

BAY BUZZ

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2023
NOVEMBER
+DECEMBER

Recovery rolls on
What to expect next

Labour snapshot
HB's serious workforce constraints

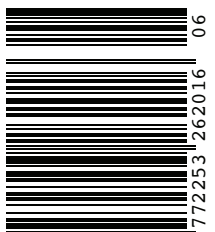
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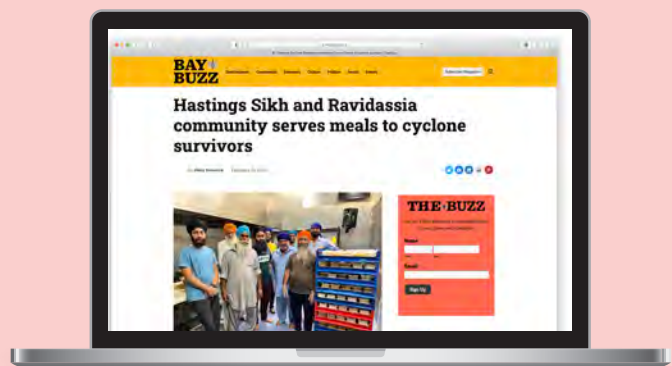
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NAPIER
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Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri



73

BayBuzz
November
+ December
2023

Photo: Florence Charvin

Election sets new framework for our region's issues. The quest for Crown recovery funding. Cyclone leaves mental distress. How will we find/train the workers HB needs? Denis O'Reilly on race relations. Need fun - try our hand-picked events ... and pickleball. Preview new home for HB's treasures and taonga. Gift-giving advice. Trains anyone? Marvel at Re-Source's resourcefulness. Paying homage to pyjamas, potluck dinners and our champion ginmakers.



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From the editor Tom Belford

Is Hawke's Bay at a turning point of some kind, or are we burnt out?

Collectively, the Bay's voters joined the rest of the nation in saying "no thank you" to three more years of Labour governance.

At this writing (with overseas ballots still to be counted), we gave 29,188 party votes to National, against 17,885 to Labour. That result, plus the fact that ACT and NZ First together garnered 13,013 votes to the Greens 5,393, indicates just how conservative this region is.

Our local and regional issues and decision-making tend to play out in a non-partisan manner. Our councils don't debate issues as Greens or Nats.

That said, the overarching framework in which our local issues get decided and managed is of course massively influenced by the political orientation of our central government. Just for starters, if campaign promises hold true, the National Government will repeal the latest RMA re-write, bag the Māori Health Agency, abandon the structural reforms around 3 Waters and technical education, and tone down NZ's commitment to curbing farm GHG emissions.

All of these changes will affect 'core business' in Hawke's Bay. I preview some of this in my feature articles on the effects of the election on HB and our recovery process. Our other features address vexing issues that will carry forward politics aside - our

region's workforce crisis (as in too few skilled workers of every type) and the long tail of mental distress stemming from our cyclone disaster.

On the brighter and lighter side, we introduce you to pickleball, a new museum and a terrific NGO, offer some gift-giving advice, and pay homage to pyjamas, potluck dinners and our gin makers.

Enjoy!

But now I'd like to focus you on our January/February *BayBuzz* magazine, because we'll need your help to pull it off.

Our kick-off edition for 2024 will be all about celebrating the best of Hawke's Bay. Hopefully we'll provide a tonic to help overcome the lingering remnants of burnout.

We will be looking to feature the excellence achieved by Hawke's Bay individuals and companies, often in unnoticed but remarkable niches. Indeed, sometimes what they do is entirely under the radar here in Hawke's Bay, but recognised abroad as world-class.

We've begun building our list of achievers, but we need your help to identify the silent stars hiding in our midst. No niche is too small or quirky. If they - individual or company - are the best at what they do, we want to hear about them. Send your 'nominee' information to editors@baybuzz.co.nz. We'll take it from there.

But we need to hear from you by December 1!

Also, not a week goes by where a Hawke's Bay company or individual isn't recognised officially by their peers or competitors or industry as a winner - "the Gold Medal goes to ...". Many of these get identified to *BayBuzz* via the usual media release process. But again, many go unnoticed. Imagine what a year's worth of Hawke's Bay's winners might look like!

So, we want your help in this regard too. If you have been so recognised in 2023, or your grandkid or business or project has, again let us know by December 1. Same address: editors@baybuzz.co.nz

We're looking to prepare a truly celebratory edition of *BayBuzz* in January. Full of people and accomplishments that will surprise, inspire and delight you as you kick back, turn the page and look forward to a better year ahead.

Please help us cast as wide a net as possible ... we'd hate to overlook any of Hawke's Bay's best.

Warm wishes for the holiday season from the entire *BayBuzz* team!

Tom Belford



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Meeting a need

'Meeting a need' is Murray and Lorna Cowan's mantra as they volunteer their time for a community Christmas lunch. The couple have been part of the organising and volunteering committee at the community Christmas

lunch at the Havelock North Function Centre for seven years.

Murray said about seven to eight years ago the Christmas lunch organiser told him she couldn't do it all herself, and he decided to help.

"In my first year, I remember me and a house surgeon were doing dishes for five hours." It was a roadmap and a

lesson on what not to do.

"The key thing is not to let volunteers burn-out." He said volunteering was "hugely satisfying. It's a need you can meet, and it's a really nice thing to do."

Murray will, once again, be volunteering at the lunch this Christmas and Lorna will be taking the day off to spend it with family.

SERVING CHRISTMAS LUNCH

If you are feeling the Christmas spirit and might find yourself with spare time on Christmas Eve or Day, here is the perfect opportunity to help make someone else's day a bit brighter.

Age Concern Hawke's Bay can always use volunteers for its Hawke's Bay Free Community Christmas Lunch.

The lunch itself will be held at the Havelock North Function Centre. It is Age Concern Hawke's Bay's first year running it following the amalgamation with Age Concern Havelock North.

The lunch is provided for people 60 years and older who find themselves alone or who are without the resources to enjoy what many in Aotearoa, New Zealand take for granted, a special Christmas lunch.

Transport to the Christmas lunch will be provided. But for those who are unable to leave their house due to health or mobility reasons, lunch can also be delivered on the day.

It is a free community event funded through the support of the Hastings District Council, Hastings Karamu Rotary, Pure Catering, Gifford Devine and many local businesses making contributions to the day.

This will be the eleventh year a community Christmas lunch has been organised.

Age Concern Hawke's Bay manager Dairne Withers said the lunch was first started by Age Concern Havelock North with "significant volunteer support".

"In 2022 the lunch was run by a team of volunteers, including Murray and Lorna Cowan who have donated huge amounts of their time to this event over the years," Withers said.

"Murray and Lorna have been very supportive as this event transitioned to Age Concern Hawke's Bay following the amalgamation of Age Concern Havelock North with our organisation this year."

She said Age Concern Hawke's Bay felt privileged to continue this tradition for the older people of Hawke's Bay, and the good work of all those who went before them.

If you would like to be a part of this event, volunteers are needed on Christmas eve to set up, and then on the big day to manage and transport guests, serve and deliver food, and clean-up. ●

ageconcernhb.co.nz

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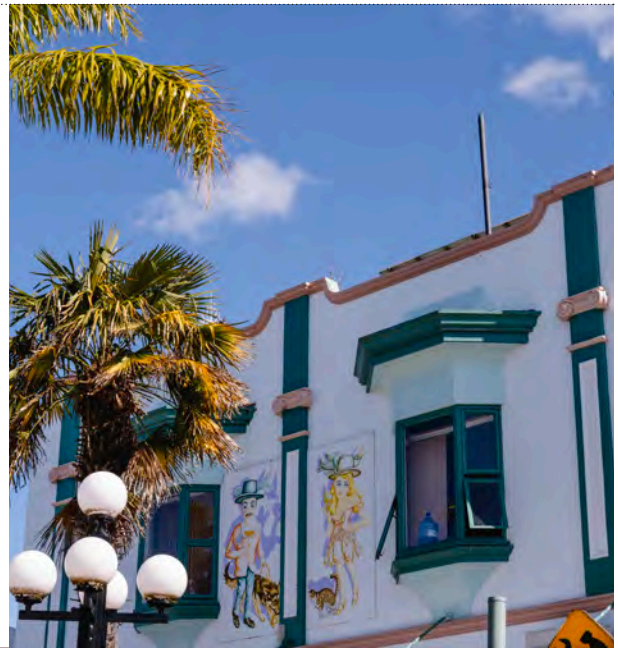
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DAY OUT



Sen Spa at 245 Emerson



Photos by
Florence Charvin

In this new series, we cast a little BayBuzz light on local treasures – spots you might need reminding about, places to explore in our own resilient, beautiful backyard. This issue, we're in Napier's Emerson Street.

LOOKING UP DOWN EMERSON STREET

Since February, the businesses of Napier's CBD have been doing it tough. The lack of out-of-town visitors and the challenging year faced by locals has meant things have been slow. But they're picking up, and Emerson Street is looking good, and looking forward to a big summer ahead, helped along by the return of cruise ships.

This end of 'the main drag' has some of the best examples of upstairs Art Deco architecture in town, so remem-

ber to look up when you're down here.

Fashion, beauty, cafes, conveniences, sports and recreation, even some iconic residential spots, it's all here in the block closer to lush Clive Square and Memorial Square.

The whole street is lining up for a major revamp project by Napier City Council, the first time in over 30 years Emerson Street has had a major spruce-up. There's a survey at sayitnapier.nz so everyone can share their ideas on Revitalise Emerson, with initial design work happening over the summer, and Stage 1 of the wider project starting later in 2024.

Some of us have already had a little

revitalisation of our own, thanks to the September arrival of Sen Spa at 245 Emerson. The warmth of welcome you receive from manager Poppy, and therapists Nong and Nicha when you step into Napier's newest massage place reflects the balmy sunshine outside. And with the finely balanced décor and luxe products, you'll find yourself in max-relax mode even in the waiting area before a blissful massage that will completely change your week!

Welcome to the CBD, Sen Spa stars, and all the best to the team of Emerson Streeters for a fabulous season ahead! ●





HAWKE'S BAY FOR THE HUIA

The Magnificent Huia. Image by John and Melody Anderson ©Wayfarer Images, Love our Birds™ www.wayfarerimages.co.nz

It's 100 years since Forest and Bird first spoke up for nature and launched Bird of the Year. The stakes run high for the honour. But this year the stakes are higher than ever, for voting will not be for Bird of the Year but Bird of the *Century*.

And feathers are feverishly fluttering – albeit extinct ones – for the glorious and sacred Huia to be first in line. With a deep connection to Hawke's Bay, we are going all out to champion this noble bird above all others.

Namesake Huia Wesling Macgregor is the Campaign Manager for the election. If you want to support the Huia she naturally knows much about this and would be delighted to share her knowledge with you – find her on Facebook: [te.tira.huia](https://www.facebook.com/te.tira.huia), or Instagram: [@te.tira.huia](https://www.instagram.com/te.tira.huia)

Even more exciting is the news that if you want to refresh your memory of these beautiful birds, the MTG Hawke's Bay can help.

Currently the exhibition *Taku Huia Kaimanawa* by artist Fiona Pardington is on display featuring five large-scale photographs of the Museums Trust taxidermized huia and feathers – one being the famous Colenso feather. On until December 3, come and be enveloped by the pure beauty of these works and their subject, the glorious but now extinct Huia.

Then read more about them in *Fine feathers* on page 72. Hastings will have 40 of their very own Huia feathers surrounding the stunning new build of the Hawke's Bay Regional Museum Research and Archives Centre. These are Huia feathers you can name as your own. Go to mtgfoundation.com to find out more.

Vote at birdoftheyear.org.nz

Make the Huia your No.1 choice!

Voting is open from 9am October 30 until 5pm November 12.

Coming up in our
Jan/Feb issue...

HAWKE'S BAY'S BEST!

In Hawke's Bay we punch above our weight in terms of talent and achievement – locally, nationally and internationally. We don't know all the quirky characters and companies amongst us who are the very best at what they do ... but you can help us fill the gaps ... tell us!

Email editors@baybuzz.co.nz to tell us who or what you want us to celebrate in this special issue.

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**ELECTION
IMPACT ON
HAWKE'S BAY**

As I write, the centre and extreme right have carried the day. Actually governing might be a different proposition. As you read this in early November, New Zealand will have a new two or (Yikes!) three-headed coalition Government. We'll do our best to analyse what this might mean for Hawke's Bay.

Story by Tom Belford

First, let's begin with what is certain. Hawke's Bay has elected two new, first-time MPs - Catherine Wedd for Tuketuki and Katie Nimon for Napier.

Both have big shoes to fill.

As a high-ranking Cabinet Minister, until his fall from grace Stuart Nash carried weight and influence within his Government's deliberations - and in securing benefits for Napier - that MP Nimon won't carry for another election or two. But she has no shortage of brains or energy, and has a first-hand knowledge of the region's hospitality and transport issues, so should grow into the role if there are more terms in her future.

Anna Lorck was the region's junior MP, but it would be hard to imagine a harder working, more persistent champion for the Tuketuki constituency. In terms of service, she's set a high bar for her successor. Given that MP Wedd has never before been involved in the community, it will be interesting to see how she sinks roots into the region's various competing interests and issues.

Most of those who voted against Nimon or Wedd would have the view, fairly or not, that they are clueless about the needs of the bottom socioeconomic quarter of Hawke's Bay's population. Hopefully they will demonstrate otherwise.

Meantime, coalition-forming will result in an already conservative National Party being pulled strongly to the right.

The campaign has shed virtually no light on how this Government will pay for New Zealand's absolute necessities - 3 Waters, transport and health infrastructure; remaining near-term recovery needs; severe labour and skills



shortages in every critical occupation - healthcare, education, aged care, engineering, trades, prison guards; affordable housing; preparing for a climate-challenging future.

Despite ACT's plan to cut \$25.5 billion in government spending, sack 15,000 public employees, and scrap entire departments and agencies, there simply aren't enough Wellington bureaucrats to fire. Only so many workers to move from the 'back office' to the 'frontline'. Not enough regulations to repeal. Not enough cheap '100 day' magic to carry through a full term.

At some point, the National-led Government will need to face the reality that 'quash' isn't enough, real solutions will require 'dosh', not shell games. And its backers must be the one's to pay. Good luck explaining that to David Seymour!

While the high powers sort out the Cabinet table seating, it is possible to give some taste of how a new Government might affect business-as-usual here in Hawke's Bay.

Primary sector

Starting with our primary sector economic engine, currently sputtering in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle.

Count on our local primary sector leaders to be making two basic demands: 1) more Government money to support a stronger re-start for food growers; and 2) 'rescue' from 'excessive' demands for freshwater water quality and, for the sheep and beef farmers, 'overly ambitious' GHG reductions.

Dealing first with cyclone relief, the original estimate of HB farm/orchard losses was around \$1 billion, with damage having a multi-year long tail.

At some point, the National-led Government will need to face the reality that 'quash' isn't enough, real solutions will require 'dosh'.

Turning to agriculture's environmental challenges, the Labour Government promulgated tougher freshwater standards, now in the process of being implemented. Regions are required to have catchment-based plans for attaining those targets, and farmers are required to have farm plans indicating how they will comply with the targets behind their farm gate. Farmers are also required to be measuring their GHG emissions by the end of this year.

With ACT and NZ First downright hostile to action on climate change (ACT wanting to scrap the Zero Carbon Act), and National believing Labour's treatment of agricultural emissions (chiefly methane) is too aggressive, 'relaxation' of climate-related requirements is a sure bet. Whether the Government will tamper with the freshwater standards is unclear, as the issue here is more the pace of implementation than the standards themselves. Hawke's Bay had already been given a modest postponement in meeting the freshwater policy requirements, as Labour had sought to roll these out sequentially across the nation.

When demands like these hit the Cabinet, countervailing considerations will be fiscal reality in the first instance. The Labour Government, and now its successor, had to be mindful of the precedents being set by any form

Regardless of who is in power, it will take most of a decade – even assuming the political will and capacity to spend more heavily on this sector exists – before NZ has the health workforce it requires.

of large-scale disaster relief assistance, given that similar future disasters of this scale are a certainty. Complicated issues to sort out.

And while Labour’s political critics complained of the pace of decision-making, a National-led Government could not behave differently. Labour’s response was a mixture of cash relief directed chiefly at immediate clean-up and a loan financing scheme (bank led) aimed at supporting viable farming/growing businesses to get back on their feet as quickly as possible.

HB’s primary sector didn’t get government support in the amount it wanted, nor in the form it wanted. The new Government will struggle to find any more cash in the till.

As for relaxing environmental and climate goals, the Government will discover widespread agribusiness leader recognition that our economy-sustaining overseas customers expect NZ to ‘walk the talk’ with respect to stringent environmental standards and serious emissions reductions. NZ’s – and HB’s – agriculture economy is first and foremost an export-driven sector. The smart leaders in agribiz realise that access to overseas markets must be the number one objective. Hopefully they will have the ear of the incoming Government.

However that big picture debate comes out, there will still be space for local squabbles over how to advance the interests of HB’s farming sector. At the top of the list will be how to achieve greater water security, which will resolve around the perceived need and options for large-scale water storage.

Healthcare

On the healthcare front, the parties to the incoming Government agree on the scrapping of the Māori Health Agency. It’s a goner. No one is talking about a return to DHBs, so it’s unclear what other structural change might occur.

A bigger question mark for HB is where on National’s priority list a new hospital will be? Their health policy manifesto specifically promises to complete a hospital for Dunedin, but makes no comment whatsoever on any other hospital construction. Until further notice, say good-bye to the \$1.1 billion ante proffered by Labour.

Some might consider a new hospital for Hawke’s Bay as gravy, considering that there’s insufficient clinical staff available to run the one we have safely. Or enough GPs to open enrollments. Or enough health caretakers to provide home care to HB’s rapidly growing ageing population.

National’s campaign manifesto essentially replicated all the existing Labour targets on outcomes, vaccinations, and waiting times, but without the necessary workforce, targets remain nothing more than wish lists ... nothing will improve. That’s the reality faced by the new Government and Labour alike. Labour was on the right path, putting up the money for substantial pay raises for nurses and midwives, and loosening immigration.

National said it would earmark \$1.4 billion in each of the next four budgets to cover ‘health sector cost pressures’. This would be more impressive if a credible source of such funding were discoverable in their fiscal plan.

Regardless of who is in power, it will take most of a decade – even assuming the political will and capacity to spend more heavily on this sector exists – before NZ has the health workforce it requires.

So, HB patients, don’t expect to see much change over the next three years.

Cyclone recovery

Labour’s main contribution to near-term cyclone recovery was a package of \$556 million applied to home buy-outs (up to \$92.5 million), flood protection (\$203.5 million), and repair

of transportation infrastructure (\$260 million). Other government monies have been provided for silt removal, individual and small business cash support, disaster hubs, research into health and environmental impacts, tourism promotion, etc.

More recently, a draft plan from Hawke’s Bay Regional Recovery Agency (HBRRA) put the full price tag for recovery at \$4.2 billion. Says HBRRA: “This includes cost estimates for short term-Restoration activities as well as Reconstruction and Improvement activities over several years.”

As discussed above, a substantial portion of that, a bit over \$1 billion would be claimed by our primary sector.

Referring to a potential change of Government, the draft Regional Recovery Plan prepared by HBRRA states: “A shift in political leadership could result in changes to existing policies, laws, or funding priorities. This could lead to disruptions in the implementation of recovery initiatives, changes in funding allocations, or shifts in strategic priorities.” Surely our new Hawke’s Bay MPs won’t allow this to happen!

That cautionary note aside, in terms of commitments made by the Labour Government to Hawke’s Bay’s recovery, our local officials expect those to stand. Blair O’Keeffe, chair of the HB Regional Recovery Agency told BayBuzz: “The Opposition has made it clear that they will honour commitments made by the current Government, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with the incoming Government – whoever that is – post-election.” We shall see ... certainly David Seymour seems to have a warm spot in his heart for Hawke’s Bay.

Other than complaining, through its local MP candidates, that local officials were moving too slowly to sort the futures of distressed property owners, and proposing an ombudsman to fix things, National has been circumspect about Hawke’s Bay’s recovery needs. Nothing has been said about committing any remaining part of the region’s recovery price tag. I discuss the region’s recovery prospects elsewhere in this magazine.

Co-governance

The only disagreement amongst coalition parties on this issue is how aggressively to roll-back various Labour initiatives to promote Māori

The only disagreement amongst coalition parties on co-governance is how aggressively to roll-back Labour initiatives to promote Māori participation and cultural recognition.

participation and cultural recognition. At the extreme, ACT wants to rewrite the Treaty of Waitangi via a Treaty Principles Act and then put that Act to a referendum. National opposes that. NZ First, if relevant, is somewhere in between.

Whatever this trio comes up with will surely be seen by Māori (at the very least) as unconscionable steps backward in the nation's social comity. Hopefully here in Hawke's Bay, with a 27% Māori population, we will weather the storm, as Denis O'Reilly opines in his column.

At a local governance level, nothing is likely to change. The Māori seats on our various councils will remain, and Māori participation in other key decision-making bodies, like the Regional Recovery Agency and the Regional Economic Development Agency, will remain secure. Our current crop of local political and agency leaders seems genuinely committed to co-governance in form; whether it works is more in the hands of Māori participants ... issue by issue, entity by entity.

Crime

As Abby Beswick reported in her Sep/Oct BayBuzz article, *True Crime*, Hawke's Bay's crime profile is a mixed bag.

Compared to last year, residential assault, non-residential assault, general violence and disorder, and residential burglary have all decreased in the region, say Police. There are specific areas of concern, however. Arguably most alarming is the increase in gang membership, with the number of people on the police gang register in the Eastern District rising from 801 in 2017, to 1367 in 2023 - an increase of 71%.

Retail and violent crime incidents have also increased in our region, with retail incidents increasing 41% between 2018 and 2022, and violent crime by 23% between 2017 and 2022.

Unfortunately, there's been too much rhetorical nonsense around crime in this campaign.

The political right's war on crime boils down to banning patches in public, boot camps and throwing more people in prison.

Well, our region has a prison. The incoming Government would promise plenty more inmates available for the Hawke's Bay prison at an annual cost of \$151,000 per head, if we can fit them in. National says we have the space, but news reports say prisoners are being shuffled around as some prisons reach capacity limit, partly due to guards shortage.

One glimmer of hope on the crime scene is that both Labour and National agree that more attention and resourcing should be given to prisoner rehabilitation programmes and post-prison help. Today, prisoners not yet formally convicted receive no rehab, and upon release a prisoner is given a laughable one-off \$350 'Steps to Freedom' payment.

Wouldn't it be good to see the coalition parties focus their adrenaline on the major cause of violence in New Zealand ... domestic violence! It's the number one reason for Police callouts - Police respond to a family harm incident every four minutes. One in three New Zealand women have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime, rising to 55% when psychological abuse is added. One in eight men report being victims of family violence.

Also hopeful is that Chris Luxon previously expressed support for a Labour-launched strategy to eliminate family and sexual violence. He has referred to NZ's "shameful record" which required "bipartisan, cross-party support" to address.

With family violence being a huge issue in Hawke's Bay, that sounds like a terrific and deserving remit from the boss for National MPs Wedd and Nimon - passionate about crime during their campaigns - to champion just as passionately in office.

These are the areas - where Government policies have a particular or special impact on Hawke's Bay - that *BayBuzz* will be following as the new regime takes hold. Heaps of change ahead with consequences to be assessed. Heaps of campaign promises made, to be held to account.

Stay tuned. ●



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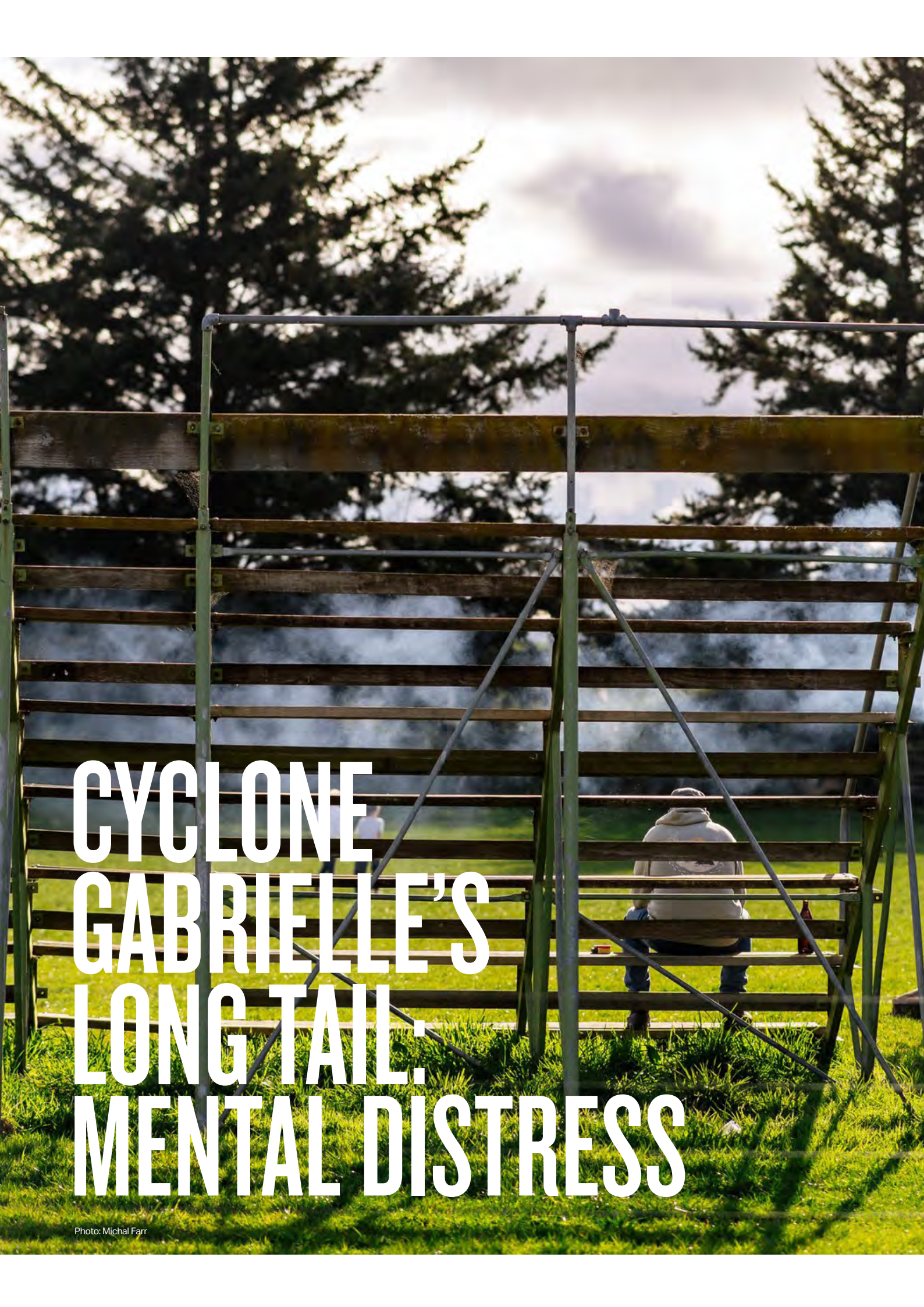
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CYCLONE GABRIELLE'S LONG TAIL: MENTAL DISTRESS

Photo: Michal Farr



Story by Sahiban Hyde

Photos by Michal Farr
+ Florence Charvin

On February 14, Cyclone Gabrielle struck Hawke's Bay causing widespread devastation, and the death of eight people in the region, with the youngest being only 2. Post the cyclone Health Minister Ayesha Verrall announced a dedicated investment into mental health and wellbeing support, as part of the Budget 2023 Cyclone Recovery Package.

"We know from other disasters in New Zealand and globally that mental health impacts emerge over time. The demand for various services will change over the next six to 12 months, and our response will evolve to ensure we're responding," Verrall said.

"It's not just the immediate response that's important, there are longer-term impacts on mental health, which is why we're allocating a total of \$10 million to provide additional support for community-led mental wellbeing initiatives."

The New Zealand Disaster Fund by September 18 had committed more than \$22 million to helping people and communities affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and other severe weather events earlier this year. The entire fund will be committed by the one-year anniversary of the cyclone next February.

One of the New Zealand Disaster Fund's major priorities was supporting mental wellbeing after the cyclone and other severe weather events in early 2023 - more than \$1.8 million in grants to organisations providing mental health services and running community-based mental health programmes in affected areas.

For example, a \$53,000 grant from the Disaster Fund has helped the

Heretaunga Women's Centre provide free counselling services to women affected by the cyclone.

This article examines the continuing mental health impact of the cyclone on our community, but it is in no way an exhaustive list of all impacted.

Long tail ... symptoms persist

Wanda Douglas has worked as director of psychology for seven years for RNZAF, has spent more than 20 years in the NZ Army as a reservist psychologist, and is now helping Hawke's Bay Fruit growers, winegrowers and Rural Trust in recovery post-cyclone.

"Before the cyclone I was approached by Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers to help when required, and then the cyclone hit."

She said the immediate response post-cyclone was 'critical incident stress response'.

"It started off with the typical fight, flight or freeze response. That was followed by 'we are safe now, don't have to be hyper-vigilant."

"The reality has hit more recently. Now it's time to make decisions, and it's now that it is getting really hard."

Typically, Douglas, who is not a clinical psychologist, will conduct a psychometric test for signs of PTSD, stress, anxiety, suicidal ideation and then refer onto colleagues if required.

Most of the people she saw post-cyclone were following the psychosocial model of recovery.

"It starts with seeking out help, self-preservation, then it's followed by the honeymoon phase, then the disillusionment phase which can take months to years after the event to recover from, and the reconstruct phase which is recovery, typically a year after the disaster."

She said the reaction times varied, but approximately 10% showed

"It starts with seeking out help, self-preservation, then it's followed by the honeymoon phase, then the disillusionment phase which can take months to years after the event to recover from, and the reconstruct phase which is recovery, typically a year after the disaster."

Wanda Douglas

some symptoms of stress, anxiety etc straight after the cyclone, about 45% three to four days after the cyclone, about 20% six weeks after the cyclone, and 20% would continue showing symptoms up to 12 months post-cyclone.

About 1% to 5% would be "profoundly impacted" and still experiencing symptoms after a year.

"The long-term mental impact most people will go through is grief - grief around the loss of a dream or a legacy. The intangible impact of what life would have looked like," she said.

"There's also a lot of guilt out there for orchardists, fruit-growers and even key decision makers who, perhaps, were not as badly impacted as others."

The way to help for the long-term was to keep information channels open, ensuring people don't get forgotten about, and caution around celebration, she said.

"It's really raw, and really tough right now for some people. We need to recognise not everyone will be in the same boat or react the same way.

"We need to have courageous conversations so we can move through and look forward."

"Outta sight, outta mind"

"It's a case of outta sight, outta mind... you can't see the paddocks of the sea fish are harvested from ... the



long-term psychological impact on fishers is far greater than that on farmers,” says fisher Darren Guard.

Guard knows a thing or two about the commercial fishing industry. He was introduced to fishing at a very young age due to his family being “in the business” - Guard Fishing. He worked his way up the business from crew to skipper to Managing Director, with 20 years in the family business.

In 2005 Maritime New Zealand and the Seafood Industry Training Organisation (SITO) asked Guard to help them deliver FishSAFE, their safety training programme for commercial fishing vessels. 70 workshops were held for 1000 fishers, which led to a 51% reduction in new accident claims during the period of its lifecycle. While at Maritime New Zealand he studied and gained an Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) qualification among other studies.

He currently works as a general manager of operations at FirstMate, a charitable trust formed in 2021 to help support the wellbeing and mental health of those who work in the commercial seafood sector and their whānau.

He said the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle has been “catastrophic”.

“Anecdotally income opportunities have reduced by 70% to 80%, there’s only 30 to 40% of fish available because of debris - largely logs,

“The long-term uncertainty is crippling. Fishers are waiting around to see when the axe will drop, or if it will.”
Darren Guard

machinery, silt from farm beds, etc on fishing grounds. If debris are in the way fishers can’t move, they are not mobile as it’s a significant hazard.

“A lot of equipment was lost for fishers, and the sea became largely unsafe to navigate because of debris.

“It’s unworkable. There are huge fields of debris.”

He said the immediate impact of the cyclone was both sea and shore-based.

“Fishing companies closed down on shore, and at sea fishers couldn’t unload product, rāhui had been put in place as well,” he said.

He said approximately 30 businesses were immediately impacted, and about 60 businesses at sea were feeling the sting post-cyclone. Ngāti Kahungunu’s fisheries business Takitimu Seafoods shut down in April after financial struggles due to Covid-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle, resulting in 33 people losing their jobs.

“The impact of the cyclone financially has been huge. I know some fishers who have left the region to survive. It’s a huge stressor for fishers because fishing is their livelihood.”

He said ‘land-based’ damage could be quantified and assessed but the damage to the seabed couldn’t be seen. “The psychological impact of the unknown and uncertainty around whether fishers will survive is far greater for fishermen than it is for farmers.”

Guard said that every single one of the main fishers fishing in the Gabrielle-hit area were impacted.

“They all had to modify their business to continue. The largest impact was felt on those who fish closer to shore, because a majority of those fishing grounds are largely unavailable.

“A third of all fishers were severely impacted. The catastrophic impact of the cyclone will be inter-generational.”

He said the worst mental stressor for fishers was something which wouldn’t be known for at least five years.

“The silt from the cyclone has impacted the seabed, potentially disrupting the breeding cycle, if there’s no cycle, there’ll be no fish, if there’s no fish, there’ll be no fishermen.

“The long-term uncertainty is crippling. Fishers are waiting around to see when the axe will drop, or if it will.”

He said another stressor was the



Photo: Florence Charvin

"I expect the number of women coming to us to seek counselling services to keep rising in the next few months."

Jenny Whitehead

Jo* on her own

Jo found being on her own after the cyclone "quite challenging and scary... I needed to talk to someone."

"It was a very stressful time - end of a 20-year marriage. Dealing with lawyers, I felt I was doing OK, but could feel that I might not be if I didn't get some counselling.

"Found being on my own after the cyclone and flood quite challenging and scary. Felt that driving to work when roads finally opened and seeing the devastation made me cry on the way. I was feeling vulnerable and uncertain about the future."

She decided to approach Heretaunga Women's Centre to undertake counselling. "It made me look back and think about things. I found that the most helpful," Jo said.

"I could understand more about what I had gone through and what was happening for me now and felt it was OK to look back. It wasn't dwelling on it or getting stuck but helped with the moving on and making plans bit."

"I needed to talk to someone ... I think if I hadn't done the counselling I wouldn't feel as whole as I do now or as able to feel positive and make future plans that actually have meaning."

(*Name has been changed to protect identity)

worry which accompanied getting blamed for lack of fish.

"Fishers are really worried they will get blamed for lack of fish stocks. There's a general distrust of commercial fishermen and the public perception is a major stressor."

He said moving regions was an option available, but only to some. "For a fisher to relocate, someone from the other region must relocate as well as it's all based on quota. Most fishers are largely stuck in the region."

He said government departments had to be battled with so fishers could get some help.

"It was fait accompli for growers, we have had to fight for it. The impacts of the cyclone are far greater on fishers, supports should be greater as well."

FirstMate adverse events navigator Vicky Hunt concurred. "The seabed is hidden, and we are not yet aware of how much damage has been done to fishing grounds.

"Fishers have had to go out further afield than they did previously, and those who would normally fish for the day, now have to go away from their families for two to three days.

"It takes a huge mental toll and it's not something which will go away overnight. Right now, they don't know whether fishing will still be there ... we need to keep the door open to support them."

Touching hundreds of farmers

East Coast Rural Support Trust Area Coordinator Jonathan Bell said it was hard to give a "definitive number" in terms of farmers they supported.

"We support sheep & beef, dairying, cropping, vegetable growers, horticulturists and viticulturists. I would be reluctant to put a number on it, but over 4,000 wouldn't be an unreasonable number," Bell said.

"We have touched base with hundreds of farmers since the cyclone, some a very light touch - at a community meeting as an example. The number we are dealing with as clients is confidential, and those seeking mental wellbeing health, or counselling, would be less than 180.

He said every situation was different and there wasn't an emerging theme as such in terms of the mental health impact of the cyclone on farmers.

"Farmers have issues which cause stress which relate to farm infrastructure damage (fences, tracks, culverts, dams), access into and out of their farms (fragile roads and bridges), land categorisation, increasing interest rates, a low dairy payout forecast and falling lamb schedules all impact on farmers and increase stress levels."

The Rural Support Trust and other organisations are helping farmers in a variety of ways.

"Such things as community events to encourage connectivity (one of the five ways to wellbeing), information workshops/meetings which provide technical information, assistance with completion of applications for funding or sediment removal from properties, wellness events etc," Bell said.

"All these promote the importance of keeping safe, looking after yourself and give an opportunity to connect and identify those that are struggling, or give those that are struggling the contacts for those that can help, e.g. Rural Support Trust."

Women struggling to cope

Jenny Whitehead has been working as a counsellor at the Heretaunga Women's Centre since October 2020.

She said, "Women who were managing, just, before Cyclone Gabrielle, are no longer coping."

Since Cyclone Gabrielle there's been a groundswell of demand for counselling services at HWC with an increase in numbers and complexity of issues women are presenting with.

"There's also been a definite increase in women reporting physical,



Phil Ross. Photo: Florence Charvin

Health Improvement Practitioners (HIPS) help patients develop skills to make positive behavioural changes in their wellbeing. This includes managing stress, thoughts, feelings, and behaviours, helping with sleep, alcohol and drug problems.

emotional and psychological abuse.”

She didn’t foresee the demand decreasing in the near future. “I expect the number of women coming to us to seek counselling services to keep rising in the next few months.”

She said the rising cost of living didn’t help because, for some women, it meant they were without accommodation if they decided to leave the perpetrator.

“People say ‘why don’t you leave’ but it’s not as simple as that. It’s complex, for some women it’s about where they would go if they left, how they would cope alone.”

Drug and alcohol issues

Whatever It Takes Trust (WITT) general manager Phil Ross said referrals to WITT had increased; however minimally so far for mental health issues relating specifically to the cyclone.

“What we did experience post-Covid lockdowns was that there was a lag of 9 to 18 months before people presented with mental health and anxiety issues relating to those events,” Ross said.

“This may indicate that there will be further people seeking help over the coming year or years.

“We have had some staff involved in community groups, particularly rural groups providing support to those

impacted by the cyclone. This will be an ongoing issue. Anecdotally there has been an increase in people seeking help with drug and alcohol issues which impacts on mental health and family harm.”

WITT supports adults generally from 20 to 70 plus years old. It is both a Mental Health & Addiction Support Service and a Community Housing Provider.

“Part of our Housing Services covers the homeless through the Housing First initiative and also through our Outreach Centre in Clive Square,” Ross said.

“This is where we are seeing the biggest impact. Our Outreach Centre caters for rough sleepers and other homeless whānau and has seen numbers at times double of what we experienced pre-cyclone - sometimes up to 50 people per day dropping in.”

He said pre-cyclone the daily numbers varied from 15 to 25, and post-cyclone they have been 25 to 50 per day.

“They don’t all stay all day, but call in. Over the cyclone we set up a night shelter for 15 whānau (5 wāhine and 10 tāne) for a week to provide shelter, kai and also provided assistance seeking support from Civil Defence centres, MSD etc.”

Ross said the Trust had “great support” from the community and

organisations providing generators, barbecues, gas, fuel and lots of food, especially from supermarkets and restaurants.

“There have been many impacts from the cyclone, including loss of jobs. And combined with increasing cost of living those of our communities on lower incomes and the vulnerable have difficulty in making ends meet.

“The communities of Hawke’s Bay provided great support post-cyclone, however this needs to continue for the foreseeable future.”

Steady number of referrals

Health Hawke’s Bay Mental Health Service Lead Samara Kelly said since Cyclone Gabrielle the PHO remained steady in the number of referrals they had been receiving and presentations across both IPMHAs (integrated primary mental health and addictions) and Talking Based Therapy referrals.

The following services are offered.

Health Improvement Practitioners (HIPS) and Health Coaches (HC), part of the integrated primary mental health and addictions; and Talking Based Therapy.

HIPS are a clinical work force who are able to see patients experiencing stressors and wellbeing challenges

within allocated general practices. HIPs help patients develop skills to make positive behavioural changes in their wellbeing. This includes managing stress, thoughts, feelings and behaviours, helping with sleep, alcohol and drug problems. They provide support to all ages including children, youth and their whānau who may have worries or have behavioural concerns.

Health Coaches (HCs) work alongside Health Improvement Practitioners and the general practice teams. Health Coaches come from a range of health and well-being backgrounds and empower people to take control of their health and wellbeing by developing realistic goals and encouraging good management of various health issues that the patient wants to address.

Talking Based Therapy supports patients experiencing mild to moderate mental health distress via 4 free sessions (one package of care) of talking therapies with a skilled clinician. Talking Based Therapists are based in locations throughout Napier and Hastings with providers in CHB and Wairoa.

Referral to these services is via General Practice (so the patient must be registered in one); the services are free.

“Our Outreach centre caters for rough sleepers and other homeless whanau and has seen numbers at times double of what we experienced pre-cyclone – sometimes up to 50 people per day dropping in.”

Phil Ross, WITT

Cyclone Gabrielle ACC claims

Cyclone related ACC claims cost \$1,086,728 between February 12 to August 14.

ACC’s deputy chief executive of service delivery Amanda Malu said ACC undertook a range of short-term initiatives for clients impacted by the cyclone in the Northland, Hawke’s Bay and Tairāwhiti regions, accepting a total of 82 mental injury claims between the period of February 12 and August 14.

ACC can provide mental injury cover if someone suffers a mental injury as a result of a physical injury, or if they require mental health support as the result of witnessing a traumatic event while working (e.g. emergency first responders).

The waiting time to see a psychologist or psychiatrist has depended on

geographical location. On average, it varied between 4-6 weeks or 6-8 weeks as some areas have less psychologists or psychiatrists available or areas of high demand.

Malu said ACC was there to help whānau and families faced with the loss of loved ones from Cyclone Gabrielle. “We can help with funeral or memorial costs, one-off payments and loss of income,” she said. “An application can be made whenever the whānau feel comfortable, there’s no time limit.”

The ways in which ACC can provide support are:

Funeral grant: a one-off payment of up to \$7,024.80 towards funeral and memorial costs.

Survivor’s grant: one-off payment of \$7,531.49 to the deceased’s spouse or partner, and \$3,765.76 to each child under 18 or other dependants.

Childcare: If the deceased had children, ACC can provide weekly payments to help with childcare for children under the age of 14.

Loss of income: If the deceased was earning an income when they died, ACC can pay up to 80% of the deceased’s earnings. This is divided between the partner, children and other dependants.



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Fuel your Stoke

Fuel your Stoke Tour was a series of six free concerts to raise spirits across some of the rural communities hit the hardest by Cyclone Gabrielle.

The concerts were aimed at all ages, and offered live performances from local artists, food, activities and mental health resources and professionals present to engage with attendees.

Fuel your Stoke Tour founder Jack Jensen said the idea of a tour was sparked pre-cyclone.

“Me and my right-hand man Warren Brown, who lost his son 14 years ago, connected after my closest friend took his life in 2020.

“We were losing good people to suicide and the idea of a tour came about.”

But then Cyclone Gabrielle struck. “We knuckled in and were all hands on deck after that.”

Post the cyclone Jack and his partner Micki established the ‘Hawke’s Bay Helping’ website to assist people across the Bay and connect volunteers to those who needed help.

Once the voluntary work slowed, he recognised the region was facing a mental health crisis.

“We had to move fast, so we went back to people and property owners that lost everything and asked what they needed most.

“The answer was space, space to disconnect from all the bad stuff going on and that’s when the concept for the Fuel Your Stoke Tour came about.

“We wanted to make it free so there was no excuse not to turn up.”

He said it was a tour that was needed more than ever. “We ripped into it and it was great to see the froth, and love and stokes it brought people ... it was also humbling to see it bring so many people together.

“It took some weight off the shoulders of people who had been through hell and back.”

He said approximately 1,500 people had “rolled through”.

“We wanted to let these people know that we were not allowing them to fall through the cracks ... we worked on the principle of one person, one life, at a time, which would create a ripple effect.”

Suffering from depression or stress, or know someone who is? Where to get help:

RURAL SUPPORT TRUST: 0800 RURAL HELP

DEPRESSION HELPLINE: 0800 111 757

LIFELINE: 0800 543 354

NEED TO TALK? Call or text 1737

SAMARITANS: 0800 726 666

YOUTHLINE: 0800 376 633 or text 234



Royston Hospital is pleased to sponsor robust examination of health issues in Hawke’s Bay. This reporting is prepared by BayBuzz. Any editorial views expressed are those of the BayBuzz team.



From top left: Jack Jensen and Mandy (Jack’s mum and BayBuzz advertising manager). Fuel Your Stoke events at Tikokino and Puketapu. Photos: Michael Farr





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IS THAT GOLD DUST OR SILT?



RECOVERY ROLLS ON

Story by Tom Belford

The grand design for Hawke's Bay's recovery is now expressed in official presentations as 'Restoration ... Resilience ... Opportunity Capture'. And the 'how to' of this design still pays homage to: Locally led, regionally coordinated and nationally supported.

The orchestra leader for this process, but not decision-maker, is the Hawke's Bay Regional Recovery Agency (HBRRRA), an entity appointed by our local political and iwi leaders (the Matariki Governance Group) but paid for by the Crown.

And the elixir that must fuel the process is money. It all boils down to money. Money taken from today's pockets, whether ratepayer or taxpayer, and/or borrowed at the expense of future generations on the grounds that genuine recovery that includes resilience 'opportunity capture' is really all about the future.

Let's pick this apart.

Grand design

Back in May, our councils and Treaty Settlement Groups were asked to identify and price their recovery needs. For councils, these were called 'Locality Plans' and each council has published these, including iwi input, on their websites.

Not surprisingly, given the time pressures and natural bureaucratic urges, our councils threw every bit of mud they could think up at the wall in hopes

that much might stick. From true recovery needs with specificity (restore these bridges) to aspirational items languishing unfunded on councils' backburners (more housing) to 'blue sky' dreams (biofuel to waste facility) with no evidential case on hand.

HBRRRA rolled these up, uncritically, into a master 'ask' costing \$4.2 billion over 7+ years. That became the Regional Recovery Plan 1.0. The next step was to boil that down into something more integrated and prioritised for the region, a task that was to be completed in this last quarter of the year. A draft Recovery Plan 2.0 was in circulation during September/October, but its finalisation has been overtaken by the election of a new Government.

All during the post-cyclone window, the overriding mission of our elected leaders and HBRRRA has been to negotiate as much Government financial assistance as possible. Those lobbying efforts produced a package of \$556 million applied to home buyouts (up to \$92.5 million), flood protection (\$203.5 million), and repair of transportation infrastructure (\$260 million). Substantial additional central government monies have been provided for silt removal, individual and small business cash support, disaster hubs, research into health and environmental impacts, tourism promotion, etc.

Thank you, Labour Government. Good-bye Labour Government.

Election re-set

As I report in another article herein, HBRRRA Chair Blair O'Keeffe had

The overriding mission of our elected leaders and HBRRRA has been to negotiate as much Government financial assistance as possible.

reassured BayBuzz pre-election: "The Opposition has made it clear that they will honour commitments made by the current Government, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with the incoming Government - whoever that is - post-election."

Consequently, with the election result, the orderly process of refining the Recovery Plan, and both quietly and publicly building community support for it, has necessarily been overtaken by the urgent need to freshly present the National/ACT Government with a unified case for meeting Hawke's Bay's stripped down and clearly prioritised recovery needs. What do we *really* need that will yield the greatest effect?

That case is presented in a 'Briefing for Incoming Minister' (in our case, a presumed new Recovery Minister) or BIM. So, in the window between 14 October and you reading this article, a BIM has been produced by our HBRRRA.

This process was previewed in a public presentation to the Napier City Council on 12 October, which I urge you to view online.

Some key points arising from that



presentation by HBRRA Chair Blair O’Keeffe and CEO Ross McLeod:

- We will be moving *very* quickly.
- While HBRRA would of course confer with councils and draw upon councils’ extensive recovery planning and emerging LTP (Long-term Plan) work, the urgency of the exercise would require it to be ‘top down’ versus ‘bottom up’.
- Key focus areas of the BIM will be core recovery (e.g., silt & debris removal, short-term housing), Category 3 relocation, longer-term housing, infrastructure (including SH 5 and 2, electricity sector), water security, hospital/health services, ‘stand-alone EIT’ and workforce development, and freight logistics and roading. Some real teasers on that list!
- The BIM would be more a well-rounded articulation of regional recovery priorities and their justification - one voice being essential - rather than a direct money ask.

Trusting the process

During the presentation, Mayor Wise queried about opportunities in this process for community consultation. The answer, put forward by Blair

To succeed, all of this requires a great deal of political maturity and trust – both amongst our elected and appointed leaders, and between them and the public.

O’Keeffe with delicacy, was, with respect to the BIM, not at this stage.

He noted that work on the more comprehensive and refined Recovery Plan 2.0 would proceed in the balance of 2023, and then in the first quarter of 2024 the heavy lifting would begin. Councils will be shaping their own LTPs, these and other sector plans will be integrated and prioritised, with the resultant Regional Plan nailed down and becoming the blueprint for lobbying the Government’s first budget.

His assumption is that the councils will undertake public consultation as they normally would in 2024 as required to prepare and adopt their LTPs. Since the LTPs take a 10-year

view, with detailed focus on the first three years, arguably recovery issues would be surfaced and consulted. However, what remains unclear is whether or how the public would be asked its views on which projects or actions should be on the first tranche ‘top 5 or 10’ list versus the outyears.

As CEO McLeod puts it, HBRRA must play a ‘programming and sequencing’ role - the recovery task ahead is huge. Without unlimited funding, material and workforce, not all desired actions can be initiated at once. Priorities must be set, and resources must be allocated across the next 7-10 years.

Commenting on this process, O’Keeffe has been clear that the HBRRA is not a decision-maker empowered to instruct outcomes from our councils. Instead, the Agency’s role, he says, is to “shine light” where needed and ensure that “better conversations” are occurring amongst the relevant players. I call that ‘knocking heads’.

To succeed, all of this requires a great deal of political maturity and trust - both amongst our elected and appointed leaders, and between them and the public.

Key recovery players insist that our elected leaders and council executives have demonstrated outstanding

Communicating exactly what is being done, why is it being done (including instead of something else), and whether it is getting done at pace and working, need never be compromised.



willingness to collaborate post-cyclone. But they have not yet been required to compromise ... as they will be at unprecedented scale when it comes time to pare wish lists down into realistic regional priorities. And there are many other public and private sector players whose team spirit will be tested.

Additionally, the role and performance of HBRRA itself, however self-effacing its leaders are, will also come under greater public scrutiny, given its vital importance - initially, as master compiler, planner and integrator, and later as monitor of the Regional Recovery implementation.

Given the stakes involved, nothing less than a regular 'Report Card' must be issued by HBRRA on the performance of *all* Recovery players - not just our councils, but including iwi entities,

Unison, Transpower, KiwiRail, EIT, Waka Kotahi and the local 'leadership' of our health, housing and social welfare agencies.

The public deserves accountability. For every bit of public consultation that must be abridged in the interest of urgent regional response, an offsetting dose of transparency must be added. And while core rapid recovery might excuse foregoing consultation on those immediate plans, as the process eventually moves into what HBRRA, taking a longer view, calls 'Opportunity Capture', the need and expectation for public engagement will again be justified.

Transparency and public engagement are related, but different.

Urgency might be allowed to impinge upon engagement from time to time, but transparency can

and should always be provided. Communicating exactly what is being done, why it is being done (including instead of something else), and whether it is getting done at pace and working, need never be compromised. Back to that 'Report Card'.

The 'planning' part of HB's recovery I believe can be trusted - it's in the hands of well-informed people who are both pragmatic and visionary. But I would never take for granted accountability for effectively implementing 'The Plan' - competing agendas will reappear, sand will get in the gears.

And HBRRA - the orchestra leader - is funded just until 30 June 2025. And then what? HB decision-making returns to normal ... or hopefully, a 'new normal' suited to our region-wide requirements. ●

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In a pickle
over something
to do this summer?

**TRY
PICKLEBALL**



Wednesday night Pickleball at Sylvan Road, Hastings.

Sport Damon Harvey



A new sport with a funny name is all the craze in Hawke's Bay. Pickleball – a hybrid of tennis and table tennis, played with a paddle (bat) and a hollow plastic ball with holes, is attracting social and competitive players to the old netball and tennis courts at Sylvan Road in Hastings, as well as indoor courts at Pettigrew Green Arena.

Story by Damon Harvey
Photos by Florence Charvin

Pickleball Hawke's Bay is now an incorporated society and the club has aspirations of growing its membership to be strong enough to create competitive pathways nationally and internationally. Meantime, it's the social side of the game that's attracted newcomers to racket sport, as well as ageing tennis and squash players looking for a sport with less wear and tear on the body.

That's the reason why former top tennis player Jeremy Pearson took up the game. Still in his 40s, Jeremy has had a recent hip replacement, but with a competitive background in tennis he was looking for a sport that he could play well into retirement.

As a tennis player known for his 'ground stroke shots' he picked up the game quickly to the point he confesses it's a new addiction - not just because of the game, but also the welcoming inclusive atmosphere.

"I heard of this game with a ridiculous name - pickleball - and thought I would take a closer look.

"At 47 I've had a hip replacement and pickleball is a lot less of an impact on my body. From playing tennis I have good hand-eye coordination and have been able to adapt quickly using

"It's really friendly and inclusive with many turning up for a laugh and with each game being short, you get to play and meet a lot of players in a very short time, which makes you want more."

my ground strokes.

Jeremy, the club's president, says it's also a sport that he can enjoy with his teenage children.

"I don't know too many families that go out and play 18 holes of golf, but we can all go down to the pickleball courts and play - either together or against others that have also turned up for a hit.

Another reason for the fast uptake of the game is its strong social nature due to each match being much shorter than a game of tennis; a set is first to score 11 points, which takes about 10-15 minutes.

Players usually play more than one match a day and move from court to court to challenge players from beginner to advanced levels.

"It's really friendly and inclusive with many turning up for a laugh and with



each game being short, you get to play and meet a lot of players in a very short time, which makes you want more.”

He says playing the game is also really affordable. Equipment is relatively cheap and you can play at Sylvan Road for as little as a gold coin.

Jeremy says there’s no air of pretentiousness that is easily aligned with sports like tennis and golf and with doubles being the predominant format, the social aspects of the sport are further enhanced.

The arrival of Pickleball is thanks to Steve and Jill Norman, who on a road trip through the US in 2017, came across the game by accident.

Jill, a former top volleyball player, said since then they’ve been hooked.

“We were in Colorado and Steve wanted to go and hit some golf balls. He came across this game being played (pickleball) and the next thing we were having a game.

“We’ve been hooked ever since. We loaded up the Chev truck with pickleball equipment and brought it all back to Hawke’s Bay. It’s the most addictive game I’ve ever played, and I’ve played a lot to a high level. It’s exciting and you’re in the moment all the time.

Upon arriving back in Hawke’s Bay, the Normans hunted down a venue - Sylvan Road and then put up some posts on *Neighbourly*. The first day attracted 15 players and they instantly knew it would be a hit.

“There’s not one thing that makes it stand out - there’s lots. It’s a family game, social, exciting, it’s quick to learn and people of all abilities can play

each other.

As the local founders of the game, the Normans have a vision for their own covered facility - whether that be at Sylvan Road, with a commitment from Hastings District Council not to develop the land for other purposes, or finding a large industrial-style building and developing into court space.

Fellow player Matthew Koning was one of those locals that heard about the sport on *Neighbourly* about four years ago and agrees that it’s the social side that he enjoys most.

“I enjoy playing because it’s really social as well as being able to stay active. It’s appealing because anyone can play, there’s plenty of laughter and it’s a great way to meet people and make friends.”

Jeremy along with several other competitive players recently played in a national tournament in Rotorua with considerable success, with Jeremy claiming Hawke’s Bay would be near the top.

Former top Hawke’s Bay tennis representative Shane Wilson and partner Matt Carter won gold in the men’s doubles, brothers Josh and Thomas Gloski took silver and Jeremy and his partner Pierce Corbett won bronze, while in the women’s open Annie Hawaikirangi and Wendy Jambor also won gold, Lizzie Brady and Jacqui Lukies silver, and Justine Delpont and Sharon Gregory bronze.

As the club continues to grow, Jeremy and the committee have turned their eye to how the facilities could look in the future in Hawke’s Bay.

In the US and Australia, the sport has attracted sponsors pumping money into the sport and investment into modern pickleball facilities.

Jeremy says Hawke’s Bay has the potential to host national outdoor tournaments at Sylvan Road, with the new court space at Pettigrew Green Arena a backup venue when the weather turns bad.

Back in 2018, pickleball was being played on 3 courts at Sylvan Road, mostly because the courts hadn’t been used for tennis and netball since Hawke’s Bay Netball relocated to the Regional Sports Park as soon as it was built.

The facility had deteriorated due to lack of use, but pickleball enthusiasts could see its potential with Jeremy leading a group that water blasted all 8 netball/tennis courts, remarking them to create 10 pickleball courts, enough to meet international hosting standards.

To upgrade further, they are keen to improve the floodlights and look at a clubhouse facility, changing rooms and toilets.

The ultimate would also be to resurface the asphalt courts to a rubber-type playing surface.

Jeremy also sees more private pickleball courts being established at home - either converting tennis courts or using driveways, or taking it a step further like early adopters and huge pickleball enthusiasts Graeme and Katrina Fowler, who have converted their shed into an indoor pickleball court.

Five years ago the Fowlers were introduced to the sport by Steve and Jill Norman.

Back then they borrowed some wooden paddles to play against the Normans and were instantly hooked.

“It was so much fun and much easier on the body as you’re not running as much as you do in tennis or squash.”

The Fowlers now play up to four nights a week at their indoor court, playing on rotation with regulars and guests including World Number 2 Riley Newman, who came out from the US in January for a 3-day coaching visit.

They also travel abroad regularly to play in tournaments such as a recent tournament in Sydney, attracting over 700 players with games played across 40 courts.

Katrina is busy organising a sold-out tournament - ‘Battle of the Paddles’ - to be held at Pettigrew Green Arena on November 18-19, which has attracted over 200 players from around New Zealand.



"There's no air of pretentiousness that is easily aligned with sports like tennis and golf and with doubles being the predominant format, the social aspects of the sport are further enhanced."
Jeremy Pearson





PICKLEBALL FAQ

What is Pickleball?

Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, Washington.

Three dads – Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum — whose kids were bored with their usual summertime activities — are credited for creating game.

Pickleball has evolved from original handmade equipment and simple rules into a popular sport internationally. It's regarded as a cross between tennis, badminton and table tennis (ping pong).

Pickleball was first introduced in Rotorua, New Zealand in 2015 by United States players and regular visitors Claire Spackman and David McNamara, and within a month the first club in NZ was formed. Today it's believed there's over 5,000 players at over 50 clubs. There's also a national sport organisation – Pickleball New Zealand and it's predicted that it could become an Olympic sport.

How do you play?

When playing pickleball, each player uses a pickleball paddle, which is smaller than a tennis racquet, but larger than a ping-pong paddle. Originally, paddles were made only from wood, however today's paddles have evolved and are primarily made of lightweight composite materials, including aluminium and graphite.

Players will also need a net and a pickleball.

The ball is unique, with holes through it. Balls come in several colours, including white, yellow and green, but must be a single colour to

meet International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) specifications. Different ball models are intended for indoor and outdoor play.

A pickleball court is the same size as a doubles badminton court and measures 6 metres by 13.4 metres. Courts can be constructed specifically for pickleball or they can be converted using existing tennis or badminton courts.

In pickleball, the same court is used for both singles and doubles play. The net height is 36 inches at the sidelines and 34 inches in the middle. The court is striped similar to a tennis court with right and left service courts and a 2.1 metre non-volley zone in front of the net – referred to as the kitchen.

Scoring

Following traditional pickleball rules, the first player or team to get to 11 points with a 2-point margin (having at least 2 points more than the other side) is the winner.

Only the serving side can earn a point, which is caused by the other side faulting.

A fault is any error, forced or unforced, on the part of a pickleball player.

An example of a forced error is missing the ball on a return serve because your opponent hit it hard and you didn't see it coming. An unforced error is bad foot placement or volleying in the non-volley zone.

In pickleball tournaments, the scoring system is somewhat different.

You might play to a higher number of points, such as 15 or even 21, or play a best 2 out of 3 style in the

11-point format.

If you're just beginning, you may not need to know tournament scoring for a while. But the point of all of this is to show you that typically 11 is the point total you're playing to in rec games.

How did it get the funny name?

It's not named after pickles!

Accounts of how the name originated differ. According to Joel Pritchard's wife (Joan), she started calling the game pickleball because "the combination of different sports reminded me of the pickle boat crew where oarsmen were chosen from the leftovers of other boats."

However, according to Barney McCallum, the game was officially named after the Pritchards' dog Pickles who would chase the ball and run off with it. According to McCallum, "The Pritchards had a dog named Pickles, and you're having fun at a party, right? So anyways, what the hell, let's just call it pickleball."

Others claim both accounts may actually be true. In the early years, no official name was assigned to the game. However a year or two after the game was invented, the Pritchards purchased a cocker spaniel and named it Pickles. As the game progressed, an official name was needed and "pickleball" was it.

Where and when can you play?

Sylvan Road Courts, Hastings:

Wednesday, Friday (league competition), Saturday, Sunday

Pettigrew Green Arena: Thursday

Meane Badminton Hall: Sunday

Cost: \$2-\$5

For more information including playing times check out "Pickleball Hawke's Bay" on Facebook or Central HB and Napier Pickleball clubs on their respective Facebook pages for their session times. ●

Starting like most kiwi kids playing rugby barefoot on frosty Hawke's Bay mornings, Damon became a sports editor for the local rag and then a sport promoter for the ASB Tennis Classic, the national rugby championship and the Auckland Blues. He served 15 years on the board of Sport Hawke's Bay, five years as chair, and continues to be involved in sport governance locally. A third-term Hastings District councillor, in his spare time he's an action man – surfing, mountain biking, a gym bunny and a newcomer to water polo.

Public wetlands in Hawke's Bay, Te Matau A Māui

DID YOU KNOW

not all wetlands look like lakes or ponds? Estuaries, marshes, bogs and deltas... they're all types of wetlands!

Pekapeka Regional Park

This is an ideal park to explore with the family. You can walk along pathways and boardwalks to a look out with a panoramic view of the valley. The Regional Council, in partnership with the community, has restored the wetland.

Where: It is 12km south of Hastings on SH2.

To find out more, go to hbrc.govt.nz, search #pekapeka



Waitangi Regional Park

This park is rich in culture, history and has a variety of wetland and coastal habitats, and is managed by the Regional Council. It is home to the Ātea a Rangi Star Compass and a wetland, and to many wading birds.

Where: Off SH2, about 10 minutes from Napier and Hastings

To find out more, go to hbrc.govt.nz, search #waitangi



Ahuriri Estuary, Te Whanganui - a - Orotū

Classed as a nationally significant wildlife refuge, Ahuriri Estuary supports a diverse array of plants, birds and fish. Wetlands provide an important wading and breeding area for migrant birds, such as the Godwit and the Pectoral Sandpiper.

Where: Access via Humber Street, off Pandora Road, Napier

To find out more, go to doc.govt.nz, search: ahuriri-estuary-walking-track



Wetlands on private land

Most wetlands in the region are on private land, and we work with the rural community to restore and protect them. We do this through deer fencing, and pest plant control.

If you have a wetland site on your property and you would like to protect it please email biodiversity@hbrc.govt.nz


HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

NOV+DEC EVENTS

Here comes a summer of fabulous Hawke's Bay events!



Urban BBQ Festival
Photo: Kirsten Simcox

After a rocky year, it's time to celebrate the arrival of summer, the bounty of our resilient region, and to support all the people and organisations who make the Bay fun. See you out there!

Taste Hastings Heretaunga Street 'East Block' Friday, November 10

Pop-up wineries, food trucks, live music and a street lounge will transform the beloved East Block into a street party of epic proportions. Whether you're heading to the Mission Concert and looking for a warm up, or keen to keep it urban, this spring celebration promises a delightful celebration of all our foodie, wine-

fuelled region has to offer. Retailers will be open late too! Check out the small print and find the details at tastehastings.co.nz

Urban BBQ Festival Waikoko Gardens, Tomoana Showgrounds

Saturday, November 18

Juicy barbeque, refreshing beverages, music, demonstrations, sunshine, a bucking bronco and bit of wrestling – how does that sound for an early-summer all-ages day out!? Local legends Black Betty Barbecue and Japanese-style robata grill masters Piku bring their BBQ goodness. Hastings pitmasters Bareknuckle Barbeque will be there, along with BBQ pioneers BBQ Gourmet and their giant

charcoal kettles. Mac N Cheese specialist Mac Daddy joins in too, along with Gina's Truck, with a one-off BBQ menu inspired by South America and the Caribbean. Music from Jack Knife Beat and Joe Cole, demonstrations from pit-masters covering brisket, ribs, butchery, lamb; the Festival is going to be full of meaty, aromatic fun. All the details are at urbanbbqfestival.co.nz and you can get tickets from Eventbrite, or at the gate.

Harvest Hawke's Bay Food & Wine Festival 1400 Tukituki Road Saturday, November 25

The exciting inaugural event was postponed and is now going to be a highlight of spring! Three live bands,



Harvest Hawke's Bay
Food & Wine Festival



Taste Hastings

nine eateries, a gorgeous riverside setting, and these sixteen wineries: Black Barn, Maison Noire, Paritua, Crab Farm, Tony Bish / Urban Winery, Petane Wines, Oak Estate, Trinity Hill, Sileni, Askerne, Smith & Sheth, Collaboration Wines, Te Mata Estate, Te Awanga, Linden Estate, Craggy Range. There's parking onsite, or bus options available, so go to harvesthawkes-bay.com to make your plans. Cheers!

Small Hall Sessions: Nadia Reid
Wednesday, November 8 to
Sunday, November 12

One of Aotearoa's favourites comes to the rural halls of the Bay over five nights in early November. Poukawa, Te Awanga, Bayview King George, Puketapu, Maraekakaho – pick your

spot, gather your mates, book your tickets and take the roadtrip. Nadia will be accompanied by her longtime collaborators Sam Taylor on guitar and Richie Pickard on bass.

Small Hall Sessions: Ben Salter
Deerstalkers Association Hall
Wednesday, November 29

Jamie Macphail, orchestrator extraordinaire of the Small Hall Sessions brings us one night only with this renowned Australian singer-songwriter, in the unique hall just out near Bridge Pa. A founding member of Giants of Science, The Gin Club and the three-time ARIA-nominated Wilson Pickers, Ben has also collaborated, written and performed with artists as diverse

as Mick Thomas (Weddings, Parties, Anything), Tim Rogers (You Am I, The Temperance Union), Bernard Fanning (Powderfinger), Gareth Liddiard (The Drones) and Marlon Williams.

Small Hall Sessions: Jackie Bristow
and Barry Saunders
Friday, December 15 to Sunday,
December 17

You might have heard one or both of these two kiwi troubadours separately, but what a treat to see them together! The options for this tour are Elsthorpe, Raukawa and Haumoana, all of course with the typical Small Halls good food and great wine from Te Awanga Estate. Find all the hall details, some music snippets and ticketing at smallhall-sessions.co.nz



**Enchanted Ball
Secret Location**

Saturday, December 2

Supporting Te Mata Park, this gorgeous, glam event sells out and has become known for its magical ambience and great fashion. Fine beverages and food, live music, DJs and other fabulous performers make the Enchanted Ball a memorable annual occasion, and it's all for a worthy cause too! Get cracking on ticket purchasing. Head to etiquette.nz/events/the-enchanted-ball.

TOP: The Enchanted Ball. BELOW LEFT: Small Hall Sessions – Nadia Reid. BELOW RIGHT: Small Hall Sessions – Jackie Bristow and Barry Saunders.

**Blackcaps vs Bangladesh
3rd ODI
McLean Park**

Saturday, December 23

We've got Christmas time cricket fun right here in the festive week! Take a break from the crazy shopping and prepping and relax at the cricket.

And ...

**Blackcaps vs Bangladesh
1st T20
McLean Park**

Wednesday, December 27

How perfect – delegate the entertainment of your Christmas guests and just take them to the cricket. Sunshine and hot chips, a beer and a batting-bowling-bonanza against Bangladesh.

Tickets on sale from November 1.

There's no better time to be on a Sea-Doo.

We are finally getting a summer so let's go play!

SEA-DOO®

A photograph showing three Sea-Doo jet skis on a body of water. The jet skis are moving from left to right, leaving a white wake. The top jet ski is a smaller model with a man in a dark wetsuit. The middle jet ski is a larger model with a man in a white and blue wetsuit. The bottom jet ski is a larger model with a woman in a blue and black wetsuit. The water is a light blue-grey color, and the sky is a pale blue. The Sea-Doo logo is visible on the side of each jet ski.

BAY MOTORCYCLES
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Working from home, like most people, began during a series of lockdowns and office changes, and one day, voila, I was a full-time work-from-home gal. A freshly painted office, a new desk, and chair. While most people upgrade their third bedroom for the arrival of a child or some other life-changing experience, I was doing it for my newfound WFH life.

I was remote for about six months, and during that time, it took me a while to figure out what I was missing. It might sound silly, but working from home offers all sorts of flexibility—the usual ones people mention; no hectic commute, working in any attire, rolling out of bed at 8:25 and being ready to start work at 8:30. My favourite, though, was stove top coffee and unlimited trips to the fridge, and therefore, unlimited cheese. But still, I was missing something. I never figured out what I was missing until I got it again—the people.

After examining my credit card statement and noticing the increasing trend of meeting friends for dinner, at the pub, out for coffee, and sometimes daily trips to New World—anything that facilitated some kind of social interaction—the penny finally dropped, maybe the work-from-home life wasn't for me. I was lonely. At this stage, I was living in Tauranga, and my friends were going to this office space called 'Bad Company,' so I went along too. Honestly, on the first day, I was nervous. What do I wear? Do they go for lunch, or should I bring my lunch? How many boiled eggs are too many? I have work calls, can I take those at my desk? At this stage, the boredom outweighed the first day-at-school anxiety, and off to Bad Company I went. And I loved it. It was everything I was missing. You know that feeling at the gym when you're breathless and you look around, and everyone is breathless but still going for it? That support you get from a crowd when you're doing your own thing but all a little different. It was much easier



to focus because everyone was focusing. Much easier to work because everyone was working. But not the hear-a-pin-drop silent kind of working, the intervals of focused work followed by some in-depth discussions about what we learned from the 2008 GFC, followed by more focused work and a conversation about how many millions Taylor Swift would bring in from her next concert.

From Tauranga, I moved to the Bad Company in Wānaka. Within the week, my newfound friends were planning skiing adventures and following the avalanche reports daily. Prior to this, my work friends had predominantly been scientists, and while they're fabulous, my molecule chat can only go so far. Here at Bad Company Wānaka, I'm sitting next to an engineer and someone working for the Government, and we were fast becoming great friends. Planning ski missions, Wednesday night trampoline club and some workplace chat. Who moves to a new town, solo, and has new friends within a week? Someone who found their tribe in a co-working space.

As the snow disappeared and the days became longer, it was off to the next adventure. Fast forward six months, guess what! Having secured a franchise agreement and a lease on a historic building, Bad Company Hawkes Bay fast becoming a reality. I had told people I was opening a co-working space as an elaborate way to make friends, although said with a bit of jest, it wasn't a lie. At the time of writing this, we've been open for five months, and new friends, everyone has. From dog-walking groups on the weekend to a strong pub quiz team. This is where you come to find your flow, with work and with life.

For those of you still pondering - How many boiled eggs are one too many? Well, I'll admit, I haven't questioned my choices like this since I first crossed that threshold. Perhaps, it's your cue to embrace change, venture into uncharted territories, and discover your potential through Bad Company.

—Belinda



Bay Biz

Bay faces workforce constraints. Re-Source innovates. Measuring charity outcomes.





REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET SNAPSHOT

Eighteen months ago *BayBuzz* took a look at the local labour market, and reported that Hawke's Bay was experiencing a shortage of people across the board, and that immigration rules were constraining business.

Now we look again, this time through the lens of Cyclone Gabrielle. We talk to a range of organisations involved in supporting either people or businesses, as well as hear from employers about what they're experiencing.

What the economist says

Rob Heyes, principal consultant with Infometrics, says the Hawke's Bay labour market gained 9,000 filled jobs between June 2019 and June 2023, while unemployment fell from its peak of 6.4% in the September 2020 quarter to 3.4% in the June 2023 quarter.

The cyclone had a positive effect on the labour market with unemployment falling by 0.7% between the March and June quarters.

While Hawke's Bay has also benefited from the addition of 4,400 recent residents in the past four years, he warns that: "Kiwis are leaving New Zealand in record numbers".

Regional job vacancies are on the rise, with SEEK data showing a 7% increase in listed roles between July and August this year.

Tough out there for business

Karla Lee is CEO of Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce. She says that some businesses are finding it tough, post cyclone.

"When large organisations, such as timber processor Pan Pac, that are major contributors to Hawke's Bay's economy are not producing, there's a ripple effect through the business community.

"We all rely on each other for something, and when something in that ecosystem breaks, we all suffer somehow. And whether that's because someone goes out of business, or they lose their job, or they don't have a house to live in ... all of this ... it breaks.

"We are currently in a broken system and we really need to provide as much support as possible to these businesses, so they stay in business.

"Now they don't have work, but they will do in the future. I have some concerns around businesses that because of the cyclone have had to downscale."

Her concern is that staff who are laid off, could leave Hawke's Bay.

"And we lose them, and then all of those contracts come back. How do we get them back, if we lose skilled staff? You can't necessarily redeploy a graphic designer to plant trees; they're going to go somewhere else.

"Many businesses are hurting with cashflow, and using their tax money to pay their staff, hoping they can hang in there until things turn. They're really on the edge," says Lee.

Lee believes that Hawke's Bay will come back really strong. "We'll see a turn next year. It won't be all better, but a turn is coming."

MSD – supporting job seekers and employers

Karen Bartlett is the East Coast Regional Commissioner for MSD. She says that the number of people on jobseeker support is going up presently, against historic trends for this time of year.

"It's unusual because numbers of people on benefit generally decrease as a result of seasonal work from October through until April/May. When people leave benefit, even for seasonal work, a percentage remain in longer term employment. This didn't happen this year."

Times are uncertain, she says. "We are finding that people have been impacted (by the cyclone). We are working very hard when people come in to apply for benefits to connect them with employment or training, as quickly as possible.

"We also have people that are suffering from the impacts of the cyclone, so we need to be careful. Some people may require extra support and time to recover."

There are jobs out there, she says, for people who are ready to go.

"People may need to compromise their wish list, to meet the market. I'm not necessarily talking about money, but also the type of work. There is also a need for our employers to be flexible and work with the supply that is available. MSD has support packages for employers to bring people on, and we have products and services to help retain or retrain people."

Bartlett says that there are a lot of work readiness programmes in the Bay, and some go deeper than others. "We do have a lot of quality providers, and they can help prepare people for work, mainly funded by MSD."





“People may need to compromise their wish list, to meet the market. I’m not necessarily talking about money, but also the type of work. There is also a need for our employers to be flexible and work with the supply that is available.”

Karen Bartlett

LEFT AND PREVIOUS PAGE: The Development Hub works mostly with Māori and Pasifika women who want to get into the workforce. Their intensive six week programmes help candidates with all aspects of work readiness, as well as holistic support and pastoral care to help address some of the complex barriers to employment they face.

Those programmes deliver a significant return on investment for the community, she says. “Especially rangatahi, if they get into work early and stay connected with their job, it is a significant contribution to the wellbeing of our community as a whole.”

Covid and the cyclone have taken a toll, she says. “We are bearing the brunt of a lot of things at the moment. The need for people to have the tools to contribute to their own wellbeing, and the wellbeing of the community, has never been more important.

“We offer a range of services and programmes including helping people apply for a job, or sign up for a training programme. We also do industry specific training such as ‘Wheels, tracks and rollers’.

“We had 62 people through that course in the past five months, as well as 27 through Class 2 Heavy vehicle licence, and three Enhanced Taskforce Green programmes, which has assisted with Cyclone Gabrielle clean up, totaling 30 people.”

What’s growing?

Karen Bartlett says the construction, civil infrastructure, health, and social sectors are all growing.

Looking at the construction sector in detail: Waihangā Ara Rau, the Construction and Infrastructure Workforce Development Council, whose main job is to ensure vocational education aligns with industry demands, estimates a labour supply gap of 6,952 in the Hawke’s Bay

construction and infrastructure sector as at June 2023.

While their current workforce shortage projections have taken into account the workers needed for the \$1.1 billion of housing planned for the region, they have not yet factored in the significant workforce demands of the cyclone recovery and rebuild. To put that number into context, it would nearly double Hawke’s Bay’s construction sector workforce (estimated at 7,837 as at March 2020, source Waihangā Ara Rau).

Even Waihangā Ara Rau says there aren’t enough people with the skills to do the work.

A spokesperson for the organisation said: “Since we started there has been an increase in apprenticeships, but there are also people retiring, or leaving the industry, so there’s a leaky bucket. We are providing free tools and tips to help employers keep people.”

Two agencies tasked with supporting Hawke’s Bay to achieve its labour force objectives are the Regional Recovery Agency (RRA- formed in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle) and the Regional Economic Development Agency (REDA).

Ross McLeod, CEO of HB Regional Recovery Agency, says that projected workforce numbers are significant and derived from preliminary work plans from organisations like the councils, Waka Kotahi, and KiwiRail.

“The work programmes have not been phased or sequenced, and the reality is there simply will not be

funding or the workforce available to complete all those work programmes in a compressed window.”

More workers will be required once the phasing work is done, he says. “And there will need to be a number of approaches taken to achieving that ... including utilising existing contractors in the region and developing more workers locally, both of which will be positive for Hawke’s Bay on its recovery journey.”

Attraction of domestic and international migrants will also be necessary, with “the RRA working closely with central Government, Te Waihangā and the key parties leading this work to ensure we have the right balance when it comes to things like workforce development, immigration and housing”

On the consequences if Hawke’s Bay fails to achieve the required workforce numbers, McLeod wouldn’t be drawn, except to say that work programmes weren’t yet sequenced, a critical step to ensure the region and infrastructure owners can develop the optimal delivery programme. And that it: “factors in things like funding availability, prioritisation, and workforce availability. It’s also important for the region that we don’t inadvertently drive up the cost of labour or materials by trying to do everything at once.”

The RRA will play a co-ordination role, working alongside key partners, he says, “and will also continue to identify those key instances where additional opportunities can be captured, where we can create something better than

what existed pre-cyclone, as we work to build back safer, stronger, smarter and more resilient than before.”

REDA CEO Lucy Laitinen, just six weeks into her role when she spoke to BayBuzz for this article, says that the REDA is looking at labour needs in construction and roading, “because that’s front of mind for everyone right now.”

The region is still getting its head around the numbers of people required for the recovery, she says, and the pipeline of work in terms of timing. “It’s not 8,000 people in the next six months, it’s a several year process.

“And how do we gear ourselves up for that? REDA will not be replicating any of the work done by the Regional Skills Leadership Group, the Workforce Development Council, or MSD.

“At a practical level we are looking at how we can co-ordinate some work around progressive procurement. We are starting to figure out where our role might be.”

Building local talent will be a focus, and building up people so that when the recovery work is done, Hawke’s Bay’s young workers are set up with a solid future ahead of them, says Laitinen.

Work readiness – what’s it all about?

The Development Hub is a business that helps job seekers get work ready. Based in Hastings, and more recently with a branch in Taupō, The Development Hub (TDH) since 2017 has worked mostly with Māori and Pasifika women who want to get into the workforce.

TDH’s track record spans more than 50 in-house programmes, for almost

700 candidates, with a completion rate of more than 80%. Of those who complete, more than 80% are placed into employment.

BayBuzz caught up with founder Sarah-Jo Barley and head of business and community engagement, Amanda Palmer to get their take on what’s happening in the labour market, and how things have changed over the past seven years.

“One of the things we’ve noticed, is that people are not presenting with just one or two barriers to employment, like they would’ve in the past. They’re presenting with multiple challenges, the compounding stress often has a flow on effect and can significantly impact mental health.

“Post cyclone the complexities have heightened again. And the financial pressure has kicked up too. That impacts on the ability to get to a programme, to get to mahi, to meet basic needs for whānau,” says Barley.

“We have to wrap everything into our programmes to meet the needs of candidates walking through our doors,” says Amanda Palmer.

“Support to write CVs, cover letters, and interview techniques are secondary now. It’s not a hard and fast approach, it’s about making sure people are well and happy and healthy, and equipping them in a more holistic way.”

Barley says that TDH can help employers with ease of hiring and access to a pool of candidates that they hadn’t previously considered, and with access to flexi wage subsidies available from MSD.

She offers advice for businesses: “One thing employers can do, is be flexible on the hours that are required

of their staff, because there’s a fabulous pool of candidates out there. And I’m talking particularly women, because that’s who we work with.

“You can get great staff, if you can work with them, providing flexibility that allows them to have a work life balance that supports family responsibilities, that will in turn drive reliability at work,” says Barley.

Palmer adds: “We know by working with our candidates and carving out a more positive future for them that it will have a ripple effect ... and flow on to the wider family.”

Barley says there will always be a need for work readiness programmes.

“We work with wonderful wāhine, who are really keen to get into employment. People are under a lot of pressure. We provide a place for women to get holistic support, that’s built through trusted relationships with staff and facilitators, along with connection and friendship with others on the programme.

“That’s the beauty of what happens at The Development Hub, the connection the women find with each other ... that lasts beyond the course. We need businesses to come and seek us out to partner with us and share in the opportunity,” says Barley.

What businesses are experiencing

The labour market is still relatively tight as evidenced by this ‘vox pop’ from businesses and industry associations – comments abridged in some cases.

Dave Mann – Interim Executive Director People and Culture in Te Matau a Māui Hawke’s Bay: “Te Whatu Ora is progressing a number of actions

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“We can help employers with ease of hiring and access to a pool of candidates that they hadn't previously considered, and with access to flexi wage subsidies available from MSD.”

Sarah-Jo Barley

to address pressures on our health workforce. Te Whatu Ora in Hawke's Bay is the largest employer in the region with just over 3,000 full-time equivalent staff, excluding casuals.

“There are workforce pressures especially in nursing, allied health, scientific, and technical. The number of vacancies is slightly higher than before Cyclone Gabrielle, however, the cyclone does not appear to have directly impacted the recruitment of staff. In January 2023 the number of vacancies (full-time equivalent) was 15.4% of the Hawke's Bay workforce and as of August 2023 was 17.6% of the workforce.

“Te Whatu Ora has a number of ongoing recruitment campaigns to grow and retain our health workers, with nursing a particular area of focus. We have also established a dedicated Health Immigration service drawing on overseas health workers, and are encouraged to have received more international interest in positions in Hawke's Bay. We will continue to build on progress through actions outlined in our Health Workforce Plan released in July this year.”

Hannah Christensen - People, Capability and Sustainability Director at premium pet food manufacturer ZIWI: “Recruitment is still taking time, with some technical roles proving particularly challenging. We are encouraged with the talent we are attracting and have managed to fill more than 30 critical production roles throughout July and August (and we're still recruiting!).

“Our outlook is optimistic as we continue to grow our presence with local capability contributing to our global growth.”

Sophie John - Head of People and Culture at technology company Fingermark: “From my perspective it's always a challenge to attract talent into the regions, hence having significantly more remote workers. The market in terms of movement seems to

have slowed from the past year or two, where preferences like flexible working etc seem to be the key focus for applicants, rather than increasing salaries. It's definitely not as challenging as it was a year or so ago.”

Mark Hamilton - Managing Director, Alexander Construction: “Recruiting is getting easier as the Provincial Growth Fund money has now moved through the region and there has been a general drop in activity. Immigration relaxing has also helped us immensely. The construction market is expected to improve slightly. Enquiries have started to lift ever so slightly in recent months after a 10 month quiet period. That is expected to turn into consent number increases in six months or so, which will then need labour resource to build. Staff retention is still good.”

Hamish Saxton - CEO Hawke's Bay Tourism: “It is a challenging environment for tourism and hospitality businesses. The pandemic and cyclone have caused demand for staff and employee availability to fluctuate. At times a lack of consistent trade has meant many businesses have been forced to reduce operating hours, leaving them unable to offer consistent shifts to staff, while others did not have enough staff available to operate at capacity. Shortages across the board: chefs, kitchen staff, housekeepers, cleaners, front of house and managers. Businesses are aware of the competitive job market, and are working hard to create an attractive work environment with opportunities for growth.”

Dean Smith - General Manager, Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association: “Cyclone Gabrielle was catastrophic for the horticultural sector. As we approach another harvest, it is crucial that we collaborate with local and central government regulators to identify timely solutions to accommodate our seasonal workers appropriately. HBFA places significant emphasis on supporting workforce recruitment and development. Large investments in new technology and innovation is creating new and exciting opportunities for people to enter the industry and create remarkable careers.”

Todd Dawson - CEO, Napier Port: “It's a tight labour market in the port sector due to a few factors. NZ-wide areas of the port operational workforce are typically older and entering retirement, which means the labour pool has been getting smaller. It's also related to the time it takes to train a specialised workforce, such as crane

operators, marine pilots, heavy plant operators. Many of these roles require years of training and certification. As an employer we offer good working conditions and competitive remuneration that attracts people, and we focus on growing talent internally by providing pathways and career opportunities to retain our people.”

Reality check

Businesses are hurting. The labour market is set to get tighter due to the cyclone recovery and planned housing developments. Hawke's Bay is facing a significant talent shortfall, and we can't simply train or retrain our own people to plug the gap. Even if we got every work-ready jobseeker support recipient off the benefit, we would still be many thousands short of what's required.

The workforce projections for construction and infrastructure (alone) are mind boggling, and there's a huge task ahead for those charged with guiding the recovery.

In addition to developing our own people, we need domestic and international migrants and their families to come and settle in the Bay, put down roots, and stay for the long term. Our employers need to recognise that talent has never been more mobile, and that sunshine wages are not a selling point, especially in a cost of living crisis. For the young, Australia has never looked more attractive.

Regional leaders too, need to make sure that we lift our collective supporting ecosystem game, so that we can attract and keep the talent that's so desperately needed. These efforts will require greater collaboration and better results than Hawke's Bay is used to.

Right now there are practical things missing.

Supporting infrastructure is lacking. Access to medical care is in short supply. Of the 26 GP practices in the region nine have closed their books completely, and 14 are taking new patients only under certain circumstances. That leaves just three whose books are open.

Affordable housing is just as dire with the cyclone compounding the existing rental crisis. According to media articles, it's not unusual to get upward of 60 enquiries per rental property. That's hardly a selling point for Hawke's Bay.

Unless we overcome these barriers and fix our labour market supply issues, building back better, safer, stronger and smarter will be an impossible dream. ●



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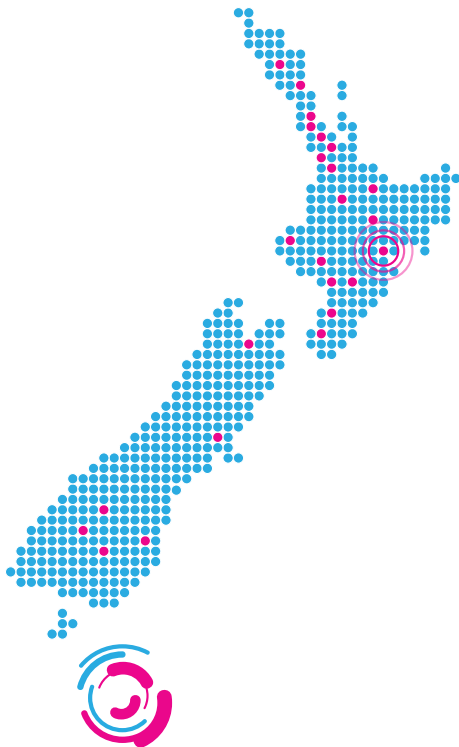
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RE-SOURCE RENEWS



BayBiz Innovators Simon Shattky

It was the morning after Gabrielle came through, the wind had dropped, and Nadine had decided to take herself off for a nap. “First time in three and a half years and no-one could get hold of me,” she recalls.

Nadine was barely a page into her nap, and there was a knock at the door. Mayor Sandra had driven past, saw the Re-Source van and wanted to know, could Nadine help? Could she what.

I don’t really buy the nap story though. As someone who could nap for New Zealand, I can spot fellow nappers easily, and I can tell you, Nadine simply isn’t one of us. She’s what you would describe as an ‘active relaxer’.

Nadine gets stuff done.

It’s been a little over three years since Nadine Gaunt founded the not-for-profit, Re-Source. On one level, Re-Source simply takes things that someone no longer needs and re-purposes them for those who do. All of which is lovely, and unquestionably a good thing, but hardly innovative.

What is innovative, in a business sense, is how Re-Source joins the moving parts together, working to ensure everyone gets the most out of everything. It’s an ecosystem in its own right, one that builds resilience back into a community that has had resilience tested way beyond the limits of what the manufacturer originally intended.

There’s now over 40 volunteers, including a six strong group called ‘Re-sew’. They’ve turned old sheets into draught stoppers. They’ve made wet weather ponchos out of old tents for the homeless. Re-Source builds a bridge between giving and need.

The idea started with Nadine’s desire to pass on clothes her daughter had grown out of, but had no-one to give them to. The one place they weren’t going was to landfill. Nadine was certain about that much.

The ‘clothing carbon’ problem is huge, with the World Bank estimating the fashion industry produces 10% of all global carbon emissions, more than air travel and shipping combined. I’m assuming the stats also included items that aren’t fashionable, like cargo

It was the morning after Gabrielle came through ... there was a knock at the door. Mayor Sandra had driven past, saw the Re-Source van and wanted to know, could Nadine help? Could she what.

pants, but still. Worldwide the industry produces between 80-100 billion garments every year. In New Zealand we send the equivalent of 44 kilos of clothing per person to landfill each year. Two heavy suitcases full.

A relationship formed right back in the beginning with the Hawke’s Bay prison, means all clothing and other textiles go through the commercial laundry at Mangaroa. They also help out with sewing, making simple stuff like bags that can be used to drop off packs of bedding, and if it can’t be re-worn or repaired then it will be re-purposed. Anything to keep it above ground.

Circle of life

While Re-Source aren’t open to the public, you wouldn’t know it. Rochelle is dropping off some bounty, she is sort of a local Marie Kondo, and has a business that helps people declutter. Did I realise there are six types of clutter in our lives? Rochelle asks. I didn’t. Although six did seem quite a minimalist approach to clutter, and I was pretty sure I could name at least that many types in my kitchen alone.

I was about to give Rochelle a heads up on a few other types of clutter I’d thought of, when Cate from Plunket pulls up. She’s been working with Re-Source from the get-go and succinctly describes the operation as a ‘circle of life,’ with Nadine as the fairy Godmother. She emails Nadine “two or three times a day with a wish list” as she describes it. “Sometimes up to five.” Nadine is quick to deliver too, by all accounts, dropping stuff off the same day if she has it.

This is part pragmatic, but there’s another purpose to the light touch

delivery method. Re-Source leave the frontline work to people like Cate. “We just say ‘dropping off a parcel from Cate at Plunket’ and you can see them relax,” explains Nadine, “then they’ll smile and say, ‘Oh Cate, she’s awesome.’” It’s not easy asking for help. The hands-off Re-Source approach is another innovation in its own right.

A visit from Betsy at Summerset Palms in Te Awa, also neatly illustrates the circle of life thought. She’s dropping off some knitted toys, these are destined for another NGO, Voyce, who advocate for children in care. Betsy is picking up a bag of lace trim, which will find its way to The Coffin Club. Betsy’s team will turn the lace into lining to be used in coffins for still born babies. Heartbreakingly their work seems to be never-ending.

“Sometimes,” Nadine explains delicately, examining several panels of knitting yet to be sewn up into a garment, “we’re gifted knitting that wasn’t able to be finished.” It’s a strange turn of phrase I was thinking, wondering if knitters often get bored with what they’re knitting and just move on. Maybe they ran out of wool? Then the penny drops. “Betsy will know what to do with it,” says Nadine assuredly. The circle of life keeps turning.

Like many good innovations, Re-Source started with a healthy lack of knowledge for how things ought to be done. “I had absolutely no experience at all in this space,” Nadine says. Maybe, but she has a very strong North Star, and her op-shopping gene runs deep. Op-shoppers aside though, the idea of re-purposing items, especially clothing, still sits on the fringe of our consumer focussed world. We want it new, and now. Back in the day, for example, putting something on lay-by meant getting the item after you paid it off. Now, it’s a credit product that means the exact opposite.

I’m talking about the concept of ‘hand me downs’, wondering if they too have passed their use by date, with Cheryl from Awhi, a charitable trust that helps vulnerable teens navigate a complex and confronting world. “They’re great kids, but some don’t have many things to call their own,”



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Dewald. Photo: Simon Shattky

explains Cheryl. “The fact that someone has thought specifically about them is huge.” ‘New’ is of lesser importance than something they can call theirs. Cheryl’s popped in to show Nadine some beeswax food wraps that the Awahi crew have made. The material, beeswax and the shears used to make them all came from Nadine. They’re learning life skills that build resilience.

Giving back

Sean at Corrections won’t argue with that, even though he’s only been working with Re-Source for a few weeks. Sean looks after people doing community service. As he explains, some people struggle to complete a community sentence. Not everyone can do physical labour. Some are unwell, others have child-care problems.

He reckons people in his care have probably been a bit short on giving back. But when they do, good things happen. There’s no better motivation to get the hours done than knowing what you’re doing is helping others and making a positive outcome.

Sean recalls a woman who picked up knitting skills, and now knits for the family. Her work, by all accounts, is in big demand. Pride and purpose go hand in glove. Knitted, of course.

At the moment Sean has half a dozen people in his care working on Re-Source projects. I mention that this is a great idea and it could be huge. “Well, we don’t want it to grow too big,” he points out for obvious reasons.

Re-Source runs on the smell of a recycled oily rag from what I can tell. They get a grant from Hastings Council, who also provide their space,

Re-Source joins the moving parts together, working to ensure everyone gets the most out of everything. It’s an ecosystem in its own right, one that builds resilience back into a community that has had resilience tested way beyond the limits of what the manufacturer originally intended.

something they have rapidly grown out of. Nadine dreams of the day Re-Source could have its workshop and a sewing room. MSD give a bit, and there’s a few donations here and there.

Occasionally they’ll get given something of value they can’t use. “We got a Wedgwood gravy boat once,” says Nadine with a chuckle. The gravy boat went off to the auction house and reappeared as money to buy toiletries. Their purpose isn’t to buy new stuff unless there’s no other way. There’s not much they won’t try to re-home. Cutlery, a basketball hoop, kitchen appliances. I notice a kayak lying patiently in the corner. “That’s off to the Kura, for a camp,” says Nadine anticipating an unasked question.

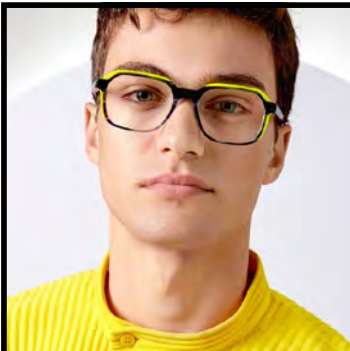
Funding isn’t something Nadine takes lightly, it’s a huge responsibility. She’s keen that I mention the care that was taken with every last cent of the Cyclone donations they received. I wasn’t sure that was the point of the story, but Nadine isn’t someone you want to disappoint. “Could you also mention our Give-a-little page?” asked Nadine. I said I wasn’t sure if I was allowed, but I’d ask. “Oh, I’m sure you’ll find a way to get it in there,” she replied gently. Did I mention Nadine gets stuff done?

As I’m leaving the Re-Source van pulls in. Dewald and Dean, Nadine’s secret weapons when it comes to delivery and logistics, are quick to reload and they’re off. Then Madi from Te Taiwhenua arrives, she has a pick-up. There’s rumour of 1,000 pairs of new shoes arriving next week.

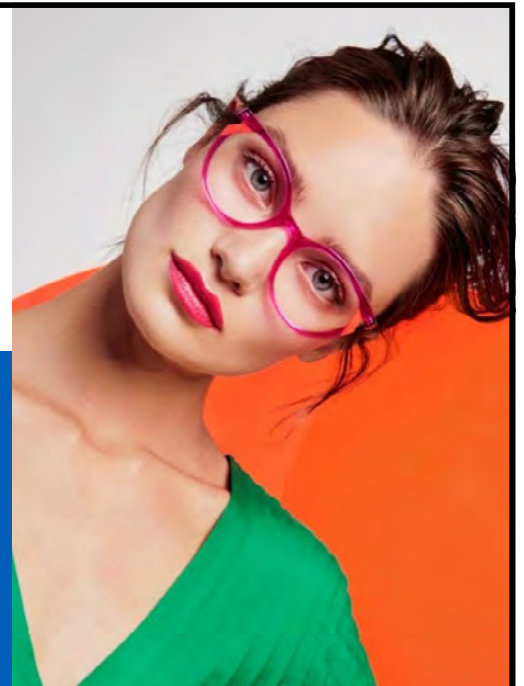
I’m exhausted just watching it all ... in fact, I’m seriously contemplating a nap.

Just as I’m sure Nadine won’t be. At least not anytime soon. ●

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Helping charities measure outcomes



Photo: Florence Charvin

Not-for-profits and charities play a vital role in New Zealand's financial ecosystem. The charitable sector helps to address various social, environmental, and community needs by supporting people and causes that can completely change the course of people's lives for the better.

Attracting support through social outcomes

For organisations in the not-for-profit sector, their key income stream is often through charitable donations. Unlike how listed companies are assessed for their financial performance, the key success measure for charities is less about money, and more about their social outcomes.

With no shortage of charities in New Zealand, donors are increasingly looking for more information to help them make informed decisions about where and how they support the sector in ways that align with their values and what social impact matters most to them.

Jarden has partnered with ImpactLab

to help people understand more about the concept of Social Return on Investment (SROI) in the New Zealand charity sector. SROI is a quantified way to estimate a programme's impact on a person or family's well-being over their lifetime, relative to the investment.

In a report just released, ImpactLab have analysed more than 100 programmes across New Zealand's charity sector to identify and understand our unique social investment approaches, using the ImpactLab innovative GoodMeasure standardised measurement model.

This report is an evidence-based introductory guide, and it marks a significant milestone for the sector, setting a precedent for the industry using internationally recognised SROI.

Three distinct investment approaches have been identified, providing a framework for donors to help align their personal values and interests with the causes they are passionate about. With a better understanding of the social impact of various charities and organisations, investors can make informed choices that resonate with their individual goals.

The three approaches are:

- **Broad impact.** These programmes have a low cost per person and are large-scale. This means they deliver modest social value to many people.
- **Balanced impact.** These are moderate-cost programmes of varying scale that deliver varied social value, depending on the comprehensiveness of support and complexity of the population served. These programmes are scalable and are typically targeted to a more specific population than broad impact programmes.
- **Deep impact.** Programmes that are deep impact serve people with very complex lives. For this reason, these are high-cost programmes that deliver intensive support to a small group of people with high complexity to achieve significant social change.

This information is useful for those in the charity sector and donors alike, as it illustrates how Social Return on Investment can be used as a tool to inform the decision-making across New Zealand's charitable sector.

No one investment type is better

than the other, and there is no one 'best programme' to invest in. The three categories provide a framework for the sector, so charities and donors can have focused conversations about where and how to invest for different levels of community impact.

De-risking a charity's financial assets

Alongside relying on donations, well-managed assets and investments are also a key income stream to fund a charity's mission effectively.

Not-for-profits often entrust hard-working volunteer trustees with the careful management and investment planning required to manage their financial assets.

The trustees of charities and not-for-profits play an important role in striking a delicate balance between protecting the assets from risk, while also seeking good returns.

They will often achieve this with a diversified investment portfolio that can protect the organisation's assets from the inherent uncertainties of financial markets. Diversification is a common financial management strategy that involves spreading

investments across different asset classes, such as cash, bonds, shares, property, and alternative investments. This approach aims to reduce the impact of poor performance in any single investment.

The SROI report has been developed to help donors make donation choices based on their personal values and interests, so they can support the causes they are passionate about. Likewise, trustees are entrusted to make investment decisions that are aligned with the charity's overall goals and mission.

Whether developing an investment strategy on behalf of a charity, investing your own assets or looking to donate to a charity, it can be hard to know where to start and how to make best use of those assets. Financial experts, such as investment advisers or asset managers, can offer valuable insights and guidance to make informed investment decisions.

The ImpactLab and Jarden report, titled *Charitable Sector Insights: An Introduction to Social Return on Investment* is available to view on the Jarden website: www.jarden.co.nz. ●

Sam Howard is a Wealth Management Adviser at Jarden. The information and commentary in this article are provided for general information purposes only. It reflects views and research available at the time of publication, using external sources, systems and other data and information we believe to be accurate, complete and reliable at the time of preparation. We make no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, correctness and completeness of that information, and will not be liable or responsible for any error or omission. It is not to be relied upon as a basis for making any investment decision. Please seek specific investment advice before making any investment decision or taking any action. Jarden Securities Limited is an NZX Firm. A financial advice provider disclosure statement is available free of charge at <https://www.jarden.co.nz/our-services/wealth-management/financial-advice-provider-disclosure-statement>



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Exporting our waste



In Papua New Guinea huge bales of donated clothing arrive on a regular basis, but as much as a third of it is unsellable and ends up in landfill.

If we want to live in a sustainable New Zealand then we have to move to a circular economy where resource use is maximised and waste is eliminated.

A big part of this is using product stewardship to ensure products are properly dealt with at the end of their life. Ideally this means they are dealt with onshore where they are reused, repurposed, or recycled. For a country like New Zealand though, with limited onshore processing and markets, the use of international options is often unavoidable.

There are steps which can be taken further up the pipeline, like the recent plastic bans which restrict the single-use plastic entering the New Zealand market to just those which are recyclable in Aotearoa. Despite this though, the capacity for the country to recycle all the single-use plastic collected is limited, with thousands

of tonnes having to be exported each year.

Paper, cardboard, and cans have a similar problem – the capacity to process everything we collect isn't there, so we rely on overseas markets. It's either that or landfill.

When it comes to steel, New Zealand Steel claims their product contains 5% recycled pre-consumer scrap. A major partnership between the company and government earlier this year will see half NZ Steel's coal use replaced with electricity, massively reducing emissions.

Glass bottles and jars are the only material recycled exclusively onshore, at Visy Glass in Auckland.

Making our problem someone else's

The issue with sending all this material offshore is there is the very real chance it could end up polluting other countries or even enable human rights violations by unscrupulous recyclers.

Recycling can even impact local industries. In Papua New Guinea, for example, thousands of tonnes of donated clothing is hurting local clothing manufacturers – most being small businesses.

A recent *NZ Herald* article points out that government officials aren't sure what happens to the plastic we send overseas for recycling. It's an issue which has been widely covered and isn't limited to New Zealand.

News reports, images and social media posts over recent years have often pointed fingers at a few developing nations like Malaysia and Indonesia for the literal rivers of plastic flowing into the sea. What people in developed countries, like New Zealand, need to remember is this material is actually our plastic – sent overseas to be recycled.

The focus on plastic is because of its impacts on the environment when littered or burned as fuel. But an argument can be made that it's unethical to send any waste material to another country without knowing it won't negatively affect its people and environment.

This is why in 2021 New Zealand introduced a permit system for exporting mixed and difficult to recycle plastic.

News reports, images and social media posts over recent years have often pointed fingers at a few developing nations like Malaysia and Indonesia for the literal rivers of plastic flowing into the sea. What people in developed countries, like New Zealand, need to remember is this material is actually our plastic – sent overseas to be recycled.

The permit requires, among other things, permission from the receiving country and that the exporter makes sure the plastic will be dealt with in an environmentally sound way.

Less recycling, less waste

There is also an argument to be made that making recycling easier only enables more rampant consumerism. For the average Kiwi, the act of recycling something is often enough to temper any feelings of consumerist guilt – even if they can't be certain what they put in the recycling is recycled, or what conditions the recycling workers are faced with.

Recycling can even impact local industries. In Papua New Guinea, for example, thousands of tonnes of donated clothing is hurting local clothing manufacturers – most being small businesses.

Huge bales of donated clothing arrive on a regular basis, but as much as a third of it is unsellable and ends up in landfill. A trader interviewed by

Stuff considers herself lucky to find 10 good quality items in a 50kg bale.

In a circular economy, resources are maximised, but there is always a point at which a product will have to be repurposed or its materials recycled. High value outflows are the goal.

For example, if a laptop can be refurbished or find a second life in a less intensive application, such as in a developing nation's school system, that would be better than being dismantled and shredded. The latter does mean the valuable metals can be extracted, so this option can't be discounted either when a product has no viable second life.

Globally, gold in electronic devices makes up approximately 7% of the world's reserves, worth around NZ\$100 billion a year. Like other recycling, e-waste recycling is labour intensive and must be done at scale to be viable. When this scale isn't available onshore, overseas options must be explored.

Following circular economy principals of finding the highest-value outcomes for resources also means seeking innovative solutions. This may also mean sending products at the end of their lives overseas.

Verification and transparency

We can't lose sight of the fact recycling is an international business, with just about every country being reliant on export and import.

A big part of the solution ultimately comes down to our ability, and willingness, to ensure there is verification in place when we export materials.

This should provide transparent and traceable verification around what the outcomes are, what waste was produced, as well as information around environmental and employment standards and practices, and how they are being met.

One example is the end market verification which Tyre Stewardship Australia uses and which Tyrewise, New Zealand's first regulated stewardship scheme for end-of-life tyres, is looking to adopt.

This is an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risk management tool which independently verifies that the supply chain is operating to the same legal, environmental, and ethical standards as the scheme collecting and exporting the tyres.

This sort of tool also minimises ESG risks to an organisation and its stakeholders while helping gain sustainable advantage in end markets.

The government is working with international partners on a plastics treaty, with shared goals to eliminate plastic waste by 2050.

Becoming a sustainable society and tackling climate change is a global issue. New Zealand must do its part, building onshore capacity and innovation. But we also need to leverage the opportunities presented by our neighbours, both near and far. ●

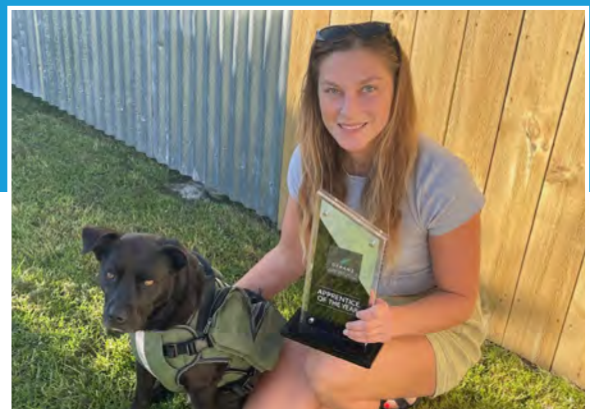
3R design, implement and manage product stewardship schemes for individual businesses or industry-wide groups. They also help businesses take a fresh look at their waste to first minimise and then recover what would otherwise be wasted.

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Democratic change is a bloodless revolution

It's election night and I went down to National's party to congratulate Catherine Wedd on her victory.

"I really like your moustache," declared a chunky 11-year-old. "Thanks," I replied warmly; grateful for any compliment. "Yeah, you look like the Pringles guy." I googled him, hoping a debonair gentleman represents Pringles. Nope, he was referring to the goofy cartoon on the packaging. I didn't stay long.

Reinventing myself with a Victorian moustache hasn't been a success, but Winston makes me optimistic about the future. How can a 78 year-old, largely ignored by the press and vilified by most political parties, make yet another comeback? It's hard enough to survive a couple of terms on the opposition benches, let alone multiple stints in political oblivion.

The oddities of this election make it likely that we'll have a 122-member parliament, a couple more than normal. The National/Act government will likely need Winston to have a majority and I'm quite content with that.

This election cycle was irritating. David Seymour characterising Winston as "the least trustworthy politician" was a foolish move when he was a likely coalition partner. Similarly, Luxon suggesting a second election may have been required. No politician with one hand on the baubles of office is in a hurry to go back to the ballot box. Even Hipkins chimed in, suggesting the 2017-2020 Cabinet was chaotic with Winston there.

It's foolish to believe any new story a politician tells you two weeks out from an election. They were all talking nonsense.

Sure, Winston has his failings, but he had so many enemies because

If you're unhappy with education, healthcare, law & order, or the potholes in the roads, I have news for you – you're getting more than your money's worth.

he was stealing votes from all these parties. 'Old school lefty' and lifetime Labour voter, Chris Trotter, openly admitted he was going to vote NZ First this time around. He's an advocate for the working class and free speech and frustrated that Labour has lost their way on these things. He couldn't vote for his arch enemy, National; Act was a bridge too far; and options further left he thought nutters. So Winston was the Social Credit of our age – the protest vote.

The truth is that Winston has been a constructive part of the three governments he's been part of. Former National PM, Jim Bolger, openly admitted as much recently. Helen Clark worked well with him. And the 2017 Labour government was better than the 2020 iteration as NZ First knocked back their kookier ideas.

So, yes, Winston is a cunning, ruthless, Machiavellian politician, but also a remarkable talent. Also a late-night whisky with Winston is great fun. He's a naughty boy and I'm pleased to have him back.

No one should be too worried about National being in power either. Usually we flip red and blue every 6 or 9 years and it's necessary that this happens. Not only does the fresh blood and new ideas shake up the various ministries, but in opposition, the defeated party can lick its wounds, attract a

new generation of talent and contemplate why the NZ public sacked them. Labour have been given a brutal message. One day they will come back a touch wiser and we'll be grateful for it. This lot have been lousy.

Previous Labour-led governments had a raft of decent ministers. Standing behind Helen Clark was Michael Cullen, Lianne Dalziel, Phil Goff, Jim Anderton, Annette King, John Tamihere and the like. The most recent crop let the team down by ignoring the drinking and driving rules, failing to manage conflicts of interest, jumping ship, or neglecting to read the cabinet manual. Can you imagine Helen Clark making any of these errors?

Like most Labour governments, they were irresponsible with money and made everyone poorer. This wasn't discussed adequately in the election campaign. If you're unhappy with education, healthcare, law & order, or the potholes in the roads, I have news for you – you're getting more than your money's worth. By the time we get to the end of the current financial year, government debt will have increased \$100 billion over just 4 years.

I know you can blame some of that on Covid, but the trend is getting worse not better. All this happened in fairly prosperous times. Now we have high interest rates, dangerous conflicts in the Ukraine and Gaza, a potential Chinese property market collapse, or a sovereign debt crisis or GFC2. At best a decent recession is coming.

There are two components needed to fix our financial woes. Deliver government services more efficiently and grow our economy so there is an increased tax take.

The state sector has ballooned and

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must be trimmed. Ministries like MBIE have doubled from 3,200 employees in 2016 to almost 6,400 in just seven years. Teachers seem to loathe the Ministry of Education, but they've still increased their staff numbers by 30% in Labour's last term. What do all these people do? Apart from adding colonial guilt and gender confusion to the curriculum, education looks pretty much the same as it did 20 years ago.

It's also time to show our business owners some respect. The last few years have been brutal for farming, horticulture, hospitality, tourism, and now even retail spending is slowing. Owning most businesses is not a license to print money. It's important to remember that the backbone of our country isn't large rapacious corporates, but mum & dad SME's.

A change of government is an ugly business and many will be pleased not to have to endure another toxic debate. It's easy to forget that when Hipkins and Luxon went at it, it's no minor squabble. These were two men fighting for the power to govern a nation. Democratic change is a bloodless revolution, and we should be grateful for the absence of a body count.

I'm not a cheerleader for National and quite underwhelmed by Mr Luxon. He has all the political punching power of a single shot latte bowl, but sometimes you have to vote for change regardless. National are not historically the party of change, so we'll need to be ready to nudge them along.

If there is some reason for optimism, it's their front bench. Shane Reti

is a commonsense doctor and will be a good minister of health. Erica Stanford is a Prime Minister in the making and will work hard on education. The hard-arse ex-copper, Mark Mitchell will be no-nonsense on police. And Nicola Willis is sure to tighten the purse strings.

Locally we have three, new, fresh-faced MPs. I fancy they'll be hard-working and strong advocates for our region. I wish the Nat's the best of luck and I hope that those across the aisle hold them to account.

Democracy isn't going too well in some parts of the world, but here in NZ, it's doing OK. ●

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From the shafts of strife and war

The die is cast. Well at least the votes are cast – the exact shape of the die is yet to emerge. Recent tragic events in the Middle East and even the decision of our Australian neighbours to keep the voice of its first people suppressed, remind us that all human interaction and the politics that follow arise from context; the complete natural environment and the history of the peoples who live in that environment. As Hawke's Bay is wine country, we might liken it to "terroir."

Whilst I recognize that the 2023 Election has tested and stretched the weave of the social whariki, the metaphoric mat that binds us together as New Zealanders, my personal experience during cyclone Gabrielle convinces me that we are not likely to fly apart anytime soon. When pressed by crisis or calamity Kiwis come together and collaborate. As a nation we are kind and generous, and even though we may have our differences, we care for each other as neighbours and fellow citizens.

In the election the greatest tension to the woven strands that bind were around matters of race and perceived special entitlement.

The ACT Party has strong support across Hawke's Bay, and almost 10% of the vote nationally, so let me focus on their policies as they present the most extreme points of tension. As I understand it, ACT wants to whip away the mat of connectivity in the form of 'Te Tiriti', the Treaty of Waitangi. As one ACT supporter, a friend, proposed to me, "the pendulum has swung too far". His sense of the need for a fresh homeostasis is fueled by the sentiments expressed on ACT election hoardings, "Human Rights are universal, not based on race" and, "End division by race".

ABOVE: Photo by Richard Brimer
OPPOSITE: Denis O'Reilly. Photo by Florence Charvin

Treaty-based rights, however, are akin to the property rights of the original landowners. This is something that the National Party has long recognized. The Labour Party struggles to reconcile the concept of Māori property rights with its philosophy of a meritocracy.

At face value I agree with the sentiments entirely. But let's come back to context and factor in the Te Tiriti/Treaty of Waitangi: the sacred agreement between the original inhabitants, the first owners of the land and its resources, and those of us whose relatively recent roots lie elsewhere but have come to Aotearoa to settle and benefit from the bounty of our beautiful, shared land.

Human rights are indeed universal – would it be that they were respected. Treaty-based rights, however, are akin to the property rights of the original landowners. This is something that the National Party has long recognized. The Labour Party struggles to reconcile the concept of Māori property rights with its philosophy of a meritocracy. That philosophical dilemma led to the debacle of foreshore and seabed legislation and the formation of Te Pati Māori.

Although ACT is notionally a Libertarian party it has little respect for the Te Tiriti/Treaty even though the Libertarian credo is that taking or using someone's resource without their consent constitutes an initiation of aggression.

Ending division by race is something I have long struggled for. Let me personalize it.

I'm a white boy, a Pākehā descended from Irish stock who emigrated to Aotearoa in 1876. I married a full-blooded Māori woman and fairly purchased, from her uncle, land and a house at her turangawaewae at Waiohiki. We have six children, nineteen grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren.

What I experience is structural



racism against Māori. Statistically, as compared to the descendants of my siblings, mine are going to earn less and die earlier. It doesn't seem fair to me. I hear talk of Māori privilege but, for the life of me, and despite broad life experience, I simply don't encounter it. I do encounter systemic deprivation, poorer housing, relatively poor health outcomes, and a criminal justice industrial complex that seems to show bias against my wife's kith and kin, and consequently against our mutual descendants.

I see no privilege there. So, yes, I'm all for ending division by race.

On the marae I proudly describe myself as Ngāti Pākehā nō Aotearoa, Tangata Tiriti. I'm not 'non-Māori'. I am someone with my own ancestry and I stand tall and confident in the belief that I belong in Aotearoa New Zealand because each day I do my best to uphold the agreement that binds us. ACTors (bad or otherwise) object to the terminology of Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti, presenting them as an unwelcome binary divide foisted on us by the outgoing Labour government.

Fact check: the term Tangata Tiriti was first used by Sir Edward Taihakurei Durie, at Waitangi in 1989 when he was chair of the Waitangi Tribunal.

Ta Eddie said that Tangata Tiriti belong to this land by right of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi. He noted that without the Te Tiriti/Treaty we would have no lawful presence in such numbers nor any legitimate political role in this part of the Pacific. Through Te Tiriti, Tangata Tiriti have a relationship with Māori and the

Statistically, as compared to the descendants of my siblings, mine are going to earn less and die earlier. It doesn't seem fair to me. I hear talk of Māori privilege but, for the life of me, and despite broad life experience, I simply don't encounter it.

land of Aotearoa New Zealand. Isn't that beautiful? Indian, Asian, African, Arab, European, American (North and South), Melanesian and other Polynesian peoples, as Tangata Tiriti we all belong.

In the wake of the election, let me come back to that Hawke's Bay terroir concept.

Our area's experience of colonisation is unique. At the top end of Links Road near the expressway intersect are three carvings on tall pou. They represent a group of local chiefs referred to by local Māori as 'the Trinity'. In 1849 these chiefs, Renata Kawepo, Paora Kaiwhata, Tareha Te Moananui and other local rangatira, by unanimous consent, through a letter to Governor George Grey invited European settlement of Ahuriri.

Despite the Māori aspirations of shared prosperity not being realized those Māori chiefs stayed loyal to their word. In the troubled times of the mid-1860's when confronted by the complexities of what we now call "the New Zealand Wars" these East Coast Rangatira warned off other tribes from waging war against the Hawke's Bay Pākehā settlers. Matters came to a head in October 1866 in what is now referred to as the 'Battle of Ōmarunui', barely a kilometer away from Waiohiki. Consistent with Te Tiriti/the Treaty the region's Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti stood side by side in defense of each other and their Tiriti agreement.

The underlying political sentiments of the East Coast chiefs of the day were summed up by my children's tupuna Tareha Te Moananui in his

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For the moment the debate is over. I'd like to think that like after an event where perhaps hyper-aroused and intoxicated by ideas we say things that we later regret, we will take a more sober and conciliatory stance.



maiden speech in the Third Session of New Zealand's Fourth Parliament in September 1868. This was the seminal Parliamentary speech by a Māori.

I paraphrase, but even then, the issues are familiar. He argued that there should be one law for all New Zealanders. That's equality. He said that Māori and European were similar but not the same. That's a diversity statement. He proposed that the power of good was stronger than the power of evil. This is the fundamental precept of whānau ora. Oh, and he said that when problems arise let both Māori and other New Zealanders look at it and find a common solution – that's co-governance.

An older Pākehā man said to me, perhaps expressing the misconstrued ACT proposition, "Why has it all changed?" He said, "I feel brittle!" Brittle. I understand that. That's what many Māori have felt as they witnessed the place names of their ancestors being changed and their traditional food sources and economies being disrupted.

The word Māori simply means normal, ordinary, usual. There are differing world views. For Māori

property rights intimate an obligation to care for the environment with an intergenerational lens, kaitiaki, not to exploit and crank out every drop of profit possible. As we grapple with climate change that seems to be a sound platform for a relationship.

For the moment the debate is over. I'd like to think that like after an event where perhaps hyper-aroused and intoxicated by ideas we say things that we later regret, we will take a more sober and conciliatory stance. Prime Minister-elect Christopher Luxon recently said that when Māori do well all New Zealanders do well. I agree with that. The Māori king, Tuheitia Potatau Te Wherowhero VII, echoing the words of Tareha, said policies that impact on Māori should be led by Māori for all New Zealanders.

We can get on together. Sir Keith Holyoake once reckoned that miscegenation holds the answer, that "the racial problems of Aotearoa New Zealand will be solved in the bedrooms of the nation". Truly. Cuzzy! ●

Denis O'Reilly is a relentless optimist and social activist resident in Waiohiki.

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BAYBUZZ
HAWKE'S BAY UP CLOSE, IN DEPTH



Bringing back the Bay Express

Hawke's Bay's last passenger train service, the Bay Express, stopped running in 2001.

This year the Save Our Trains group have been holding meetings in towns and cities across New Zealand to encourage a revival of passenger rail. This includes meetings in Woodville, Dannevirke, Napier and Hastings.

In contrast to New Zealand, in most parts of the world there is an expansion of inter-regional passenger rail. There are the super-fast bullet train networks that New Zealanders can only dream about. But there are also trains that run at 160 kilometres per hour on the same narrow-gauge track as we have here. Our neighbour has one running in Queensland, as do the

Japanese. There is also a worldwide revival of night trains.

Modern trains feature easy access for prams, wheelchairs, mobility scooters and bikes. They have on-board toilets, cafes and wifi so business travellers can work on the train. Unlike the electric or hydrogen powered planes still on the drawing board, there are already trains powered by overhead lines, by battery or by hydrogen.

Even if propelled by diesel motors, they are very low users of energy and create much lower emissions per kilometre than planes or cars. Modern trains can operate as hybrids known as Bi-mode of diesel and battery, or even Tri-mode as is being proposed for the Lower North Island rolling stock where there is electric power overhead, a battery that can be charged and an onboard generator to charge the battery when overhead is not available to do so.

When powered by electricity, train

Even if propelled by diesel motors, they are very low users of energy and create much lower emissions per kilometre than planes or cars.

emission profiles are extraordinarily low. British data comparing the all-electric Eurostar with flying the same route shows it produces just 6 grams/km/person compared with the 255 grams for the plane. Without the option of rail, on a per capita domestic basis, New Zealanders emit seven times more domestic aviation emissions than people living in the UK and nine times that of Germany.

So why, unlike the rest of the world, do we not have a love affair with trains?

Local train history

Andre Brett, in his 2021 book, *Can't get there from here*, provides an explanation. In a section titled '2001-2002



The Bay Express. Photo: John Bovis

The Regional Passenger Train's Annus Horribilis', the demise of the Bay Express is set out. This was a period post privatisation of the railways and Brett argues that poor marketing, asset-stripping, aging rolling stock and a failure to upgrade infrastructure meant that trains that ought to have been viable were not.

In late 2000, the rail operator company Tranz Rail offered its long-distance trains, including the Bay Express, for sale with tenders closing in early 2001. One successful buyer was Australia's West Coast Railways (WCR). According to Brett, WCR indicated a willingness to negotiate with central government about subsidies and other support services to keep the Bay Express running. Initially a subsidy of \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year was suggested. A campaign to keep it going was led by Napier's then-Mayor Alan Dick. But it seems later WCR asked for a subsidy of \$1 million per year. No support from government nor from key councils along the route was forthcoming and the service stopped in 2001.

The lack of support for rail in 2001 was in contrast to that given to Air New Zealand. At this time there was a growing list of airlines around the world facing financial difficulties. On 3 October 2001, Helen Clark's Labour government put together a large rescue package arguing that a national



However, whilst the rail network received much needed investment in the rail freight business, long distance and Inter-regional passenger rail continued to suffer from a lack of investment and no government support.

carrier was essential. Coincidentally exactly four days later on 7 October 2001, the Bay Express and other major passenger rail services ceased running in New Zealand.

In 2003 the government agreed to renationalise the national rail network and in 2004 Ontrack was formed as part of the rescue package. Toll NZ took over the above rail operations and reintegrated West Coast Railways

Tranz Scenic operation back into its business. However, whilst the rail network received much needed investment in the rail freight business, long distance and Inter-regional passenger rail continued to suffer from a lack of investment and no government support.

The Northerner overnight passenger train between Auckland and Wellington closed in 2004 and even the Overlander train, the last remaining passenger train between Auckland and Wellington, nearly closed in 2006 and was only saved by a last good will gesture from Australian operator Toll Holdings after a massive backlash from communities served along the line.

The Labour Government renationalised the above rail operator in 2008 and named it KiwiRail and it wasn't until 2009 that a National Government finally agreed to invest \$40 million in new passenger rolling stock for trains on the Coastal Pacific and Tranz Alpine routes. This rolling stock is now stretched to run all three remaining largely tourist-oriented trains.

Fast forward to the 2020s and there were signs the Labour Government would at last reinvest in inter-regional passenger rail. In 2018 they agreed to support a service between Hamilton and Auckland on a five year trial service. Te Huia was launched and whilst it had a rough start due to Covid restrictions limiting people's ability to



The Bay Express. Photo: John Bovis

travel inter-regionally, it is now going from strength to strength.

In 2021 the government also agreed to invest in refurbished interim carriages to replace aging Capital Connection rolling stock that runs between Palmerston North and Hamilton. And in the May 2023 budget government announced funding for a new fleet of 18 four car Tri-Mode trains to run between Wellington and Masterton and Wellington and Palmerston North. It is hoped that this order may be the start of a rolling stock procurement for other parts of New Zealand.

So, what about Hawke's Bay?

Why should we be considering bringing back passenger rail to Hawke's Bay? And more importantly, would such a service be used?

A number of things have changed since 2001. First, and we would argue most importantly, we have a climate crisis. We need to rapidly and substantially reduce transport emissions. Trains provide a good way to do this.

Also of importance, the population mix is changing. Hawke's Bay is projected to be one of New Zealand's fastest growing areas. In 2018, it was estimated 172,000 people lived in the

A new service could see a train departing both Wellington and Napier respectively each morning around 8 am and returning to the origin city each afternoon.

region. This is projected to reach over 202,000 by 2048, two years before we need to be net zero for emissions. More people mean a greater potential user base for a train.

But the population is also aging. In 2001, when the Bay Express ceased operation, just 13% of the Hawke's Bay population was estimated to be 65 or older. But by 2033, it could be 24% and by 2048 it is likely to be just under one-third. Many will be in their 70s or 80s. While most will be in the larger areas of Napier and Hastings, significant numbers will be in the smaller towns across the region.

At any age not everyone is able to drive or wants to drive. But at some point in our lives, most of us will no

longer be able to do so.

Longer distance buses are important. But they do not provide the experience trains, especially modern trains, provide. NZ buses do not have on-board toilets or cafes. They are a real challenge to use if differently abled. At some point electric planes may well provide some inter-regional services. But given the significant electricity requirements to run them and the need to buy new planes, airfares are not likely to be cheap. And they will not be easily accessible for those living in the smaller towns.

With the procurement of the new trains for the lower North Island, they could form the basis of a national standard for future inter-regional longer distance passenger trains. Like an aircraft they can be configured internally differently with various seating arrangements – such as differing pitch for longer distance journeys as well as have areas for servery cars for a café.

In the recent parliamentary select committee inquiry into the future of inter-regional passenger rail in New Zealand, Hawke's Bay rail services were specifically mentioned. The inquiry recommended that scoping studies be progressed for inter-regional passenger rail services that

included the following:

- a) Auckland–Wellington
- b) Auckland–Tauranga
- c) Napier–Wellington
- d) an extension of the Capital Connection service to Feilding.

It also noted that further investigation of other potential inter-regional passenger rail routes be undertaken to meaningfully compare and identify the costs, benefits, and risks associated with different opportunities.

We need to realise though, that a new Napier–Wellington service would require some substantial investment into new infrastructure and rolling stock.

Whilst the railway station still exists in Napier (used currently for other purposes) there is now no train station in Hastings and there is no rolling stock available for this service. Other towns, such as Woodville, Dannevirke, Ormondville, and Waipukurau along the route are fortunate that their railway stations largely still exist. And only relatively modest rehabilitation is required so challenges on this route are not as large as they are in some other parts of New Zealand. The Napier–Wellington rail corridor has capacity for a new service, but some upgrading work would be needed to bring the track up to reasonable standard for a modern rail service at reasonable speed.

A new service could see a train departing both Wellington and Napier respectively each morning around 8 am and returning to the origin city each afternoon. So to begin with two train sets would be required thus providing two return services a day. Transit time

Timetable (Daily)

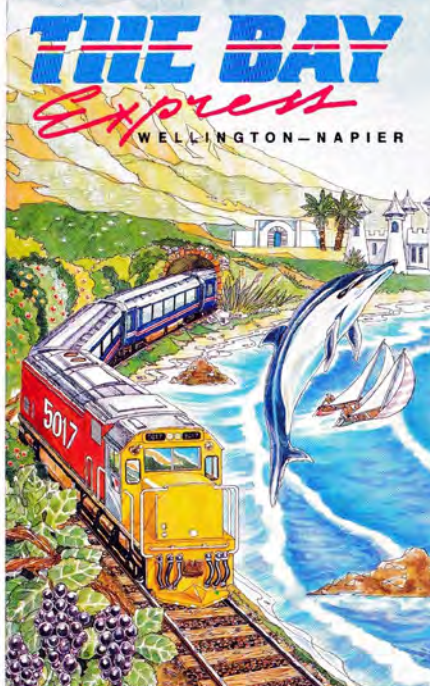
WELLINGTON — NAPIER			NAPIER — WELLINGTON		
Wellington	dep	8.00am	Napier	dep	2.30pm
Porirua	dep	8.20am	Hastings	dep	2.50pm
Paraparaumu	dep	8.53am	Waipukurau	dep	3.42pm
Otaki	dep	9.13am	Ormondville	dep	4.20pm
Levin	dep	9.32am	Dannevirke	dep	4.45pm
Palmerston North	dep	10.08am	Woodville	dep	5.10pm
Woodville	dep	10.49am	Palmerston North	dep	5.54pm
Dannevirke	dep	11.16am	Levin	dep	6.28pm
Ormondville	dep	11.40am	Otaki	dep	6.50pm
Waipukurau	dep	12.17pm	Paraparaumu	dep	7.10pm
Hastings	dep	1.09pm	Porirua	dep	7.41pm
Napier	arr	1.30pm	Wellington	arr	8.00pm

Times shown are subject to change. New Zealand Rail Limited accepts no liability for any loss, damage or expense due to delays in transit from any cause.



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each way is about five hours. But this could be improved over time as track upgrades allow. The trains currently being procured for the Palmerston North to Wellington leg are to run at a top speed of about 120 kph after track upgrades.

To bring back passenger services non-partisan, cross party, central government support is needed. With this support in place, the next steps can be delivered for a sustainable

future with rail passenger services to Hawke's Bay and other parts of New Zealand.

[Dr Paul Callister is an economist whose research centres on sustainable transport, particularly long distance bus and rail networks and options for decarbonising aviation.](#)
[Michael van Drogenbroek is a Transport Consultant/Advisor at Heriot-Edievale Ltd with 30 years plus experience.](#)






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Searching for Gold

WRITTEN BY ZOE BARNES
FOR HASTINGS CITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

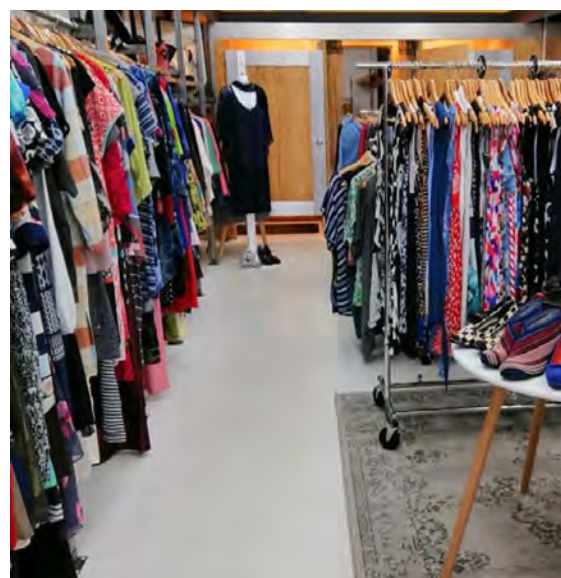


Did you know that Hastings City is a veritable mecca of “thrifting” (slash op shopping)? Within a few blocks we have TEN stores selling pre-loved items. TEN. Can you just imagine all the treasures waiting for you to find them?

There are many, many reasons why thrifting has become popular of late, not the least of which is - WHY NOT? In this new world of sustainability and circular economies the saying “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” has never rung truer. Whether you are looking for a great deal, to leave less of a dent on the earth, you are needing a project or simply you just love the thrill of the chase, Hastings City second hand stores are brimming with quality clothing, nostalgic items and everyday products that will suit your needs.

Was that tshirt previously owned by a sullen teenager going through a misplaced punk era? Were those salad servers used at a dinner party that went spectacularly badly? Was that Weird Barbie played with just a little bit too hard? The mystery is half the fun when you shop second hand.

So the next time you are after almost any item you can think of - pop into one of the stores below and see what you can find.



1 BETTER USED FURNITURE | 120 Karamu Road South

Better Used Furniture are the largest secondhand dealers in Hawke's Bay. With a huge showroom full of second hand, modern and antique furniture their products range from household furniture, office furniture, whiteware, modern, retro and occasional antique.

2 THE LITTLE RED BOOK SHOP | 205 Heretaunga Street East

This gorgeous store is overflowing with stories, stocking well cared for fiction, non fiction, children's, recipes and anything else you can think of. Let your imagination run wild while picking your next novel.

3 EDIT | 330 Heretaunga Street West

Offering both new and pre-loved women's fashion clothing and accessories, Edit stocks clothes that are modern, beautiful and affordable.

4 SAVEMART | 312 Queen Street West

SaveMart is a bargain hunters heaven. Given they have thousands of new good quality items landing on the racks weekly this is the perfect place to shop on a budget, while ensuring you still look and feel great. Make sure you go with time to spare to this one though - it is HUGE.

5 THREADS COMMUNITY CLOTHING STORE

106 Karamu Road North

Providing good quality clothing at affordable prices, Threads has been in business, supporting local charities since 2014. Stocking womens, mens and childrens clothing you will find everything from suits to hand knitted woollen baby beanies here.

6 CRANFORD HOSPICE | 306 Queen Street West

On a mission to turn second hand goods into first class care, Cranford Hospice stores offer a vast array of options including a dedicated Art Deco section. Whether you're looking for something for an event, or every day - you'll find it at Cranford Hospice.

**7 ORPHANS AID OP SHOP | 117 Russell Street North**

Pick up a 70's tea set, a tool box, soft toys or a sparkly blazer and support their work to rescue children from abusive and unsafe situations and to place them into loving families or homes.

8 THE SALVATION ARMY FAMILY STORE | 207 Warren Street North

Often front of mind when it comes to donating, the Salvation Army is well entrenched in the second hand game. With everything from beautiful homewares, artwork and sculptures to quality clothing and accessories, you'll find it hard to leave without something in your hands.

9 SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL | 311 Avenue Road East

"Vinnies" as it's lovingly referred to is an absolute treasure trove of excellent quality second hand goods, with stock turning over so frequently a weekly trip is not a silly idea. Stocking a variety of goods at very reasonable prices make this one shop worth a good hunt through.

10 SPCA OP SHOP | 324 Heretaunga Street West

SPCA Op Shop sells a wide range of donated items, including womens, mens and kids clothing, jewellery, homeware, kitchenware, linen, toys, furniture and things for your pets. Winners of the SPCA Op Shop "Best team of the year" in 2022, you are in good hands when you shop in this store!

KATE MACKENZIE



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**HOT WITH A CHANCE OF
NORMALITY**

5 November - 2 December



Life

Be enveloped by the sheer beauty of the sacred Huia – learn what creativity can do for the soul and how we can play an active part in the healing of our land. We find three local gindustry champions making waves in the spirit world – and forget the stress, make potluck your choice for a Christmas spread.

Pipitonu, Two Hearts Beat as One, MTG Hawke's Bay, 2022. Fiona Pardington. Inkjet print on Hahnemühle paper. Image: Courtesy of the Artist, and Starkwhite Auckland and Queenstown.

TE AO-MĀRAMA THE LIGHT



TE PŌ THE DARK



FINE FEATHERS

A metaphorical soft breeze is blowing around the Hastings Cultural Precinct, bringing great news. The zephyr comes from the fluttering feathers of the Huia bird, forty of which are destined to cover the creation of the Hawke's Bay Regional Museum Research and Archives Centre, in Hastings.

Visuals courtesy RTA Studio

On the corner of Hastings and Queen Street, in two years time a very tired old commercial building will become a made-for-purpose space - not only thoughtful and beautiful but also permanent. A home for the care and protection of the 90,000 (and still counting) treasures and taonga which form the collections of the MTG Museum. One of the richest in the country and worth close to \$30 million, it is guarded by the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust on behalf of the people of Hawke's Bay.

The catalyst

Dick Grant has been the Chair of the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust since 2015, appointed by the mayors of Hastings and Napier. "When I took over as Chair the trustees had identified that the storage of the MTG collection was its key priority. Like many museums, only a small proportion of the collection can be displayed at any one time, and the rest must be stored," Dick explains.

"Given that storage at the MTG building has always been very limited, the collection has been kept in part of the National Tobacco Building in Ahuriri on a temporary basis. That building is not up to modern standards of museum storage. Iwi have long requested this, and the Trust has always supported that."

These issues have also been top of

mind for Bruce Allan, deputy chief executive of HDC. "My major concern has always been the worry of the MTG artifacts being held in the basement of the Tobacco Building - so near the sea. And finding the perfect depository that is fit for purpose has not been simple," says Bruce.

And so, in 2018, NCC and HDC agreed to form a trilateral working group (the Joint Working Group or JWG) with the Museums Trust to address the issue.

Dick reflects on the progress of the storage project: "The backing of the JWG from both mayors has been critical in getting us to where we are now - the identification and purchase of a specific building; the application to central government for funds; and the agreement of both councils to accept the project and start work.

"In terms of funding, with the support of a number of organisations including iwi, applications to Lotteries and the Crown have been successful to the tune of \$5.79 million, along with \$9 million from the Manatū Taonga - Ministry for Culture and Heritage regional culture and heritage fund. That, on top of the Hastings and Napier Councils' contributions, have made the project possible. The final piece of the funding puzzle has seen the Museums Trust itself making a commitment to trying to raise \$1 million," says Dick.

He goes on to say, "It's been a true team effort. Hastings District Council is the project leader and has managed the funding applications to central government on behalf of the JWG; Hastings District is now the owner of the building and Napier District Council is contributing financially to the overall project as well."

Site and design

With five years on the JWG, HDC's Bruce Allan's knowledge of this project is deep. "Over the years, numerous buildings and locations have been considered and assessed by the JWG. But in the end, we agreed the Briscoes building in Hastings was the one that best met the criteria. And it's also ideally positioned as a cultural bookend to the Waiaroha Heretaunga Water Discovery Centre."

With the decision made that the Briscoes building was the best option, conversations between council and mana whenua began in earnest to make sure the project aligned with regional Te Aranga principles - lifting the mana of the facility culturally, while also ensuring the respectful process of relocating the taonga to a new home.

Initial hui led by Dr James Graham and supported by Charlie Ropitini culminated in a design narrative. This was undertaken by Ngāti Hori and brought together and authored by Waiariki Davis to validate the architecture and acknowledge the custodians of the Mākirikiri site where the building will be erected.

They provided a powerful and inspiring summary: "*To create the image of a building crowned with a tipare headband, surmounted by rows of black, white-tipped huia feathers, with two dominant bronzed red kura feathers, interspersed with white toroa feathers as decoration. This reminds us that the intent of the building is to hold the institutional memories of Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. The head is adorned with the finest feathers of significance to mana whenua. They send a strong signal to the community that this place is a storehouse of sacred and special memories, extracted for remembrance, research and exhibition.*"

Bruce Allan has clearly relished being a part of this process. "The research required and working with Ngāti Hori adds so much depth to the background narrative of the plan. When doing our



ABOVE: Four aspects of the new building (clockwise): the void – ‘the new and the old separated by a seismically celestial gap’; working space in the Lighthouse; one aspect of the reception showing the staircase upstairs and another aspect of the reception area of the Lighthouse.



The Stage Coach which carried the mail between Napier and Taupō in the late 1800s and early 1900s, on display at the MTG.



The Waka Huia is a treasure box used by Māori to hold precious adornments such as hei tiki (pendants) and huia feathers for dressing the hair.

site assessments and due diligence, RTA Studio were initially engaged to do the feasibility work, then the resource consent application by which time they had developed a deep understanding of what we were wanting to achieve. RTA were formally engaged at this point and the involvement of Waiariki followed and provided that cultural interface to the design.

“While the building is not a museum, it will enable schools and scholars to have access to research; Māori will have access to their taonga. Protection and research play defining roles and although there will be no displays or exhibitions, the public can gain access by appointment or through advertised tours or open days. It’s a wonderful opportunity to discover Aotearoa New Zealand history,” says Allan.

Ask Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst her thoughts and you’ll feel her full enthusiasm. “It’s hugely exciting that we are now underway with building this modern, beautifully designed regional asset in the heart of Hastings. The collection is a taonga for our region and it will be wonderful to have it safely preserved and more accessible to whānau, hapū, the wider Hawke’s Bay community and visitors, for research and education. We owe a big thank you to Ngati Kahungunu for their support and encouragement throughout the five-year journey.”

From this point on, the project has an expected 18-24-month lifespan, including the very complex three-to-four-month relocation of the region’s taonga and artefacts. The Briscoes building is now well and truly a construction site, and a phoenix is set to rise from the rubble.

The creation

The architectural brief asked for ‘practical - spectacular’ and RTA Studio has embraced the cultural and functional vision for the project with brilliance. Casey Anderson, RTA Studio Project Lead, has been working on the assignment since he moved back from the UK where rolling Covid lockdowns drove him back to NZ. Hawke’s Bay was “an unknown territory” but he felt “the fit was good” with RTA being a design led and a sustainably forward practice.

“I like contributing to the community - working on public and civic spaces,” Anderson comments, and by the time he came on board at RTA, Assistant Director of the studio David Wright was already conducting a feasibility study on Briscoes. Casey quickly

“The intent of the building is to hold the institutional memories of Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke’s Bay. The head is adorned with the finest feathers of significance to mana whenua. They send a strong signal to the community that this place is a storehouse of sacred and special memories, extracted for remembrance, research and exhibition.”

became closely entwined with the ensuing design process.

The concept of the cloak and the waka huia (treasure box) were the beginning of what became a beautifully layered narrative gifted from mana whenua and woven together by local history and geographical connection to place and people.

Traditionally Māori employ a natural cloak for protection, comprising Huia, Toroa and Kura feathers. Bringing the Hawke’s Bay collection together under one roof, it seems fitting that the building will be encased in a cloak of folded metal Huia feathers symbolising protection and inclusivity, embodied in a striking architectural design.

The RTA team have also explored three key entities to underpin their design:

Te Kore – The Void

Nothingness
The before

Te Ao-mārama – The Light

A beacon for the public
A place of work
A place of conservation, education and research
Transparent - welcoming and open

Te Pō – The Dark

Where there is no natural light
Taonga is stored and protected.
Where the people’s treasures are preserved, secure, and temperature controlled.

[RTA wish to note that the cultural intellectual property of this specific mana whenua design brief is in the custodianship of Ngāti Hāwea, Ngāti Hori and Ngāti Hinemoa, who hold mana whenua over the Mākirikiri site.]

Transformation

Situated on the corner of Queen and Hastings Streets, our new Hawke’s Bay Regional Museum Research and Archive Centre is thoughtfully conceived and simply beautiful visually. At night the three entities which make the whole will light up the arts centre and beyond.

The two buildings - the new and the old - separated by the wide void to protect from earthquakes and other possible climatic damage are now starting to become a reality. The new and the old separated by a seismically celestial gap - the new building Te Ao or Lighthouse - bright, all white, fresh and new; a beacon for public use; a place of work; a place of observation, education and research. A place that is welcoming.

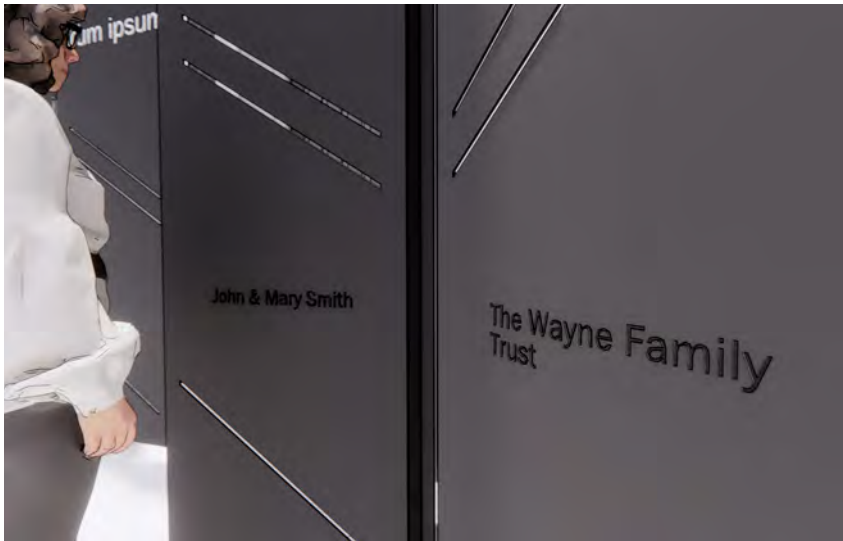
That tired old commercial building will be transformed into a permanent home for the care and protection of the 90,000+ items in our collection. Named ‘the Darkhouse’, it is black. But inside - pristine bright white - not a flicker of dust to be seen or allowed. Lighting illuminates every corner, ensuring the precious treasures of the MTG remain intact. Eternal.

Moving house

This is a huge project with many involved, and another central figure is Laura Vodanovich, Director of the MTG - someone who has an immense love of what she does along with profound responsibilities. For Laura and her team at MTG, the prospect of having a home to put the collections and artefacts that is dry, built for purpose, hence offering a much simpler system of order, would have to be one she entertains with quiet pleasure.

Also particularly pleasing is that there will be room for collections to grow. “Collections only ever grow,” Laura comments rather dryly, “and there is space allowing for growth - some 15 to 20 years of it. We never know the size of the acquisitions until they appear, so scale is unpredictable. Like the Stage Coach which took passengers and the mail between Napier and Taupō during the late 1800s to the early 1900’s. The public are really interested in seeing that. So, finding the right space is not simple - it is not small,” (said with a small smile).

“Our collections are the largest of the regions around New Zealand and each and every one is carefully catalogued. In order to prepare for the move to the new facility, staff are working hard on determining the right location for each item in the new store, re-packing items



A prototype of a protective feather demonstrating the lifetime legacy left to Hawke's Bay through an engraved name.



Taku Tahu, MTG Hawke's Bay, 2022. Fiona Pardington. Inkjet print on Hahnemühle paper.

for the new way they will be stored. This includes, for instance, adding earthquake proof hanging devices to the back of paintings, which are currently stored in crates but in the new facility will be on hanging racks – making them easier to access and to view. Every different type of object requires its own particular type of care and storage, making this a complex jigsaw puzzle and at the same time staff need to ensure we keep track of where each item is at all times.”

An undertaking a lesser person than Laura might choose to pass on!

Huia cloak and feather funding

‘Huia, your destiny is to bring everyone together.’
Ihaia Hutuna 1843-1938.

In bringing the Hawke's Bay collection together under one roof, the building will be encased in a cloak of 40 beautiful huia feathers, which leads us to the ‘missing million’ and where the MTG Foundation comes in.

“The Museums Trust is the guardian of the Hawke's Bay Museum collections held for the benefit of the people of Hawke's Bay. The MTG Foundation is a separate entity that sits alongside the HBMTG,” explains Jeanette Kelly, who is the Foundation Chair as well as an HBMT Trustee. “Napier and Hastings Councils fund the care of the collections, but this does not extend to any budget for new acquisitions.

“We actively work to raise money to support the development of the Trust's

collection. Through donations from patrons, we have built a reserve to help generate an annual acquisitions budget for MTG. We also run an annual supporter's programme offering enriching arts experiences such as exhibitions and collection events, floor talks and guest speakers.

“Our mission is to grow and protect the Hawke's Bay collection forever.”

Most particularly the current mission of the Foundation is to raise the extra \$1 million that is needed to dress the building in her beautiful feather cloak, which will protect her both physically and metaphysically.

“We realise that Cyclone Gabrielle has made an enormous impact on our region and fundraising is difficult. But, having secured such a large amount of money from central government, the project is committed to proceeding and the councils are fully behind it.

“The underlying principle is that we would like individuals, corporates, and community groups to come on board to help preserve the history and taonga of Hawke's Bay forever – to be our finest of feathered friends. By sponsoring a protective feather, they will be leaving a legacy for Hawke's Bay, for their children, grandchildren and beyond. There are 40 feathers surrounding the building and it is hoped that each side of a feather will have a sponsor for \$10,000.”

The fundraising campaign launch will be held at the MTG in November.

For information go to themtgfoundation.com
And watch those feathers fly.

TĀKU HUIA KAIMANAWA FIONA PARDINGTON

A further dimension to the new building and the cloak of 40 feathers destined to cover it is the exhibition of Fiona Pardington's superb photographs of the huia currently on display at MTG. Renowned for her images of the taonga of the natural and cultural world, Fiona's work is held in collections worldwide. The exhibition honours ‘our’ huia – taxidermized birds held in the MTG's Natural History Collection and the feathers that are part of the William Colenso Collection.

“The sacred huia bird is a powerful reminder of the concept of mana or Rangatira. Its symbolic value is emphasised by its unique lineage, setting it apart from other birds in the spiritual realm of Tāne Mahuta,” explains Toni MacKinnon, who is the Art Curator at MTG. “The illustrious and sadly extinct huia is a revered taonga with a strong connection to Ngāti Kahungunu and their rohe. So, we are really honoured that Fiona's beautiful works exhibited at MTG are images that she created at the Ahuriri storage unit last year when she came to her iwi rohe, Te-Matua-a-Māui Hawke's Bay.”

Following the cyclone and the devastation that it brought Fiona has donated an artwork, *Taku Tahu*, to the people of Hawke's Bay. ●



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Turning point
Reflections on changing
one's life path – an occasional series

Story: Kay Bazzard
Photographs: Florence Charvin

TAKING A NEW ROAD

Mā te Toi ka whakahokia e ahau tōku Mana.
Through my art I take back my power.
Māori whakatauki, or proverb

In February, I turned 80 and to celebrate the momentous occasion I became a student again by joining a Level 4 course in Māori Contemporary Arts at Toimairangi in Hastings.

Perhaps more truthfully, I was hoping to avoid sinking into the mire of old age and its related decline in health that I feared must, inevitably, be looming. We know that getting older can be a vulnerable and lonely phase of life. However, I have been fortunate as a practicing ceramic artist for the past twenty years, that art making has been my friend, offering long periods of utter absorption that feeds my soul.

Creativity can open our minds, relax us, lift our wairua (spirit) and give us hope. If we look abroad just briefly, in the United Kingdom 20-30% of doctors' visits are related to non-medical problems, such as isolation and loneliness. Some of these patients are referred to Arts on Prescription programmes which yield a wide range of benefits.*

The World Health Organisation found that those taking part in some form of arts activity helped to overcome social isolation and chronic pain; they experienced decreases in anxiety and depression, and it improved their joint mobility, cardiovascular fitness, confidence and self-esteem. In these cases, those therapeutic qualities have a meaningful and often long-lasting impact on people's wellbeing.*

Why is it that as we get older, we can become so isolated?

Those of us who are in our seventh or eighth decade can usually describe feelings of 'can't be bothered', aches and pains that slow us down and a lack of motivation to walk anywhere, meet new people or do anything new. I know I do, and I am constantly reminding myself that it is this apathy and inertia that will ultimately result in isolation if I don't address it, along with the lack of fitness and stimulation that gets us in the end.

My 79th year was rather like that. I felt flat and

unmotivated, only the dog got me moving and the saddest thing was, I was feeling less committed to my artwork. It is hard to put my finger on it, but I guess I was facing my eighties, the decade when statistically, those who are still alive experience health problems and a drop off in independence and self actualisation. By going back to school, I would challenge those assumptions and now that I am into my second semester, I am very glad I did.

The Toimairangi School of Contemporary Visual Arts was founded in 2002 by the legendary Sandy Adsett (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Pāhauwera) under the auspices of Te Wananga o Aotearoa, a tertiary level education provider that offers courses in most subjects related to tikanga Māori.

Across six decades Sandy Adsett has explored Māori symbology and given new voice to customary approaches to Māori art. The primary element in much of his work is the koru (unfurling fern frond). He has occupied a formative place in Māori contemporary arts education, sharing his life-long arts passion with his students that also engages them in the challenges of the Māori arts identity. He was recognised in 2020 by the NZ Arts Foundation as an Arts Icon and has recently retired as the Director of Toimairangi.

Over the years, a large number of Toimairangi taura have emerged with an arts degree. A significant number of them have moved on to become recognised 'names' whose work is held in art collections and exhibited in major Aotearoa-New Zealand art exhibitions. Māori artists are doing well. They are all part of a vibrant and growing community of Māori art practitioners, interconnected and supportive of each other while they expand the mana and understanding of tikanga Māori in the wider community. And - their art sells.

Last November, during a chance meeting with Tracy Keith, who is a fellow ceramic artist and the current kaiwhakahaere (director) of Toimairangi, he suggested I should join Toimairangi as a student, inviting me to visit the school to take a look around and chat to some of the teachers and students to get a feel of the place as they were looking to bring some diversity into their student cohorts.

Initially I thought it an unlikely course of action for someone of my age and culture until I had a flash of inspiration - I should start my eighties the way I meant to go on! I should jump on the waka and

LEFT: Kay Bazzard with fellow Toimairangi student, Eve Kireka.



Eve Kireka, a senior student doing a degree course and Tracy Keith, director of Toimairangi with work from fellow students in the background.

commit myself to a year of study in a different form of art, doing something I loved, and I would start my eighties 'running'.

It would be totally out of my comfort zone of course. My life to date has been devoted to family and working and is Pākehā-focused. My journey hadn't brought me into contact with Māori communities.

I am of British descent and married an Englishman, living in England for the first fifteen years of our married life before returning to New Zealand. My limited knowledge of New Zealand's indigenous peoples had been formed during my 1950-60s (so called) education that was shamefully superficial and revealed now as colonially-biased.

Although over the years I had read updated versions of New Zealand history written by Anne Salmond and Michael King with great interest (and some discomfort), I was quite unaware of the exceptional art being produced by Māori.

In 2020 I had twice visited an exhibition curated by the Auckland City Art Gallery, Toi Tu Toi Ora and, more recently, visited several times the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Artists' Collective exhibitions that were featured at the Hastings Art Gallery.

Awed by what I was viewing during those lingering visits, I was absorbed with the visionary elements of taonga toi that were telling ancient stories in dramatic contemporary imagery. I closely examined them, reading the information about the artists and the exhibits, admiring the precision in the application of paint, chisel and other media; feeling rather shocked that I had been so unaware of the quality of art forms being produced by the first peoples of Aotearoa.

However, it did not occur to me that such an education might be available to me in some way as a Pākehā, to be able to study alongside other taurira toi

(art students) close to home, here in Heretaunga.

After visiting the school, I spent several months considering Tracy's suggestion. To engage in it properly I needed to let go of the 'old person' thinking and face up to a radical change of experience and to take courage from this exciting opportunity. Age should not be an issue; my ethnicity was largely an obstacle in my own mind, and I really welcomed the opportunity to learn how to further my drawing and painting skills.

My engagement with art has always been an uplifting experience, and while it was a bit nerve-wracking to begin with, wondering how I would cope, I resolved to bring curiosity and an open mind to what I was going to learn.

At Toimairangi we were all welcomed warmly and we gradually got to know one another. As a group of mature learners we have been coached through the assignments with gentle, hands-off encouragement (we're all adults), learning about traditional imagery, drawing and painting techniques.

I am discovering that Māori art (traditional and contemporary) is all about storytelling. In particular, I have found the self-directed rangahau (research) very exciting and stimulating, relishing the flashes of connection and my growing knowledge, discoveries that result in new ideas that lead into my artwork as it progresses.

As a largely self-taught artist who has been working solely with clay for years in an intuitive way, it is a fresh approach and an extraordinary privilege to be able to view the practice of art through the mātauranga Māori lens.

Witi Ihimaera's writings are wonderful and from his stories and narratives I am absorbing the Māori creation myths, so freshly relevant to my new experience. Through conversations and assignments at the kura I am enhancing my understanding of whakapapa and cultural mores - gradually finding ways to interpret these concepts in paint, on canvas, but also, in clay in my own time. I am referencing Māori holistic beliefs in a way I hadn't been able to imagine before joining the course, because I hadn't really been sufficiently exposed to it.

Yes, I have gone beyond the U-turn and now, further down the track, the early nervousness has passed, and I am enjoying the ride. It isn't difficult, it is fascinating. I feel less anxious, more optimistic and empowered, and grateful that from this course and through most of my life, the practice of art has always supported me through difficult periods.

So readers, I can recommend taking a bit of a new road in life. It actually doesn't matter what your age - get off the proverbial 'comfortable sofa' and do something completely new. Get a dog and start walking, meet people, find moments of unexpected conversation, surprise yourself and get the blood circulating. Leave lethargy and despond behind, feel the joy as the dopamine lifts the mood and improves emotional resilience.

And, maybe take up art?

Age is just a number anyway and I advise myself regularly that it is truly self-defeating to limit my expectations of what and how much I can do with negative thoughts like, 'What if I can't cope?'. So, my advice is - breathe out, make the decision and act on it. Then trust the process. ●

* Information source, Creative New Zealand



Let the tills ring

Muse Gallery in Havelock Road has been a constant source of eye pleasure ever since its doors were opened going on seven years ago. That which adorns the gallery walls never fails to entice both art lovers - and many an artist. And those artworks which regularly hit the “wish for” button of the passing parade, are by artists whose talents have been discovered by owner Kaye McGarva.

Undoubtedly Kaye has an ability to suss out gifted creatives. This could be of course because she is no mean hand with a canvas herself.

Kaye graduated from IdeaSchool in 2014 as the Top Research Student. She has been a finalist in the National Contemporary Art Awards, Parkin Drawing Prize, the Wallace Art Awards, the Molly Morpeth Canaday Award and Walker & Hall Waiheke Art Award. She also shows internationally.

Back in Havelock Village her regular MUSE openings have become occasions to put a firm ‘do not miss’ in the calendar. None more so than her Affordable Art Show which is due to open December 3 at 3pm - just in time to solve the Christmas gift conundrum. Kaye considers this bonanza

of artwork a perfect way to “encourage people to give art at Christmas or perhaps permission to buy for themselves.”

Actually it is a lot more than that.

“It’s a lot of work from an administrative perspective and the logistics can be daunting, but it is also a lot of fun,” she explains. “And because we source from a wider pool of artists than our usual stable, it is an opportunity for us to tap someone whose work we may have seen on Instagram.

“Or an amateur artist whose work we might have seen at a community gallery - like Alexandra Tylee. We spotted her work at an ARTS Inc showing and invited her to show at the AAS about four years ago. Since then, she has had an exhibition with Richard Brimer and earlier this year she had her first solo show with us.

“Another example is Fiona Fox,” Kaye continues, “who for the last few years has made a large collection of her delicate torso wall sculptures. Fiona is a teacher, so she is only able to make her pieces during school holidays.”

As the moniker says, the work shown during the Affordable Art Show is priced to sell. It is divided into three categories based on price: Under \$500; Under \$1000 and under \$1500. And the biggest category by far is the Under \$500.

For her more experienced artists already part of the Muse set, Kaye suggests that they use it as an opportunity

to do something different or experimental. “And for new artists it is a way to get their name out there,” she continues “so they give it their best shot. I think what people love about the AAS is, it is such a mixed bag there is something for everyone.”

Unlike their normal showings at Muse, the Affordable Art Show has no pre-sales and the online catalogue is not realised until after 5p.m. on the Opening Day. “There is always a rush to get into the gallery and the whole place becomes one of joyful chaos,” Kaye continues. “Even the purchasing is different. Once chosen, just peel off the sticker and take it to the desk to pay.”

Kaye expects to have about 80 to 90 pieces of art from around 40 different artists - some of whom are sought after by the collectors, such as Richard Brimer, Kate Mackenzie, Josh Lancaster, Emma Hercus and Helen Kerridge. “And our top tip is to look out for the gorgeous ceramic tea bowls by Nicholas Toyne, who is a young up-and-coming artist from Wanganui. His work is in hot demand, and we are really excited about the fact he plans to make 30 of his unique ceramics in time for the show.” ◆

December 3, at 3pm
The Affordable Art Show
Muse Gallery,
5 Havelock Road, Havelock North



Gifts that keep giving

A sustainable festive season for a win/win

Twinkling lights, carols in the park, freshly picked strawberries, pōhutukawas in bloom. The holiday season is upon us.

When our divine *BayBuzz* Life editor Michal McKay asked me what I had in mind for this column I must admit I couldn't quite comprehend that it could be that time again already. What a year Hawke's Bay has lived. It feels like a day and a decade have passed both at the same time.

For many in the Bay the season to be jolly will still hold the undercurrent of the long tail of the storm. How can we bow in service at this time to the greater good? Lift our community and be an active part of the healing of our land?

In a region already renowned for its generosity in supporting their neighbours in times of need, what else can we do? As many prepare to exchange gifts with loved ones, I ponder the importance now more than ever of focusing on the joy we can bring to others, as well as the ripple effects that our choices can have on our community and environment.

Imagine the boost to our economy and morale if everyone in the Bay embraced sustainable, mindful gift buying and championed the cause of supporting local businesses and artisans right here in Hawke's Bay. Imagine the blessings of mother nature if we each put her at the forefront of our mind as a legacy of love to those who follow in our footsteps.

The Gift of Sustainability

Sustainability, the gift that keeps on giving, encapsulates the essence of responsible consumption and mindful living. In a world grappling with environmental challenges, in our region grappling with cyclone recovery, making bigger picture choices

during the festive season can go a long way. Opting for gifts with a lower carbon footprint, ones that are ethically made, products that are built to last might seem like small droplets, but together they/we can make an ocean of difference. Collectively adding to a lasting legacy contributing to a healthier planet, happier region and more conscious lifestyle.

Less is more: Sharing joy

When it comes to sustainable gift buying why not consider the mantra 'less is more'. Last year Kaye McGarva from Muse Gallery in Havelock North shared in *BayBuzz* that their family had opted for a no gift year in exchange for a shared experience of a memorable meal out. That inspired me.

Consider gifting local experiences instead of material possessions. A relaxing day spa, a cooking class, a day at the beach, rafting down the Mohaka River, a trip to the Gannets. Not only creating magic memories but also a clutter-free sustainable life.

The local connection: Gifts close to the heart

Hawke's Bay is seriously a treasure trove for local creative talent. Visit local artists listed in 'The Hawke's Bay Art Guide' or shop at your local gallery or frequent the plethora of markets around the Bay with an eye for local artisans creating unique handcrafted products and art. When we buy local we contribute directly to the local economy, reduce transport emissions and foster a sense of community. A direct connection to a gift's creator and the story weaved within it enriches the gift - making it even more special.

Curating the perfect gift

Spend time pondering the perfect gift match for the recipient's interest,

"A gift that is given from the heart, given to the right person at the right time and place, given with expectation of nothing in return, is a gift that will keep on giving."

Lolly Daskal

hand in hand with a win/win boost of our region. For the passionate foodie explore locally grown organic produce or a voucher to their favourite eatery. For the drinks connoisseur go straight to the cellar door. For the nature lover head to your local garden centre, nursery or market for plants or better still a grow-your-own vegetable gardening contribution. For the yoga or Pilates enthusiast a class pass to their favourite studio or a high vibing wellness retreat. Upcycled fashions for the fashionista and don't even get me started on what potential joys lie in wait in our local second-hand marts, antique stores and op shops. The possibilities are endless with gems galore.

Wrapped in love

Did anyone else's Nan save the Christmas wrapping and ties each year? Did anyone else's Mum have them potato printing on butcher's paper or newsprint to wrap up Christmas gifts? Say no to single use wrapping paper and opt for re-useable gift wraps or commit to saving your fancy wrapping to be used again. Not only does it reduce waste but also adds a personal touch and shares the love with our planet.

The ripple effect

By embracing sustainable and local gift buying we become agents of upliftment in our community. When our loved ones receive these gifts and know the story it plants seeds of



Photo: Florence Charvin

awareness and mindfulness. Like a pebble in the pond the ripple extends.

The gift of presence

Perhaps the greatest gift of all this festive season in our world brimming with distractions could be your undivided attention to those you love and value. Being fully immersed in the moment, listening to understand, putting down devices to embody the essence of genuine connection and attentive companionship. The gift of you. The gift of your presence. Mindfulness. Being present on purpose with kindness, compassion, acceptance, non-judgement. The ultimate gifts that keep giving.

Let's cherish this festive season by choosing gifts and interactions that reflect a thought- and heart-filled

commitment to those we love, to the environment, our community, and the well-being of the collective.

I know those reading this already know this. Precious gem. What else is possible? What gifts will you share?

Together we rise. ●

Books to gift by Hawke's Bay authors:

- Alexandra Tylee *Egg and Spoon*
- Mary-anne Scott *Fantastic Mr Bean*
- Catherine Robertson *Pearl in a Whirl*
- Charity Norman *Remember Me*

Kate McLeay is a mindfulness mentor, yoga teacher and retreat host based out at Cape South Country Estate and Wellness Retreat near Waimarama in Hawke's Bay.

www.katemcleay.com

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GIN

HASTINGS DISTILLERS
NEW ZEALAND



CHAMPIONS OF GINDUSTRY

Photos by Florence Charvin

Back in 2021 I put together a blind tasting competition for New Zealand gin for another magazine. “Maybe I can do it myself at the kitchen table?” I remember thinking at the time.

I knew our national gin industry was growing, but when over 70 entries tsunami’d the office, I said to my editor, “We’re gonna need a bigger boat.” Being a proud Hawkesbaylien, you can also imagine my joy and jubilation when the winners were revealed, to discover the top two spots were awarded to our very own Hastings Distillers.

Now there are two other local gin producers making waves in the spirit world and all three, like me, have a love of wine. So of course, this led me on a quest to distil the who, the why and the how from Hawke’s Bay’s trio of taste.

HASTINGS DISTILLERS

Sir Winston Churchill once said, “The Gin and Tonic has saved more Englishmen’s lives, and minds, than all the doctors in the Empire.” And if there’s one spot south of the Clive Bridge to get a world-class G&T, it’s at 231 Heretaunga Street East, the home of Hastings Distillers.

Owners Kate Galloway and David

Ramonteau both had their first experience with Gordons Gin on opposite sides of the world. “I had a G&T at Governors Bar in Hamilton,” offers Kate. “I thought it made me seem sophisticated and therefore of legal age to be there. Whereas David’s under-age memories are of drinking Gin and Banga (cheap orange juice) at nightclubs in the south of France.”

The two became winemakers in their respective hemispheres, eventually meeting and working here in Hawke’s Bay; however the allure of tasting great gin and possibly making their own one day, smouldered in the background. The spark that ignited trading grapes for juniper berries occurred in 2015. “I was sitting at an incredible restaurant in Praia Grande Sintra in Portugal, overlooking the Atlantic nursing an enormous copa (goblet) of G and T,” Kate recalls. “I’d paused 20 years of winemaking and was supposed to be taking a break, but it seems I am not very good at that.”

The couple opened NZ’s first certified-organic distillery in Hastings’ artisan precinct of Heretaunga St East in 2020. Their botanicals are either wild-foraged or grown in biodynamically farmed ‘gin gardens’. “Our base alcohol is also exclusively plant-based, rather than the more common whey spirit.” Contrary to common practice, they also leave their water as it springs from the mountain, with all natural minerals intact.

The synergies between winemaking and ginmaking became instantly apparent. “Growing botanicals and having an understanding of fruit and

“We don’t think we could do this if we didn’t have our winemaking experience, as it informs our decisions around creation, balance, blending etc.”
Kate Galloway



botanical maturity definitely helps,” Kate adds. “We don’t think we could do this if we didn’t have our winemaking experience, as it informs our decisions around creation, balance, blending etc. We’re a bit spoiled making spirits, getting several chances every year to have a crack at it instead of relying on just one vintage.” While being able to have multiple shots at getting it right is a huge advantage over winemaking, owning a successful distilling business is not all tiddlywinks.

“Selling it!” Kate splutters, when asked what their biggest business challenges are. “And knowing when to stop,” she adds. “96 botanicals in one gin is probably just a little too much,” she laughs. Speaking of excess, I asked Kate if there was an ‘ultimate’ gin she and David dream of making? “Our dada moment was creating Ignis Fatuus,



our tribute to the Dalmatian forefathers of the New Zealand wine industry,” she says. “With a base of organic Sauvignon Blanc, 20,000yo kauri gum, quince, kawakawa, and then being barrel aged, it’s pretty out there,” she muses. “It was a bit of a fantasy to think people would buy it.” But even at \$265 for 500ml, this exotically smoky, unfiltered style is now considered a must-have for connoisseurs.

It’s not something they’d make again in a hurry however. “After distilling Ignis Fatuus, we were left with a wonderful coating on the inside of our 150L Arnold Holstein still,” Kate sighs. “Kauri was used for varnish after all and removing it was very painstaking.”

Speaking of cleaning, David rigorously cleaned the distillery prior to

going to France this year, and accidentally turned off the freezers containing their frozen fruit and botanicals. Heartbreaking stuff. Also devastating were Cyclone Gabrielle’s power cuts which upended the seven different Eau de Vie (Brandies) that the couple were about to release following three, very patient years of aging.

Yet it’ll take more than one or two disasters to dissuade these distillers from their mission, as making gin still excites them every day. “We love that the possibilities are infinite,” offers Kate. “That you can really capture a sense of place with the use of botanicals. Good gin is elegant, refined, refreshing and an exercise in restraint if you will.” And their favourite gin right now? “Albertine, always,” urges Kate.

KATIPO GIN

It was a spot of craft brewing during his 24 year career in winemaking, that led Sebastian Hanse to hang a left and detour into Gin Drive.

He’d successfully sold 50 litre batches to a local craft beer establishment and went on to win a craft beer event with a gin-infused red IPA. Following a visit to a Bols Gin bar in Amsterdam, the botanical alchemy of gin kickstarted his imagination (no pun intended) and in 2018, as a Christmas



treat to himself, he bought an alembic still with a botanicals basket. He began exploring native botanicals and beyond, including popping a handful of Nelson Sauvignon hops into a 'homebrew'. One night, sitting beside a campfire with friends on the shores of Whirinaki Beach, our native spider was spotted crawling beside a glass of Seb's 'secret herb' Gin and thusly Katipo Aotearoa Dry was born.

"I love the botanical sensory aspect of distilling," he urges. "Coming from a winemaking background, that's so important and I love how those layers are revealed with a swirl of the glass." The trickiest part of the process is also his favourite part. "Blending the core botanicals and fresh infusions, getting the ratio right and letting each character



"The sensory balance and mouthfeel of gin absolutely have a common connection with wine. Seasonal variations can also play a role, especially in fresh ones like hops and rose petals and even the concentration of the citrus in dry seasons versus wet." Sebastian Hanse

show its good side in the bottle. Then there's the wonderful world of tonics and sodas and cocktails with garnishes, it's endless mixology!" he laughs.

His early experiments would've had a Health & Safety expert shudder however. "When I first bought my smaller still, I did a practice run and heated it up way too fast and popped the top off it creating a potential bomb in my shed which scared me into being sensible," he laughs.

Sebastian also sees definite synergies with winemaking. "The sensory balance and mouthfeel of gin absolutely have a common connection with wine. Seasonal variations can also play a role, especially in fresh ones like hops and rose petals and even the concentration of the citrus in dry seasons versus wet," he adds.

His love of the beach means if money, resources and time had no boundaries, he'd experiment with creating coastal experiences in a bottle. But for now his favourite indulgence? "Katipo Aotearoa Dry Gin with Mediterranean tonic and a slice of lime," he says. "I'm also a big fan of National Distillery. My great mate Blair has helped me a lot developing my gin. Meow Lucky Gin is a favourite!"



NATIONAL DISTILLERY

Like Sebastian, Blair Nicholl's first attempts at making gin came in the form of a Christmas gift. "It was a gin immersion class by Jill Mulvaney from Alembics on a lavender field in Te Horo," he says.

"I'd actually asked for a pair of Nike's, so was slightly disappointed, but within minutes of Jill passionately speaking about native botanicals I was hooked. I bought a small 2 litre still and was distilling the next day.

My first run was a liquorish bomb, but mum said it was nice," he laughs. Years later, Blair and business partners run one of New Zealand's most widely recognised (thanks to highly creative



"I'd actually asked for a pair of Nike's, so was slightly disappointed, but within minutes of Jill passionately speaking about native botanicals I was hooked. I bought a small 2 litre still and was distilling the next day."
Blair Nicholl

packaging) and highly awarded distilleries, located in Ahuriri's architectural wonder, the National Tobacco Company building. Their 'let's dive in and do this' moment came in 2020 when they won the Best NZ Gin trophy and Best NZ-Made Spirit at the NZ Spirits Awards. Winning New Zealand's first ever Gin awards (the Junipers) later that year with their New Zealand Native Gin was a huge achievement considering they made more hand sanitiser than gin, "but the sanitiser did have a bit of Gin in it," he shrugs.

Blair's love of wine has morphed into creating a couple of unique, limited-release gins from local grapes. "Bloody Syrah was a Covid19 brainchild where we took barrel-aged Syrah from Tim Turvey at Clearview Estate, distilled it into a clear gin using botanicals characteristic of Syrah (white pepper corns, toasted oak, spice, vanilla), then aged

it in Syrah barrels for 12 months before slapping it into a wax-topped wine bottle." Blair and his team have also doffed their caps to Tim's Chardonnay fame, by adding a gin called 'The Reserve' featuring Chardonnay from Te Awanga.

Life at National Distillery is anything if not inventive and creative. "I wasn't allowed to take art courses at college so being creative with our labels and working with talented graphic designers allows me to relive that part of my teenage years," Blair adds, also enjoying the end result of recipe-creation. "I remember when we blended our New Zealand Native Gin and Cristian, our head distiller, looked at me and said, 'That's the best thing I've put in my mouth' ... that was a cool experience."

Not so cool was early on, when they overdid the cardamon in a run by 500%. "It was one of our very first big-scale distillations which used up the

last of our money. It was undrinkable." But in true NDC spirit they flipped the faux pas by balancing it out with tonic, throwing it into kegs and selling G&T's on tap for a few months.

Always future-focused, Blair's looking forward to one-day releasing his dream gin. "It'll be a fully organic gin with all botanicals grown by NDC, including juniper, a feat no one's achieved in NZ yet. And using a secret water source from a location I found while exploring as a child, a place I call paradise," he muses. "It's actually underway, but the juniper still has about 5 years before it will produce. I have time though." ●



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Potluck

Tis the season for gatherings and nothing says gathering like a Boxing Day sale, a fire alarm drill or a potluck meal.

The shared meal, or bring-a-plate occasion, is a heart-warming affair. A perfect way to show loved ones, friends, workmates, and strangers how much you care. Not just the care you have for them but also for your own culinary flare.

For the potluck is the perfect vehicle to demonstrate your skill, clever ideas and of course your beautiful crockery and serving spoons. Indeed, the choice of bowl may be just as important to some as their choice of clothes. They wouldn't want a gaudy red platter clashing with their salmon chinos!

To others the thought of making something to contribute engenders panic. Either due to lack of interest or ability, lack of time, or awareness that trying to sneak in with yet another bag of coleslaw at a BBQ is going to be frowned upon.

Whether you're a budding food stylist or a time-poor vegan whose kids eat all of the sausages and won't touch your tabbouleh, a little guidance from the host is helpful.

Spontaneity needs to be well planned. I say pots yes, but luck? No thank you.

Curation is essential for an enticing spread that will be well balanced. If you're hosting, learn to play the game and, for minimal expense and effort on your part, you'll have a Grammmable feast to delight and amaze.

Failure to curate becomes a recipe for four rice salads, three bags of mesclun, two pots of hummus, and a spinach and tinned-salmon quiche. Nobody wants that. Plan the potluck and crush your guests' impromptu ideas like mint leaves in the mojitos.

Take into consideration the fiscal

Failure to curate becomes a recipe for four rice salads, three bags of mesclun, two pots of hummus, and a spinach and tinned-salmon quiche.

and culinary strengths of your guests. It can be tough for non-cooks. Also consider that some will want to bring whatever is in their fridge while others will shop at only the best places in order to tell you all about it.

There are those who will bring a bag of budget sausages and eat a lot of steak.

Those who will stop at the petrol station for a few bags of chippies.

Those who will pick up a bargain bucket of chicken or a bachelor's hand-bag (a hot roasted chicken in a bag from the 4 Square).

And don't forget the guests that always make the same dish regardless. You know, "Aunty always brings her pissaladiere."

So where did this potluck idea start?

For me it started in 1992 when I was a new immigrant and invited to a BBQ in Hastings. I asked what we could bring, to which the answer was "whatever you want to eat and drink".

What?! I didn't get it, having spent the previous three years in Italy where one had to be very careful taking food or drink to a friend's house to avoid giving offense. "Why did you bring wine? Isn't our wine good enough?"

Thirty years on I have to say that I like the idea of sharing the load and taking a plate to a party. My go-to, unless I have been tasked with a particular dish, is a plate of eggs for a lunch function. Hardboiled and halved, cracked pepper and flakey salt. Job done. Or for that extra special occasion mix the yolks with mayo and curry

powder or mustard and pipe back into the halved whites.

So here's the trick to perfect, easy to peel eggs: put the eggs in cold water with 2 tablespoons of baking soda. Bring to the boil. As soon as the water starts to boil, turn the heat off. Leave the pot on the element for 8 minutes of gas or 6 minutes for electric. Next cool the eggs by running cold water over them. Change the water as soon as it feels a little warm. Crack the shells all over and start peeling from the fat end. Next halve the eggs lengthways and pop the yolks into a snap-lock bag. Add mayo and curry powder to the bag and mush it all up. Pop the whites into another bag and head off to the party.

Once there grab a plate from the cupboard, lay out the egg whites, snip the corner off the bag with the yolk mixture and pipe the yolky mix into the whites. Finish with a flourish of chopped parsley which you miraculously produce from your pocket and take the applause.

The party ends and, unless well planned, there is enough food left to warrant Nourished for Nil sending a van. Do you take it home or do you leave it there? Do you scrape it onto the host's plate so that you can take yours? Who washes up? How long will rice salad keep in the fridge?

Logistics aside we've all had a great time ... roll on next year! Same routine but it's now your turn to host. Which means two days cleaning the house, but the wonderful opportunity to plan the best meal. ●

Ian Thomas is a caterer and formerly free range egg farmer, cooking demonstrator, and manager of a commercial food production business. He specialises in cooking paella. paellaagogo.com

MUSE has landed in Havelock North, and it's the breath of exceptionally stylish air we've all been waiting for.

A revered name in the world of luxury fashion, MUSE has offered its customers an unparalleled shopping experience for nearly 30 years. With two iconic boutiques in Newmarket and Ponsonby, a thoughtful online presence and exceptional in-house stylists, MUSE encapsulates style in its most considered, elevated and aspirational form - and now, it's right here on our doorstep.

Since taking over the business from her mother-in-law in 2015, Olivia Vincent Healy has worked tirelessly to expand, enliven and elevate: cementing MUSE as a major player in the world of international high-end fashion. Between travelling the world, sourcing new and exciting designers, building and inspiring an incredible team, and raising two beautiful daughters – it's a slight understatement to say Olivia has been busy. But, with thoughtful growth and expansion always at the top of her mind, bringing MUSE to Hawke's Bay was an exciting, and logical, next step.

For Olivia, Hawke's Bay is undeniably special. After facilitating several pop-ups here, she was presented with an opportunity to make things more permanent, by opening up a stunning boutique on Te Mata Road. Things moved quickly, but it felt like it was meant to be. And seeing MUSE in the village, in all its exquisite glory, you would be hard-pressed to disagree.

With its gorgeous high ceilings, striking arched windows and light, airy interior – their Havelock North space will act as an oasis for shoppers. With its highly considered curation of occasion wear, everyday staples and outfit-enhancing accessories from some of their most-loved brands, there really is something for everyone. Alongside this, they'll be introducing coveted new brands in both their Havelock North store and online offering, including big names like Agolde, Citizens of Humanity and Nili Lotan.

A new space, a new town, and a brand-new treat for the wardrobes of Hawke's Bay. It's safe to say MUSE is going places – and looking incredible as it goes. Welcome to the village MUSE, we're so glad you're here.

Words by Helen O'Connor.



1. With Nothing Underneath, Classic Denim Shirt | 1. Khaite, Lotus Bag | 3. Nili Lotan, Shon Pants in Sandstone | 4. Anine Bing, Melanie Dress | 5. Closed, Low Sneaker | 6. Anine Bing, Harvey Sweatshirt | 7. Celine Sunglasses | 8. Tibi, Sid Jeans





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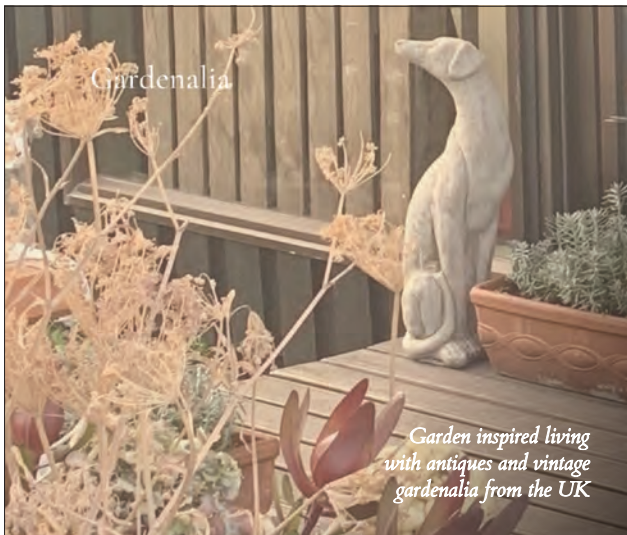
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In defense of pyjamas

Remember when you first moved here? Or for you returnees, when you first came home?

You were stunned by the scenery and the fresh air, and by “finding a park right outside”. Enchanted by Rush Munros and honesty boxes. Besotted with pick-your-own and walking to work.

But the thing that struck you most was the fact that people wore, not just their dressing gowns and slippers, but their actual pyjamas to Pak’n’Save. Remember how you rang your Mum and laughed about it. Remember how you asked your new workmates, “What’s that about?!”.

Well, I’ve been here 17 years now and it suddenly makes sense. In many ways it sums up Hawke’s Bay. Forget clever logos, city flags and crests. Forget mottos. We should bedeck our civic monuments with pictures of jarmies. Our banners should shout “Be Where There’s Bed Wear”. What we should be promoting to the world, is that Hawke’s Bay is so okay to just be itself, so chillax, so happy in its own skin, that it is justified, even essential - accepted, nay expected - to wear jim jams to Push’n’Shove.

Pyjamas are designed for lounging, and loungewear is the epitome of a leisurely lifestyle. And as we all know, here in Hawke’s Bay we do like to make-believe we’re on holiday all the time, even when we’re so-called ‘working’. We take beach strolls at lunch time. We are home on the couch with a craft beer before it’s dark. We use our weekends for a range of hobbies and past-times rather than for driving and chores. Home and work, in the Bay, are most often so close together we really do have a balance.

Between the long lunches and the after-work drinks though, we are also very good at business. We are entrepreneurs and networkers. We’re gifters and grafters. When we work, we work

Pyjamas are designed for lounging, and loungewear is the epitome of a leisurely lifestyle. And as we all know, here in Hawke’s Bay we do like to make-believe we’re on holiday all the time, even when we’re so-called ‘working’.

hard. And, if you look closely at the cut and the styling, and at their often striped patterns, PJs scream formal suiting. So they are the perfect collision of two-piece well-tailored attire and casual comfort wear. They mean business, but equally they are ready to relax at any moment. That’s so Hawke’s Bay.

There is historical precedent for wearing night-suits in public, and it’s political. Since the early 1800s people have worn pyjamas as a statement against social pressure. For example, wearing this silk peignoir I picked up in Paris last spring is really a protest against the enduring subjugation of the patriarchy. It says “I am what I am, and I’m not forcing myself into the standards you prescribe for me (Spanx in other words)”.

Hawke’s Bay is a hideaway for hippies and bohos looking to shun pretentious societal norms (often in a fairly pretentious manner). They spend most of their time flitting between Waiheke and Bali, and when they are here it’s 24/7-jarmies ... and kaftans and harem pants (and let’s face it they are basically PJs, albeit by another name).

Our blue-collar, hi-vis backbone also means PJs-after-work makes perfect sense. If you actually work for a living - I mean really *work* - then you are going home for a shower and you are getting clean and comfy before you hit the shops. Why transition through yet another ‘fit? Go straight to your schlafanzug. We all know you sleep in the

nuddy anyway. Jamas are really just evening wear. Think about that next time you get invited to a cocktail party.

Now, let’s get this straight, there is a big difference between pyjamas and actual nightwear.

Even the slouchiest of shoppers isn’t going out in a winceyette nightie with midnight feast stains down the front. There is a line between what’s okay and what’s not (it may be a fine line, but it’s still a line). Oodies are allowable but pattern’s important. No Dad, Baby Yoda is not okay, even at the 4-Square. Onesies are passable but they better be clean and you better be wearing them ironically. Long Johns are great but only with stubbies over the top and only if you’re buying scroggin. Dressing gowns are a must, especially now that winter in Hawke’s Bay is 10-months long. The bigger the collar and the brighter the colour, the better.

Jim-jams@Pak’n’Save is about much more than just wearing pyjamas in public. It’s about representing the quintessential Hawke’s Bay way: down-to-Earth, laid-back, a little bit political and bringing realness at every opportunity. If you’re *not* wearing jarmies at the Big Box, you’re not doing Bay-living right.

Top tips:

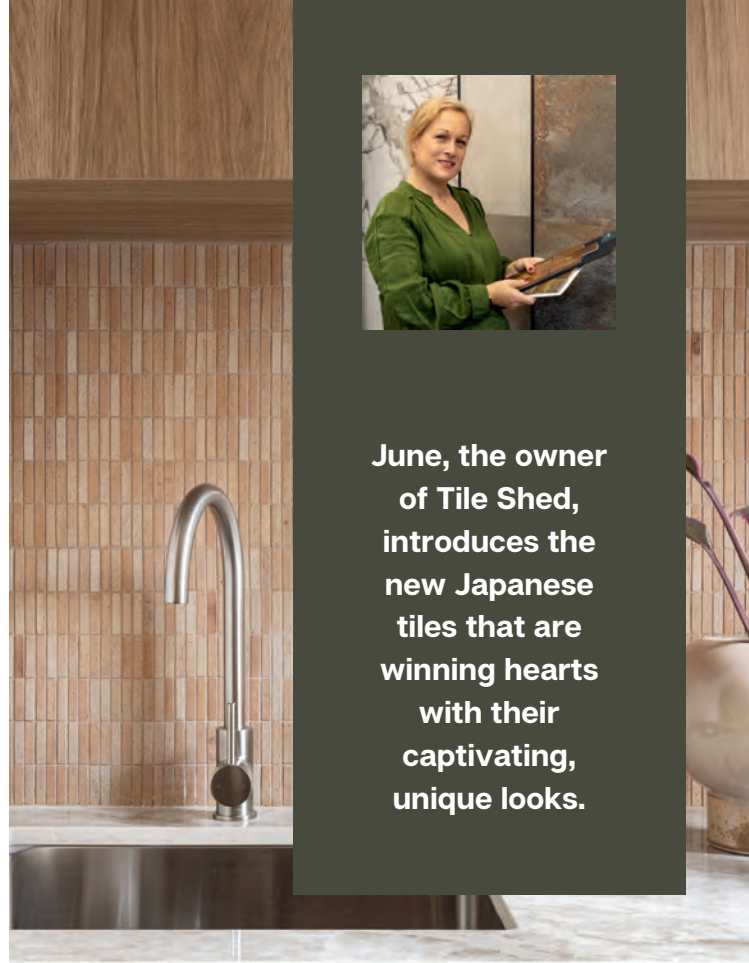
1. Woven fabric is better than stretch, no one wants to see your saggy bottom
2. Don’t go pattern the whole way - break it up people!
3. Wear appropriate underwear underneath, we’re not animals
4. Give your PJs a quick once-over with an iron
5. Complete the look with chunky jewellery, and for you ladies, stilettos... ●



Sponsored by Little Red Robot



Pictured: Kayoborder Olive Gloss Finger Mosaic 19x144



June, the owner of Tile Shed, introduces the new Japanese tiles that are winning hearts with their captivating, unique looks.



Japanese Tiles



Pictured: Kayoborder White Matt Finger Mosaic 19x144

If you're a fan of Japanese culture, you'll love the new Kayoborder and Minokoyo mosaic tiles, cleverly inspired by the traditional style of ceramics used for Sado (Tea Ceremony).

These Japanese tiles are particularly striking, featuring a slight texture, subtle crackle effects, irregular markings, and natural colour movement. These unique variations result from the pigment and firing method used in the manufacturing process.

When used in commercial and residential spaces, they create a luxurious, organic, calming environment that can be enjoyed for many years.

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