantic getaway to Golden Bay. Just like this heavenly slice of Aotearoa, the lodge offers something for active and arty travellers alike, with a pool and plenty of gallery walls on the premises. Plus, the luxurious rooms come fitted with an ensuite, walk-in shower, and boutique furnishings and beauty products.

## Somewhere special

Rangapu Log House is a unique space directly overlooking the Te Anau golf course and magnificent Lake Te Anau. Three kilometres from the township of Te Anau, Rangapu Log House is in a rural, private setting perfect for a couple's getaway. Plus, it's located within walking distance of the Kepler Track, Waiau River, Lake2Lake Trail, and local golf club.

The comfortable property is ideal for those looking for adventure within the giant playground of Fiordland or for those wishing to relax and rejuvenate within the beauty and tranquillity of their surroundings. Rangapu Log House is a special spot to enjoy with a special someone.

## Tailored to you

Portage Resort is one of the most spectacular accommodations in Marlborough Sounds. Tucked into its own private cove and romantic beyond expectations, this secluded sanctuary has plenty of places to hide away in and while away the days with someone special.

Whether you're keen to relax and unwind by the pool, explore the endless tracks and trails by bike, or take to the Sounds in a kayak, Portage Resort offers an unforgettable experience designed with your desires in mind. Immerse yourself in a haven of tranquillity and natural beauty without compromising on the finer luxuries in life.

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# Gallery news

*by Alessia Belsito-Riera*

## Closing a chapter

***Lambeau by Rona Green.***

As 2025 settles in, Solander Gallery opens the doors for *The Last Show*. After well over a decade, owners Vincent Drane and Paulette Robinson have decided to retire from gallery life, closing Solander on the 1st of March. "We have had a great run over the 16 years we have been in operation and the rewards have been many," they say. "We are immensely proud of what we have achieved, including collaborations on special projects and exhibitions stretching from Stewart Island/Rakiura to Sweden."

Relocating from Melbourne to Wellington in 2008, Vincent and Paulette became sole owners of Solander Gallery in 2010. "I had completed a fine art degree in printmaking in Australia and felt the association between the gallery and printmaking artists of New Zealand was a great fit," Vincent says.

Over the years the pair have instigated numerous projects which allowed them to collaborate with a diverse range of communities and take work outside the gallery space too. "These special projects created opportunities for artists we represent to meet, work together, and forge lasting professional relationships," Vincent says. Some of the highlights have included *Matiu Somes: The Next Chapter*, an exhibition, workshop, and residency done in collaboration with DOC, the Kaitiaki Board, and local iwi; *Out of The Box*, a printmaking exhibition hosted by Tweed Regional Gallery in New South Wales; *Paradise Lost: Daniel Solander's Legacy*, a residency and touring exhibition that travelled to New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, and Iceland; *Near Neighbours*, a joint exhibition with five Kiwi and five Australian artists exhibiting in both countries; and *Rakiura Stewart Island: 47 Degrees South*, a residency, exhibition, and public workshop initiative with five artists on Stewart Island.

Working with artists from across the globe, they have had the opportunity to encounter many mediums, styles, and makers. When it comes to our national artists, Paulette and Vincent say they have been moved many times by Kiwi creative inventiveness. "There is an affinity and deep respect for the unique New Zealand landscape and culture," Vincent continues. "As an Australian myself I have been particularly moved by the interconnectedness of Pākehā, Māori, and Pasifika cultures that reflects a mature understanding of the role that culture plays in the lives of ordinary New Zealanders."

For *The Last Show*, Solander Gallery presents a revolving group exhibition showcasing works by all its artists to provide visitors with the opportunity to view them in the gallery setting. "The works on display are a small selection of framed and unframed pieces from each of the artists we represent but we also enjoy showing a huge selection of works from our stockroom and folios," Paulette and Vincent say, adding that though it will be great to finally have weekends off after 16 years, "we hope that we have been able to share our passion for contemporary art with our patrons and that Solander Gallery will be remembered as a welcoming space that has championed the medium of printmaking and printmakers".

## Ebb and flow

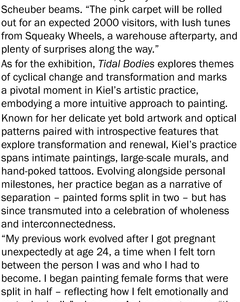


***Photo by Russell Kleyn.***

Twentysix Gallery in Newtown is turning four over the Newtown Festival weekend! To celebrate, the gallery presents iconic Pōneke artist Gina Kiel's first solo exhibition *Tidal Bodies* from the 22nd of February to the 15th of March.

"It's a time to celebrate", gallery director Petra Scheuber beams. "The pink carpet will be rolled out for an expected 2000 visitors, with lush tunes from Squeaky Wheels, a warehouse afterparty, and plenty of surprises along the way."

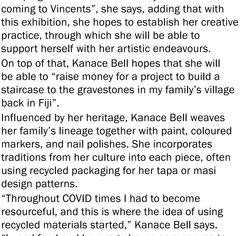
As for the exhibition, *Tidal Bodies* explores themes of cyclical change and transformation and marks a pivotal moment in Kiel's artistic practice, embodying a more intuitive approach to painting.

Known for her delicate yet bold artwork and optical patterns paired with introspective features that explore transformation and renewal, Kiel's practice spans intimate paintings, large-scale murals, and hand-poked tattoos. Evolving alongside personal milestones, her practice began as a narrative of separation – painted forms split in two – but has since transmuted into a celebration of wholeness and interconnectedness.

"My previous work evolved after I got pregnant unexpectedly at age 24, a time when I felt torn between the person I was and who I had to become. I began painting female forms that were split in half – reflecting how I felt emotionally and metaphorically", she says. As her son grew up, "the melting, colourful shapes emerging from these divided bodies" became forms of their own.

*Tidal Bodies* studies the mirrored rhythms between the ocean and the body, the blending of nature and spirit. Kiel's work displays reverence for this ongoing motion of life – an ebb and flow of experiences – and how these forces shape and reshape us.

## Creative companion



***Detail of Artwork by Lyz Kanace Bell.***

For Lyz Kanace Bell, her first solo exhibition at Vincents Art Workshop until the 11th of March has been a long time in the making.

"I waited out COVID times, faced bereavements, and have been dealing with many health issues that plagued me over the seven years I've been coming to Vincents", she says, adding that with this exhibition, she hopes to establish her creative practice, through which she will be able to support herself with her artistic endeavours.

On top of that, Kanace Bell hopes that she will be able to "raise money for a project to build a staircase to the gravestones in my family's village back in Fiji".

Influenced by her heritage, Kanace Bell weaves her family's lineage together with paint, coloured markers, and nail polishes. She incorporates traditions from her culture into each piece, often using recycled packaging for her tapa or masi design patterns.

"Throughout COVID times I had to become resourceful, and this is where the idea of using recycled materials started," Kanace Bell says.

"I used food and beverage boxes as a canvas to stop myself from going bored and have carried this on since."

Aside from a need to keep busy, Kanace Bell's artwork is also a form of meditation and a method of visual storytelling. Her practice captures the journey she has taken from the past, through the present, and into the future, she says, adding that it represents the good, the bad, and the ugly times, and has become a "companion of life".

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# The playwright for all seasons

Whether it is “Sweet lovers love the spring” or “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day”, “The teeming autumn” or “This is the winter of our discontent”, Shakespeare’s universality spans all four seasons, not to mention the globe – “I’ll put a girdle round the earth in forty minutes”, as Puck said.

Such is the potpourri of contributions Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand (SGCNZ) is making to the ever-relevant Bard’s works. With activities and performances which will appeal to as broad a mix as *The Seven Ages of Man* – and women and children – SGCNZ is full of imaginative presentations of his works and words within them.

It is always inspiring to see the wide variety of ‘takes’ the rangatahi apply to the Bard’s plays and poems. Whether a political ‘spin’ – it’s very easy to draw parallels in the current climate, and eternally – or religious, business, or play, Shakespeare’s words are wide open for interpretation. Who knows what was going through his mind when he wrote them 425 years ago? We do know that history repeats itself, with timeless struggles for power, intrigue, and greed, tempered with lust and love. Playing these out through a ‘third party’ provides opportunities to view them in different lights, with different connotations, personality traits, and consequences.

It is always a thrill to see the selected students from all over the country rise to the opportunity to perform in the prestigious St James Theatre at the National Festival, and to enjoy theatre performances around the city while here.

While some are in rehearsal, others are busy creating highly imaginative designs for our SGCNZ/Adam Foundation Static Image, Poster & Video Title Card, SGCNZ/Morrison Music Trust Shakespeare Music Compositions, SGCNZ/Dawn Sanders Shakespeare Costume Designs, and SGCNZ Essay Competition entries. The winning ones can be seen at the National Festival over King’s Birthday Weekend. On that score, on the desk of King Charles III sits a handsome tome of *The Complete Works!*

We are in a delicate state regarding funding and eagerly welcome sponsorship and donations via www.sgcnz.org.nz or by contacting the CEO on dawn@sgcnz.org.nz. Visit our website regularly to see more details of where and what is in store and enjoy being immersed in it!

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# Family

# Family – Porirua

## On your marks, get set, go!

On the 6th of April, athletes from across the region and beyond will line up for the 20th time for the Porirua Grand Traverse (PGT).

Wellington's biggest multi-sport event will take place around Porirua's hills, forests, coastlines, and waterways, catering to everyone from weekend runners and walkers to school athletes and endurance enthusiasts. Options include a 12-kilometre kayak race, a 28k mountain bike race, and a 17k mountain run, plus a 9k fun run and 13k fun bike.

Excited about such a momentous milestone, race organisers are expecting record entries, with Michael Jacques saying that the PGT's success wouldn't have been possible without Porirua's dedicated community. "The PGT was founded by a group of people who thought Porirua's awesome outdoor resource would be a perfect way to showcase the region", he says. "But the success behind 20 years of that has been local support from everyone from Porirua City Council to local volunteer groups to sponsors and families coming out to participate in what is possibly the most inclusive endurance event in the country."

Over the years, the PGT has seen world champions and Olympians amongst its participants, but it is first and foremost a community-focused event that encourages locals to explore their own backyard. "With a fun run, fun bike, multisport and duathlon races, paddling races, mountain biking, mountain running, the Porirua Grand Traverse really is an event for everyone," Jacques says. "Our motto says it all: all ages, all abilities, all amazing."

## Artistic adventure

Swap fun in the sun for an arts escapade along the Porirua Arts Trail this autumn. Open between 10am and 4pm on the 8th and 9th of March, the 2025 Porirua Arts Trail will showcase the work of over 50 local creatives across more than 10 studios and eight centrally located hubs around Porirua and Plimmerton.

Featuring artists specialising in creative capers of all shapes and sizes, this free event will without a doubt fill whatever niche you may be looking for, or perhaps one you didn't know you had! Including weaving and watercolour, painting and pottery, photography and fine arts, and everything in between, the Porirua Arts Trail spans the width and breadth of creative practices.

The studio artists taking part in the trail include painters Alistair McDonald, Clare Matthews, Lesley Fairbairn, and Rochelle Gore; potters Anneke Borren, Rosemary O'Hara, and Marie Enslin; mixed-media creatives Ian Thompson, Janie Taylor, and Nataliia Lyons; and photographers Mel Waite and Roger Hayman. Each artist will be showcasing a selection of their work while sharing their process and inspiration.

Local artists will also gather together in centrally located hubs to exhibit their work. Pātaka Art + Museum, Plimmerton School, Mana Arts, Arts on Track, Gear Homestead, Bishop Viard College, Tipurepure Au Vaine, and Whitireia will serve as collective spaces that showcase a vast and varied kaleidoscope of collections.

Explore creativity along the Porirua Arts Trail. Visit www.poriruaartstrail.org.nz

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# Paddling pleasure

Kayaking and canoeing are fun activities for all ages. Whether you're on the sea or along the river, in the middle of a lake or with a sail, paddling is a low-impact sport that offers heaps of health benefits, including aerobic and cardiovascular fitness, increased strength and flexibility, and improved mental health. Plus, getting out into nature is always good for the soul.

If you're looking at getting into paddling either recreationally or regularly, Canoe & Kayak in Ngauranga has everything you could need and more. The experts on hand can help you choose the kayak or canoe that is the right fit for you. There are all kinds of factors to take into account, safety measures to keep in mind, and specific accessories you'll need depending on where and how you're planning to paddle, so have a chat with the friendly and knowledgeable team who can get you fitted with the correct gear, plus share some helpful tips and tricks.

When choosing a kayak or a canoe, it's advisable to select a decent model. The higher price tag is worth it, as it will pay itself back tenfold in longevity and performance. Canoe & Kayak has an extensive range of different sizes and colours for all ages, abilities, and preferences. All that's left for you to do is decide whether you'd prefer a canoe or a kayak.

Stop by Canoe & Kayak today and you'll be having the time of your life on the water in no time!

# A helping hand

When you have your own family, their wellbeing is always front of mind. Atareira is here to help when you and your whānau need it most, no matter the circumstances.

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

Family support services are available through Atareira to anyone living in the Wellington Region. When a family member is mentally unwell or coping with addiction issues it can be confusing and stressful time. Atareira enhances their wellbeing by building on their resilience, provides further understanding, and affirms their experience of supporting someone with mental health and/or addiction concerns.

Atareira also provides compassionate and caring one-on-one support aimed specifically at children and youth who are experiencing mental health or addiction issues or who have a family member experiencing mental health or addiction issues.

Other resources available to individuals and families through Atareira include free group anxiety management programmes for those 18 and older, and transitional housing services for those who are temporarily experiencing homelessness.

Atareira provides the tools and resources necessary to struggling families and individuals to get back on their feet when they need it most.

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# Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki Children's Day

This Saturday, Wellington City's largest Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki Children's Day celebration will be happening in Queens Wharf. This free whānau event organised by Nōku te Ao Capital E is one of many taking place across Aotearoa this weekend.

Stage performances throughout the day will give talented local tamariki the chance to shine, including dancers from L.O.D Dance Studios and Musical Stars, and three young DJs from Aotearoa DJ Academy. Drag kings Homer Neurotic and Robin Yablind will be hosting the day as emcees.

Drop-in activities around the wharf will keep whānau busy, with face painting, a portrait-painting puppet named Enid, an interactive play sculpture, a filmmaking activity station, and a kinetic, collaborative artwork.

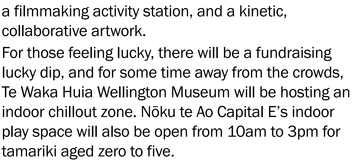
For those feeling lucky, there will be a fundraising lucky dip, and for some time away from the crowds, Te Waka Huia Wellington Museum will be hosting an indoor chillout zone. Nōku te Ao Capital E's indoor play space will also be open from 10am to 3pm for tamariki aged zero to five.

Joining for the first time this year, Tū Mātau Ora will be sharing the magic of taonga tākaro, traditional Māori games.

Public programmes specialist Georgia Francis felt that keeping the event free or pay as you can was crucial from the start. "As a charity, we're dedicated to making these events accessible to all tamariki – because every child deserves the chance to explore, create, and imagine a future of limitless possibilities."

Learn more at www.ntace.nz

# Pōneke pinballers



Lights flash, buzzers ding, and silver balls whizz around at top speed. A harlequin neon dreamscape, a starting point for epic adventures, and the home of endless fun, Ye Olde Pinball Shoppe (YOPS) is a retro arcade fitted with modern details and a full bar. It's a whimsical wonderland; a place for pinball wizards, pinheads, multiball maidens, and nostalgia nuts.

Hamish Guthrey opened YOPS during the pandemic. A labour of love, his one-of-a-kind arcade was established with the intention of being a place for Wellington's pinball community to congregate and for the next generation to discover their new favourite pastime.

YOPS has become the go-to hangout for amateurs and aficionados alike to hone their skills and interact with likeminded individuals. Tournaments, socials, and training sessions take place regularly, with many regulars visiting on a daily basis just for fun.

Screens are fitted above each machine, making every game a social and interactive experience. Currently available to play are favourites like The Twilight Zone, Godzilla, Medieval Madness, Labyrinth, and The Lord of the Rings, as well as Rick and Morty, Star Wars, Metallica, The Princess Bride, and so many more.

If you're after a machine of your own or you're keen to have a go, YOPS is open every day of the week. Swing by during one of the monthly freeplay social nights coming up on the 6th of March and 3rd of April, whether you're shaking off the rust or trying it for the first time.

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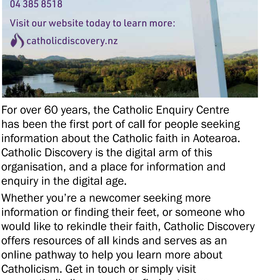
# Catholic education

## Year of Hope

Traditionally, for Catholic Christians, the Jubilee Year is marked by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica, while on pilgrimage in Rome. It is an opportunity for pause and reflection.

Our physical distance from Rome is no barrier to the blessings the Jubilee Year has to offer, and several local events have been planned to give Wellingtonians the opportunity to participate. Pilgrimage is an integral aspect of the Jubilee Year, and the Archdiocese has identified five sacred sites that people are encouraged to visit this year: Pukekaraka Hāto Mere in Ōtaki, Our Lady's Home of Compassion in Island Bay, St Mary of the Angels National Shrine in Wellington CBD, the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Thorndon, and Garin Memorial Chapel in Nelson.

The Jubilee Year officially began in Wellington on the 26th of January with an event at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The next upcoming event on the 28th of March will be *24 Hours of the Lord* at Sacred Heart Cathedral and features a vigil to pray for signs of hope in our hearts, our families, our nations, and our world.




For over 60 years, the Catholic Enquiry Centre has been the first port of call for people seeking information about the Catholic faith in Aotearoa. Catholic Discovery is the digital arm of this organisation, and a place for information and enquiry in the digital age.

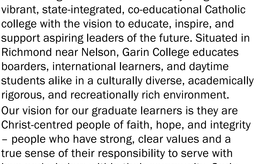
Whether you're a newcomer seeking more information or finding their feet, or someone who would like to rekindle their faith, Catholic Discovery offers resources of all kinds and serves as an online pathway to help you learn more about Catholicism. Get in touch or simply visit www.catholicdiscovery.nz to find out more.

St Brigid's School principal, Jennifer Ioannou, has been an educator for over two decades. She is passionate about helping children of all ages learn and flourish, ensuring they have every opportunity to grow and succeed.

With a Master's degree in Educational Administration and Leadership, Jennifer has a deep understanding of current pedagogy and the key elements of quality teaching and learning. As principal of St Brigid's, she is dedicated to fostering a welcoming, happy and inclusive environment where all children can learn, thrive, and shine.

# Catholic boarding

## Holistic learning



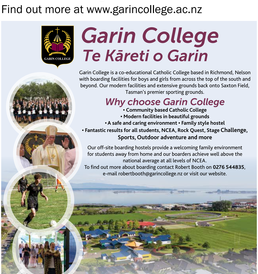
Garin College Te Kārēti o Garin is a young and vibrant, state-integrated, co-educational Catholic college with the vision to educate, inspire, and support aspiring leaders of the future. Situated in Richmond near Nelson, Garin College educates boarders, international learners, and daytime students alike in a culturally diverse, academically rigorous, and recreationally rich environment.

Our vision for our graduate learners is they are Christ-centred people of faith, hope, and integrity – people who have strong, clear values and a true sense of their responsibility to serve with love and wisdom within their community. Garin College provides a well-balanced education, with our learners recording accomplishments at the highest levels in academia, sport, performing arts, Christian service, and leadership.

The curriculum places a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy and provides extensive opportunities for students to engage in areas of special interest to broaden their knowledge and deepen their skills. Sporting activities are an important cornerstone of the holistic education offered at Garin College, as are artistic and cultural pursuits.

For boarders, Mother Teresa and Francis Douglas hostels are modern, busy, vibrant, and stimulating places designed to be like large family homes. As a co-educational school, Garin College believes in providing an inclusive and engaging environment for learners, helping them to be open minded, well rounded, and courageous.

Find out more at www.garincollege.ac.nz

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# Boarding schools

## Building a bright future

College House, the boarding establishment of Palmerston North Boys' High School, has been a cornerstone of education and camaraderie for over a century. With approximately 190 teenage male boarders, the hostel offers quality seven day boarding, fostering lifelong connections.

Established in 1908 by Rector J E Vernon, College House is located within easy reach of everything the school has to offer and enjoys modern facilities catering to the needs of boarders.

Structured routines balance academic pursuits and co-curricular activities with supervised evening study and recreation. High expectations ensure a safe, disciplined environment that allows boarders to thrive. Boarding activities enrich boarders' experiences and foster a sense of camaraderie and belonging.

Palmerston North Boys' High School enjoys first-class facilities, including an indoor heated swimming pool, technology workshops, a well-resourced library, a gym, and science laboratories. In addition, the sporting programmes are renowned as some of the most extensive in the country, with cricket, football, hockey, and rugby consistently exceeding expectations.

The academic programme is wide-ranging and diverse, offering an education and scholastic support system that is second to none. At Palmerston North Boys' High School, the ultimate goal is for every student to leave school prepared for the bright future ahead of them.

College House and Palmerston North Boys' High School provide more than education – they cultivate character, encourage excellence, and inspire students to seize every opportunity in a supportive community.


PALMERSTON NORTH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
COLLEGE HOUSE

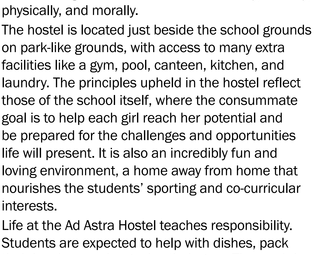
2026 COLLEGE HOUSE YEAR 9 ENROLMENT TIMELINE

Sunday 23rd March 2025
– College House Open Day, 10.00am – 1.00pm
Wednesday 26th March – Tuesday 1st April
– Interviews for 2026 Year 9 Boarders

Complete the 'Expression of Interest' form:
www.pnbhs.school.nz/college-house/college-house-enrolment/

Contact Mr. Matt Davidson: chmanager@pnbhs.school.nz | 027 859 9721

## Reach your potential



Whanganui Girls' College has provided quality education to young women since 1891, and this extends to its exceptional boarding programme. Housing up to 120 students, the Ad Astra Hostel provides a safe and compassionate environment for them to grow and develop academically, socially, physically, and morally.

The hostel is located just beside the school grounds on park-like grounds, with access to many extra facilities like a gym, pool, canteen, kitchen, and laundry. The principles upheld in the hostel reflect those of the school itself, where the consummate goal is to help each girl reach her potential and be prepared for the challenges and opportunities life will present. It is also an incredibly fun and loving environment, a home away from home that nourishes the students' sporting and co-curricular interests.

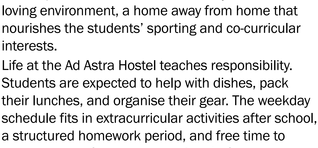
Life at the Ad Astra Hostel teaches responsibility. Students are expected to help with dishes, pack their lunches, and organise their gear. The weekday schedule fits in extracurricular activities after school, a structured homework period, and free time to relax. Fun and friends are a big part of a boarder's day, too.

Students can take advantage of the spacious grounds and impressive facilities at the college. They include a gymnasium, performing arts centre, swimming pool, tennis courts, all-weather turf, and a technology facility with state-of-the-art equipment.

Whanganui Girls' College has a reputation for providing a socially, physically, and intellectually stimulating environment, and of course, this extends to its boarders. It is a positive and caring learning environment with the ASTRA values at its core: Achieve, Safe, Tipuranga, Respect, Awhi.


WHANGANUI GIRLS COLLEGE
Where Girls Shine





Astra Hostel provides a home-away-from-home environment, assisting in the education and social development of all boarders. We provide safe and secure boarding with clear aims, firm guidelines and a warm, caring atmosphere. Hostel supervisors live on the premises and maintain close links with parents.

Open for Enrolments 2025

Feel free to contact us for more information:
Ph: 06 349 0944 | Email: administration@wgc.ac.nz
21 Jones Street, Whanganui East, Whanganui
Or contact the hostel direct: Ph: 06 343 2964 | Email: reception@adastrahostel.co.nz

www.wgc.ac.nz

# Boarding schools

## Instilling confidence

Huntley is an independent preparatory school for boys and girls in Years 3 to 8 in Marton. We offer both day and boarding options. Our boarding houses are happy and safe environments where students are supported by caring staff, able to reap the full benefits of a Huntley education and make lifelong friendships.

Headmaster Sam Edwards says Huntley aims to provide a complete, well-rounded learning experience that instils confidence and a readiness for whatever comes next.

"We believe that the years spent at preparatory school are the most important ones in a student's education and development. The skills that are learned, the habits that are formed, the values and standards that are absorbed, stay with students not only through their time at Huntley but in adult life as well. At Huntley we aim to instil a desire to strive for success, to face challenges head on, to expect high standards, and to give their best in every endeavour."

Some of the features of a Huntley education are: small classes with no more than 22 students; specialist teachers in art, music, technology, woodwork, and science with purpose-built facilities; exposure to learning a new language; an emphasis on literacy and numeracy (core subjects that make up over 50 percent of all class time); supervised homework (prep) four nights a week; streamed classes in Years 7 and 8; academic extension programmes where appropriate; and academic support for those students requiring extra help.

Visit www.huntley.school.nz to find out more.

Huntley School provides an education that feeds your son or daughter's hunger for learning and establishes their moral compass for life.

Join us for our **Open Day, Friday 4 April** to discover Huntley School for your year 3-8 son or daughter.

Register for our April Open Day by scanning the QR code, online at **huntley.school.nz** or by phone 06 327 8049.

Huntley School
MARTON, NEW ZEALAND


## A sense of belonging

Napier Girls' High School Te Kura Kōhine o Ahuriri empowers ākonga (students) to achieve success and fulfilment for themselves, their whānau, and their community. Educating over 1000 students across Years 9 to 13, this first-class academic establishment offers an unparalleled education, a wide variety of extracurricular activities, and memories that last a lifetime.

Hewett House Hostel, as part of Napier Girls' High School, has been shaping the lives of young women since 1884. Located on Bluff Hill in Napier, Hewett House offers a boarding facility for 175 girls with high-quality, comfortable residential accommodation. The hostel is a warm, caring, inclusive, and safe home where girls are nurtured by a team of experienced supervisors and support staff.

"Positive relationships support students' wellbeing. Strong connections between the day school and boarding in pastoral care support and systems promote wellbeing and learning," the Education Review Office (ERO) reports in 2023. "Hostel house activities promote connection and a sense of belonging. Boarders are supported to be involved in both school-based and off-site activities. Boarders spoken to by ERO described the hostel environment as friendly, supportive, inclusive and their second home."

Napier Girls' High School aims to nurture and develop the unique talents of every student to their fullest potential. Over their five years at the school, each girl is encouraged to pursue their interests, challenged to learn new skills, and inspired to be the best version of themselves. Find out more at www.nghs.school.nz


NAPIER GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
Te Kura Kōhine o Ahuriri

**Hewett House**

*Kaupapa: To provide a safe physical and emotional environment that supports our ākonga to achieve success and fulfilment, for themselves, whānau and community.*

To learn more about Hewett House Hostel and Napier Girls' High School, visit the school's website: www.nghs.school.nz. For future Hostel applications please apply online: www.nghs.school.nz/Hostel-1/How-to-Apply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# A home away from home

Boarding is at the heart of Nelson College, offering young men a supportive and dynamic environment where they can grow academically, socially, and personally. Our two fully refurbished heritage boarding houses, Rutherford and Barnicoat, provide modern, comfortable living spaces, creating a true home away from home.

With boarders from across New Zealand and around the world, Nelson College fosters a close-knit community where lifelong friendships are formed. Structured routines balance study, sport, and social activities, while live-in supervisors – many of whom are teachers – offer academic guidance and mentorship. Boarders enjoy full access to the college's facilities, including gymnasiums, a pool, a weights room, playing fields, and music suites.

Beyond the campus, the stunning Nelson region provides endless opportunities for adventure. From skiing and kayaking to mountain biking and city-based recreation, students thrive in an environment that embraces both tradition and modernity.

Nelson College is committed to nurturing young men who embody our core values – manaaki (care), pono (integrity), and kairangi (success). These principles guide our students in their journey towards becoming confident, capable leaders of the future.

For families seeking an exceptional boarding experience that blends academic excellence, strong pastoral care, and a vibrant lifestyle, Nelson College stands as an outstanding choice.

Find out more about joining our boarding whānau by visiting our website.

# Sustainable textiles

The textiles studio at the Dunedin School of Art is a hive of activity with students embracing sustainable, tactile, and renewable materials. Working alongside the print studio, first-year students in the Bachelor of Visual Arts programme are currently exploring materiality and the impact of the pop art movement through screenprinting and embroidery.

The resurgence of textiles in contemporary art reflects a renewed appreciation for craft, materiality, and the tactile qualities of fabric. Historically relegated to the realm of decorative arts or domestic work, textiles are now being acknowledged as a powerful medium for artistic expression. Students can gain skills in traditional weaving, embroidery, felting, knitting, crochet, and fabric manipulation techniques, transforming them into statements that address identity, culture, and social issues. Textiles, often recycled or repurposed, carry inherent histories, offering a rich medium for storytelling and commentary on consumption, labour, and memory.

The tactile nature of fabric engages viewers in a sensory experience that contrasts with our increasing digital encounters. As a result, textiles in art are celebrated for their ability to convey complex narratives and embody cultural, social, and environmental concerns in a physical and immersive way.

The Dunedin School of Art has a range of programmes, including certificate, undergraduate degrees, and postgraduate degree qualifications, that offer access to the hands-on textiles studio as well as seven other dedicated studio facilities.

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# Independent schools

## Marsden – Inspiring Girls

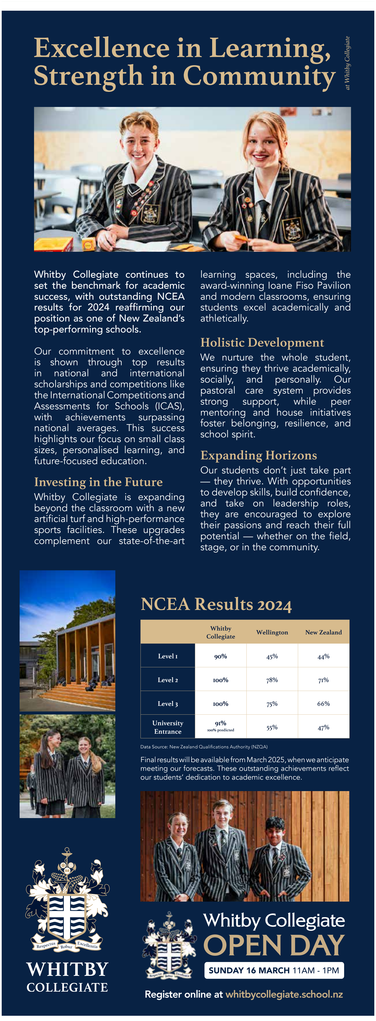
Families are increasingly seeking the very best education for their children. Samuel Marsden Collegiate School is one of New Zealand's best schools for girls in Years 1 to 13, and they also have a coeducational preschool on their spacious green campus in Karori.

Marsden develops confident, independent, creative, lifelong learners who are challenged to reach their academic and personal potential in a warm and supportive environment underpinned by Christian values. Small class sizes, exceptionally talented staff, and a quiet and spacious environment nestled in nature combine to provide the perfect learning environment for students to flourish and thrive.

Marsden students are empowered and equipped for lives of purpose, meaning, and genuine happiness. The school has long been known for its supportive community and the quality of its pastoral care. Each student is known and supported and receives the individual attention they need to do well, both academically and in their co-curricular pursuits. Students' individual gifts and talents are encouraged, nourished and celebrated. Hauora is school-wide, with a tailored wellbeing education programme that is specifically designed to nurture students as they grow.

The confidence and self-belief students develop at Marsden, paired with the opportunity to be their very best, prepares them to take their place in an inspiring future.

To see the school in action and learn how your child will thrive, register for Marsden's upcoming Open Day for Preschool to Year 13 on Friday the 21st of March at marsden.school.nz/register

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# Preschool education

## Growing Young Learners

At Hutt City Kindergartens (HCK) Te Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Te Awakairangi, we spark your child's natural curiosity, passion, and excitement for learning. With over 95 years of experience and 20 centres dedicated to children aged two to five, we understand that these formative years are essential for building friendships and creating the foundation for a lifetime of growth and exploration.

HCK provides an affordable, high-quality education, ensuring your child is prepared for the future from the very beginning.

Our philosophy is centred on learning through play, where children are encouraged to explore and try new things in a safe, supportive environment. This approach helps them develop essential life skills such as independence, cooperation, and self-confidence. Teachers at HCK provide engaging, challenging activities – ranging from art and music to gardening, carpentry, drama, cooking, and puzzles – that foster creativity, concentration, perseverance, and curiosity.

All Hutt City Kindergartens have qualified teachers who deliver the national Early Childhood Curriculum, Te Whāriki. This aligns with the New Zealand Curriculum that is used in primary schools, ensuring your child's transition to school is supported through shared pathways.

Start your child's adventure today with Hutt City Kindergartens and lay the foundation for a bright future!

Kia timata te haerenga mo te roanga o te ao ki te Hutt City Kindergartens.

Get in touch with your nearest Hutt City Kindergarten to learn more, or visit www.huttkindergartens.org.nz

## Holistic learning

Located in a converted house, Kidlywinks Childcare has a warm and nurturing atmosphere, offering a home away from home for your little one.

Kidlywinks is a boutique daycare and learning centre in Upper Hutt, just a five-minute walk from the Trentham station. The centre is fully fitted with indoor and outdoor play areas, audio visual learning equipment, animal enclosures, and a separate art studio.

A maximum of 31 children aged three months to five years can attend Kidlywinks. The qualified staff are passionate about early childhood education and helping children develop and blossom into curious, kind, and independent learners. A play-based, individual learning approach is followed at the centre with the aim to foster a feeling of acceptance and belonging. Feeling safe enables children to freely express themselves, grow, and make mistakes, giving them room to discover and learn as much as possible on their own.

The Kidlywinks philosophy is "ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia o tatou mahi," or "let the uniqueness of the child guide our work." By providing a learning environment where tamariki are encouraged to explore through freedom to make their own choices, they experience the world on their own terms with the support, encouragement, and guidance of teachers.

Tamariki's intellectual, social, cultural, physical, emotional, and spiritual learning is interwoven across all their experiences.

At Kidlywinks, children can learn and grow in a holistic, inclusive, and tailored way.

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# Kids in nature

Spending time in nature provides a great opportunity for practicing mindfulness and looking at things from a different perspective. It helps restore our attention, which is one of the reasons science shows it's so good for our mental health. In fact, spending time in nature has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety, reduce symptoms of depression, and even lower blood pressure. The benefits are very real and measurable. Simply taking the time to notice what is flowering at different times of year or what birds are singing (and how they are singing!) is both fascinating and indeed really, really good for you.

Children's day is a great time to get outside and notice nature from a kid's point of view. What better place to visit than Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne! Next time you visit the sanctuary, make sure to grab a copy of our Whānau Activity Book for fun things to do when visiting, at home, or at your local park or green space. Take some time to notice your surroundings as you explore the sanctuary, learn some mindfulness activities, and explore new ways to boost your mental wellbeing.

Be sure to check out Rātā Cafe and grab a drink and a bite to eat to fuel your exploration!

Want to find out what nature does when the sun goes down? Twilight tours are the perfect after-hours experiences for younger explorers!

Keep an eye on all event listings at www.visitzealandia.com/events

# Unlocking dyslexic minds

"I see countless frustrated students transform into confident readers who finally get to express their creativity in writing – often for the first time," founder of Master Dyslexia Rachel Barwell says.

Rachel first recognised the true nature of dyslexia when a friend struggled to reply to her texts. After reading *The Gift of Dyslexia* to him, he nearly cried, saying, "That's me – that's why I hate writing!"

That moment changed everything. Rachel realised dyslexia wasn't a limitation, but a different way of thinking that needed the right approach. Determined to make a difference, she trained in the Davis Method, a proven, strengths-based approach that empowers individuals with dyslexia, ADHD, and related conditions.

"Traditional teaching methods often fail dyslexic learners, who think in 3D pictures and sensations rather than words," Rachel says. "The Davis Method taps into these talents, using engaging, creative techniques to improve reading, writing, comprehension, and focus."

Based in Kāpiti and serving Wellington, Horowhenua, and Wairarapa areas, Rachel works one-on-one with children, teens, and adults struggling with literacy and focus. Her tailored approach builds essential skills and self-belief.

"Dyslexia is not a deficit – it's a gift," Rachel continues. "With the right support, neurodivergent people can thrive at school, work, and life."

The journey to success with dyslexia starts with a conversation with Rachel at Master Dyslexia.

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# Your Choice, Your Legacy

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The Wakeman Piwakawaka - For those whose spirit was as free and graceful as the Piwakawaka (fantail), this casket captures a lively and natural beauty.

The Somerset Pearl Blue - For those who embraced individuality and colour, this metallic blue casket celebrates a unique life, full of vibrancy and artistic flair.

The Somerset Lavender - An ideal casket for someone whose life was defined by tranquility and gentleness, with a serene lavender painted finish that evokes peace.

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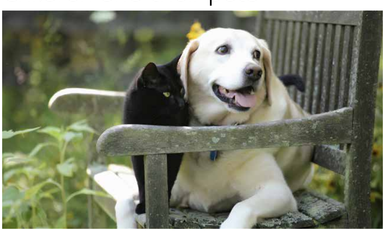
# Family services

## Children and their pets



Children's Day celebrates the love, joy, and lessons our little ones bring into our lives. What epitomises that more than the deep connections they form with their pets? Not only will children develop a deep bond with their furry friend, but they will also learn valuable life lessons through their relationships with them.

Caring for a pet teaches children about responsibility and how to meet daily needs like feeding, grooming, and exercise. Training and caring for them requires consistency and understanding and helps kids practise patience. Additionally, learning to read a pet's body language builds nonverbal communication skills and strengthens trust.

Understanding a pet's emotions and needs fosters kindness and emotional intelligence as well as compassion and empathy. Pets in turn love without judgment, helping children feel secure and valued as they learn about unconditional love. What's more, pets also encourage children to be active, playful, and present in the moment.

Experiencing the loss of a pet teaches children about the natural cycle of life and how to cope with grief in a healthy way. Saying goodbye to a beloved companion is never easy, especially for the first time. Soul Friend Pet Cremations provides a caring and transparent farewell, helping families honour their pets with dignity. The cremation service ensures a gentle, meaningful goodbye, offering comfort and closure, because every pet, big or small, leaves a paw print on the hearts of those who love them.

## Future-proof your family

If a natural disaster hits, the first thing to cross your mind will be your loved ones' wellbeing. But how can you ensure they stay safe and healthy no matter the circumstances?

The New Zealand Government recommends that every person should have enough food, water, and supplies to survive at least three days in the event of an emergency. It's essential to ensure you have a complete emergency kit at home that covers your whole family in case something happens. Additionally, make sure your children, as well as any older people who live with you, are well versed on what to do and where to go in an emergency.

The Survival Co. sells pre-packaged emergency supply kits that meet or exceed National Emergency Management Agency recommendations. Formed to meet the growing need for families and businesses to be prepared in situations where access to food, water, and the necessities become limited, The Survival Co. offers a range of kits catering for one to six people per pack, and bespoke options for businesses.

Each kit comprises the highest-quality products packaged in large-capacity, waterproof backpacks to help keep your survival gear, and you, safe. The packs include water and rations, first aid, hygiene products, and tools, as well as warmth, shelter, and lighting such as thermal blankets, torches, ponchos, and matches.

Have peace of mind knowing you'll be prepared in any emergency thanks to The Survival Co.

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# Eternal Romance

If you have a flair for the dramatic, a penchant for passion, and a taste for the finer things, make haste to St Andrew's on The Terrace on the 14th of March for *Eternal Romance: An Operatic Affair* – a concert series that brings together internationally acclaimed talent for an evening of unforgettable music.

The star-studded ensemble will perform scenes by great composers such as Giuseppe Verdi, Claudio Monteverdi, Stephen Sondheim, and Gilbert and Sullivan, to take Wellington audiences on a journey through the best of opera.

Accompanied by pianists Juan Kim and Catherine Norton, the cast comprises New Zealand soprano Sophie Sparrow and baritone Jonathan Eyers, British tenor Guy Elliott, and Australian mezzo-soprano Jade Moffat.

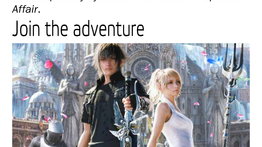
Kiwi singers Sparrow and Eyers have performed in prestigious venues the world over to great acclaim. Sparrow has been lauded for her virtuoso singing and captivating acting, and Eyers for his "beautiful lyrical direction and depth of expression" (*Opera Today*).

UK tenor baritone Elliott has built a varied career since completing his scholarship study at the Royal College of Music and is praised for his expressivity, diction, and interpretations.

Moffat is an Australian mezzo soprano who has performed in leading roles spanning the gamut of operatic works and continues to shine in her every performance.

Get swept away by *Eternal Romance: An Operatic Affair*.

# Join the adventure



Embark on an adventure with your team of heroes at the *Crystalline Resonance: FINAL FANTASY Piano Concert*. The breathtaking musical journey will immerse Opera House audiences in legendary melodies, stunning piano performances, and cinematic visuals on the big screen on the 5th of March.

Relive iconic classics like *Liberi Fatali* and *To Zanarkand* and experience new arrangements from FINAL FANTASY XVI and XIV performed by virtuoso pianist Julien Gernay. Born in Belgium, Gernay has trained in prestigious institutions across Europe under some of the most renowned musicians. With countless concerts under his belt in venues the world over, his performance at *FINAL FANTASY Piano Concert* will be of the highest calibre.

This intimate show will move audiences of all kinds, whether you're a fan of FINAL FANTASY or simply have an appreciation for sweeping arrangements. FINAL FANTASY is an anthology media franchise centred around a series of fantasy role-playing video games created by Hironobu Sakaguchi. The stories often focus on a group of heroes battling an evil, and sometimes ancient, antagonist that dominates the world while simultaneously emphasising the internal struggles, passions, and tragedies of the characters. The games are considered a milestone for game mechanics and the genre, introducing a dramatic storyline with emphasis on character development.

Dress up as your favourite character and be immersed in magic at *FINAL FANTASY Piano Concert*. An epic saga awaits… are you ready to join the heroes?

# Life's music

Experience elegance and ephemerality at *A Night at the Paris Opera*. Starring internationally renowned French baritone André Heyboer accompanied by acclaimed Kiwi organist and pianist Chris Hainsworth, this soaring concert will lift St Mary of the Angels to the stars on the 11th of March.

*A Night at the Paris Opera* will feature an exceptionally curated programme of favourites in juxtaposition with lesser-known dramatic arias. The music will span three centuries and include works from the likes of Italian composers Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini, French maestros Charles Gounod and the German-born Jacques Offenbach, and German musical giants George Frideric Handel and Richard Wagner.

Visiting from France, baritone Heyboer has sung in some of the most prestigious venues across Europe, including the Bastille Opera in Paris. He began his musical apprenticeship at the age of 11 and studied at the Conservatoire de Toulouse. Today, he has performed in the roles of a lifetime and is particularly renowned for his 19th-century French and Italian repertoire.

Wellington virtuoso Hainsworth has studied organ with both Maxwell Fernie and Ernest Jamieson and is currently based in the South of France as Béziers Cathedral's resident organist.

For Wellington Organists Association's *A Night at the Paris Opera*, Hainsworth says they are striving for variety in the hopes of providing something for everyone. From serious and light-hearted to entertaining and thought-provoking, the pair aim to connect music to the realities of life.

# Join the love parade

Pride is both a joyous celebration and a platform for progress and meaningful conversations. And what better place to support equity and inclusion for all, honour past heroes, and celebrate our beautiful Rainbow community than with the Wellington Pride Parade?

On the 8th of March at 5pm, floats, marching groups, musicians, performers, and community leaders will make a beeline from Courtney Place, following up Dixon Street, and concluding on the iconic rainbow crossing on Cuba Street to showcase the diverse communities of Aotearoa's queerest city. Expect an electrifying atmosphere filled with powerful chants, stunning costumes, and a spirit of solidarity. Whether you're marching, cheering from the sidelines, or volunteering, the parade invites everyone to take part.

The parade is followed by a street celebration on Lower Cuba until 11pm in collaboration with Ivy Bar and Cabaret, showcasing some of Wellington's best drag performers, DJs, and local talent as well as delicious culinary delights. Keep the party going at Eva until 4am at the official Frisky Events Parade After Party, where attendees can embrace their wildest fantasies and be their authentic selves.

As one of the cornerstone events of the Wellington Pride Festival – Tū Whakahīhī e Te Whanganui-ā-Tara, the parade is a defining event on the capital's calendar, building upon New Zealand's rich history of LGBTQIA+ activism. Join the Wellington Pride Parade – a day to be proud, seen, and heard – and march forward together, celebrating resilience, inclusivity, authenticity, and love in all its beautiful forms!

# General

## Your first aid training specialist

Would you know what to do if someone was injured? Links Training currently offers levels of first aid training for individuals or workplaces. Businesses are welcome to attend their public classes, all of which are New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) assessed.

Public classes are run at venues throughout the lower North Island, including in Whanganui, Palmerston North, Levin, Kapiti, Masterton, and Petone. The next Petone class is scheduled for Monday the 3rd of March. This eight-hour course will enable individuals to have the skills and confidence needed to assist during a medical emergency.

Knowing how critical it is for electrical workers to renew their compliance on time in order to continue to practise, Links Training also offers electrical compliance training. The Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB) requires all electrical workers to ensure their ECT CPR/BFA is current at the time of their practising licence expiry date. This training consists of four hours of ECT training with two hours of CPR and basic first aid.

As an EWRB training provider, Links Training in conjunction with Upstage Electrical Training aspires to deliver as many opportunities as possible to meet this requirement. The next EWRB Petone date is on Wednesday the 5th of March, with other venues and dates available online. Book early to secure a space.

Whatever your training needs, Links Training has it covered. Find out more at www.links-ltd.co.nz

## Chosen Family Night

Te Waka Huia Wellington Museum celebrates Pride this March with events for, by, and with Wellington's Rainbow whānau. In collaboration with Wellington Pride Festival, Chosen Family Night, held at Wellington Museum on Thursday the 20th of March, offers a diverse lineup of activities embracing queer history, art, and community.

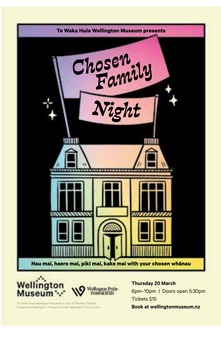
Attendees can enjoy guided Rainbow tours of the museum's collection, Sirens and Sailors erotic poetry readings, short film screenings, a Very Queer Book Club with drag performer Queen Olivia III, and a pop-up disco featuring DJ Hiriwini Moke. There will also be a low-sensory chill-out space, Aunty Chrissy's Library with queer history reading materials, and a collaborative knitting craft led by Wellington Pride Festival board member Steven Sue.

"It will be warm, quirky, fun, and an opportunity to learn about our local Rainbow icons and shared history," public programmes specialist Leilani Sio says.

Additionally, the museum's popular life drawing class with artist Denise Durkin returns on Sunday the 2nd of March, with a special Pride edition celebrating queer bodies. No art experience is necessary to join and all materials are provided by Gordon Harris The Art and Graphic Store.

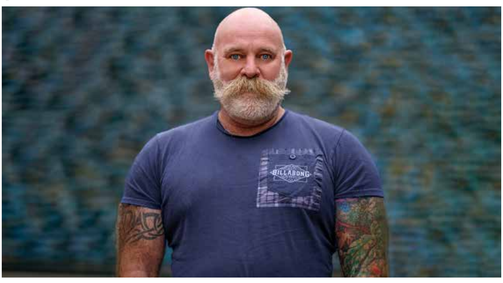
"We need community more than ever," Steven says. "Chosen Family Night provides a space for us to connect through our shared interests."

Learn more about Wellington Museum's queer-friendly events: wellingtonmuseum.nz



# Celebrating pride

## Sexual health matters: know your status



As our LGBTQIA+ communities embrace diversity and resilience this pride season, Body Positive takes the opportunity to remind us all of the importance of engaging with our sexual health, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

When it comes to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), getting tested to know your status is the first step to staying healthy. It's better to know soon so you can take charge of your health and stay in control. If you have a positive result, it is important to engage in treatment as soon as possible. With HIV, treatment has evolved over the decades to great efficacy and minimal inconvenience. It allows people living with HIV to lead perfectly healthy lives and achieve undetectable viral load. When undetectable, the virus cannot be passed on sexually – that is zero risk of transmission, or U=U (undetectable equals untransmittable).

If you have a negative result, there are steps you can take to stay negative. Condoms offer protection against most STIs, and PrEP – or pre-exposure prophylaxis – offers 99 percent protection against HIV. PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) can be as effective when taken up to 72 hours after potential exposure to HIV. PrEP and PEP are the same drugs, just taken differently according to the exposure situation, and are available for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

The Rainbow community is colourful and diverse. It is also stronger and more resilient when individually and collectively healthy. Shifting our perception of HIV away from the stigmatising past and towards the advances in science and society liberates us and moves us towards a brighter tomorrow.

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# Celebrating pride

## Fly your flag high

Aotearoa's longest-running annual Pride Festival began right here in wonderful Welly during the campaign for Homosexual Law Reform in 1986. This year marks 39 years since the capital's first-ever Pride celebration!

"The theme of this year's Pride Festival is Torona atu te Āniwaniwa ki te Rā – the Rainbow Stretches Forth to the Sun," board co-chair Taylor Curd (Ngāti Awa) says. "This speaks of our diversity both collectively and as individuals. Toro(na) is a word that not only means to stretch forth, but also to go and see, and to explore."

Joining the five flagship festivities between the 7th and 23rd of March are over 60 community-led events that span the spectrum from drag bingo to theological discussions, queer history walking tours to rainbow story times, meet-ups to a fat liberation event.

The opening celebration Kuru Pounamu at The Opera House on the 7th features drag, poetry, waiata, ballroom dance, and laughter hosted by Dame Jthan of the Tīwhas. The Pride Youth Ball will take place on the 15th. Out in the City is a family-friendly fair with over 80 stalls, stage performances, kai, and LGBTQIA+ celebrations at Odlins Plaza on the 22nd.

Closing out the festival on the 23rd is the Pride Hīkoi from Waitangi Park to Parliament followed by a picnic at Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā. March in solidarity with trans and gender-minority whānau before settling into a sausage sizzle accompanied by live music from Orchestra Wellington.

## Peruse with pride

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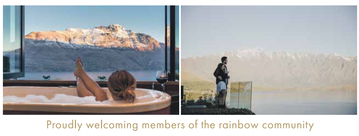

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# The symphony of culture

***by Alessia Belsito-Riera***

Jamie Irvine.

Anapela Polataivao.

Miki Magasiva

Writer and director Miki Magasiva's newest film *Tinā* is "drawn from a lifetime raised by strong Samoan women. With their resilience, wisdom, and deep connection to their culture, these leaders are the foundation of our community", he says. "Through the shared human experiences of grief, identity, and mental and physical trauma, our protagonist's journey of healing and rediscovery reflects the journeys undertaken by many of our women who navigate life's challenges with grace and determination".

The idea was born six years ago after Magasiva was blown away by a performance he watched of Westlake Girls and Boys High School choirs. *Tinā* follows the story of Samoan teacher Mareta Percival who, struggling after the death of her daughter in the Christchurch earthquakes, takes on the role of substitute teacher at an elite private school. Surprised to find children crying out for guidance, inspiration, and love, she uses the symphony of her culture to form a choir, bringing them together while unexpectedly rediscovering her passion for being a teacher and mother.

The inspiring drama and light-hearted rhythmic tear-jerker stars Anapela Polataivao in the lead role, while her antagonist's shoes are filled by Wellington actor Jamie Irvine. Playing headmaster Peter, Irvine was first drawn to this beautiful story's relatability.

"I've been lucky to have had a couple of wonderful mentors in my life and this reminded me of those people. Being in the film was a chance to celebrate those relationships. The spirit on set, the kaupapa, all of that was amazing. I couldn't wait to get to work every day and since being cast I've felt lucky to be a part of this film".

Irvine says that his character provides most of the conflict for Mareta. "He represents an old way of doing things. He's obsessed with tradition and preserving these elements within the institution and, ultimately, he enjoys being in a powerful position. Although Peter represents a lot of the institutionalised racism and prejudice that can exist in these places, being able to work opposite an actor as brilliant as Anapela Polataivao in those scenes was a bit of a bucket list moment for me".

Nevertheless, Irvine didn't mind playing the antagonist, as he feels lucky to be able to take roles like this one, that have great dialogue with real sparkle. "Being able to walk a mile in another person's shoes through this work is an enormous privilege. I'm always learning about and exploring other people's experiences, and I think this helps me a lot as a person as well".

He knows *Tinā* will take audiences on an uplifting journey. "The mentoring relationship at the centre of this story is bittersweet and filled with hope," Irvine says. "For me, it's definitely about celebrating the mothers in our lives, but it's also about coming together as a group and creating something that will live on. Music can do that; films can do that."

# New Zealand Fringe Festival reviews

## Antonio!

**Presented by**
**Boto Mermaid Productions**
**Directed by Andrew Paterson**
**Hannah Playhouse, 14th Feb 2020**
**Reviewed by Ruth Corkill**

With book by Ania Upstill and music and lyrics by William Duignan and Andy Manning, *Antonio!* is an exuberant punk musical that imagines the exploits of a forgotten muse of Shakespeare, a proudly queer mentant-turned-pirate who explores the world searching for love, and, failing that, booty. The name Antonio features in five of Shakespeare's plays, and the show draws on these to construct *Antonio!*. Shakespeare aficionados will recognise passages from *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. However, the production is firmly grounded in the present; the aesthetics draw on punk and most of the book uses contemporary language.

Fans of Butch Mermaid Productions have been eagerly anticipating *Antonio!* ever since its sell-out season at Edinburgh Fringe 2023. Duignan reprises his role as the earnest and vulnerable Antonio, with a supporting cast and band of Upstill, Henry Ashby, Emma Katene, and Jihan Morgan.

Presenting the intricate narrative of *Antonio!* with these musicians, actors, and vocalists is no mean feat. Each performer has incredible versatility of characterisation, committing to even the smallest bit parts. We meet a series of Antonio's past lovers, each more unsuitable than the last. Ashby's smouldering Bassanio seduces us all against our better judgement, and Katene's Don Pedro is ludicrously sick with self-love. The sublime Jihan Morgan is a heartbreaking as Sebastian, outrageously funny in ensemble work.

Much of the narrative seeks to erase Shakespeare and to instead centre Antonio's voice. But The Bard breaks through eventually, with all the supporting cast donning eerie yet hilarious Shakespeare masks with glowing green eyes, and Upstill's cold, smooth voice speaking for the worst ex of them all. Upstill's Shakespeare is a scurvy companion; closeted, manipulative, and cruel. But *Antonio!* is ultimately a show that celebrates authenticity and queer joy. Our Antonio liberates himself and finds happiness, and the clear message in the final song is that this kind of freedom is available to all of us.

## This Wasn't the Plan

**Written by Glenn Horsfall**
**Directed by Nick Lerew**
**Thistle Hall, 14th Feb 2025**
**Reviewed by Tanya Piejus**

*Photo by Scott Maskin.*

Putting your life story on stage is an act of bravery, especially for theatrical performers who are often riddled with self-doubt. So, for Glenn Horsfall to present his journey of personal growth is a daring feat of vulnerability in the intimate, overheated space of Thistle Hall.

Unlike many in the opening-night audience, I don't know Horsfall personally. Having witnessed his recent performances and lush baritone voice in *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*, *Into the Woods*, and *End of the Rainbow*, I was keen to meet the man behind the voice. Horsfall takes his audience with him on a sometimes-heartbreaking voyage of discovery from early years schooling in Christchurch where he thrived as "the Patty Simcox of intermediate", excelling as the only boy playing netball. For this, he featured on the front page of the local paper and was interviewed for Paul Holmes on TVNZ. Sadly, that clip resurfaced during his tough years at Christchurch Boys' High School and led to bullying and self-destructive behaviour that persisted into adulthood.

Behind Horsfall is a moving collage of personal photos (design by Scott Maxim) that illustrate and highlight moments in his life and add depth to the storytelling. Anecdotes from his work as a cruise ship entertainer, then playing a whistled-around dog in a shopping-mall kids' show, and learning tricky choreography at a Russian ballet dancer his tales with endearing and self-deprecating humour. Also interspersed with the narrative are 10 well-chosen songs from a variety of musicals that echo the emotions at key points in Horsfall's story, excellently arranged and accompanied by Hayden Taylor. Horsfall's vocal performances are stunning and he really hits his stride with the fourth number, *Walking Through a Window* from *Dear Evan Hansen*, which particularly suits his singing style.

This might not have been the plan but it's nevertheless a privilege to share in the life of a singular talent.

## Entry: Encounter

**Presented by**
**Untitled Warehouse Project**
**Directed by Jacob Banks**
**Untitled Warehouse, 18th Feb 2025**
**Reviewed by Zac Fitzgibbon**

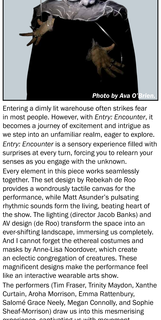


*Photo by Ava O'Brien.*

Entering a dimly lit warehouse often strikes fear in most people. However, with *Entry: Encounter*, it becomes a journey of excitement and intrigue as we step into an unfamiliar realm, eager to explore. *Entry: Encounter* is a sensory experience filled with surprises at every turn, forcing you to relearn your senses as you engage with the unknown.

Every element in this piece works seamlessly together. The set design by Rebekah de Ros provides a wondrously tactile canvas for the performance, while Matt Saunder's pulsating rhythmic sounds form the living, beating heart of the show. The lighting (director Jacob Banks) and AV design (de Ros) transform the space into an ever-shifting landscape, immersing us completely. And I cannot forget the ethereal costumes and masks by Anne-Lisa Noordover, which create an eclectic congregation of creatures. These magnificent designs make the performance feel like an interactive wearable arts show.

The performers (Tim Fraser, Trinity Maydon, Xanthe Curtain, Aroha Morrison, Emma Rattenbury, Sakinah Grace Neely, Megan Connolly, and Sophie Sheaf-Morrison) draw us into this mesmerising experience, captivating us with movement choreographed by Dan Nodder. They invite us to dance along, making us, the audience, part of the performance itself.

By the end of the piece, everyone is bopping along or dancing to the beat, surrounded by strange silhouettes. The design is immaculate – I cannot think of how it could be done any better. You can't help but lose yourself in this place as you discover something new you didn't realise you had inside. This is such a high-quality production, and I hope to encounter it again. As part of their season, Untitled Warehouse Project also presents *Entry: Exhibit* and *Entry: After Hours*, which I can only imagine complement this piece excellently. I'd be surprised if you didn't have an out-of-body experience at this show. I implore you to step into the world of *Entry: Encounter* and see what people are raving about.

## Transmute Darkness into Light

**Created by Mikhail Tank**
**Online event, 17th Feb 2025**
**Reviewed by Tanya Piejus**

Russian-born, US-raised Mikhail Tank is a self-described "visionary multimedia artist, performer, author, and creative alchemist" who has created *Transmute Darkness into Light* specifically for this year's New Zealand Fringe Festival audience. It follows an inspirational visit he made to Auckland last year to film a video for the title track to his latest performance art and music album, *The Rough Dragon and the Rhythm Within*.

Filmed in what appears to be his living room in California with a static camera, *Transmute Darkness into Light* is delivered direct to the lens. It's part performance poetry, part mindfulness class with a spontaneous exhortation to explore the protective darkness inside us and use it to inform our creativity, as he has been doing since the age of 13.

Tank begins by expounding on his recent New Zealand visit, his love for our country and people, deep connection with Māori culture, and the significance of a pounamu that he was gifted by a carver on Waiheke.

This segues into an animated performance of a dozen or so "soul-written works" about the dangers of artifice and negativity, which cause us unconsciously pain and trauma. "Negative curses", he says, by reaching for God and Nature as he blows kisses to the sky or to us through his camera.

Part three is an extension of the themes in his poetry as Tank expands his thoughts on "magic, light, and darkness" by turning the poison of negativity into something positive. Connecting with our reality is, he claims, the most important relationship we have in life. There is an air of impractical in his words as he doesn't mention the physical world of possessions, but instead says they can offer us earthly experiences and ways to see life through powerful gifts to cherish, such as pounamu. They contribute to the "soul warehouse", which also contains resuscitated love and emotions expressed in the moment. These are at the core of this unique creative work.

# New Zealand Dance Festival reviews

## Tiná

**25 minutes**
**M**
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera**

Tiná received not just one, but two standing ovations at its Wellington premiere on the 18th of February. Due for release on the 27th of February, it highly recommend you bring a tissue (or two) with you to the cinema.

The feature directorial debut from Samoan-born Wellington-bred filmmaker Miki Magasiva is equal parts funny and tear-jerking; tender and gritty, heart-breaking, presenting a beautiful ode to immune culture and a touching tribute to mothers everywhere.

Meaning mother in Samoan, Tiná follows the story of Marela Pereira-Ansel (Akshleen Pereira-Ansel) who is grieving the death of her daughter in the Christchurch earthquakes. Unexpectedly becoming a substitute teacher at a rich, private school, Marela finds the students in desperate need of guidance and care, prompting her to provide inspiration and support in the way she knows best: through chor and music.

Carried by the force of nature that is Polatalaua, the cast of Tiná shines in both the humorous and heartbreaking moments, with Antonia Richards perfectly capturing Sophie's inner turmoil and healing journey and Wellington-born Jamie Irvine in top form as deputy principal Peter Wadsworth, a character equal parts odious and cringey… but in the best, most hilarious way.

Magasiva's script is carefully woven together with Sébastien Rahm's thoughtfully curated score of Kiwi classics and Samoan traditional. The result is a patchwork tapestry of song as tightly and lovingly bound as an a-lagoa (Samoan fine mat). Costume designer Sacha Young and production designer Ana Mikellidis have put together a craft a cohesive world of sombre greys at the outset to make way for joyous pinks, yellows and fine environment inhabited by Mareta, creating a very physical manifestation of our protagonist's positive influence.

My favourite aspect of Tiná was how the story drew in us. Like a mother, it welcomed you into its world and included us without reservation, cheered us through the joys of life and cradled us safely through the difficult times. A movie so tender and powerful is rare; treasure Tiná like you would your mum.

## The Fabulous Fabelinskys

**Written by Rachel Winter Hase**
**Directed by Jen McArthur**
**To Aauha, 19th Feb 2025**
**Reviewed by Alessia Belsito-Riera**

Ladies, gentlemen, and everyone in between and undecided, meet the masters of miracles, the magicians of the impossible, the experts of the extraordinary, *The Fabulous Fabelinskys* in this heart-warming dramedy-meets-circus performance. A travelling circus has just arrived in New Zealand for the first time. Papa, Mama (Rachel Winter Hase), Maisie (Booth the Clown), and Annie (Laura Oakley) have always pretended to be Russian, but everything gets off kilter when Papa dies, leaving the women to negotiate not only how to survive without him in 1890s society, but who they want to be now that he's gone.

Met with a set (Erin Belcher and costume magician Lindy Ann) framed by an old-fashioned caravan and plush red curtains connected by a washing line, it feels like you've entered the circus tent rather than the black-box theatre of Te Auaha. Colourful and brimming with mystery, the energy in the room is thrilling. Accompanied by the showstopping *Show Pony* on the fiddle, the rowdy roustabouts (Nathaniel Smith, Gogo Amy, Izzy Christian, Erin Belcher, and Matthew Hamilton) are bottering around as if in anticipation of something exceptional.

And exceptional it is. From the first moment Mama appears in her black shroud, to the slowly building and bubbling over anxiety of Annie over getting this new uncertain world, and, of course, the always hilarious shenanigans of Maisie and Papa's comic relief, *The Fabulous Fabelinskys* is performed tightly, intentionally, and with the greatest professionalism. Each and every character arc is as graceful and polished as a trapeze artist's practised counter-weight the day it first enters the mesmerising circus acts brilliantly choreographed (Oakley – perhaps best for hula hoops, ring, rope, and sword swallowing, folks – which weave the story together into a beautiful, cohesive whole. A story about identity, family, grief, and self-belief that is equal parts perky and poignant and with a heaping dose of razzle-dazzle to boot, *The Fabulous Fabelinskys* spins a tale fully fictional but rooted in facts that takes audiences through the ups, downs, and loop-de-loops of life. Backflips and cartwheel your way into the entertainment, it's clear when they do.

## Abridged-ertan

**Directed by Megan Ritchie**
**BATS Theatre, 19th Feb 2025**
**Reviewed by Stanford Reynolds**

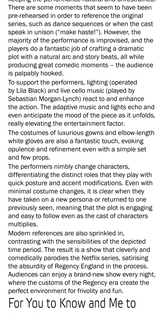


*Photo by Nina Hugg.*

Taking inspiration from the popular Netflix series Bridgerton, the improvised Abridged-ertan features four performers (Millie Osborne, Simran Rughani, Megan Ritchie, and Lucie Richardson) drawing an audience suggestions to create an impromptu Regency-era dramedy.

Beginning with a nod to Lady Whistledown's Society Papers from the original TV series, a young raconteur (Rughani) asks the audience for ideas and gossip to inform the coming show. After this, there is little direct interaction with the audience, allowing the performance cast to work unencumbered. There are some moments that seem to have been re-rehearsed in order to reference the original series, such as dance sequences or when the cast speak in unison ("make haste!"). However, the majority of the performance is improvised, and the players do a fantastic job of crafting a dramatic world with a mature pace and depth, all while producing great comedic moments – the audience is palpably hooked.

To support the performers, lighting (operated by Lila Black) and live cello music (played by Jonathan Mogilski-Lynch) make the most of enhance the action. The adaptive voice and cello and even anticipate the mood of the piece as it unfolds, really elevating the entertainment factor.

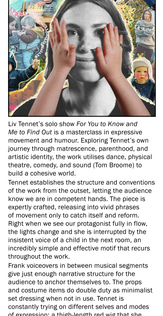
The costumes of luxurious gowns and elbow-length white gloves are a fantastic touch, evoking opulence and refinement even with a simple set and few props.

The performers nimbly change characters, differentiating the distinct roles that they play with quick posture and accent modulations. Even with minimal costume changes, it is clear when they have taken on a new persona or returned to one previously seen, reinforcing that the pair is engaging and easy to follow even as the cast of characters multiplies.

Modern references are also sprinkled in, contrasting with the sensibilities of the depicted time period. The result is a show that cleverly and comedically parodies the Netflix series, satirising the absurdity of Regency England in the process. Audiences can enjoy a brand-new show every night, where the customs of the Regency era create the perfect environment for frivolity and fun.

## For You to Know and Me to Find Out

**Created by Liv Tennet**
**Te Auaha, 18th Feb 2025**
**Reviewed by Ruth Corkill**



Liv Tennet's solo show *For You to Know and Me to Find Out* is a masterclass in expressive movement and theatricality. Using Tennet's own journey through metaxence, parenthood, and artistic identity, the work utilises dance, physical comedy, comedy, and storytelling (Tom Bennett) to build a cohesive world.

Tennet establishes the structure and conventions of the work from the outset, letting the audience know we are in competent hands. The piece is constantly crafted, releasing into new phrases of movement only to catch itself and reform. Right when we see our protagonist fall in love, the lights change and she is interrupted by the insistent voice of a child in the next room, an incredibly simple and effective motif that recurs throughout the work.

Frank voiceovers in between musical segments give just enough narrative structure for the audience to anchor themselves to. The prop and costume items do double duty as minimalist set dressing when not in use. Tennet is constantly trying on different selves and modes of expression: a thigh-length red wig that she wraps around her body, or enormous hands which sprout out of a fluffy dressing gown while she does the laundry create surreal imagery as the body is changed and she grows comfortable in relationship with it.

While these aspirations are interesting, it is Tennet's physicality which does most of the heavy lifting during her metamorphoses. The first dance is angulated and vulnerable, and one of my favourites, but other sections relish absurdities. Tennet's comedic movement delivery between the woozy silliness of the sleep deprived to keenly observed satires of audition protocols. All the upheaval and chaos of life, we are left with the intensity and beauty of parenthood, and the attachment between Tennet and her child. The closing playful dance with an invisible child is gorgeous, and the final bid for engagement from the child's voice is met with a warm response from Tennet. We can't wait to see what she creates next.

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# Universal energy

This New Zealand Fringe Festival, French-born singer-songwriter Petit ChouX invites audiences to immerse themselves in the beauty of language, romance, and music at The Pow Wow Room on Courtenay Place on the 26th of February and the Abandoned Brewery in Petone on the 8th of March.

With lyrics in French, Spanish, and English, Petit ChouX says music enables her to express her emotions using symbolism and metaphors.

"I love to capture moments of life and turn them into poetry, because I prefer to see life through a creative lens. It makes it more interesting", she beams.

Having improvised songs as a kid about the natural world and animals, today, she mostly writes music about love "inspired from romantic relationships, presence, and the opening of the heart".

"I also see love as this universal energy that is beyond anything romantic, that life force that births all of the living and nurtures creativity."

In these enchanting, intimate New Zealand Fringe Festival gigs, Petit ChouX will be joined by Ana Henderson, a violinist she started collaborating with about three months ago after posting an ad about sharing her art on a Facebook group.

"We met and the vibe felt right", she says. "I love when the music grows in feelings and when the violin enhances the emotions of the song, that's when we can vibe together and feed energy to each other."

# The sound of your summer

Before midnight strikes and the clock ticks over into autumn, the "reggae-infused notes and sun-kissed percussion" (NPR.org) of Pachyman will resound through Meow on Friday the 28th of February. Described by the eminent media organisation as "the sound of your summer", Puerto Rican music-maker Pachy García comes back to New Zealand following a scorcher of a set at last year's The Others Way Festival.

Pachyman entered the arena with his 2019 solo debut, making a splash on a musical landscape that's been a much sweeter place ever since. His latest dub-drenched sonic transmission *Switched-On* (2023) on ATO Records sees the artist gravitate to Lovers Rock-era reggae and the iconic Studio One sound, and yet pays homage to the era when musicians began manipulating synthesisers to make gloriously off-kilter bleeps and bloops. His evolution emerges on *You Looked at Me,* a track that fuses a Krautrock-esque beat with synths reminiscent of Boards of Canada, and further expands on the cheeky love song *Trago Coqueto,* an ode to his Puerto Rican roots crooned through a cocktail's prism.

"His works are a well sonically seasoned mix, in which his Puerto Rican roots shine bright", *Spin* agrees. "Aside from being a master-level instrumentalist, Pachyman is a breezy, fun-loving, and freedom-seeking artist."

"I can't wait to see you all", Pachyman raves about his summer shows on our shores. "Let's dance!"

**1st Mar. Bidibids EP Release Party:** *Vogelmorn Bowling Club, Mornington Road, Brooklyn* – 7pm. Wellington-based folk trio the Bidibids are celebrating the release of their self-titled debut EP. The evening of lush, blazing ballads and soaring harmonies in their home city comes in the form of a double-header gig with their musical pals Butter Wouldn't Melt. ***Photo by Rebecca McMillan Photography.***

**1st Mar. Wellington Big Dig:** *Freyberg Beach, Oriental Parade, Te Aro* – 9am. Have fun with your family digging through the sand to raise money for amazing projects in the Wellington community by Lifting the Lid! Mt Victoria Rotary Club has filled the beach with prizes for tamariki to find – it's like a lucky dip treasure hunt. Come swim, dig, and play for a good cause.

**26th Feb-1st Mar. Cancer Card:** *Circus Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 6:30pm. In this New Zealand Fringe Festival show, Becky Steepe [pictured] uses her sharp wit and fearless sense of humour to turn the deeply personal experience of being a youngish person with stage four bowel cancer into an unforgettable night of laughter and resilience.

**7th Mar. Fortune Favours Presents: Rare Beer Challenge:** *Fortune Favours, Leeds Street, Te Aro* – 3pm. Brewers Shannon and Dave [pictured] of Fortune Favours have challenged some of the best breweries from around New Zealand to use rare ingredients and techniques to produce their version of a rare beer for a fundraising sip-athon to raise funds for Rare Disorders NZ.

**1st Mar. Interlopers:** *Undercurrent Bookshop, Tory Street, Te Aro* – 7pm. Interlopers are a vehicle for the long-gestating dad-rock songbook of Andrew Armitage and the mum-core cello and vocals of Sarah Laing, complemented by Phil Peleton on bass and David Morgan on percussion. Calling on chamber pop, post-punk, and alt-country traditions, the foursome combines time-honoured melodic hooks with lyrical wit and wisdom.

**8th Mar. Creepy Cute Market:** *Thistle Hall, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30am. A place where dark meets adorable, this market features handcrafted treasures that are both spooky and sweet from local artists. From eerie art to ghoul-inspired fashion, wickedly cute accessories to darkly delightful charms, there's something for every creepy-cute lover. ***Artwork by Jenna Karl.***

# What's on Wairarapa

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

**1st Mar. Martinborough Fair:** *Martinborough Square, Martinborough, Wairarapa* – 8am. Marking almost 50 years, this buzzing artisan craft fair is one of the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere.

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

**2nd-22nd Mar. Kākano Wairarapa Arts Festival:** *Carterton Events Centre, Holloway Street, Carterton* – various times. Take part in a wide range of engaging and beautifully crafted ticketed and free family-friendly events celebrating Wairarapa's arts scene.

# Kapiti

**1st Mar. The Block Party:** *The Bond Store, Birmingham Street, Paraparaumu* – 11am. Drinks, treats, wrestling, music, and entertainment collide at this exhilarating event.

**5th Mar. Otaki Kite Festival:** *Ōtaki Beach, Marine Parade, Ōtaki* – 10am. Kites of all shapes and sizes, designs and colours take to the skies at this family-friendly festival featuring food, entertainment, and all kinds of fun.

**12th Mar. Two Guitars:** *Te Raukura ki Kāpiti Coastlands Theatre, Raumati Road, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. This show features two guitars, two mates, and two very different takes on what it means to be a modern Māori man.

**13th Mar. Andrew London Duo with Fiona Pears:** *Kapiti Playhouse, Ruahine Street, Paraparaumu* – 7:30pm. New Zealand's premier jazz violinist Fiona Pears spars with Andrew London, the master of the satirical ditty, accompanied by Kristen London on bass.

# Events

**1st Mar. Pipes In The Park 2025:** *Waitangi Park, Cable Street, Wellington Waterfront* – 10am. Enjoy food, fun, and competitions at Wellington's very own Scottish gathering.

**4th Mar. Te Ra o Ngā Tamariki Children's Day:** *Under the Sails, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront* – 10am. This free event for whānau includes stage performances, face painting, and lots of interactive activities.

**8th Mar. Afrika Bazaar:** *Hillary Court, Naenae, Lower Hutt* – 11am. The vibrant essence of African foods, arts, entertainment, and culture bursts into Wellington.

**8th Mar. Wellington Pride Parade:** *Courtenay Place, Te Aro, Wellington* – 5:30pm. Celebrate Wellington's Rainbow community with a parade followed by a party!

# Music

**28th Feb. Hayden Chisholm and Unwind with guest vocalist Hannah Griffin:** *St Paul's Lutheran Church, King Street, Mount Cook* – 7pm. Jazz meets New Zealand poetry in a concert of mesmerising music and song.

**28th Feb. Pachyman with Christoph El Truento:** *Meow, Edward Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Settle into dub-drenched beats from Puerto Rican musician Pachy García.

**28th Feb. Zmanydjs:** *Shed 6, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront* – 8:30pm. Renowned as one of the most innovative remix and producer teams around, Zmanydjs is ready to get hyped in Wellington.

**1st Mar. Robert Zielinski and Manuela Cantanni:** *Old St Paul's, Mulgrave Street, Thorndon* – 7pm. Australian violinist Robert Zielinski performs excerpts from his original composition *Kiangardarup* and traditional dance music from Ireland alongside Italian flautist Manuela Cantanni.

**1st Mar. Gabriel Rebs in concert – Saxophone clarinet trouble:** *Niblick Hall, Niblick Lane, Porirua* – 7:30pm. Urs Signer journeys south from Taranaki to join Wellington-based Reb Andre Nowicki for a two-clarinet attack alongside Balkan-inspired outfit Klezmer Rebs.

**5th Mar. Crystalline Resonance: FINAL FANTASY Piano Concert:** *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Experience the wondrous music from the world-famous video game.

**6th Mar. The Rocking Rainbows with Guests:** *Newtown Community Centre, Rintoul Street, Newtown* – 7pm. Embrace diversity and celebrate inclusivity via the universal language of music.

**6th Mar. Conan:** *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. All the way from the UK, doom metal titans Conan crash into Wellington.

**6th, 7th, 8th Mar. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Presents: Timeless Beauty: Handel & Telemann:** *The Paekākariki Kāpiti, Paraparaumu; Michael Fowler Centre, Te Aro; Carterton Events Centre, Carterton* – 7:30pm; 6:30pm; 7:30pm. Vesa-Matti Leppänen leads an ensemble of NZSO musicians in an evening of Baroque brilliance.

**7th Mar. Groove Armada:** *TSB Arena, Queens Wharf, Wellington Waterfront* – 6pm. For over two decades, Groove Armada has been one of the planet's best-loved and biggest-selling dance acts. Boogie with them live in Wellly.

**7th Mar. MY BABY:** *San Fran, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 8:30pm. Dutch New Zealand trio MY BABY swings through Wellington along the Acoustic Blues Club Tour.

**8th Mar. Leaving Jackson – Johnny Cash and The Outlaws:** *The Opera House, Manners Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. Sink into a tribute concert paying homage to Johnny Cash featuring the musical legend's hits and deep cuts.

**11th Mar. A Night at the Paris Opera:** *St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. André Heyboer (baritone) and Chris Hainsworth (organ and piano) come together in this exquisite performance featuring a programme of well-known favourites and lesser-known dramatic opera arias.

**12th Mar. GBH:** *Valhalla, Vivian Street, Te Aro* – 7:30pm. The legends of the UK punk scene return to Wellington for a riot of a night.

**14th Mar. Romantic Romance: An Operatic Affair:** *St Andrew's on the Terrace, The Terrace, Te Aro* – 7pm. Experience the passion and drama of the opera and operetta world with international and Kiwi stars.

# Performance

**27th Feb. Luxury Company and Catfish Trifecta Present: Early Midnight Circus Live!:** *Circus Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. A new hour of all-original, unhinged, improvised lunacy returns in this late-show-style event.

**27th Feb-8th Mar. In Other Words:** *Circa Theatre, Taranaki Street, Wellington Waterfront* – various times. Connected by the timeless music of Frank Sinatra, this intimate, humorous, and deeply moving story explores the effects of dementia and the transformative power of music.

**1st Mar. Saturday Serve – Serving you stunning Drag:** *Ivy Bar and Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 10pm. Fierce performances, fabulous drag artists, and high-energy entertainment will get your blood pumping.

**6th-15th Mar. Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe Presents: Richard III:** *Muritai School, Muritai Road, Eastbourne* – various times. Delve into the twisted mind of one of Shakespeare's most devious villains.

**7th Mar. Revolution: A New Performer Showcase:** *Bar and Cabaret, Cuba Street, Te Aro* – 9:30pm. Featuring kings, queens, and all the beautiful theys in between, this show provides a space for emerging performers to strut their stuff.

**9th Mar. Club Filth Presents: Creature Features:** *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 6pm. Sink your teeth into Pōneke's newest and hottest pole event hosted by Moxxi and featuring local pole extraordinaires.

**11th Mar. 3 Bucks Left:** *Abandoned Taproom Petone, Petoneer Street, Lower Hutt* – 7pm. Ireland's favourite comedy show is coming to Wellington for a live performance featuring Martin Maloney, also known as Eddie Durkan.

**14th Mar. Flamboyance: A Hot Gay Cabaret:** *The Fringe Bar, Allen Street, Te Aro* – 8pm. Sashay your way over the rainbow to The Fringe Bar, where performers will shower you with glitter.

# Sports

**28th Feb. Isuzu UTE A-League - Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne City FC:** *Sky Stadium, Waterloo Quay, Pipitea* – 5:30pm. Make some noise as the Wellington Phoenix men's football team faces off against Melbourne City.

**1st Mar. Gazley Skoda Karapoti Classic:** *Karapoti Park, Akatarawa Road, Upper Hutt* – 10am. The Karapoti Classic is renowned as the Southern Hemisphere's longest-running mountain bike event and 2025 is the 40th anniversary!

**2nd Mar. Ninja A-League – Wellington Phoenix v Adelaide United:** *Trust Porirua Park, Mungavin Avenue, Porirua* – 3pm. The Wellington Phoenix women's football team is set to clash with Adelaide United in a monumental showdown.

**8th Mar. XTERRA Wellington Festival:** *Queen Elizabeth Park, Mackay's Crossing, Raumati* – 8am. This coastal offroad triathlon, duathlon, and trail running experience features spectacular views.

**9th Mar. Ninja A-League – Wellington Phoenix v Western Sydney Warriors:** *Trust Porirua Park, Mungavin Avenue, Porirua* – 3pm. Cheer on the Wellington Phoenix women's football team as they battle it out against the Western Sydney Warriors.

# Galleries

**Until 1st Mar. The Last Show:** *Solander Gallery, Willis Street, Te Aro.* As Solander Gallery closes its doors following 16 years of activity, *The Last Show* will feature a mesmerising group exhibition showcasing works by all the gallery's artists.

**Until 10th Mar. Lyz Kanace Belt:** *Vincents Art Workshop, Willis Street, Te Aro.* Family heritage is woven together with paint, coloured markers, and nail polishes as Kanace Belt celebrates her culture and identity.

**Until 15th Mar. Tidal Bodies:** *Twentysix Gallery, Constable Street, Newtown.* Gina Kiel's first solo exhibition *Tidal Bodies* explores themes of cyclical change and transformation.

# Festivals

**Until 8th Mar. New Zealand Fringe Festival:** *Various locations and times in Wellington Region.* A programme featuring over 170 shows, activations, and events is on offer to celebrate 35 years of Fringe Festival brilliance!

**1st Mar. This Is Living Festival 2025:** *McEwan Park, Marine Parade, Lower Hutt* – 1pm. Sun, sea, and sound collide to create an unmissable festival experience featuring 25 established and emerging, local and international music talents.

**2nd Mar. Matariki Festival 2025:** *Various locations in Newtown* – 9am. Aotearoa's biggest free music festival and street fair returns for its 31st year, featuring more than 420 stalls, 150 artists, 1000 performers, and 16 stages.

**2nd Mar. Hutt Sounds 2025:** *Brewtown, Blenheim Street, Upper Hutt* – 2pm. Get hyped for one of the best Sounds Series lineups yet, featuring the likes of Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark, Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey, Jon Stevens, Diesel, The Narcs, and Kim Willoughby.

**7th-23rd Mar. Pride Festival:** *Various locations in Newtown* – 9am. Aotearoa's biggest free music festival and street fair returns for its 31st year, featuring more than 420 stalls, 150 artists, 1000 performers, and 16 stages.

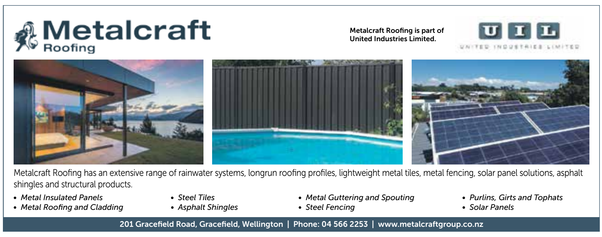
**2nd Mar. Hutt Sounds 2025:** *Brewtown, Blenheim Street, Upper Hutt* – 2pm. Get hyped for one of the best Sounds Series lineups yet, featuring the likes of Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark, Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey, Jon Stevens, Diesel, The Narcs, and Kim Willoughby.

# What's on

**For your inclusion in the what's on listings email: whatson@regionalnews.kiwi. Close off for the next issue's listings is noon Tuesday 4 March.**

**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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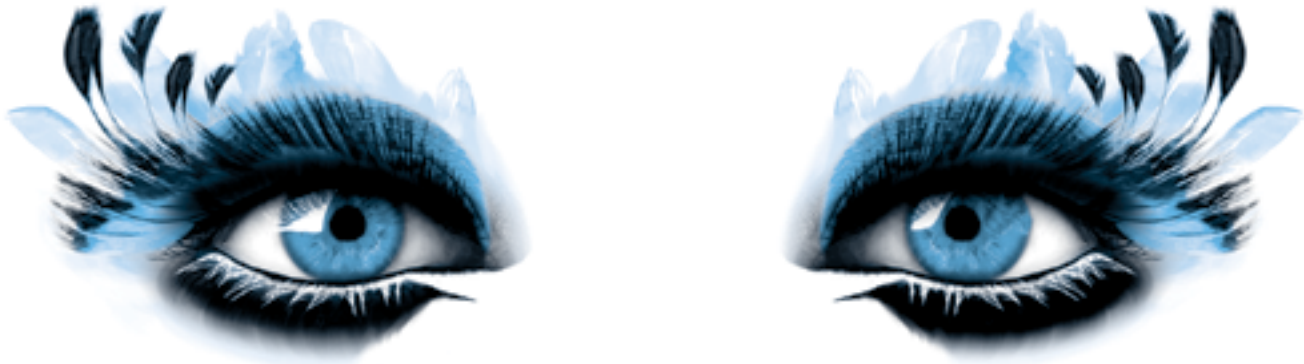

# Regional News

*Eyes on Wellington*

## We are expanding our readership!

### Pick us up from over 100 locations!

From January 2025 we will be doing limited home delivery.

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

You can now pick *Regional News* up from more than 100 locations, which is a 25 percent increase on what we were previously able to offer. In the past, we couldn't keep up with the demand, with thousands of papers flying out of the stands each fortnight. We used to run out of copies to refill these stands with and would hear from readers who were disappointed to have missed out. Now, we're diverting our stock where it's most wanted to ensure that every copy picked up is read and enjoyed.

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

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

## Available from pick-up points at:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Northland:** Zhou's Kitchen

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

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

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

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

**We will add new pick-up points in red every fortnight. Home delivered to Kapiti and Titahi Bay.**

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

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

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

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

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

**Porirua:** Jaylons Cake & Coffee House

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

**Plimmerton:** Plimmerton Village Grocery

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

**Ōtaki:** RiverStone Café

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

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

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

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

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

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