



Usually, the featured destination is one of our many public reserves but this month, to encourage readers to venture out and enjoy the delights of living in one of the most beautiful places in the world, *Wings and Wildlife* goes on an Art Deco tour of Napier.

Art Deco is a style of visual arts, architecture and design that first appeared in France just before World War 1 and took its name, short for Arts Décoratifs, from an exhibition held in Paris in 1925. In its heyday of the 1930's, Art Deco represented luxury, glamour, exuberance and faith in social and technological progress.



The iconic T & G Dome was built in 1935



Considered to be the world's Art Deco Capital, the cityscape we see today in Napier rose from the ruins of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake which devastated Hawke's Bay in 1931. The 3.6m Spirit of Napier sculpture located in the Gilray Reserve represents Napier rising from the ashes of the disaster and the rebirth of the city. The Frank Szimay-designed landmark was gifted by the estate of the late Dr Thomas Gilray, together with a donation from Mr L.E. Harris plus funds from subdivisions. It was officially unveiled on 22 December 1971.

The Sound Shell, and its colonnaded surround, was built in 1935. It was designed by Napier architect J. T. Watson and the Colonnade and Sound Shell were projects undertaken by the Thirty Thousand Club (which later funded Pania of the Reef).



I read that Napier didn't just want to rebuild from the rubble; it wanted to reinvent and restyle itself as a forward-thinking city, a place for fun and pleasure. The design came straight out of Hollywood and with it came the Veronica Sun Bay, a colonnade, three grand arches - including the so-called 'New Napier Arch' and, most daring of all... an outdoor dancing area.



To reflect on the glamour of the era, the council commissioned Lyttleton sculptor, Mark Whyte, to create an elegant bronze statue. *A Wave in Time* is modelled on Sheila Williams walking with an equally stylish greyhound called Raven. Sheila was the daughter of a well-known architect who helped with the re-build and was Carnival Queen in a 1933 parade held to celebrate the city's recovery. The gorgeous, now much-photographed statue was unveiled in 2010.

A second bronze piece is of a boy who has climbed a verandah post on the other side of Emerson Street and is waving at Sheila. It was unveiled in 2014.



The National Tobacco Company Building in Ahuriri, rebuilt after the earthquake, has a Category 1 Historic Places listing. Formerly known as the Rothman's Building, it was built for Gerard Husheer as a tobacco processing factory and was Napier's largest employer in the 1930's. No expense was spared in the lavish rebuild by architect Louis Hay, with the iconic facade a major tourist attraction and one of many stops on Napier's Art Deco tours.

The Art Deco Trust <https://artdeconapier.com> has heaps of interesting information.

MAN ON A MISSION: The International Anti-Poaching Foundation (IAPF) was formed in 2009 by Australian Iraq war veteran, Damien Mander, after he experienced an epiphany while travelling in Africa, witnessing the plight of endangered animals, such as elephants and rhinos, which were being killed in vast numbers by poachers for their ivory.



Tragically – and it’s a sad indictment on the human race, the illegal trafficking in wildlife ranks as one of the largest criminal industries in the world, along with guns, drugs and human trafficking.

Damien liquidated his assets in Australia, moved to Africa and, since then, has dedicated his life to conservation and protecting wildlife.



The organisation has now scaled up to employ some two hundred people and protects wildlife in five countries, covering around four million hectares of African wilderness. This includes eight reserves and 526,000 hectares in Zimbabwe, with the aim to increase this to twenty in another five years.

In 2017, the IAPF founded ‘Akashinga’ (the brave ones), a remarkable, all-female group of armed, anti-poaching wildlife rangers, which has had phenomenal success in Zimbabwe, educating locals on conservation, arresting hundreds of poachers and helping to reduce elephant poaching by 80%.

The IAPF has picked up numerous awards and Damien and the IAPF were featured in documentaries, *The Game Changers* and National Geographic’s *Akashinga* (which can be viewed on YouTube). Crikey! What an eye-opener to see the incredible strength and resilience of these ‘not-to-be-messed-with’ women.



The IAPF kindly sent me some action photos taken by Brent Stirton, two of which I think show the toughness of the Akashinga women as they are put through a very rigorous, military-style training programme. Founder and ex-soldier, Damien Mander, is overseeing the training in the photo on the right.



The Executive Producer of the short documentary *Akashinga* is none other than James Cameron and the IAPF’s patron is Dame Jane Goodall. For more information about this amazing organisation and its inspirational founder, head to <https://www.iapf.org> and be inspired yourself, listening to Damien’s 2013 TED Talk in Sydney. This is an organisation achieving extraordinary results and changing lives.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Last August, the Pirimai Residents Association (PRA) teamed up with the HBRC, NCC, Biodiversity Hawke’s Bay (BHB), NZ Landcare Trust, Plant Hawke’s Bay, Ravensdown Fertiliser Ltd., All Saints Church and around a hundred volunteers to establish some 1,800 plants along the multi-functional Cross Country Drain which runs through the suburb.

HBRC councillor, Hinewai Ormsby, and her husband Cam donated 1,000 plants to help beautify the area and enhance biodiversity.

Now, that community effort has been recognised with PRA chairman, Richard Catley, being presented with an award by the HBRC.

BHB’s Community Facilitator, Dr Belinda Sleight said that the award was great news. “It really speaks to the power of partnerships between local councils and community groups to achieve an outcome that works for all parties.” Richard summed it up as being, “A really great honour to receive the award on behalf of the PRA. It confirms that we’re on the right track and is encouragement to keep going.”

Read the full story at:- <https://baybuzz.co.nz/pride-in-pirimai/>



SAVE OUR STREAMS S.O.S. The update about the planned community meeting to initiate improvements in the sadly neglected HN streams is that, due to the holidays and now the arrival of Omicron, it is being deferred for the time being. I’ll let you know the details as soon as they come to hand.



PICTURE PERFECT

Local wildlife photographer, Chris Helliwell took this quirky shot of a morepork, also known as a ruru, boobook or New Zealand owl.

The morepork is a small, dark-brown, mottled owl, with the larger female weighing around 175 grams. Its striking yellow to yellowish-green eyes are set into two facial disks either side of a small sharply hooked bill, while its legs are feathered right down to its yellow feet.

Widespread and moderately abundant, its DOC conservation status is 'Not Threatened'. It nests in trees which are large enough to have hollows but is prone to predation while nesting, mostly by cats, possums, rats and mustelids. When nesting on the ground, eggs and chicks may fall victim to predators, including pigs and hedgehogs.

Hunting at night, its diet consists of insects, small mammals and birds and it's after dusk when you'll hear its repeated 'morepork, morepork' call, the distinctive two-note sound which gave the owl its name.

Short, broad wings make it very manoeuvrable and able to fly through dense forest. Like other owls, it has serrated or comb-like edges on its flight feathers. This design feature reduces air turbulence over the wing, enabling silent flight, resulting in a higher catch rate.

Fun Facts: A morepork can turn its head 270°. It often eats prey whole and then coughs up a pellet that contains all the indigestible bones and feathers. More info at:- <https://www.birdsonline.org.nz>

Want to see more great wildlife shots? Chris's photos can be viewed at www.nzexposed.co.nz



WATERPROOF WATERFOWL: Ever wondered how aquatic birds stay warm and dry in the water? The answer is their feathers are really different to those of other birds. They have more of them, feathers are denser with more tightly-knitted microstructures - and they do a lot of preening.

Birds have a special gland called the preen gland (or uropygial gland) located on their rumps above their tail feathers. This gland, which secretes preen oil, is larger in waterfowl. They rub their beaks against the gland to collect oil and then transfer it to their feathers where it coats the interlocking barbules, rendering them waterproof. The preening also

ensures the integrity of the layer of contour feathers. Feathers must be correctly aligned with all interlocking barbules in place to be effective for waterproofing and flight.

Fun Facts: There are six types of feathers:- Contour, flight, down, filoplumes, semiplumes and bristle. Some ducks can spend up to 25% of their waking hours preening.

FUR TRADE FURY: I had no idea that there was a huge and horrendously cruel, world-wide trade in fur until I saw TV footage showing millions of white mink being culled in Holland, due to fears that they might spread COVID-19.

Mink and other furred animals are crammed into small wire cages, suffering an unimaginably horrific existence until they are killed at about a year old.



Globally each year, I read that around one hundred million animals, bred specifically to supply the fashion industry, suffer the same ghastly fate on intensive fur farms... 50 million in China alone. How could any country think such appalling cruelty is acceptable and allow the ill-treatment to continue?

Thankfully, on 21 December, the Italian Senate voted to close the country's 10 remaining mink fur farms by 30 June 2022 and place a permanent ban on fur farming throughout Italy. Although the decision requires final approval by the Parliament, this is expected to go through, making Italy the 16th country in Europe to ban fur farming. Many Italian designers have already gone fur-free including Valentino, Armani, Gucci, Prada and Versace. Without a market, the vile, inhumane trade would end.

New Zealand banned the importation of mink in 2013. However, it's a sad reflection on our own woefully inadequate Animal Welfare laws that sentient creatures are still being kept in distressingly



poor conditions and subjected to cruel practices for profit or, in the case of rodeo, being abused, tormented and injured by callous, cowardly bullies. Animals are viewed as inanimate, disposable props and organisers minimise the injuries suffered by them during the 'entertainment'.



WELLINGTON ZOO was opened in 1906, covers thirteen hectares close to the city centre and is home to more than five hundred animals. Since 2003, the zoo has been run as a non-profit Charitable Trust supported by Wellington City Council.



Many schools include a trip to the zoo during their school camps to Wellington, so I asked Mahora School's Assistant Principal, Tanya Greig, what the students and staff found most interesting about their visit and what they'd recommend. Here's what she said:-



"The sleepover at the zoo is something we would highly recommend. The experience of waking up to the chattering of the monkeys is really something, as is the experience of the evening walk through the zoo and watching some of the animals being fed. Some of the noises of the animals were quite frightening at night, but after we walked past the exhibits with the zoo keepers, the children gained a better understanding of what the noises were and why they were being made."

"For many of the children, even the opportunity to walk through the farm animals was something to be amazed by. Listening to the keepers talking about how to take care of the animals and the amount of time that goes into enriching the animals lives to prevent boredom and depression really made the children think beyond providing the animals with food and shelter."

"It was a lovely experience and whilst we focus largely on native New Zealand animals, the zoo gave both adults and children a wider perspective, particularly around those that may be endangered."



Children's Comments:

'Waking up to the roaring of the tiger was scary but way cool.'

'Loved watching the meerkat sentries standing guard while others foraged for food.'

'Who knew there were so many different monkeys?'

'My favourite part was being up high with the giraffes being fed and watching their purple black tongue curl around the leaves.'

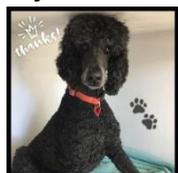


The Nest, Te Kōhanga, at Wellington Zoo has facilities and equipment to treat every animal resident of the zoo, except the giraffes, and is also used to treat rescued native wildlife. Each of the main surgical rooms has an open viewing gallery and a communication system, which allows members of the veterinary team to explain procedures for visitors and enables visitors to ask questions of staff. There's lots more information at:- <https://wellingtonzoo.com> or follow the zoo on Facebook.

CHRISTMAS CHEER: The annual Christmas party at The Cape Sanctuary gives landowners Andy and Liz Lowe an opportunity to thank the many volunteers who come out to the Ocean Beach property throughout the year and put their skills to good use. Liz said, "We couldn't achieve half of what we do if it wasn't for our hardworking volunteers. They roll up their sleeves and do some great mahi. Awesome people doing awesome work!"

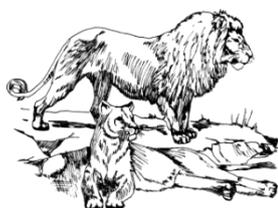


If you'd like to volunteer at this amazing place, just e-mail: volunteer@capesanctuary.co.nz



GOOD BOY WIFI! It's not just humans who need blood transfusions. A post on the Animal Care Vet Clinic's Facebook page before Christmas caught my eye when I saw that a poodle called Wifi donated blood to save the life of a critically unwell dog. Dogs have more blood groups than humans and the recipient dog is closely monitored during the process. Thanks in part to Wifi's life-saving donation, the other dog survived.

If you're aware of a conservation champion or something relevant going on in Hawke's Bay, please let me know and I'll be happy to follow it up:- jessicamaxwell2017@gmail.com



*"I don't feel I have a job.
I feel I have a purpose, which is the most elusive thing
for many people."*

Damien Mander

Founder: International Anti-Poaching Foundation

